



# WEATHER AND CROPS

## September 17, 2012

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Released, September 17, 2012

Week Ending, September 16, 2012

No. 977-22-12

**WEATHER:** The week started out with a cold front exiting New England Sunday with a strong high pressure system over the lower great lakes behind it. A weak boundary provided the focus for lake-effect showers across western portions of the state on Monday while the rest of the state remained dry as high pressure built in. This high pressure system continued to dominate the weather pattern over the state for much of the work week, bringing dry weather and seasonable conditions Tuesday through Thursday. Patchy frost developed across northern parts of the state throughout the week. A cold front moved across the state Friday and Saturday producing scattered to widespread showers. Precipitation for the week was mainly limited to the passage of a cold front Friday and Saturday across the state and lake-effect showers across western portions of the state Monday. Temperatures across the state were average to slightly below average for the early part of the week with highs generally in the upper 50s to lower 60s in northern portions of the state to upper 60s and lower 70s in southern portions of the state. A slight warm up began on Wednesday with highs generally in the 70s and lower 80s across the state. Temperatures returned to averages on Saturday. Nighttime lows were chilly throughout the early part of the week generally in the 30s and 40s and warmed into the 40s and 50s by the end of the week. Some frost was observed in portions of the Adirondacks.

**CROPS:** There were 6.4 days suitable for fieldwork during the week. Soil moisture was rated 8 percent very short, 32 percent short, 59 percent adequate and 1 percent surplus. Hay crops were rated 13 percent poor, 45 percent fair, 38 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Condition of oats was 4 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 74 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Oats were virtually all harvested compared with 99 percent last year and the average of 99 percent. Potatoes were 68 percent harvested, ahead of the 42 percent harvested last year and the 52 percent average. Dry beans were 13 percent harvested compared to 15 percent last year. Corn was rated 11 percent poor, 36 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Corn for silage was 39 percent harvested compared with 13 percent last year and the average of 22 percent. Soybeans were rated 6 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 56 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. The third cutting of alfalfa hay was 75 percent complete compared with 73 percent last year and the average of 82 percent. Clover-timothy third cut was 64 percent complete compared with 60 percent a year ago and the average of 74 percent. The following comments are from our reporters throughout the state: In Jefferson County, corn silage harvest continued. Some have finished chopping corn and others have just begun harvesting. A lot of corn was harvested for silage in Lewis County. Field conditions were excellent; no buried tractors or trucks this fall so far. Genesee County harvesting started for soybeans and grain corn. Wheat planting started. Corn silage harvest continued, taking many more acres than last year. Ontario County began harvesting soybeans. Corn silage harvest continued. Soybeans reported yields that appear to be average to below average at this time. Soybeans were affected by an abnormally dry summer. Corn silage yields being reported average to below average as well. In Cortland County, corn silage harvest has picked up and the third haylage cutting has progressed. Grass is finally receiving necessary moisture through heavy morning dew, but cool temperatures have set in, slowing growth. In Madison County, plenty of corn was chopped. Buckwheat looked good as did soybeans. Corn silage and hay harvesting continued in Otsego County. In Albany County, near ideal conditions moved corn silage harvest ahead. High moisture corn harvest has begun as well. In Montgomery and Fulton Counties, rainfall was needed again if crop growth was going to be maintained. Corn silage harvest was picking up speed. Hay continued to be harvested.

**FRUIT:** Apple harvest was 48 percent complete, ahead of the 38 percent last year and the 35 percent five year average. Apple conditions were 50 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 25 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. Pear harvest was 89 percent complete, above the 76 percent five year average. Pear conditions were 18 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Grape harvest was 26 percent complete, even with last year and above the 19 percent five year average. Grape conditions were 27 percent poor, 42 percent fair, and 31 percent good. Strawberry conditions were 31 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 30 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. The following comments are from our reporters throughout the state: In Ontario County, grape and apple harvest continued. The grapes were affected by the spring frost and hail storms. Grape yields were reported to be average to below average. In Long Island vineyards, harvest was in full swing. Growers were reported to be happy with the earlier than normal harvest.

**VEGETABLE:** Vegetable producers were harvesting a wide variety of crops and farm stands were busy with visitors. Sweet corn was 89 percent harvested, the same as last year but up from the 85 percent average. Condition of sweet corn was 9 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 57 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Onions were 85 percent harvested compared to 72 percent last year and 73 percent average. Onions were 12 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 16 percent good, and 46 percent excellent. Snap Beans were 74 percent harvested compared to 69 percent last year but below the 83 percent average. Condition of snap beans was 7 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 67 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Cabbage was at 75 percent harvested compared to 84 percent last year but above the 73 percent average. Condition of cabbage was 7 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 59 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. Tomatoes were 82 percent harvested compared to 65 percent last year and 80 percent average. Condition of tomatoes was 5 percent poor, 18 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 29 percent excellent. Lettuce was 93 percent harvested.

