



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/

USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, N.Y. Dept. of Agriculture and Markets, Division of Statistics
cooperating with
U.S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA National Weather Service and Cornell Cooperative Extension

Released, October 24, 2005

Week Ending, October 23, 2005

No. 977-27-05

This is the last edition of the New York "Weather and Crops" for the 2005 season. The New York Agricultural Statistics Service gratefully acknowledges the weekly cooperation of the Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc., National Weather Service personnel, Agricultural Extension agents, USDA Farm Service Agency representatives, and independent volunteer observers who collectively make this report possible.

WEATHER: The weather was active throughout much of the week. There was only one day when it was dry statewide. That day was Friday. The growing season ended in eastern New York on Friday as well. It continues in the lower Hudson Valley and in coastal New York. Precipitation was above normal. Temperatures were near or below normal. A large coastal storm was still in place on Monday morning. As it moved away a weak cold front crossed the state on Tuesday. High pressure lay over New York on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday but an upper level low in Quebec was still exerting its influence on the region. Another coastal storm moved up the Atlantic Coast on Saturday and rain spread back into the state during the day. Rain was especially heavy Saturday night and there were areas of significant snow in the mountains early Sunday morning. Precipitation tapered off to scattered showers and drizzle during the day as the storm moved rapidly away. It was near the eastern end of Nova Scotia Sunday evening.

CROPS: There were 2.2 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 1 percent short, 45 percent adequate and 54 percent surplus. Corn was rated 6 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 53 percent good and 18 percent excellent. Silage corn was 96 percent harvested compared to 82 percent a year ago. Soybeans were rated 1 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 56 percent good and 20 percent excellent. Corn for grain was 37 percent harvested compared to 22 percent a year ago. Hay was rated 7 percent poor, 40 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Alfalfa third cutting was 99 percent harvested. Potatoes were 86 percent harvested compared to 85 percent last year. Dry beans were 86 percent harvested compared to 73 percent last year. Soybeans were 38 percent harvested compared to 37 percent last year. Following are comments from reporters across the state: In Jefferson County, daily rains left fields saturated. With a significant amount of grain corn and soybeans yet to be harvested, some producers combined despite muddy conditions. There was no tillage. In Lewis County, continuous rain made grain harvest difficult. In St Lawrence County, the majority of farmers were finished with corn harvesting. There may be a few that have corn to combine, but overall the county is done with harvesting of all crops. Hay and haylage season was complete due to wet soils. Corn silage is done. Grain corn and soybean harvest was waiting for some drying conditions. Farmers could no longer get into the fields. In Clinton County, it was a nothing week. Rain prevented all field activity. In Franklin County, it rained for about 2 weeks straight. The soil was saturated. Some producers were still trying to combine corn, but reported little success at it. Corn was drying at a rapid rate. For those trying to put in high moisture silage corn, there was frustration. Many producers wanted to take a fourth cut. In Ontario County, rain slowed the harvest of corn, soybeans and kidney beans. Farmers were starting to get concerned over getting in the kidney beans due to lack of dry conditions. In Cortland County, there was cold rainy weather. Grain harvest slowed greatly. Fields were too soggy to get on and the grain soaked up the moisture. Grain dryers were sitting idle waiting for the rain to let up. In Herkimer, there was some concern for soybeans sprouting. In Madison County, rain, rain, and more rain was the story. Soybeans were impacted by all the rain. Hay was still waiting to be completed. Corn harvest was ongoing. In Albany County, extremely wet weather kept fieldwork to a minimum. The area received the first widespread frost. In Fulton and Montgomery County, both had a week of rain and little else. Some corn silage was harvested as was some grain corn but not much of anything. In Saratoga County, extremely wet field conditions made grain corn harvest difficult. Soggy to saturated fields made continued harvest difficult on all but the very best drained fields. Yields to date were average to above average with better than average quality. The first killing frost came the night of October 20th. In Livingston County, producers were having a hard time getting wheat planted and anticipated that dry beans would be difficult to harvest due to the wet weather.

