



# WEATHER AND CROPS

## October 6, 2008

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Released, October 6, 2008

Week Ending, October 5, 2008

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**WEATHER:** Temperatures averaged near normal for the week starting out above normal early in the week than cooling off below normal by late. In fact, temperatures dropped to freezing levels in areas of Dutchess County on the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup>. Precipitation averaged above normal, especially away from the Hudson Valley. The combination of a cold front and peripheral moisture from Hurricane Kyle brought half to an inch of rainfall on Sunday September 28<sup>th</sup> with the heaviest amounts in Connecticut. A series of cold fronts brought more showers on Thursday and Friday.

**CROPS:** Scattered showers during the week hindered crop harvest. There were 4.3 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated as 2 percent short, 82 percent adequate and 16 percent surplus. Hay condition was rated as 9 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 17 percent excellent. Alfalfa third cutting reached 95 percent complete, ahead of the average progress of 93 percent. Corn condition was rated as 3 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 34 percent excellent. Silage corn harvest advanced to 61 percent complete, behind the average rate of 66 percent finished. Grain corn was 7 percent completed behind last years 8 percent, and the average of 12 percent. Potatoes were 81 percent dug compared to the average of 79 percent. Dry beans were 46 percent harvested, ahead of the 38 percent average. Soybeans were 14 percent harvested ahead of the five year average 13 percent, but behind last years 18 percent. The following are comments from across the state: Mud added to the problems already frustrating silage harvesters in Jefferson County, but the soybeans continued to look good. Even though rainy weather slowed corn harvest in Lewis County the yields looked good, but above average losses occurred in fields where corn was lodged from the wind storm. In Niagara County, the wheat planting was ahead of normal and the corn silage harvest neared its end. It was too wet to continue the corn and soybean harvest in Ontario County. Corn in Cayuga County that was down from the wind storm was harvested with a minimal loss of yield, and the grain corn continued to look good. Silage corn harvest continued in Madison County with many producers done, and all reported very good yields. Cool temperatures and a frost in Chenango County caused many crops to dry off and stop growing. Farmers in Washington County made progress with corn silage harvest, and most of the county has not received a frost yet. Corn silage was harvested in Montgomery, Fulton, and Herkimer Counties, but the corn for grain still needs more time. Cortland County received enough rain to be a nuisance during the first part of the week, and the last part of the week harvest was halted due to rain. Cortland County has only minor frost damage to date.

**FRUIT:** Apples were in 20 percent poor condition, 31 percent fair, 32 percent good, and 17 percent excellent. The harvest was 61 percent complete, in line with the 5-year average. Peaches were 35 percent poor, 16 percent fair, and 49 percent good. Harvest was at 98 percent, in line with the 5-year average. Pears were 35 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Pears were 90 percent harvested, in line with the 5-year average. Grapes were in 10 percent poor condition, 18 percent fair, 62 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Grapes were 69 percent harvested, above the average of 48 percent. The Finger Lakes began harvesting Concords, while the Pinot Gris and Pinot Noir harvest was nearly complete. There were significantly higher downy mildew and botrytis infection levels in certain areas due to the wet weather. In the Lake Erie region, Niagara harvest is finished for most processors. In the Hudson Valley, white grapes neared the end of the harvest. The quality of harvested grapes remained excellent despite the intermittent wet weather. There were some botrytis problems on the tight clustered varieties. On Long Island, white varieties were mostly harvested. Sugars were generally low to moderate with acidity and intense flavors.

**VEGETABLE:** Several counties across the state experienced rainfall that slowed or prevented harvest. Tomatoes were 91 percent harvested, down from 95 percent harvested last year. Tomato conditions were 19 percent poor, 37 percent fair, 42 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. Lettuce conditions were 15 percent poor, 32 percent fair, and 53 percent good. Cucumber conditions were 8 percent poor, 54 percent fair, and 38 percent good. Onion harvest was 90 percent complete, behind 97 percent harvested last year. Onion conditions were 14 percent fair, 81 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Sweet corn harvest was 95 percent complete, down from 96 percent harvested last year. Sweet corn conditions were 6 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 20 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 98 percent complete, down from 99 percent harvested last year. Snap bean conditions were 6 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 63 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 78 percent completed, declined 94 percent harvested last year. Cabbage conditions were 2 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 67 percent good, and 10 percent excellent.

