



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National  
Agricultural  
Statistics Service  
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, October 17, 2005

Week Ending, October 16, 2005

No. 977-26-05

**WEATHER:** Temperatures were warm and rainfall was plentiful. Average temperatures ranged from 2 degrees above normal at Geneva to 7 degrees above at Oneonta. High temperature for the week was 73 degrees in New York City while the low dipped to 40 degrees in Warsaw. Rainfall totals varied widely. Amounts ranged from 0.08 inches in Buffalo to 13.70 inches on Long Island. Eastern regions received the heaviest amounts while western areas were generally drier than average. Growing degree days were still being accumulated, but at a slow rate. Totals for the week ranged from 12 in Canton and Cobleskill to 81 in New York City.

**CROPS:** There were 2.1 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 3 percent short, 50 percent adequate and 47 percent surplus. Corn was rated 5 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 52 percent good and 18 percent excellent. Silage corn was 92 percent harvested compared to 80 percent a year ago. Soybeans were rated 20 percent fair, 53 percent good and 27 percent excellent. Corn for grain was 24 percent harvested compared to 14 percent a year ago. Hay was rated 5 percent poor, 42 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Alfalfa third cutting was 97 percent harvested. Potatoes were 70 percent harvested compared to 100 percent last year. Dry beans were 85 percent harvested compared to 40 percent last year. Soybeans were 31 percent harvested compared to 22 percent last year. Following are comments from reporters across the state: In St Lawrence County, these were very wet days. With some combining still to be done, most farmers were finished with corn harvesting. In Clinton County, it was a wet week. Fields took the previous week's rain pretty good, but the rain on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> ended any fieldwork for the next few days at least. There was still quite a bit of corn in the fields, but that was almost entirely for grain. There was still no hint of frost. In Franklin County, rain prevented producers from getting back into the fields. Prior to the rain, some producers were able to take some grain corn off the fields and finish up some chopping. Many fields had standing water in them. In Ontario County, rain all week long slowed corn and soybean harvest. Those who harvested corn and soybeans previously, reported a range of yields from very good to poor depending on where they received rain. In Cortland County, more cold wet weather stalled grain harvest. Some ear corn was beginning to sprout due to excessive moisture, but producers were unable to harvest on the soggy fields. In Herkimer and Otsego Counties, there was lots of water. Harvest was slowed. There was no frost yet. In Washington County, 6 inches of rain fell. Fieldwork came to a complete stop. Some farmers started combining grain corn. Corn was at the 20 percent moisture level. In Madison County, soybeans took a hit with the rainy weather. In Albany County, rain kept field activity to a minimum. Many areas received record amounts of rain. The Alcove Reservoir received 5 inches plus. In Montgomery and Fulton Counties, some high moisture corn was harvested and a little silage, but rain was the factor all week.

**FRUIT:** Apples were judged to be in 16 percent poor condition, 31 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Grapes were 21 percent poor condition, 35 percent fair, 32 percent good and 12 percent excellent. Peaches were 50 percent poor condition, 40 percent fair, and 10 percent good. Pears were 15 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 30 percent excellent. In the Lake Erie fruit region, canopies started to lose their green coloring, as leaves begin to senesce. Expected sugar accumulation should not increase much more. Berry dehydration is not currently underway, but may occur as soon as the canopy is no longer pulling significant water up from the soil. At the Fredonia Vineyard Lab, Cabernet Sauvignon grape berries were somewhat beginning to soften. There has been very little potassium deficiency symptoms seen in scattered areas around the region. The month of August helped the vines take up potassium before ripening began at veraison. In the Southern part of the Lake Erie Grape Belt, Concord grape harvest has been completed by most processors except National Grape. National Grape has an expected schedule to process Concord grapes until early November. Overall it's been a good year for juice grape production. Powdery mildew pressure was the lowest seen in the past four seasons. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, grapes were ranging in a variety of yields depending on the frosts received last winter and spring. The Hudson Valley region, received severe winds that caused tree damage to many surrounding areas. In Albany County, apples were unable to be picked due to the past rain received which caused some fruit to fall from the trees. Farm stands and pick your own operations were hurt as well. In the Long Island fruit region, the past week of heavy rain had interrupted grape harvest. Growers were ecstatic with fruit quality, but many are concerned about potential losses in quality and/or quantity from the recent rains. However, approximately ninety percent of the white varieties and twenty percent of the reds were harvested prior to the rains.

