



WEATHER AND CROPS

May 2, 2011

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Released, May 2, 2011

Week Ending, May 1, 2011

No. 977-02-11

WEATHER: A mild, stormy and very wet week occurred across New York State. Mainly light precipitation fell across the state on Sunday as a frontal boundary stalled just south of the state. This boundary then lifted north as a warm front Tuesday into Wednesday bringing very mild temperatures with highs reaching the 80's in many areas but also very heavy rain and severe weather which lasted through Thursday when a cold front moved across the state with very strong winds behind the front across the western half of the state. Severe thunderstorms produced damaging winds and tornadoes across the state during the mid week period and the heavy rain resulted in record flooding in some areas. Only the southeast corner of the state escaped the heavy rain and rainfall totals in those areas were generally under half an inch. Drier and cooler weather prevailed on Friday and Saturday as high pressure moved into the state. Temperatures for the week averaged around 10 degrees above normal while precipitation averaged 2 to 4 times the normal rainfall for the week with the greatest amounts falling from the Great Lakes, Mohawk Valley and upper Hudson Valley Climatic Divisions northward.

CROPS: Another rainy week resulted in very little progress in fields across the state. There were 1.3 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated as 19 percent adequate and 81 percent surplus. Winter wheat condition was 4 percent poor, 42 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. Oat seedings were 7 percent completed compared to 79 percent last year and a 5-year average of 60 percent. Potatoes were 46 percent planted, compared to 43 percent last year and a 5-year average of 33 percent. The following are comments from throughout the state: Rain continued to slow progress in fields across the state. Extensive flooding along rivers in Lewis County resulted from continued rain. Jefferson County experienced wet field conditions that hampered field operations. Sporadic tillage was done on drier fields. Severe winds and strong storms in St. Lawrence County were causing flooding concerns and curtailed fieldwork. Niagara County received much rain. Genesee County had continued wet and cold conditions that kept soils saturated and prevented fieldwork except for manure spreading and wheat weed spraying. Conditions for corn planting were dismal. Field preparations in Ontario County came to a halt as the rain continued. Producers were concerned about being unable to plant oats. Excessive rainfall prohibited field work in Cayuga County. Some fields and barns were flooded. Chenango County experienced severe flooding that continued to delay planting. Heavy storms swept through Cortland County and brought more unneeded rain. The southeast portion of the county was hit the worst with flash flooding and stream bank erosion. Plowing and planting were behind schedule. Any spring small grains that were planted in early April were completely saturated with no signs of germination. Many fields in Madison County had standing water in them. Little field work occurred, except for some plowing on better drained soils. Excessive moisture and flash flooding prevented field work in Oswego County. Otsego County fields were too wet for work. Field work was delayed in Albany County due to wet conditions. Corn planting had not yet started in Albany, Schenectady, or Schoharie Counties. Field work in Fulton and Montgomery Counties was also delayed because of saturated fields. Some manure pits were emptied in Saratoga County, with field crop planting about 2 weeks behind. A small amount of spring hay seedings were completed and grass hay fields showed improvement with late week warm temperatures. Heavy rain combined with melting snow caused flooding along the Hudson River in Washington County. Many fields were under water and planting was about 2-3 weeks behind normal. Schuyler County had heavy rains that resulted in flooding and standing water. Rain continued in Delaware and Sullivan Counties where it was too wet for fieldwork. Farmers in Dutchess County were unable to get into fields to plant as the wet weather continued, accompanied by some high winds.

FRUIT: Apples were 89 percent green tip or earlier, comparable with last year and above the five year average of 83 percent, and 75 percent half-inch green to pink, down from 78 percent last year. Peaches were 95 percent green tip or earlier, down from 98 percent last year, and 81 percent half-inch green to pink, above the five year average of 58 percent. Pears were 90 percent green tip or earlier and 85 percent half-inch green to pink, equal to last year. Sweet cherries were 87 percent green tip or earlier and 79 percent half-inch green to pink, comparable to previous years and five year averages. Tart cherries were 92 percent green tip or earlier and 80 percent half-inch green to pink. Strawberry plants looked good coming into the delayed spring in Albany County, no blooms yet. Also, apples are about a week away from bloom. In Long Island vineyards, earlier varieties such as Chardonnay were in budbreak.