**LIVESTOCK:** Pasture growth continues to slow across state. Pasture conditions were estimated to be in good condition. Pasture conditions were rated 4 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 55 percent good and 16 percent excellent. Cooler temperatures slowed pasture growth and encouraged supplemental feeding for livestock on pasture.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, October 5, 2008**

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	77	36	57	+3	55	2820	+376	1.29	+0.66	24.13	+4.06
Glens Falls	75	32	56	+4	46	2239	+125	0.87	+0.23	22.35	+2.44
Poughkeepsie	70	38	58	+3	59	2893	+313	0.62	-0.08	27.24	+4.18
<b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>											
Boonville	66	37	49	-2	14	1735	+88	0.72	-0.34	28.60	-0.12
<b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>											
Plattsburgh	68	37	54	+2	35	2145	+4	0.85	+0.26	20.42	+0.98
<b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b>											
Canton	70	37	52	+2	26	2138	+213	0.86	+0.09	21.15	+0.06
Massena	69	35	52	0	27	2139	+131	0.51	-0.16	18.60	-0.61
<b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>											
Buffalo	66	38	54	-3	32	2615	+238	0.92	+0.22	22.00	+1.19
Wales	63	33	51	-3	22	1976	+57	1.91	+1.01	25.00	+0.50
Niagara Falls	68	37	53	-3	30	2483	+102	0.88	+0.21	19.30	-1.05
Rochester	65	39	54	-3	31	2699	+391	0.89	+0.33	15.18	-2.63
Watertown	65	35	52	-2	22	2193	+211	2.15	+1.52	21.93	+5.10
<b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>											
Dansville	70	35	54	-2	36	2420	+109	0.90	+0.24	21.61	+1.99
Geneva	63	39	53	-3	24	2361	+74	1.02	+0.32	19.52	+0.11
Honeoye	66	35	53	-4	29	2297	-114	1.06	+0.37	19.76	+0.57
Ithaca	65	33	52	-2	27	2197	+134	1.30	+0.53	19.56	-1.42
Penn Yan	67	41	55	+1	38	2764	+477	0.85	+0.15	18.85	-0.56
Syracuse	69	42	54	-3	27	2584	+258	0.81	+0.04	19.93	-2.13
Warsaw	62	35	50	-3	18	1942	+185	1.80	+1.00	27.99	+4.97
<b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>											
Angelica	63	27	49	-3	14	1712	-22	1.41	+0.68	21.89	+0.20
Elmira	68	29	53	-1	30	2386	+209	0.97	+0.32	17.55	-2.07
Franklinville	66	30	51	-1	23	1817	+226	2.28	+1.44	24.88	+1.59
Jamestown	68	32	52	-1	29	2088	+285	1.86	+0.91	21.82	-4.36
<b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>											
Binghamton	67	34	52	-3	22	2345	+243	0.47	-0.22	19.75	-1.01
Cobleskill	70	35	54	+1	35	2150	+195	0.57	-0.17	25.72	+3.33
Morrisville	67	38	50	-3	16	1994	+136	1.18	+0.36	21.77	-0.81
Norwich	69	32	53	+1	31	2089	+134	2.72	+1.95	20.62	-1.66
Oneonta	70	34	54	+3	39	2444	+655	1.23	+0.46	19.10	-4.63
<b><u>Coastal</u></b>											
Bridgehamton	73	40	61	+3	77	2764	+281	0.53	-0.20	24.50	+2.72
New York	74	53	64	+2	98	3739	+435	0.75	+0.05	24.46	+1.59

<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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