



WEATHER AND CROPS

May 26, 2009

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
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Released, May 26, 2009

Week Ending, May 24, 2009

No. 977-05-09

WEATHER: The week began with a drying trend and rather cool temperatures for the middle of May as a cold front pushed through the region. Then the remainder of the week was dominated by high pressure and a return to seasonable temperatures. Those temperatures reached summer-like levels by the later half of the week with many locations climbing well into the 80's. By the weekend, another cold front provided the region with scattered showers and thunderstorms and a return to seasonable temperatures.

CROPS: Dry, warm conditions accelerated planting progress across the state, as farmers finished planting corn, and began harvesting hay. There were 6.0 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 2 percent very short, 29 percent short, 66 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus. Condition of winter wheat was rated as 2 percent poor, 10 percent fair, 75 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Oat condition was 2 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 67 percent good, and 14 percent excellent. Corn planting was 80 percent completed, ahead of last year's 57 percent, and the five year average of 72 percent. Ninety-six percent of the oats were planted, behind last year's 97 percent, but ahead of the five year average of 94 percent. Potatoes were 74 percent planted, ahead of last year's 68 percent, and the five year average of 66 percent. Soybeans were 39 percent planted, the same as the five year average, but behind last year's 49 percent. The following are comments throughout the state: Corn planting was finished in Washington County, and some first cutting hay was harvested. A killing frost occurred on Tuesday, but does not appear to have affected the corn or apples since they were already in petal drop. Haylage and dry hay was cut in Cattaraugus County. Planting was ahead of normal in Steuben County due to the dry weather where chopping began, but the yield was down. Good weather in Broome County allowed for early cut hay to be chopped for silage. Columbia County was expecting a low hay yield for first cutting due to a dry spring. Lots of grass hay was harvested in Delaware County due to the picture perfect week, and the planting was going very well. Ideal weather in Dutchess County had most of the corn planted, soybeans started, and the oats looked good. Hay was harvested as dry hay and haylage in Niagara County. Corn and soybean planting were nearly done, and rain was needed for all crops. Ontario County was in need of some rain as many crops were planted throughout the week. Some areas of Ontario County experienced frost and producers were waiting to see if any damage was done. Yields were less than expected from the first cutting of hay in Wayne County. Most of the first cutting of forage was completed in Chenango County. Corn was emerging in Cortland County, and several farms began harvesting hay. First cutting of hay was being cut in Madison County though it looked short, and the corn was emerging. Haylage harvest was in full swing in Albany County with many acres harvested over the holiday weekend. Corn planting was winding down in Montgomery, Fulton, and Herkimer Counties, as hay cutting began. Saratoga County soil conditions were getting dry, and some rain was needed to improve crop growing conditions. Corn and soybean planting were moving at a brisk pace in Jefferson County with several farms harvesting grass fields. Corn planting really began moving in Lewis County after the ground dried out with many farms trying to get as many acres planted as possible before the rain that is expected on Wednesday. Livingston County has not received any rain in over a week. Lots of crops were planted in St. Lawrence County, and the first cutting of hay began with more expected to be harvested in the coming week weather permitting.

FRUIT: Apples across the state were at 95 percent full bloom and 85 percent petal fall, the same as last year. Peaches reached 80 percent petal fall, compared with 89 percent last year. Pears reached 80 percent petal fall, compared with 95 percent last year. Sweet cherries were at 98 percent petal fall, the same as last year, while tart cherries were at 95 percent petal fall, ahead of 85 percent last year. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, the petal fall thinning window began in inland sites. The Lake Erie grape region experienced the third latest hard freeze in the past 100 years on May 17-19. Vineyard damage ranged from some leaf damage here and there to total kill of the primary shoot growth. Secondary buds were being assessed and may contribute to a smaller-than-normal crop. In the Capital region, spotty frost did not affect the apples. In the Hudson Valley, frost on May 19 was spotty, and few producers reported damage to apples and peaches. Broome County strawberries were in bloom and green berry stages. On Long Island, strawberry fields were spared from a possible frost, and the fruit load appeared to be one of the largest observed in several years. Shoot growth in vineyards accelerated this week with warmer temperatures.

