



WEATHER AND CROPS

May 21, 2007

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
10B Airline Drive, Albany, New York 12235
(518) 457-5570 · (518) 485-8719 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov

Released, May 21, 2007

Week Ending, May 20, 2007

No. 977-04-07

WEATHER: The week began dry and cool with a broad area of high pressure building in from southeastern Canada and the Great Lakes region. A warming trend occurred Monday into Tuesday, as the area of high pressure moved off the Mid-Atlantic Coast. A warm front on Tuesday brought scattered showers and thunderstorms, especially from the Mohawk Valley northward into northern New York. A wave of low pressure moving across northern New York and its associated cold front brought scattered showers and thunderstorms across much of New York State Tuesday night through Wednesday. Damaging winds from some of the thunderstorms were common across the lower Hudson Valley Wednesday afternoon. High pressure near the upper Mississippi River Valley brought mainly dry weather on Thursday. A coastal low brought some showers to southern New York on Friday, and a widespread soaking rainfall to eastern New York on Saturday. Precipitation for the week was above normal across northern and eastern New York, as well as Long Island. Rainfall was generally below normal over western New York, and the western Finger Lake Region. Temperatures for the week were below to slightly below normal. The warmest day of the week across central and eastern New York was Tuesday.

CROPS: Farmers last week received some much needed rain in the latter part of the week. The rain slowed farm work and only allowed 5.2 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 8 percent short, 81 percent adequate, and 11 percent surplus. Oat condition was 1 percent poor, 7 percent fair, 77 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. Winter wheat condition was 2 percent poor 22 percent fair, 60 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Corn for grain was 61 percent planted compared with 71 percent last year and 52 percent over the last five years. Oats were 91 percent planted compared with 96 percent last year, and a five year average of 87 percent. Potatoes reached 67 percent completion compared with 54 percent last year and 51 percent as the five year average. Soybeans were 29 percent planted compared with 26 percent last year, and a five year average of 26 percent. The following are reports from across the state: Dutchess County received some much needed rain and all of the crops are doing well because of the moisture. Farmers continued to plant corn in Delaware County. In Cattaraugus, Jefferson and Washington Counties farmers cut hay for haylage last week. The field preparation and planting continued in Cortland County.

FRUIT: Apples were at 79 percent petal fall. Peaches were 98 percent petal fall. Pears were 25 percent full bloom. Sweet and tart cherries were also at 25 percent full bloom. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, close to 2 days of leaf wetness occurred at average temperatures in the 50's in inland sites and upper 40's along the lake. Currently, apples had no risk of blossom blight due to the high temperatures received. Varieties such as Gala, Romes, Greenings, and other late blooming varieties appeared to have plenty of unopened blossoms. Growers were busy pinching shoots. In Onondaga County, grapes were doing well; shoot growths were strong. Strawberries showed some blossoms. Growers were expected to spray for disease and insects sometime this week. In Albany County, apple bloom looked good. In the Lake Erie fruit region, cooler weather put a damper on vine growth. Some growers were still trying to finish tying and pruning. Other growers were busy completing trellis work and weed spraying. In the Southern part of the Lake Erie Belt, Concord and Niagara shoots by the lake ranged from 2 to 4 inches. In the Long Island fruit region, conditions were dry until rain fell on May 18th. Chardonnay shoots ranged from 4 to 12 inches, with an average of about 6 to 8 inches. Merlot shoots were 4 to 8 inches. Shoot growth was actually slightly ahead of last year and also ahead of more easterly vineyards. Many nodes were observed having 2 to 3 shoots. Growers were hoping for warmer weather in the forecast which will further assist shoot growth.

VEGETABLE: Planting continued through the early part of the week and transplanted vegetables received a much needed rain. In Onondaga County the cabbage and pumpkins were planted. Onion planting reached 71 percent, down from last years 84 percent. Sweet corn was 60 percent planted compared to the average of 40 percent. Cabbage planted was 36 percent slightly ahead of the average of 34 percent.

LIVESTOCK: Pastures continue to green from this week's rain. Pastured animals enjoyed the lush growth. Pasture conditions across most of the state were estimated to be in good condition. Pasture conditions were rated 2 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 68 percent good, and 17 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, May 20, 2007

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	85	36	57	-2	49	219	+57	1.49	+0.72	8.77	+3.64	
Glens Falls	81	30	53	-4	31	144	+22	1.01	+0.17	6.50	+1.22	
Poughkeepsie	88	35	60	+2	72	277	+83	0.94	-0.04	9.30	+3.02	
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>												
Boonville	75	34	49	-5	17	87	+3	1.06	+0.08	6.27	-1.18	
<u>Champlain Valley</u>												
Plattsburgh	69	35	50	-7	25	151	+28	1.80	+1.17	6.17	+1.57	
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>												
Canton	71	32	50	-5	25	135	+31	1.64	+0.99	5.29	+0.56	
Massena	71	33	51	-6	25	143	+24	1.39	+0.83	4.94	+0.69	
<u>Great Lakes</u>												
Buffalo	75	38	55	-3	39	173	+24	0.68	-0.02	3.79	-1.05	
Wales	79	32	51	-5	24	116	+10	0.85	+0.07	4.79	-1.24	
Niagara Falls	82	35	55	-3	41	167	+4	0.74	+0.11	3.93	-1.08	
Rochester	81	37	57	-1	56	216	+47	0.17	-0.46	3.66	-0.67	
Watertown	74	31	51	-4	28	127	+19	1.08	+0.45	3.07	-1.14	
<u>Central Lakes</u>												
Dansville	88	31	53	-5	35	161	+8	0.44	-0.19	3.40	-1.21	
Geneva	81	36	54	-3	42	156	+13	0.63	-0.02	4.88	+0.12	
Honeoye	84	30	54	-4	41	171	+25	0.63	0.00	4.55	-0.18	
Ithaca	85	29	52	-4	34	145	+23	0.34	-0.42	4.25	-0.72	
Penn Yan	86	34	56	-1	55	207	+64	0.37	-0.28	4.39	-0.37	
Syracuse	84	35	55	-3	48	189	+21	0.31	-0.40	4.79	-0.61	
Warsaw	78	32	51	-4	27	120	+28	1.19	+0.42	5.86	+0.29	
<u>Western Plateau</u>												
Angelica	85	27	51	-4	28	102	+11	0.43	-0.21	4.02	-0.52	
Elmira	88	27	54	-3	49	176	+41	0.20	-0.50	2.88	-1.78	
Franklinville	83	27	51	-2	30	107	+36	0.39	-0.38	4.38	-1.10	
Jamestown	84	32	52	-2	30	149	+55	0.53	-0.35	5.70	-0.58	
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>												
Binghamton	85	33	55	-2	44	188	+60	0.38	-0.39	3.89	-1.39	
Cobleskill	80	32	52	-4	28	137	+24	1.61	+0.77	10.56	+5.00	
Morrisville	77	34	51	-5	22	113	+8	0.59	-0.25	6.10	+0.70	
Norwich	87	29	52	-5	26	111	-6	1.28	+0.44	6.93	+1.19	
Oneonta	86	32	55	+1	36	169	+69	1.40	+0.42	9.57	+3.37	
<u>Coastal</u>												
Bridgehamton	68	37	55	-2	41	176	+51	1.63	+0.79	8.54	+2.08	
New York	89	50	64	+2	96	404	+117	0.84	0.00	13.91	+7.62	

^{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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