



WEATHER AND CROPS

May 21, 2012

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Week Ending, May 20, 2012

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WEATHER: Low pressure brought widespread rain to the southeast half of the state Monday and Tuesday. The only other day with precipitation was Wednesday which was in the form of scattered showers and thunderstorms. Overall for the week, one to one and a half inches of rain fell over the southeast half of the state with zero to a third of an inch of rain across the northwest half of the state. Temperatures averaged normal to above normal during the week.

CROPS: There were 5.1 days suitable for fieldwork during the week. Soil moisture was rated 2 percent very short, 11 percent short, 77 percent adequate, and 10 percent surplus. Oat seedings were 93 percent complete compared with 41 percent last year and the average of 84 percent. Condition of oats were 1 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 74 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Wheat was rated 2 percent poor, 11 percent fair, 69 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Corn was 56 percent planted compared with 23 percent last year and the average of 56 percent. Potatoes were 60 percent planted compared with 56 percent last year and the average of 65 percent. Soybean planting progressed to 24 percent complete compared with 3 percent last year and the average of 23 percent. The following comments are from our reporters throughout the state: In Jefferson County, favorable weather allowed for a good week of planting corn. Soybeans were also being planted. Haylage harvest was underway. It was a great week for planting corn in Lewis County. Grasses reached the optimum stage for harvest and some have been harvested. Alfalfa is still a little immature for harvest. St. Lawrence County also saw a nice week for fieldwork. If conditions remain fair, there will be a lot of corn planted next week and some forage grasses will be ensiled. A week of sunshine throughout Ontario County allowed for a major amount of corn and soybean planting, but wheat could use some rain. Wheat is reported as being short and producers are unsure how it will yield. Hay harvest started towards the end of the week and reports indicate very low yields in alfalfa fields due to the multiple frosts after a very mild March. In Cortland County, corn planting is complete for some producers but most are still planting. First cutting of hay has begun. Yields varied throughout the field but were generally good. In Herkimer County, warm weather helped dry the fields so corn planting can really pick up again. Hay was chopped in a couple of fields. Hay harvest began especially in the northern tier of Madison County, and also in a number of fields in the hills. The favorable forecast looks like ideal hay making weather during the upcoming few days. Corn was beginning to emerge. In Otsego County, corn planting was put on hold for the first cutting of hay. Albany County saw fine weather at week's end that provided an opportunity for producers to get back to corn planting and haylage harvest. In Fulton and Montgomery Counties, a lot of haylage was put up late in the week. Corn was also being planted, with most trying to do both at the same time. Corn planting moved forward in Saratoga County as drier weather improved progress. Some farmers stopped planting corn and began harvesting first cutting alfalfa. First cutting haylage was about 60 percent complete. No dry baled hay harvested as yet. In Washington County, some farmers started chopping haylage and wrapping baleage. Corn planting continued on fields that were dry enough to plant. Nice weather in Seneca and Schuyler Counties created ideal situations for a lot of crops to get planted. Fields are dry and some rain is needed to establish the planted crops. In Greene County, corn was going in fast and furious and farmers were starting to do first cuttings. In Columbia County, corn is mostly planted and farmers were planting soybeans and doing first cutting. Sullivan County experienced heavy rains and some cropland received flash flooding. Growers are a little behind on corn due to the wet weather. Delaware County has the majority of its corn in and forages were being cut. Some dry bales were made and quality forage production is off to a great start. Dutchess County received much needed rain but some soils are still extremely dry. Producers were planting corn and soybeans while trying to get the first cutting of hay off the fields.

FRUIT: Apples were 97 percent petal fall. Peaches were 85 percent petal fall. Pears were 94 percent petal fall. Sweet cherries were 96 percent petal fall. Tart cherries were 95 percent petal fall. The following comments are from our reporters throughout the state: In Ontario County, fruit tree growers reported major losses in stone fruits and apples. Grape growers had either significant damage or limited damage, as it appeared to be area specific due to the frost events. In Cayuga and Onondaga Counties, the sweet cherry crop was predicted to have a 90 percent loss. Certain varieties of apples appeared to have suffered more than 50 percent loss and peaches an 80 percent loss. In Long Island vineyards, shoot growth accelerated with the warmer weather. Growers were disbudding trunks and shoot thinning.