VEGETABLE: Planting continued with sweet corn still being placed under plastic. Sweet corn was at 4 percent planted, up from 2 percent previous week but below 13 percent from the previous year and below the 13 percent five-year average. Onions were at 18 percent planted, well below last year's progress of 54 percent and down from the 34 percent five-year average. Snap beans were at 1 percent planted, below 8 percent last year and lower than the 5 percent five-year average.

LIVESTOCK: The grass is growing in pastures but there isn't much feed value yet. Excessive moisture is making pastures too wet to use without damage. Pasture was rated 7 percent very poor, 24 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 37 percent good, and 2 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, May 1, 2011

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	84	37	59	+9	67	100	+62	1.29	+0.59	4.66	+1.57	
Glens Falls	80	35	56	+8	46	70	+46	2.20	+1.46	4.77	+1.68	
Poughkeepsie	84	37	62	+11	88	129	+76	0.47	-0.43	4.81	+1.19	
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>												
Boonville	75	35	52	+7	32	38	+20	4.10	+3.05	9.17	+4.39	
<u>Champlain Valley</u>												
Plattsburgh	78	32	55	+7	40	51	+25	2.62	+1.95	5.63	+2.74	
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>												
Canton	76	34	52	+5	27	33	+13	2.40	+1.70	6.24	+3.29	
Massena	77	34	54	+7	34	55	+31	1.12	+0.51	5.24	+2.51	
<u>Great Lakes</u>												
Buffalo	82	38	57	+7	56	92	+56	1.62	+0.92	5.74	+2.77	
Wales	82	35	54	+7	40	61	+40	2.00	+1.16	6.44	+2.55	
Niagara Falls	82	35	55	+5	44	77	+36	1.30	+0.60	5.13	+1.88	
Rochester	81	37	55	+5	46	86	+43	1.53	+0.90	5.69	+2.99	
Watertown	83	31	53	+5	42	63	+40	1.73	+1.11	5.56	+2.96	
<u>Central Lakes</u>												
Dansville	84	41	58	+9	61	106	+68	1.25	+0.59	4.50	+1.60	
Geneva	79	41	55	+6	44	69	+36	2.35	+1.65	6.43	+3.42	
Honeoye	80	38	56	+7	48	79	+45	1.43	+0.74	5.43	+2.39	
Ithaca	83	37	56	+8	52	72	+46	2.21	+1.51	7.31	+4.30	
Penn Yan	81	39	56	+7	49	81	+48	2.50	+1.80	5.76	+2.75	
Syracuse	82	41	59	+9	65	112	+71	3.49	+2.72	8.57	+5.13	
Warsaw	79	34	53	+7	37	50	+34	1.41	+0.64	6.59	+3.11	
<u>Western Plateau</u>												
Angelica	80	38	55	+9	45	65	+50	2.20	+1.57	7.29	+4.43	
Elmira	83	36	57	+8	50	81	+51	3.19	+2.53	6.64	+3.86	
Franklinville	80	38	53	+8	32	51	+40	1.03	+0.26	6.03	+2.64	
Jamestown	81	33	54	+8	40	66	+47	0.89	-0.01	6.25	+2.30	
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>												
Binghamton	81	40	57	+8	55	73	+46	3.84	+3.07	8.56	+5.32	
Cobleskill	80	35	55	+8	41	52	+29	2.63	+1.86	5.74	+2.34	
Morrisville	79	38	55	+7	44	51	+32	1.86	+1.09	7.65	+4.45	
Norwich	83	35	55	+8	46	65	+41	2.71	+1.88	7.59	+4.11	
Oneonta	83	35	56	+9	44	59	40	3.38	+2.49	7.77	+4.16	
<u>Coastal</u>												
Bridgehamton	75	41	59	+9	62	75	+50	0.29	-0.62	2.94	-1.16	
New York	80	50	62	+7	88	147	+53	0.64	-0.27	5.13	+1.21	

^{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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