



# WEATHER AND CROPS

## August 6, 2012

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Released, August 6, 2012

Week Ending, August 5, 2012

No. 977-16-12

**WEATHER:** High pressure dominated much of the week. A weakening cold front moved into the region on Wednesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, triggering scattered convection. Temperatures were near seasonable levels most of the week, however, hot and humid conditions develop by the end of the week ahead of an approaching cold front.

**CROPS:** There were 5.8 days suitable for fieldwork during the week. Soil moisture was rated 18 percent very short, 45 percent short, 36 percent adequate and 1 percent surplus. Hay crops were rated 28 percent poor, 45 percent fair, 25 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. Condition of oats was 2 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 68 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Oats were 61 percent harvested compared with 26 percent last year. Wheat was rated 3 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 68 percent good, 13 percent excellent. Wheat was 98 percent harvested compared to 97 percent last year. Corn was rated 14 percent poor, 37 percent fair, 43 percent good, 6 percent excellent. Soybeans were rated 8 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. The second cutting of alfalfa hay was 90 percent complete compared with 90 percent last year. Clover-timothy second cut was 72 percent complete compared with 78 percent a year ago. The following comments are from our reporters throughout the state: Additional rainfall continues to improve crop conditions in Jefferson County. Most areas of the county benefited from nice rain showers, however, some areas saw limited amounts of rain. The soybean crop continues to look really good, corn has improved and the hay crops are responding to the recent rain. St. Lawrence County had another desperately needed 1.5 inches of rain in the past week, making 2.6 inches in the past ten days. Crop conditions have improved modestly, but some crops will not completely recover from the ravages of a hot month with essentially no rain. In Livingston County, recent rains have improved crop outlook. Niagara County had up to an inch of rain in some areas. Hopefully it will encourage hay growth. Corn ears are shorter than normal. Another hot, dry week in Ontario County and producers are reporting significant losses in hay yields, ranging from 30 to 75 percent depending on if they received any of the scattered rain showers. The corn is again showing signs of stress from the dry weather. Cayuga and Oswego Counties report increased drought levels to stage D1 on US drought monitor. Pastures and hay crops are non-existent. What little hay is there is of poor quality. Producers are buying hay now, some are feeding winter feed stocks now. Small beef operations are selling or reducing herds. More rain has helped revive many crops in Cortland County, but corn still looks thirsty. Hay crops have grown enough to mow, but yields are very low due to leafhopper. Many producers are planting sudex or oats for additional forage to ensure they do not run short in the coming year. Drought conditions continue on in Herkimer County. Some areas have had enough rain that crops have somewhat recovered. Some areas of the county are hauling water for livestock. They received a little rain in Madison County, which has helped, but they are still in a drought. Corn and soybeans need rain. The second cutting of hay was very poor. Continuing "spotty" rain showers have been the norm over the past week, especially in the southern part of Madison County. Much of the corn has recovered from the previous drought stress, and most has pollinated. However, there is a sizeable acreage of corn planted in early June waiting to tassel. Signs of pasture recovery are beginning to show. Otsego County had some rain showers this past week that helped crops, but more rain is needed. Second cutting is minimal due to lack of moisture. Much needed precipitation in Albany County came during the week, helping to improve soil moisture and crop conditions greatly. Corn is much improved and most is now tasseling. Montgomery and Fulton Counties received more needed rain. All crops are looking better. There will be losses, but we are not sure of the amount. The Saratoga County area got much needed rain Sunday afternoon and evening. The rain should help hay rebound and improve the condition of corn, especially the later planted crops. Most of Washington County received up to over 2 inches of rain from a line of thunderstorms that moved through on Sunday. Crops vary according to soil type and where storms have dropped rain. Areas that missed thunderstorms have corn that is curling and is shorter than normal. Farmers report that second cutting yields were well below normal. Seneca and Schuyler Counties received a rain/wind storm on Tuesday and another shower on Sunday afternoon. Both Delaware and Sullivan Counties experienced rain showers and continued warm weather. For those producers who got their fields cleared off, though quality was minimal and poor, they are now reporting some good growth and the chance to get a good yield off the fields for their next cutting. Sullivan County producers, who faithfully cut every 30 days or so, report an early first cutting with good production, 2<sup>nd</sup> cutting was 30 percent or so of normal and third is back up to 75 percent of normal. They are hopeful for a good fourth and even possibly a fifth cutting if the good weather continues and holds on through September and October. Dutchess County received some much needed rain this past week. Crops look much better.