**LIVESTOCK:** Pasture growth was slowing down again. Supplemental pasture feeding has already begun as pasture conditions have been less than ideal during the summer. Pasture was rated 8 percent very poor, 28 percent poor, 41 percent fair, 21 percent good, and 2 percent excellent.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, September 16, 2012**

Station	Temperature (°F)				Growing Degree Days Base 50° <sup>1/</sup>			Precipitation (Inches) <sup>1/</sup>				
	High	Low	Avg	Dep. from Norm	Week	Season	Dep. from Norm	Week	Dep. from Norm	Season	Dep. from Norm	
<b>Hudson Valley</b>												
Albany County AP	81	41	62	+1	88	2820	+524	0.13	-0.57	18.93	+0.60	
Glens Falls AP	81	39	59	-2	62	2440	+439	0.05	-0.66	18.49	+0.41	
Poughkeepsie AP	81	42	63	+0	91	3011	+596	0.32	-0.48	18.33	-2.73	
<b>Mohawk Valley</b>												
Boonville	78	39	56	-1	46	1897	+329	0.47	-0.84	18.65	-6.93	
<b>Champlain Valley</b>												
Plattsburgh Int AP	80	42	60	+0	71	2364	+337	0.06	-0.67	15.12	-2.61	
<b>St. Lawrence Valley</b>												
Canton	81	38	58	-2	59	2269	+447	0.55	-0.36	17.86	-1.00	
Massena	83	35	60	+2	71	2406	+498	0.58	-0.26	15.94	-1.28	
<b>Great Lakes</b>												
Buffalo Int AP	82	49	64	+2	101	2872	+658	0.46	-0.37	11.69	-7.13	
Wales	80	43	59	-1	66	2244	+447	0.20	-0.92	16.72	-5.08	
Niagara Falls	82	46	63	+1	93	2783	+565	0.28	-0.61	14.04	-4.28	
Rochester NY	83	46	63	+1	93	2786	+643	0.36	-0.34	17.06	+0.92	
Watertown Intl	81	37	60	+1	74	2520	+658	0.76	-0.01	16.37	+1.40	
<b>Central Lakes</b>												
Dansville AP	85	45	64	+2	97	2885	+732	0.13	-0.68	14.04	-3.64	
Geneva Research	84	48	63	+2	94	2652	+517	0.48	-0.29	14.18	-3.28	
Honeoye	82	43	60	-3	74	2494	+257	0.39	-0.37	15.52	-1.78	
Ithaca Cornell Univ.	82	38	60	-1	68	2434	+502	0.53	-0.31	15.84	-2.99	
Penn Yan	84	47	63	+2	95	2765	+630	0.15	-0.62	14.08	-3.38	
Syracuse	87	45	64	+3	103	3005	+838	0.64	-0.27	12.86	-6.94	
Warsaw	78	44	60	+2	71	2181	+524	0.40	-0.57	21.55	+0.85	
<b>Western Plateau</b>												
Hornell Almond Dam	81	39	58	-2	58	2188	+393	0.22	-0.55	18.04	+1.24	
Elmira	82	38	60	-2	70	2594	+554	0.27	-0.48	14.67	-3.10	
Franklinville	79	38	57	-2	48	2049	+549	0.32	-0.63	20.29	-0.60	
Jamestown 4NE	83	41	59	-1	63	2279	+587	0.23	-0.89	18.71	-4.70	
<b>Eastern Plateau</b>												
Binghamton/Broo	77	41	59	-2	67	2435	+459	0.38	-0.40	21.72	+2.95	
Cobleskill	82	37	59	+0	68	2331	+492	0.18	-0.73	16.44	-3.78	
Morrisville	81	40	58	-1	60	1502	-248	0.35	-0.63	18.85	-1.36	
Norwich	79	40	60	+0	68	2310	+469	0.34	-0.57	20.31	+0.26	
Oneonta	84	40	61	+3	78	2496	+806	0.28	-0.56	17.35	-4.21	
<b>Coastal</b>												
Bridgehamton	79	46	63	-2	94	2739	+458	0.00	-0.83	16.20	-3.53	
New York LGA	80	58	70	+2	144	3666	+635	0.00	-0.80	20.57	-0.31	

<sup>1/</sup> Season accumulations are for April 1<sup>st</sup> to date. Weekly accumulations are through 7:00 AM Sunday Morning

The information contained in this weekly release is obtained in cooperation with Cornell Cooperative Extension, USDA Farm Service Agency, the National Weather Service, Agricultural Weather Information Service and other knowledgeable persons associated with New York agriculture. Their cooperation is greatly appreciated.

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