



# WEATHER AND CROPS

## May 14, 2012

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Released, May 14, 2012

Week Ending, May 13, 2012

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**WEATHER:** The week started out dry and pleasant with high pressure in control. Low pressure moved along a slow moving cold frontal boundary bringing a widespread soaking rainfall Monday night into Wednesday. Total rainfall amounts ranged from half an inch to two and a half inches over much of upstate New York mainly north and west of the mid Hudson Valley. An upper level low produced some scattered light rain showers on Thursday. High pressure built in from the Ohio Valley and mid Atlantic region with warm and dry weather to close the week. Temperatures finished at normal to slightly above normal for the state.

**CROPS:** There were 3.3 days suitable for fieldwork during the week. Soil moisture was rated 1 percent very short, 6 percent short, 59 percent adequate, and 34 percent surplus. Oat seedings were 80 percent complete compared with 31 percent last year and the average of 76 percent. Condition of oats were 1 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 71 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Wheat was rated 2 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 67 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. Corn was 29 percent planted compared with 15 percent last year and the average of 39 percent. The following comments are from our reporters throughout the state: It was another week of limited fieldwork in Jefferson County. Corn planting continued to progress slowly. Soybeans were planted during the week. Many farmers expect to begin hay harvest in the next 7 to 10 days. Some corn was planted during the early part of the week in Lewis County, then rain delayed fieldwork until Friday when some fields were again suitable for planting. In Livingston County, they were seeing a significant lack of growth in alfalfa stands. Ontario County received rains that slowed spring planting and producers were just starting to get back in the fields during the latter part of the week. Many producers expressed concerns over the delay in plantings and hoped for some upcoming dry weather. In Cortland County, rain and warmth encouraged growth in pastures and crops. Corn planting continued between the rains. Madison County received much needed rain but it made the fields too wet to do much planting until the weekend. Corn and soybeans were being planted. Some early planted new seedings – especially alfalfa – were taking a long time coming up given the cool weather. Grasses and oats have responded well to the rains. In Otsego County, it has become a fairly average spring with planting challenges due to wet and dry stretches. Generally, fieldwork and plant growth were progressing okay. In Albany County, rain slowed fieldwork during the early part of the week. By Friday, farmers were back in the fields planting and starting haylage harvest. Drying weather during the weekend in Saratoga County allowed some farmers to get into fields to plant corn. Grass and legume hay crops gained volume and many have indicated that haylage harvesting will start early during the upcoming week. In Washington County, corn was still planted last week on well-drained soils, but heavier soils were saturated and were too wet to plant. Broome County producers reported that March seeded alfalfa was not germinating or very slow germinating. Many fields will need to be reseeded. Early planted corn can be rowed. No signs of frost damage on the corn as yet. Delaware County producers completed some early testing on forage and indicate that it is ready to be cut. With a little warmer weather the grass will “pop”. Dutchess County received much needed rain. Farmers were planting between the rain storms. Soybeans were starting to show in the planted fields. Hay and pastures were growing and will most likely be cut early this year.

**FRUIT:** Apples were 81 percent petal fall. Peaches were 97 percent full bloom and 79 percent petal fall. Pears were 97 percent full bloom and 85 percent petal fall. Sweet cherries were 83 percent petal fall. Tart cherries were 94 percent petal fall. In Albany County, freeze assessments to orchards and small fruit continued. In Broome County, fruit producers reported a 25 percent loss on strawberries and raspberries and apple producers reported a 20 percent overall loss in apple blooms. In Suffolk County, vineyard crews were disbudding trunks.

**VEGETABLE:** In Albany, Asparagus was being harvested as one of the first vegetable crops of the season. Sweet corn was at 22 percent planted, compared to 20 percent previous year, and 30 percent for the five year average. Onions were at 63 percent planted, compared to 50 percent previous year and 65 percent five-year average. Snap beans were at 7 percent planted, up from 5 percent previous year, and down from the 15 percent five-year average. Cabbage was at 16 percent planted, up from 4 percent last year but down from the 20 percent five-year average. Lettuce was at 52 percent planted this week.

**LIVESTOCK:** Pastures improved greatly with adequate moisture and warmth. Pasture was rated 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 54 percent good, and 16 percent excellent.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, May 13, 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><u>Hudson Valley</u></b>												
Albany County AP	79	37	58	+2	54	177	+66	1.57	+0.80	5.77	+1.39	
Glens Falls AP	82	33	56	+3	46	133	+51	1.44	+0.63	5.00	+0.54	
Poughkeepsie AP	80	38	59	+3	66	236	+98	0.46	-0.52	3.42	-1.91	
<b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>												
Boonville	73	35	51	+1	23	75	+19	1.87	+0.89	5.73	-0.73	
<b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>												
Plattsburgh Int AP	75	30	55	+2	42	108	+25	0.58	-0.05	3.60	-0.38	
<b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b>												
Canton	75	35	53	+2	31	100	+30	1.30	+0.67	5.38	+1.29	
Massena	77	34	56	+3	46	115	+35	0.97	+0.41	4.21	+0.52	
<b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>												
Buffalo Int AP	73	46	59	+5	61	168	+65	0.68	-0.02	3.93	-0.22	
Wales	73	39	55	+4	41	124	+53	0.47	-0.30	3.88	-1.36	
Niagara Falls	76	46	59	+4	64	155	+41	1.70	+1.07	5.32	+0.95	
Rochester NY	76	43	58	+3	58	178	+59	0.72	+0.15	4.08	+0.37	
Watertown Intl	75	36	55	+3	44	136	+63	1.05	+0.47	3.70	+0.11	
<b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>												
Dansville AP	81	37	59	+5	64	207	+100	0.64	+0.01	3.38	-0.61	
Geneva Research	78	42	57	+4	52	144	+46	0.89	+0.26	4.47	+0.35	
Honeoye	79	35	57	+3	51	161	+60	0.63	+0.02	4.84	+0.74	
Ithaca Cornell Univ.	78	35	54	+2	37	142	+59	0.82	+0.12	5.50	+1.28	
Penn Yan	79	42	57	+4	53	182	+84	0.88	+0.25	4.15	+0.03	
Syracuse	80	41	59	+4	65	194	+77	1.63	+0.93	4.81	+0.13	
Warsaw	76	39	55	+4	35	114	+54	0.56	-0.21	3.87	-0.94	
<b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>												
Hornell Almond Dam	78	34	54	+2	33	126	+55	0.62	-0.01	4.01	+0.17	
Elmira	79	33	56	+2	47	185	+93	0.77	+0.07	3.65	-0.33	
Franklinville	76	35	55	+5	39	117	+72	0.50	-0.27	4.38	-0.34	
Jamestown 4NE	76	35	55	+4	42	140	+78	0.83	-0.01	5.79	+0.39	
<b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>												
Binghamton/Broo	76	37	56	+2	46	159	+72	1.08	+0.32	5.04	+0.52	
Cobleskill	76	41	56	+3	44	124	+49	1.38	+0.60	5.12	+0.38	
Morrisville	77	37	55	+2	39	114	+44	1.51	+0.69	6.00	+1.41	
Norwich	77	35	55	+2	41	127	+48	1.13	+0.29	5.06	+0.14	
Oneonta	78	36	56	+5	46	154	+87	1.18	+0.20	5.01	-0.28	
<b><u>Coastal</u></b>												
Bridgehamton	74	42	57	+3	50	158	+75	2.27	+1.41	6.67	+1.06	
New York LGA	79	51	62	+3	87	333	+122	0.63	-0.24	5.16	-0.29	

<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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