**FRUIT:** Apple conditions were 50 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 22 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Peach conditions were 14 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 70 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Pear conditions were 19 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Sweet cherry harvest was 85 percent complete, down from the 100 percent previous year and 95 percent five year average. Sweet cherry conditions were 40 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 31 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. Tart cherry harvest was 70 percent complete, behind the 98 percent harvested this time last year and 89 percent five year average. Tart cherry conditions were 63 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 13 percent good, and 4 percent good. Grape conditions were 27 percent poor, 45 percent fair, and 28 percent good. Strawberry conditions were 20 percent poor, 44 percent fair, 32 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. The following comments are from our reporters throughout the state: In Albany County, harvest on early variety apples had begun. In Long Island vineyards, veraison had begun. Berries were softening, acids were dropping, and sugar was increasing. There was a noticeable increase in bird activity also.

**VEGETABLE:** Vegetable producers were challenged due to the lack of rain. Sweet corn was 28 percent harvested compared to 21 percent last year and 26 percent average. Condition of sweet corn was 13 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Onions were 12 percent harvested compared to 22 percent last year and 21 percent average. Onions were 5 percent poor, 7 percent fair, and 88 percent good. Snap Beans were 31 percent harvested compared to 15 percent last year and 27 percent average. Condition of snap beans was 5 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Cabbage was at 38 percent harvested compared to 18 percent last year and 24 percent average. Condition of cabbage was 20 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. Tomatoes were 15 percent harvested compared to 17 percent last year and 23 percent average. Condition of tomatoes was 2 percent poor, 14 percent fair, 74 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Lettuce was 24 percent harvested.

**LIVESTOCK:** Pastures were beginning to grow again and the need for supplemental feeding has lessened. Pasture was rated 18 percent very poor, 39 percent poor, 30 percent fair, and 13 percent good.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, August 5, 2012**

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 County AP	92	64	77	+6	190	1974	+381	0.00	-0.77	15.56	+1.79
Glens Falls AP	92	58	75	+6	174	1727	+335	0.00	-0.77	15.16	+1.88
Poughkeepsie AP	92	64	77	+5	189	2111	+448	0.19	-0.65	12.98	-3.20
<b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>											
Boonville	88	54	71	+6	148	1322	+233	0.50	-0.47	14.62	-3.71
<b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>											
Plattsburgh Int AP	92	58	75	+6	175	1626	+204	0.00	-0.86	9.83	-2.63
<b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b>											
Canton	92	54	73	+6	166	1539	+278	0.22	-0.65	13.50	+0.35
Massena	93	54	75	+7	179	1661	+322	0.00	-0.78	11.31	-0.77
<b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>											
Buffalo Int AP	96	62	79	+8	203	2011	+494	0.01	-0.83	7.50	-5.78
Wales	89	55	73	+6	162	1594	+367	1.94	+1.10	13.31	-2.37
Niagara Falls	95	64	78	+8	200	1970	+442	0.20	-0.57	8.56	-4.35
Rochester NY	92	59	77	+8	190	1977	+500	0.63	-0.08	11.07	-0.50
Watertown Intl	95	54	75	+7	179	1757	+490	0.45	-0.15	9.83	-0.44
<b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>											
Dansville AP	92	59	77	+7	190	2044	+568	0.20	-0.47	10.31	-2.75
Geneva Research	91	57	75	+5	176	1852	+392	0.62	-0.02	11.04	-1.96
Honeoye	90	52	74	+3	168	1763	+246	0.06	-0.60	11.43	-1.35
Ithaca Cornell Univ.	92	53	74	+6	168	1724	+401	0.15	-0.62	10.68	-3.33
Penn Yan	90	60	76	+6	183	1949	+489	0.39	-0.25	11.02	-1.98
Syracuse	97	59	79	+10	208	2105	+611	0.07	-0.71	9.50	-5.27
Warsaw	87	57	72	+7	158	1533	+391	0.06	-0.73	15.21	+0.06
<b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>											
Hornell Almond Dam	92	52	71	+4	150	1561	+325	0.83	+0.27	14.22	+1.29
Elmira	93	52	75	+6	176	1859	+446	0.32	-0.38	9.86	-3.68
Franklinville	88	52	70	+5	139	1464	+440	0.82	-0.02	14.85	-0.46
Jamestown 4NE	90	57	73	+7	159	1633	+478	0.02	-0.90	14.47	-2.54
<b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>											
Binghamton/Broo	90	57	74	+5	168	1730	+368	0.35	-0.42	14.10	-0.05
Cobleskill	91	59	74	+7	170	1650	+388	0.59	-0.18	12.59	-2.61
Morrisville	91	56	73	+6	159	1451	+247	0.42	-0.35	13.50	-1.50
Norwich	92	57	73	+6	164	1628	+363	0.10	-0.60	13.42	-1.69
Oneonta	94	60	77	+11	186	1730	+560	0.63	-0.21	13.13	-3.39
<b><u>Coastal</u></b>											
Bridgehamton	88	60	75	+3	175	1849	+357	0.00	-0.70	13.76	-1.09
New York LGA	93	69	79	+3	209	2516	+451	0.39	-0.49	16.21	+0.33

<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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