VEGETABLE: Weather for the vegetable crop was perfect with a bit of rain and sunshine with many crops being planted. Farm stands were busy as were the greenhouses with lots of interest in home gardening this season. Sweet corn was at 52 percent planted, compared to 58 percent previous year, and 55 percent for the five year average. Cabbage was at 54 percent planted, compared to 36 percent previous year, and 49 percent for the five year average. Snap beans were at 16 percent planted, down from 31 percent previous year, and down from 41 percent previous five year average. Lettuce in western New York was still small to medium with only a few spots anywhere near harvest. Transplanting of tomatoes progressed and vine crops under plastic looked good for early production.

LIVESTOCK: Pasture conditions across most of the state were estimated to be in good condition. Pastures in Albany County could use some rain, and cattle are on lush pastures in Jefferson County. Pasture conditions were rated 3 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 54 percent good, and 19 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, May 24, 2009

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	88	32	60	+2	82	335	+134	0.06	-0.71	3.60	-1.97	
Glens Falls	87	29	59	+2	71	264	+109	0.00	-0.84	3.41	-2.35	
Poughkeepsie	88	31	60	-1	77	348	+111	0.01	-0.97	5.78	-1.06	
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>												
Boonville	88	33	56	+2	60	148	+41	0.16	-0.82	8.40	+0.39	
<u>Champlain Valley</u>												
Plattsburgh	91	32	59	+2	70	222	+66	0.00	-0.64	4.63	-0.34	
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>												
Canton	83	40	56	0	52	174	+42	0.05	-0.64	6.65	+1.52	
Massena	83	37	58	+2	66	221	+71	0.03	-0.53	5.05	+0.48	
<u>Great Lakes</u>												
Buffalo	78	34	59	+1	74	280	+94	0.00	-0.70	3.95	-1.29	
Wales	80	28	56	0	59	216	+82	0.00	-0.82	4.31	-2.20	
Niagara Falls	81	33	59	0	70	279	+78	0.00	-0.66	4.99	-0.41	
Rochester	85	36	59	+1	76	282	+75	0.00	-0.63	3.20	-1.49	
Watertown	81	38	57	+2	59	208	+72	0.18	-0.45	6.31	+1.74	
<u>Central Lakes</u>												
Dansville	85	30	57	-1	67	269	+80	0.06	-0.59	2.78	-2.21	
Geneva	87	33	60	+3	78	256	+78	0.00	-0.69	4.13	-1.03	
Honeoye	88	32	59	+2	76	283	+101	0.00	-0.63	4.31	-0.78	
Ithaca	87	28	58	+2	71	239	+86	0.22	-0.55	4.34	-1.07	
Penn Yan	88	35	61	+4	86	316	+138	0.01	-0.68	2.58	-2.58	
Syracuse	87	32	60	+2	84	324	+117	0.00	-0.75	4.64	-1.20	
Warsaw	81	30	58	+4	72	202	+84	0.01	-0.78	4.47	-1.56	
<u>Western Plateau</u>												
Angelica	84	25	54	-2	51	180	+63	0.00	-0.69	3.08	-1.87	
Elmira	89	24	57	-2	64	276	+107	0.01	-0.73	3.04	-2.06	
Franklinville	84	26	55	+2	54	175	+83	0.00	-0.80	4.03	-1.92	
Jamestown	83	28	57	+3	68	232	+113	0.00	-0.91	3.87	-2.93	
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>												
Binghamton	83	31	60	+3	85	298	+137	0.08	-0.69	4.66	-1.06	
Cobleskill	85	29	59	+2	77	231	+89	0.08	-0.76	3.52	-2.52	
Morrisville	82	30	57	0	66	198	+65	0.03	-0.82	5.50	-0.39	
Norwich	86	28	57	0	62	212	+65	0.06	-0.78	7.34	+1.12	
Oneonta	85	30	57	+3	66	229	+102	0.00	-0.98	5.67	-1.12	
<u>Coastal</u>												
Bridgehamton	74	40	59	+2	68	251	+93	0.02	-0.82	9.00	+2.06	
New York	86	50	65	+2	104	467	+124	0.00	-0.84	8.08	+1.31	

^{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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