**VEGETABLE:** The excess amount of rain in the past week slowed any harvest still pending. Farm stands were filled with pumpkins and squash, though there was a decrease in sales because of the wet weather. Reports of the condition of the lettuce, onions, sweet corn, cucumbers, and cabbage were mostly good with tomato and snap bean condition reported to be mostly fair to good. Harvest of sweet corn, snap beans, onions, and tomatoes were almost complete, and cabbage was approximately 95 percent harvested. Reports of red onion yield were down significantly due to hot and dry summer.

**LIVESTOCK:** Wet weather encouraged producers to bring cattle in from pastures. Pasture condition estimates show a slight rebound due to the recent rain. Pasture conditions were 4 percent very poor, 22 percent poor, 40 percent fair, 30 percent good, and 4 percent excellent.

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

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, October 16, 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	65	49	56	+5	41	3193	+710	1.86	+1.23	25.68	+4.62
Glens Falls	63	44	54	+6	31	2637	+498	1.56	+0.93	27.26	+6.35
Poughkeepsie	69	50	55	+4	39	3224	+600	5.03	+4.38	31.36	+7.24
<b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>											
Utica	63	47	54	+4	28	2865	+606	2.34	+1.62	23.46	-1.56
<b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>											
Plattsburgh	58	44	52	+4	19	2588	+421	2.14	+1.58	25.79	+5.47
<b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b>											
Canton	60	44	51	+4	12	2577	+627	2.59	+1.89	28.59	+6.39
Massena	60	46	52	+5	17	2566	+534	2.71	+2.08	27.02	+6.83
<b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>											
Buffalo	65	48	56	+4	42	3080	+657	0.08	-0.57	21.59	-0.25
Colden	62	44	54	+5	30	2574	+623	0.31	-0.51	25.90	+0.10
Niagara Falls	65	48	55	+3	38	3137	+708	0.13	-0.47	20.09	-1.23
Rochester	64	50	56	+5	43	2962	+608	0.34	-0.18	21.98	+3.33
Watertown	63	47	53	+4	25	2584	+571	2.11	+1.53	27.22	+9.46
<b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>											
Dansville	63	46	55	+4	38	2739	+382	0.15	-0.43	21.58	+1.03
Geneva	62	44	52	+2	23	2841	+513	1.29	+0.66	23.47	+3.08
Honeoye	61	45	53	+2	24	2676	+215	0.40	-0.23	24.55	+4.37
Ithaca	63	44	53	+4	22	2648	+550	1.78	+1.02	22.02	-0.14
Penn Yan	63	48	54	+4	33	3027	+699	0.24	-0.39	19.89	-0.50
Syracuse	63	48	55	+4	37	3173	+801	2.01	+1.31	23.86	+0.67
Warsaw	60	40	51	+3	13	2392	+610	0.40	-0.34	25.94	+1.75
<b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>											
Alfred	63	45	54	+5	27	2519	+616	0.55	-0.15	25.35	+2.36
Elmira	67	48	55	+6	36	2725	+511	1.59	+0.96	21.93	+1.33
Franklinville	64	44	53	+6	24	2197	+582	0.38	-0.46	23.75	-0.84
Sinclairville	62	44	54	+6	33	2554	+724	0.13	-0.76	25.15	-2.43
<b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>											
Binghamton	61	46	53	+4	24	2766	+633	1.84	+1.21	21.36	-0.40
Cobleskill	64	45	51	+3	12	2573	+589	3.04	+2.36	24.68	+1.21
Morrisville	60	44	51	+3	15	2441	+558	2.53	+1.76	26.23	+2.46
Norwich	62	46	53	+5	25	2544	+563	2.72	+2.02	29.78	+6.39
Oneonta	64	47	55	+7	34	2869	+1054	3.06	+2.32	30.79	+5.89
<b><u>Coastal</u></b>											
Bridgehamton	68	52	59	+5	63	3022	+478	13.70	+12.99	26.93	+4.01
New York	73	55	61	+4	81	4082	+687	6.75	+6.12	25.43	+1.54

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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