FRUIT: Apples were judged to be in 12 percent poor condition, 30 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. Grapes were 19 percent poor condition, 37 percent fair, 38 percent good and 6 percent excellent. Pears were 20 percent poor condition, 16 percent fair, 41 percent good, and 23 percent excellent. In the Lake Erie Grape Belt, high overall yields and sugar content were helping to overcome the low prices. In the Southern part of the Lake Erie Grape Belt, Concord grape harvest has finished for nearly all processors. Harvest should be completed sometime next week. Expected temperatures for next week look to be average to below average. In Albany County, reports of the first widespread frost had negative impacts on the apple harvest. Wind and rain also continued to have damaging affects on the apple crop. Many apples have fallen from the trees. The poor weather has slowed sales at farm stands too. In the Long Island fruit region, the season has been winding down and postharvest work was beginning in the vineyards. In addition to removing and storing bird netting, post harvest fertilization, postharvest weed control, and postharvest powdery mildew spraying, were some of the tasks being performed by growers.

VEGETABLE: Farm stands were still selling pumpkins and squash, though the excess rain has slowed sales. Condition of the summer crops was downgraded from last week's report due to the rain. Reports of the condition of the lettuce, onions, sweet corn, cabbage, and snap beans were mostly fair to good with tomato and cucumber condition reported to be mostly poor to fair. Harvest of sweet corn, snap beans, onions, cabbage, and tomatoes were virtually complete.

LIVESTOCK: Wet weather encouraged producers to bring cattle in from pastures. Pasture condition estimates show a slight overall decrease. Pasture conditions were 4 percent very poor, 24 percent poor, 43 percent fair, 28 percent good, and 1 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 for further information.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, October 23, 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
<u>Hudson Valley</u>											
Albany	64	32	48	-2	7	3200	+701	1.81	+1.18	27.49	+5.80
Glens Falls	60	29	46	0	7	2644	+497	1.98	+1.34	29.24	+7.69
Poughkeepsie	67	38	50	+1	16	3240	+598	1.26	+0.56	32.62	+7.80
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Utica	61	33	45	-3	0	2865	+591	1.48	+0.77	24.94	-0.79
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	58	27	45	-2	1	2589	+413	1.31	+0.74	27.10	+6.21
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	60	26	44	-3	0	2577	+619	1.30	+0.60	29.89	+6.99
Massena	57	26	45	-1	2	2568	+527	1.10	+0.48	28.12	+7.31
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	67	35	49	-2	7	3087	+644	1.18	+0.48	22.77	+0.23
Colden	66	32	47	0	1	2575	+611	1.31	+0.47	27.21	+0.57
Niagara Falls	65	33	49	-1	6	3143	+694	1.27	+0.64	21.36	-0.59
Rochester	67	34	49	0	9	2971	+598	1.06	+0.51	23.04	+3.84
Watertown	61	27	45	-3	0	2584	+559	0.87	+0.25	28.09	+9.71
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	72	33	48	-2	7	2746	+370	1.50	+0.94	23.08	+1.97
Geneva	68	35	48	-2	2	2843	+498	1.33	+0.70	24.80	+3.78
Honeoye	71	31	48	-3	2	2678	+195	1.08	+0.45	25.63	+4.82
Ithaca	65	31	46	-2	0	2648	+535	1.47	+0.77	23.49	+0.63
Penn Yan	66	32	49	0	7	3034	+689	0.73	+0.10	20.62	-0.40
Syracuse	65	33	48	-3	4	3177	+786	1.25	+0.55	25.11	+1.22
Warsaw	66	30	44	-3	0	2392	+600	1.82	+1.09	27.76	+2.84
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Alfred	68	32	47	+1	3	2522	+606	1.34	+0.66	26.69	+3.02
Elmira	69	30	48	+1	2	2727	+498	1.26	+0.63	23.19	+1.96
Franklinville	67	29	45	0	1	2198	+574	1.48	+0.70	25.23	-0.14
Sinclairville	66	33	47	+2	3	2557	+716	1.15	+0.24	26.30	-2.19
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	64	34	46	-2	0	2766	+621	1.24	+0.61	22.60	+0.21
Cobleskill	66	29	45	-3	0	2573	+578	2.26	+1.62	26.94	+2.83
Morrisville	59	32	43	-4	0	2441	+549	1.89	+1.17	28.12	+3.63
Norwich	62	32	46	0	1	2545	+555	1.41	+0.71	31.19	+7.10
Oneonta	68	33	48	+3	10	2879	+1054	1.54	+0.77	32.33	+6.66
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	68	40	54	+2	30	3052	+480	0.85	+0.08	27.78	+4.09
New York	73	47	59	+3	62	4144	+704	0.87	+0.19	26.30	+1.73

1/ Season accumulations are for April 1st to date.

R45October409

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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