



# WEATHER AND CROPS

## September 24, 2012

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Released, September 24, 2012

Week Ending, September 23, 2012

No. 977-23-12

**WEATHER:** The week started out with high pressure across the region and dry weather. This area of high pressure slowly moved offshore Monday as a potent storm system approached from the Midwest. This storm system began to impact the region Tuesday and persisted through early Wednesday morning bringing widespread heavy rainfall, gusty winds and flooding along mountainous terrain. A cold front associated with this system moved off the New England Coast during the day Wednesday enabling a large area of high pressure to build in across the state. This high pressure ushered in the first fall-like air mass of the season with below normal temperatures and dry conditions. Another frontal boundary associated with a low pressure system moved across the state late Friday through Saturday producing scattered to widespread showers. Precipitation for the week was associated with two low pressure systems that affected the state Tuesday/Wednesday and Friday/Saturday. Widespread heavy rainfall, particularly across eastern and southern portions of the state, produced localized flooding in mountainous terrain on Tuesday. Several daily rainfall records were set on Tuesday across this region as well. A weaker storm system on Friday/Saturday produced scattered to widespread showers across the state. Temperatures across the state were average to slightly below average to start the week with highs generally in the upper 60's and low to mid 70's. A brief warm up occurred midweek with high temperatures generally in the 70's across the state before a fall-like air mass dropped highs into the upper 50's and 60's by the end of the week. Nighttime lows were generally in the 40's and 50's early in the week. Lows warmed into the 50's and 60's during the midweek followed by nighttime lows dropping into the upper 30's across northern portions of the state with generally 40's and low 50's elsewhere.

**CROPS:** There were 5.3 days suitable for fieldwork during the week. Soil moisture was rated 5 percent very short, 24 percent short, 68 percent adequate and 3 percent surplus. Hay crops were rated 11 percent poor, 45 percent fair, 37 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Potatoes were 70 percent harvested, ahead of the 48 percent harvested last year and the 61 percent average. Dry beans were 14 percent harvested compared to 23 percent last year and the average of 33 percent. Corn was rated 10 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. Grain corn was 3 percent harvested. Corn for silage was 56 percent harvested compared with 26 percent last year and the average of 38 percent. Soybeans were rated 3 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 60 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Soybean harvest was 7 percent complete compared with 1 percent last year and the average of 3 percent. The third cutting of alfalfa hay was 84 percent complete compared with 81 percent last year and the average of 89 percent. Clover-timothy third cut was 77 percent complete compared with 68 percent a year ago and the average of 79 percent. The following comments are from our reporters throughout the state: Corn silage harvest continued in Jefferson County. Rain during the week delayed the start of soybean harvest. In Lewis County, corn silage harvest continued, with yields ranging from poor to unexpectedly good. Winter wheat planting in Genesee County was well underway. Forage crop seedings planted in August were finally growing well. Fourth cutting of alfalfa-grass continued with much better yields than second or third cuts. Corn silage harvest was winding down. Many additional acres than normal were harvested for silage. Ontario County growers continued harvest corn silage and soybeans. Yields have been average to below average. Grain corn harvest was just starting with below average yields and test weights. Corn silage harvest in Cortland County continued to move along. Grain corn and soybean harvests will begin soon. Hay and haylage harvest continues as growth permits. In Herkimer County, the condition of corn varies greatly as chopping got underway. Growers in Otsego County continued to harvest corn silage and hay. Winter hay shortages are a concern. Corn silage and hay harvests continued in Fulton and Montgomery Counties. Grain corn and soybean harvests have not started as yet. In Washington County, farmers were busy chopping corn silage and haylage. Corn silage yields varied greatly based on rainfall, soil type, and planting date. June planted corn looks better than earlier plantings because it received adequate rainfall to pollinate and develop normally. In Broome County, corn silage yields vary from field to field, but overall yields are averaging 30 percent below normal. Blight is affecting a majority of the corn, causing early browning of leaves. Choppers have switched back to hay to take advantage of clear, dry weather and an excellent third and fourth cutting of alfalfa. Heavy early week rains in Dutchess County put a damper on the corn silage harvest.

**FRUIT:** Apple harvest was 64 percent complete, ahead of the 44 percent last year and the 43 percent five year average. Apple conditions were 71 percent poor, 16 percent fair, and 13 percent good. Pear harvest was 93 percent complete, above the 86 percent five year average. Pear conditions were 5 percent poor, 21 percent fair, and 74 percent good. Grape harvest was 47 percent complete, ahead of the 32 percent last year and above the 30 percent five year average. Grape conditions were 24 percent poor, 40 percent fair, and 36 percent good. The following comments are from our reporters throughout the state: Ontario County continues with grape and apple harvest with average to below average yields being reported. In Broome County, apple yields are 20 percent less than normal, but quality is excellent. Apple harvest is in full swing in Dutchess County. Harvest continues in Long Island vineyards with white varieties such as Gewurztraminer and Sauvignon Blanc. A few blocks of red varieties for rose wine are being picked this week and next.

