



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National  
Agricultural  
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New York Field Office

## WEATHER AND CROPS

Fact Finders for Agriculture  
10B Airline Drive  
Albany, New York 12235  
(518) 457-5570  
[www.nass.usda.gov/ny/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ny/)

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Released, August 8, 2005

Week Ending, August 7, 2005

No. 977-16-05

**WEATHER:** Temperatures averaged above normal across the state. Departures from normal ranged from 3 degrees in Honeoye to 10 degrees above in Oneonta. Growing Degree Day accumulations were above normal in all regions of the state by as much as 549 in Oneonta. Not much precipitation fell, all amounts were less than an inch.

**CROPS:** There were 6.4 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 16 percent very short, 43 percent short, 38 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus. Oats were 37 percent harvested compared to 36 percent last year. Winter wheat was 67 percent harvested compared to 49 percent last year. Corn was rated 4 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 43 percent good 37 percent excellent. Hay was rated 12 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Soybeans were rated 1 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 56 percent good and 26 percent excellent. Alfalfa second cutting was 86 percent harvested. Alfalfa third cutting was 37 percent harvested. Second cutting Clover Timothy was 77 percent harvested. Potatoes were 10 percent harvested compared to 16 percent last year. Following are comments from reporters across the state: In Jefferson County, there was a mixed bag of weather: sunny and warm, then thunderstorms that put the heifers a foot in the air, violent winds that did significant property damage in the Pillar Point area; hazy, hot, humid then more rain. Crops continue to look excellent. Hay crop benefited from cool weather and rain a week earlier, while the corn looks like for the books. Despite thunderstorms in Lewis County that slowed down hay making, the balers were kicking up dust all over the countryside. In St Lawrence County, weather was cooperating well; still very hot and humid, but that makes for great growing weather. Farmers were still chopping and baling hay. Some barley was being harvested. Very warm conditions were making crops grow and mature quickly. In Clinton County, the weather was hot and humid, but plants were growing fast and furious. Third cutting was just starting to come off, yields were ok but nothing sensational. The corn crop looked good. In Franklin County, things looked very good, although some spotty severe storms brought heavy winds that blew over some oats. Corn was maturing at a rapid rate. There was concern that the kernel may harden down before whole plant moisture decreased. In Yates County, drought conditions became serious in more areas of the county. In Madison County, some areas received rain and crops were great. Other areas of the county were dry and crops were suffering. Field corn looked great, but oats were very light. Wheat harvest was almost complete and yields were down from last year. Soybeans looked good. In Otsego County, small grain harvest was doing great for the same reason corn and hay growth stopped—it was dry. In Albany County, corn showed water stress by curling. The dry conditions have helped with dry hay making. There was a lot of baling for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> cutting of hay. Washington County has been without significant rainfall since July 11<sup>th</sup>. Corn that looked excellent 3 weeks ago was curling and shriveling on shale fields. Some corn plants were turning brown at the bottom. Corn was still tall, but yields were expected to be hurt without rain soon. Third cutting was light due to dry conditions while most farmers reported a good second cutting. In Delaware County, extremely dry weather made for a light second cutting in some areas. Corn was curling on drier soils and rain was desperately needed. Alfalfa stands still looked good while some grass stands looked very dry.

**FRUIT:** Apples were judged to be in 4 percent poor condition, 22 percent fair, 57 percent good, and 17 percent excellent. Grapes were 18 percent fair, 37 percent good and 45 percent excellent. Peaches were 25 percent fair and 75 percent good. Pears were 28 percent fair, 48 percent good and 24 percent excellent. In the Lake Erie fruit region, veraison in Concord grapes were expected to occur very soon. The area vineyards were still short of water, but the ground covers greened up. Reports of leafhoppers were a problem in some vineyards. According to the Fredonia Vineyard Lab, the average number of leaves 2 centimeters or greater was 16 leaves per shoot. The average shoot length was 109.1 centimeters in the center vineyard. In the Long Island fruit region, veraison started in the research vineyard. The first to turn color were the Pinot Noir berries.

**VEGETABLE:** Another hot and humid week made for great growing weather although rain was needed in some areas of the state. Lots of vegetables showed up on roadside stands. Farmers markets were quite busy. Reports from Madison County indicate that onions and sweet corn were doing very well. Tomatoes in Albany County were also doing well, with fewer disease problems than in the past couple of years. Tomatoes and onions were 15 percent harvested while sweet corn, snap beans and cabbage were about 30 percent harvested.

