



WEATHER AND CROPS

10B Airline Drive
Albany, New York 12235
(518) 457-5570
www.nass.usda.gov/ny/

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Week Ending, May 29, 2005

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WEATHER: Temperatures averaged around 5 degrees below normal with precipitation once again well below normal across much of the state, except for those areas where showers and thunderstorms occurred on Friday and Saturday, mainly the Great Lakes, western plateau, eastern plateau and Hudson Valley climatic divisions. The week started out very cool as a coastal storm and associated upper level low circulated cool air and moisture from the Atlantic Ocean over much of the state through Wednesday. Temperatures began to moderate as the low pressure system departed on Thursday with many locations having their warmest weather for the week on Friday and Saturday. Friday saw showers and thunderstorms develop during the afternoon across western New York and quickly advance east ahead of a cold front. Some of the thunderstorms produced strong winds and hail up to three quarters of an inch. On Saturday more showers and thunderstorms occurred, some with heavy downpours.

CROPS: Dry weather during most of the week permitted planting to proceed at a furious pace. Warmer weather and rainfall is needed for good germination and growth. There were 5.6 days suitable for fieldwork. Showers kept producers out of the fields for 1.4 days. Topsoil moisture was rated 2 percent very short, 32 percent short, 61 percent adequate, and 5 percent surplus. The condition of oats was rated 24 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Wheat was rated at 19 percent fair, 68 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Corn planting reached 87 percent complete, ahead of last years progress of 63 percent. Dry beans were 49 percent planted, 11 points ahead of a year ago. Soybean planting was 66 percent finished compared with 66 percent last year. Alfalfa first cutting was underway and reached 12 percent finished, 4 points ahead of 2004. Following are comments from reporters across the state: In Jefferson County corn planting is winding down, and producers have started chopping haylage. Season continues to be cool, hampering plant growth. Although we are well past average final frost date of May 10th, there is still concern of frost especially for corn that is up. Very dry weather will likely have a negative impact on the early pre-emergence corn herbicide applications. Corn and small grain crops need moisture to germinate. As the lack of rain continues in Lewis County, many are planning to harvest first cutting the coming week though everyone is wondering how much they'll harvest – the hay fields are awfully short. Weather has been excellent in St. Lawrence County. Planting has been going very well. Expecting rain over the weekend, actually could use a little rain in some parts of the county. Another cold, damp week in Clinton County. Not a lot of precip, but the weather has been so cold and cloudy that things don't dry out. Early planted corn just starting to emerge. Forage crop progress is at least a week behind normal due to the April-like temps. Cool, dry weather continues in Otsego County to allow fieldwork to progress, but has not helped hay growth or even early planted small grains and corn, at this point. Hay was taken to keep ahead of maturity. Cool, wet weather hampered fieldwork in Albany County during the early part of the period. Corn is emerging, seedlings are up and haylage is being chopped on grassy fields. In Montgomery and Fulton Counties corn was still being planted late in the week. Soybeans are being planted. We got the rain we needed, now for some warm temperatures. There is hay being harvested, alfalfa is fair, grass hay is very short. Hailstorm in some parts of Schuyler County on May 27th. Farmers have haylage or baleage harvest well underway in Delaware County. Corn rows are visible most places. Cold nights have delayed corn emergence in some areas and delayed hay maturity. Much needed rain fell this week in Dutchess County, but cool temperatures are keeping warm season crops behind. Rainy and cold temps in Orange County slowed growth on grass and emerging corn. Haylage yields are much lower than normal due to cool weather. Light rains slowed plantings, however most farmers are still ahead of last years schedule.

FRUIT: Statewide, apples were 8 percent poor condition, 19 percent fair, 69 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Grapes were 20 percent poor, 25 percent fair, and 55 percent good. Peaches were 16 percent poor, 13 percent fair, and 71 percent good. Pears were 5 percent poor, 9 percent fair, 61 percent good and 25 percent excellent. In Albany County, apple growers were making tough decisions on their thinning applications. The late freeze caused damage to the trees but some were hard to access. Often one part of the tree had greater damage than the other so applying thinning agents will be difficult. Growers were expecting harvest to be well behind last years' early season which was brought on by abnormally warm weather. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, some fruit trees were still in bloom. Pears in inland sites were at petal fall. Peaches were at petal fall in inland sites and some lake sites. In the Lake Erie fruit region, vine growth continues to lag due to low temperatures. They were likely to have a later than average bloom in June unless they see consistent warm weather. In the Southern part of the Lake Erie grape belt, Concord shoots were at 2.2 inches stage of development. In the Finger Lakes region, grapes were at 1 to 5 inch shoot growth. They were behind the average development by about a week. Frost injury existed in some vineyards, as did winter injury, particularly to the most cold-sensitive V. vinifera varieties. The past week of cool rainy weather on Long Island grapes stalled shoot growth. Growers were hoping for sunny weather which will better benefit the vines.