VEGETABLE: Warmer season crops, like beans and squash, were planted with other vegetable crops. Asparagus harvest continued. Sweet corn was at 32 percent planted, up from 26 percent last year, but below the 43 percent five-year average. Onions were at 80 percent planted, up from 64 percent last year and ahead of the 79 percent average. Snap beans were at 17 percent planted, up from 7 percent last year, but below the 20 percent average. Cabbage was at 32 percent planted, up from 11 percent last year and comparable to the 33 percent average. Lettuce was at 62 percent planted.

LIVESTOCK: Pasture conditions were considered to be in good condition in most areas. Pastures were growing well. Pasture conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 4 percent poor, 18 percent fair, 59 percent good, and 18 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, May 20, 2012

Station	Temperature (°F)				Growing Degree Days Base 50° ^{1/}			Precipitation (Inches) ^{1/}				
	High	Low	Avg	Dep. from Norm	Week	Season	Dep. from Norm	Week	Dep. from Norm	Season	Dep. from Norm	
<u>Hudson Valley</u>												
Albany County AP	82	40	63	+6	93	270	+99	1.42	+0.65	7.19	+2.04	
Glens Falls AP	81	37	61	+5	74	207	+77	1.60	+0.76	6.60	+1.30	
Poughkeepsie AP	83	40	64	+6	101	337	+133	0.64	-0.34	4.06	-2.25	
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>												
Boonville	78	35	57	+4	51	126	+37	0.61	-0.37	6.34	-1.10	
<u>Champlain Valley</u>												
Plattsburgh Int AP	78	35	57	+2	54	162	+31	0.45	-0.18	4.05	-0.56	
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>												
Canton	80	36	58	+3	57	157	+46	0.17	-0.49	5.55	+0.80	
Massena	82	36	59	+3	62	177	+51	0.04	-0.52	4.25	+0.00	
<u>Great Lakes</u>												
Buffalo Int AP	82	40	62	+5	84	252	+94	0.01	-0.69	3.94	-0.91	
Wales	82	33	58	+4	60	184	+71	0.00	-0.79	3.88	-2.15	
Niagara Falls	83	37	60	+2	68	223	+51	0.11	-0.52	5.43	+0.43	
Rochester NY	82	38	60	+3	73	251	+73	0.00	-0.63	4.08	-0.26	
Watertown Intl	79	35	58	+4	59	195	+80	0.04	-0.59	3.74	-0.48	
<u>Central Lakes</u>												
Dansville AP	85	37	63	+7	93	300	+138	0.02	-0.61	3.40	-1.22	
Geneva Research	83	38	61	+5	79	223	+72	0.04	-0.62	4.51	-0.27	
Honeoye	85	34	62	+6	86	247	+92	0.02	-0.61	4.86	+0.13	
Ithaca Cornell Univ.	81	34	59	+4	69	211	+82	0.37	-0.40	5.87	+0.88	
Penn Yan	82	40	62	+5	83	265	+114	0.26	-0.40	4.41	-0.37	
Syracuse	84	39	62	+5	85	279	+102	0.05	-0.67	4.86	-0.54	
Warsaw	83	34	59	+6	65	179	+81	0.00	-0.77	3.87	-1.71	
<u>Western Plateau</u>												
Hornell Almond Dam	83	32	59	+4	62	188	+74	0.25	-0.44	4.26	-0.27	
Elmira	85	33	61	+5	75	260	+117	0.31	-0.40	3.96	-0.73	
Franklinville	83	30	57	+6	54	171	+95	0.03	-0.74	4.41	-1.08	
Jamestown 4NE	83	33	59	+5	63	203	+103	0.00	-0.89	5.79	-0.50	
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>												
Binghamton/Broo	80	40	60	+5	75	234	+98	1.32	+0.55	6.36	+1.07	
Cobleskill	79	35	60	+5	74	198	+78	1.65	+0.81	6.77	+1.19	
Morrisville	82	36	60	+5	69	183	+71	1.11	+0.27	7.11	+1.68	
Norwich	85	34	60	+5	69	196	+72	1.31	+0.47	6.37	+0.61	
Oneonta	84	36	62	+8	83	237	+131	1.46	+0.48	6.47	+0.20	
<u>Coastal</u>												
Bridgehamton	76	43	60	+4	73	231	+98	0.39	-0.45	7.06	+0.61	
New York LGA	81	55	67	+5	120	453	+153	0.53	-0.31	5.69	-0.60	

^{1/} Season accumulations are for April 1st 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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