**VEGETABLE:** Sweet corn harvest was winding down for some producers. Pumpkins have been showing up around the state at farmer's markets. Sweet corn was 94 percent harvested compared to 95 percent last year but up from the 91 percent average. Condition of sweet corn was 10 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Onions were 91 percent harvested compared to 76 percent last year and 78 percent average. Onions were 9 percent poor, 12 percent fair, 32 percent good, and 47 percent excellent. Snap Beans were 86 percent harvested compared to 79 percent last year but below the 90 percent average. Condition of snap beans was 6 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 62 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Cabbage was at 86 percent harvested compared to 88 percent last year but above the 78 percent average. Condition of cabbage was 7 percent poor, 40 percent fair, and 53 percent good. Tomatoes were 88 percent harvested compared to 72 percent last year and 84 percent average. Condition of tomatoes was 4 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 31 percent excellent. Lettuce was 96 percent harvested.

**LIVESTOCK:** Worries of a hay shortage for this winter have been expressed due to feeding hay much earlier this year since pastures have not been yielding due to drought. Pasture was rated 6 percent very poor, 30 percent poor, 38 percent fair, 23 percent good, and 3 percent excellent.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, September 23, 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	77	41	61	+2	78	2898	+534	3.83	+3.17	22.76	+3.77
Glens Falls AP	76	35	57	-1	49	2489	+435	2.71	+2.01	21.20	+2.42
Poughkeepsie AP	77	42	62	+2	86	3097	+607	2.72	+1.95	21.05	-0.78
<b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>											
Boonville	70	39	54	-2	27	1924	+319	3.25	+2.00	21.90	-4.93
<b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>											
Plattsburgh Int AP	74	35	57	0	52	2416	+336	0.41	-0.26	15.53	-2.87
<b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b>											
Canton	76	36	56	-2	43	2312	+442	1.93	+1.06	19.79	+0.06
Massena	79	35	58	+2	58	2464	+510	1.82	+1.03	17.76	-0.25
<b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>											
Buffalo Int AP	75	45	61	+1	77	2949	+663	1.29	+0.52	12.98	-6.61
Wales	72	39	56	-2	48	2292	+440	1.29	+0.21	18.01	-4.87
Niagara Falls	74	43	60	-1	70	2853	+563	0.88	+0.06	14.92	-4.22
Rochester NY	76	41	61	+1	76	2862	+646	0.86	+0.20	17.92	+1.12
Watertown Intl	75	42	60	+4	74	2594	+677	0.31	-0.42	16.68	+0.98
<b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>											
Dansville AP	77	39	61	+2	80	2965	+742	1.12	+0.35	15.16	-3.29
Geneva Research	76	43	58	-2	60	2712	+509	0.98	+0.23	15.16	-3.05
Honeoye	75	40	59	-3	61	2555	+241	1.60	+0.90	17.12	-0.88
Ithaca Cornell Univ.	74	39	57	-2	53	2487	+496	1.72	+0.89	17.56	-2.10
Penn Yan	76	39	60	+1	73	2838	+635	1.07	+0.32	15.15	-3.06
Syracuse	81	40	62	+3	90	3095	+857	1.30	+0.41	14.16	-6.53
Warsaw	70	39	55	-1	40	2221	+518	1.33	+0.42	22.88	+1.27
<b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>											
Hornell Almond Dam	73	35	55	-3	42	2230	+383	1.03	+0.26	19.07	+1.50
Elmira	74	38	59	+1	62	2656	+554	2.34	+1.64	17.01	-1.46
Franklinville	72	33	54	-2	33	2082	+540	1.29	+0.38	21.58	-0.22
Jamestown 4NE	73	35	56	-2	44	2323	+580	1.43	+0.35	20.14	-4.35
<b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>											
Binghamton/Broo	71	40	58	-1	56	2491	+458	1.05	+0.28	22.77	+3.23
Cobleskill	76	36	57	-1	51	2382	+490	1.87	+1.02	18.31	-2.76
Morrisville	75	38	57	0	50	1552	-248	2.12	+1.21	20.97	-0.15
Norwich	75	37	56	-2	43	2353	+459	0.89	+0.02	21.20	+0.28
Oneonta	80	36	58	+3	58	2554	+819	1.40	+0.56	18.75	-3.65
<b><u>Coastal</u></b>											
Bridgehamton	77	44	61	-2	81	2820	+451	0.72	-0.05	16.92	-3.58
New York LGA	79	58	68	+2	129	3795	+647	1.80	+1.03	22.37	+0.72

<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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