VEGETABLE: Vegetable planting continued. Scattered rain throughout the state was welcomed over the weekend. Reports from Madison County are showing that strawberries were damaged from the frost a few weeks ago. Cabbage was reported as 100 percent planted in the lower Hudson Valley region. Tomatoes were near 80 percent planted in eastern regions. Some crops showed little development due to the cool weather. A forecast of warmer weather will be just in time.

LIVESTOCK: Cool temperatures slowed pasture growth, but despite this, most were in good shape. In Delaware County pastures were lush after receiving recent rainfall. Most areas of the state need rain and warmth to improve growth. Statewide, pastures conditions were 7 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 57 percent good, and 9 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, May 29, 2005

Station	Temperature (°F)				Growing Degree Days Base 50°			Precipitation (Inches)				
	High	Low	Avg	Dep. from Norm	Week	Season <u>1</u> / 	Dep. from Norm	Week	Dep. from Norm	Season <u>1</u> / 	Dep. from Norm	
<u>Hudson Valley</u>												
Albany	76	47	56	-6	41	259	+1	0.79	-0.02	3.87	-2.29	
Glens Falls	76	40	54	-5	33	155	-47	0.72	-0.12	6.02	-0.34	
Poughkeepsie	76	46	56	-7	41	257	-40	1.16	0.18	5.59	-1.95	
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>												
Utica	72	44	54	-6	34	194	-34	0.41	-0.44	6.30	-0.67	
<u>Champlain Valley</u>												
Plattsburgh	69	46	54	-6	30	125	-79	0.79	+0.10	6.67	+1.20	
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>												
Canton	73	38	54	-5	31	108	-65	0.11	-0.59	3.88	-1.75	
Massena	74	38	53	-6	26	119	-75	0.35	-0.24	5.46	+0.46	
<u>Great Lakes</u>												
Buffalo	75	44	56	-4	45	215	-23	0.15	-0.60	5.01	-0.78	
Colden	73	42	54	-4	31	138	-37	0.49	-0.36	5.55	-1.57	
Niagara Falls	77	45	57	-4	53	220	-34	0.30	-0.40	4.79	-1.11	
Rochester	72	45	54	-7	31	175	-84	0.39	-0.24	5.33	+0.19	
Watertown	71	43	55	-3	39	137	-40	0.08	-0.55	6.12	+1.10	
<u>Central Lakes</u>												
Dansville	75	41	53	-7	28	166	-75	0.38	-0.33	4.38	-1.12	
Geneva	71	44	55	-5	37	180	-48	0.53	-0.20	6.42	+0.73	
Honeoye	73	40	54	-7	30	163	-71	0.29	-0.39	5.67	+0.08	
Ithaca	70	41	53	-6	24	143	-55	0.82	+0.03	5.95	-0.03	
Penn Yan	72	43	54	-6	33	206	-22	0.20	-0.53	5.49	-0.20	
Syracuse	73	47	57	-4	52	249	-12	0.33	-0.44	6.36	-0.03	
Warsaw	69	37	51	-6	26	117	-39	0.54	-0.31	6.35	-0.29	
<u>Western Plateau</u>												
Alfred	73	42	53	-5	26	134	-45	0.57	-0.29	5.39	-0.86	
Elmira	75	41	54	-6	32	185	-32	0.64	-0.13	4.84	-0.81	
Franklinville	73	37	52	-4	19	84	-40	0.32	-0.53	5.45	-1.11	
Sinclairville	73	42	54	-3	33	143	-13	0.58	-0.36	5.56	-1.92	
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>												
Binghamton	71	43	53	-7	28	190	-18	0.33	-0.44	5.09	-1.18	
Cobleskill	73	43	52	-7	25	128	-57	1.65	+0.77	6.07	-0.61	
Morrisville	70	43	53	-6	26	128	-46	0.59	-0.31	6.22	-0.32	
Norwich	76	43	55	-4	37	143	-47	0.48	-0.40	5.21	-1.65	
Oneonta	73	36	53	-5	28	166	+0	0.90	-0.08	6.31	-1.18	
<u>Coastal</u>												
Bridgehamton	76	42	54	-6	34	157	-49	1.86	+1.02	7.96	+0.42	
New York	79	48	59	-7	66	397	-23	0.43	-0.41	5.56	-1.81	

1/ Season accumulations are for April 1st to date.

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The information contained in this weekly release is obtained from reports from Cornell Cooperative Extension agents, USDA Farm Service Agency agents, 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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 SERVICE
 Dept. of Agriculture & Markets
 10B Airline Drive, Albany, N.Y. 12235-0001

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