



## WEATHER AND CROPS

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USDA, Agricultural Statistics Service, NY Field Office, N.Y. Dept. of Agriculture and Markets, Division of Statistics  
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Week Ending, June 4, 2006

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**WEATHER:** A warm and humid air mass was over New York for the first half of the week. High pressure off the Mid Atlantic Coast ushered in sultry air from the tropics. A dry start for the holiday was replaced with multiple rounds of strong to severe weather ahead of a slow moving cold front approaching from the Midwest and Great Lakes region Tuesday to Thursday. The front moved southeastward from the St. Lawrence River Valley Thursday afternoon and reached the southern New England and upper Mid Atlantic coastline Friday morning. The front became stationary there with a wave of low pressure moving along it from the Ohio Valley Friday night. A soaking rain occurred over much of central and eastern New York through Saturday. Temperatures for the week were above normal. Precipitation for the week was well above normal from the Finger Lakes region eastward to the Taconics and Long Island.

**CROPS:** Excessive rain slowed spring fieldwork and planting. Less than ideal conditions provided 3.7 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 2 percent short, 58 percent adequate, and 40 percent surplus. Hay was rated 4 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 28 percent excellent. Oats were rated 3 percent poor, 10 percent fair and 73 percent good, and 14 percent excellent. Winter wheat was rated 16 percent fair, 66 percent good and 18 percent excellent. Alfalfa first cutting was 18 percent harvested compared to 30 percent last year. Clover Timothy was 18 percent harvested compared to 27 percent a year ago. Corn for grain was 89 percent planted compared to 94 percent last year. Dry beans were 7 percent planted compared to 6 percent last year. Soybeans were 63 percent planted compared to 74 percent a year ago. Grass silage was 25 percent harvested compared to 48 percent last year. Following are comments from reporters across the state: Haylage harvest was slowed due to rain in Jefferson County. Soybean planting continued. Constant rain delayed first cutting in Lewis County. About 85 percent of all crops were planted in St Lawrence County where much needed rain was adequate. In Clinton County, there was just over 2.5" of rain and the fields were flooded at worst; water logged at best. Forage harvest was just getting underway. Much needed rain was received in Ontario County. Rye for straw was cut. Planting continued but was slowed due to rain. First cutting hay yields were reported as low due to lack of rain in April and May. Spraying of oats was in full swing. In Wayne County, wet field conditions delayed planting of soybeans. Hay was ready but delayed by rain. In Cortland County, much needed rain and warmth was welcomed. Most crops were growing, spraying was winding down and mowing had begun. In Herkimer County, there was plenty of moisture, but fieldwork slowed. Hay harvest began with no complaints for Madison County. Farm operators were trying to get haying done. In Otsego County, there was plenty of moisture, but fieldwork slowed. In Albany County, corn planting was not going as well as expected due to the rain. Many farmers had problems with rotting corn seeds. Haylage and chopped hay were in fair condition. Little or no dry hay was harvested due to rain. In Fulton and Montgomery Counties, hay was harvested for grass silage. It looked as though some corn seed would be left in the bags. In Chautauqua County, some growers were fertilizing and weed spraying. In Steuben County, rain halted most fieldwork. Heavy thunderstorms left some fields standing with water in low lying areas. Otherwise crops looked pretty good.

**FRUIT:** Apples were in 3 percent poor condition, 17 percent fair, 74 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. Grapes were 25 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 49 percent good and 5 percent excellent. Peaches were 6 percent poor, 14 percent fair, and 80 percent good condition. Pears were 5 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 57 percent good and 13 percent excellent. Sweet cherries were 8 percent poor condition, 18 percent fair, and 74 percent good. Tart cherries were 8 percent poor condition, 26 percent fair, and 66 percent good. In the Lake Erie grape belt, some growers were fertilizing and weed spraying. Expected action with pre bloom fungicide sprays should occur sometime next week. Bloom in the vineyards will be expected around June 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. This date would be approximately one week earlier than the average bloom date recorded at the Fredonia Vineyard Lab, on June 16<sup>th</sup>. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, apple and pear orchards were experiencing extreme blossom blight risk from the hot weather received over the weekend, extending though May 31<sup>st</sup>. In the Finger Lakes region, growers should be able to get a good handle on cluster and shoot counts. In Albany County, strawberries were in full bloom and should be ready for harvest around June 12<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately some apple orchards have been subjected to apple scab. In the Long Island fruit region, rootstock at the research vineyard was starting to bloom. It will be several weeks before bloom starts in the rest of the vineyard. Chardonnay shoots ranged from 18 inches to 24 inches.