**LIVESTOCK:** Producers and cattle continued dealing with the hot and humid weather. Despite the stifling conditions, no livestock problems were reported. Pasture condition estimates reflect the slow re-growth associated with this time of year. Pasture conditions were 7 percent very poor, 30 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 30 percent good, and 2 percent excellent.

**This report is available on our website and by email free of charge. Please visit our website at [ww.nass.usda.gov/ny](http://ww.nass.usda.gov/ny) for further information.**

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, August 7, 2005**

Station	Temperature (°F)				Growing Degree Days Base 50°			Precipitation (Inches)			
	High	Low	Avg	Dep. from Norm	Week	Season 1/	Dep. from Norm	Week	Dep. from Norm	Season 1/	Dep. from Norm
<b><u>Hudson Valley</u></b>											
Albany	91	60	76	+5	185	1935	+321	0.62	-0.15	15.29	+1.32
Glens Falls	89	51	73	+5	163	1617	+206	0.10	-0.67	14.01	+0.52
Poughkeepsie	95	60	78	+6	198	1916	+231	0.27	-0.57	15.97	-0.44
<b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>											
Utica	93	56	75	+6	177	1759	+298	0.42	-0.37	12.72	-3.21
<b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>											
Plattsburgh	91	52	73	+4	163	1572	+131	0.06	-0.81	15.81	+3.14
<b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b>											
Canton	89	53	73	+6	165	1584	+305	0.02	-0.86	12.51	-0.85
Massena	90	52	73	+5	162	1578	+221	0.10	-0.69	12.17	-0.11
<b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>											
Buffalo	90	58	76	+6	183	1876	+338	0.76	-0.10	10.88	-2.62
Colden	90	55	73	+6	160	1569	+325	0.30	-0.54	14.66	-1.26
Niagara Falls	92	57	76	+6	186	1956	+408	0.09	-0.70	9.88	-3.25
Rochester	94	58	76	+7	183	1742	+246	0.00	-0.72	11.19	-0.57
Watertown	90	53	73	+5	163	1581	+296	0.91	+0.30	13.03	+2.59
<b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>											
Dansville	94	55	75	+5	173	1662	+166	0.05	-0.63	12.26	-0.98
Geneva	93	57	76	+6	181	1749	+269	0.04	-0.61	13.17	-0.01
Honeoye	93	52	74	+3	167	1653	+115	0.02	-0.65	14.75	+1.78
Ithaca	94	54	74	+6	169	1627	+286	0.21	-0.56	13.36	-0.85
Penn Yan	94	59	77	+7	191	1810	+330	0.00	-0.65	13.03	-0.15
Syracuse	95	60	77	+8	193	1950	+436	0.07	-0.71	12.99	-2.00
Warsaw	86	55	71	+5	149	1452	+294	0.08	-0.72	14.32	-1.05
<b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>											
Alfred	91	55	73	+7	164	1538	+311	0.24	-0.46	14.35	-1.05
Elmira	96	52	76	+7	183	1650	+228	0.00	-0.70	11.92	-1.80
Franklinville	89	48	70	+5	140	1343	+304	0.05	-0.79	12.81	-2.72
Sinclairville	89	55	72	+7	160	1554	+383	0.31	-0.62	14.41	-2.86
<b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>											
Binghamton	93	58	76	+8	183	1680	+299	0.00	-0.77	9.94	-4.42
Cobleskill	91	55	74	+6	167	1580	+300	0.24	-0.53	13.86	-1.55
Morrisville	89	55	73	+6	159	1511	+290	0.00	-0.77	13.66	-1.54
Norwich	93	53	73	+6	165	1576	+293	0.41	-0.29	15.80	+0.49
Oneonta	94	56	76	+10	179	1735	+549	0.68	-0.16	17.88	+1.14
<b><u>Coastal</u></b>											
Bridgehamton	95	62	77	+6	191	1642	+128	0.00	-0.71	10.66	-4.43
New York	97	70	83	+7	232	2312	+219	0.20	-0.67	10.55	-5.57

1/ Season accumulations are for April 1<sup>st</sup> to date.

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The information contained in this weekly release is obtained from reports from Cornell Cooperative Extension agents, USDA Farm Service Agency agents, 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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