**VEGETABLE:** The good thing to report was no frosts throughout the state. The bad thing for some areas was the amount of rain received. Around the Capital Region, rain rates reached 4 inches or more! As a consequence, crops around the Capital Region are suffering from too much rain. Tomato planting was approximately 70 percent complete. Planting of lettuce throughout the state was reported as 60 percent complete. Lettuce harvest in some areas was ongoing, and lettuce condition throughout the state was reported as mostly good. Condition of onions was reported to be mostly good. Strawberry condition was reported to be good to excellent. The beginning of strawberry harvest was reported as starting within the next week or two in some areas. Sweet corn planting for fresh market was approximately 75 percent complete throughout the state. Sweet corn condition was reported to be mostly fair to good. Planting of snap beans was slowed down by the rain. Cabbage planting was also slowed down. Both snap beans and cabbage planting were running behind last year's reports and also the five-year average for planting progress. In western New York, sweet corn for processing appreciated the warmer weather at the beginning of the week and was greening up well. Other processing crops were progressing well.

**LIVESTOCK:** Pasture conditions showed good growth during the past week, many pastures may need clipping soon. Much needed rain stopped field work while hay over ripened in some areas due to the rain. Most pastured animals are enjoying the lush growth. Pasture condition estimates are 2 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 50 percent good and 33 percent excellent.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, June 4, 2006**

Station	Temperature (°F)				Growing Degree Days Base 50 <sup>o</sup> <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	89	55	69	+7	137	456	+121	3.03	+2.19	12.29	+5.41	
Glens Falls	86	55	68	+8	127	334	+66	2.41	+1.62	10.64	+3.61	
Poughkeepsie	88	54	70	+7	138	486	+107	2.42	+1.47	12.34	+3.99	
<b>Mohawk Valley</b>												
Utica	91	54	70	+9	141	381	+85	1.07	+0.16	7.44	-0.31	
<b>Champlain Valley</b>												
Plattsburgh	81	53	68	+7	125	371	+100	2.40	+1.70	8.98	+2.91	
<b>St. Lawrence Valley</b>												
Canton	88	48	68	+9	128	354	+123	1.49	+0.77	7.34	+1.09	
Massena	88	50	68	+8	127	373	+117	1.70	+1.05	8.07	+2.51	
<b>Great Lakes</b>												
Buffalo	91	56	72	+11	153	486	+175	0.66	-0.15	4.70	-1.79	
Wales	88	53	68	+10	130	320	+88	1.38	+0.46	6.20	-1.71	
Niagara Falls	91	54	71	+9	146	417	+89	0.39	-0.36	4.23	-2.32	
Rochester	93	56	73	+12	159	464	+135	1.01	+0.33	5.01	-0.72	
Watertown	85	50	68	+10	130	356	+122	1.75	+1.11	6.43	+0.86	
<b>Central Lakes</b>												
Dansville	95	53	71	+10	148	387	+75	1.63	+0.82	5.64	-0.56	
Geneva	93	54	70	+10	141	363	+66	1.71	+0.92	5.88	-0.49	
Honeoye	94	53	71	+10	147	384	+78	1.30	+0.52	4.17	-2.10	
Ithaca	91	50	68	+9	129	312	+51	2.70	+1.86	6.99	+0.29	
Penn Yan	92	54	71	+10	150	403	+106	1.61	+0.82	5.01	-1.36	
Syracuse	92	55	71	+10	148	438	+105	1.46	+0.66	7.60	+0.52	
Warsaw	87	50	68	+10	126	287	+79	1.35	+0.42	6.92	-0.52	
<b>Western Plateau</b>												
Angelica	92	51	68	+10	126	253	+48	1.32	+0.40	5.94	-0.38	
Elmira	92	50	69	+9	137	316	+32	1.94	+1.11	6.75	+0.38	
Franklinville	90	52	68	+12	129	252	+82	0.48	-0.45	6.30	-1.06	
Jamestown	91	53	69	+12	138	328	+118	0.41	-0.59	6.07	-2.15	
<b>Eastern Plateau</b>												
Binghamton	88	51	68	+7	125	353	+81	2.61	+1.80	7.27	+0.30	
Cobleskill	89	50	66	+7	116	288	+43	4.06	+3.11	12.20	+4.70	
Morrisville	87	50	68	+9	125	280	+50	2.24	+1.33	10.24	+2.92	
Norwich	91	50	68	+8	125	301	+52	1.71	+0.80	8.93	+1.29	
Oneonta	88	53	68	+10	129	370	+150	3.42	+2.42	9.55	+1.20	
<b>Coastal</b>												
Bridgehamton	79	53	66	+5	112	390	+115	0.97	+0.11	10.70	+2.42	
New York	89	58	73	+6	161	748	+225	3.81	+2.97	13.64	+5.55	

<sup>1/</sup> Season accumulations are for April 1<sup>st</sup> to date. Weekly accumulations are through 7:00 AM Sunday Morning. R18June418

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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