



WEATHER AND CROPS

USDA, Agricultural Statistics Service, NY Field Office, 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

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Week Ending, April 30, 2006

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WEATHER: The week started off with the soaking rain that began the previous week with over an inch of rain in the eastern part of the state as a deep low slowly moved off the east coast. A strong Canadian high began to wedge its way east and it dominated the region's weather for the next couple of days. The Canadian high brought below normal temperatures but mostly clear skies. Temperatures moderated some Thursday but a storm over eastern Canada brought another surge of cold dry Canadian air into the region Thursday night and Friday. Temperatures continued to average below normal but the almost cloudless skies made the days seem warmer than they actually were. Overall temperatures averaged about 5 degrees below normal. Rainfall was well above normal over the Hudson Valley and Long Island but tapered off to below normal farther west with the driest area being in the south central part of the state. Very low daytime humidity values along with the near cloudless skies dried out the dead vegetation resulting in an elevated threat of grass and brush fires.

CROPS: Warm, dry weather permitted producers to continue spring fieldwork and planting. Near ideal conditions provided 5.3 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 9 percent short, 82 percent adequate, and 9 percent surplus. Oats were rated 9 percent fair, 66 percent good and 25 percent excellent. Winter wheat was rated 1 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 52 percent good and 20 percent excellent. Corn for grain was 7 percent planted compared to 4 percent last year. Oats were 66 percent planted compared to 36 percent last year. Potatoes were 30 percent planted compared to 20 percent last year and the five year average of 13 percent. Following are comments from reporters across the state: It was another good week for getting field work done in Jefferson County, where rain quickly soaked in, and conditions were still on the dry side. Many producers completed tillage and seedings, and were waiting for soil temperatures to warm up, and get past frost threat in order to start corn planting. New seedings were nearly complete in Lewis County. Corn planters were getting ready but the early morning frost kept them out of the field so far. In St Lawrence County, the week was cold, rainy and at times sunny. It was the usual spring type of weather. In Clinton County, there was still not much fieldwork done. Manure was spread on high land. Quite a bit of alfalfa winter kill was in older stands. Cold weather slowed forage growth. Most nights were still in the 20s. There was much needed rain received in Erie County. In Niagara County, there was rain early in the week followed by sunny mild weather, cold nights and scattered frosts. An early spring in Ontario County has allowed farmers to start spring planting. Corn continued to be planted. The weather was cooler in Cortland County. Nights were clear and cold, leaving frost in the morning. Rain early in the week gave grass and small grains in the ground a good jump. In Herkimer County, cold nights kept soil temperatures low which slowed enthusiasm for corn planting. The early spring season continued to help producers in Albany County stay ahead of the calendar. Many acres of seedings were completed. In Saratoga County, a few farmers were spotted planting field corn. Early hay seedings started to emerge and looked good. Early hay crops look good to very good. In Washington County, corn planting started on well drained soils. In Greene County, most small grains were planted. In Madison County, lots of oats were planted and seedlings went in during some good days.

FRUIT: In the Lake Ontario fruit region, the fruit trees and grape vines were being observed to see if any winter damage had occurred, to date none had been reported. The apples would be in the pink development stage within a couple of days if not already there, especially in inland sites. Soon, pears would be coming into bloom in inland sites too. Sweet cherries and peaches were blooming. In the Southern part of the Lake Erie Belt, buds were showing some pink. Buds were on the verge of budburst, however, the cool weather has held development back. Across the Finger Lakes fruit region, a widespread frost in several areas occurred. Buds in those areas were still in the bud swell phase. The cold temperatures dropped down enough early this past Wednesday morning to inflict some pretty significant bud damage. Recorded data suggests that the cold air below 27 degrees Fahrenheit was in place longer in the eastern end of the grape belt than in the western end, so it is possible that damage might be greater there. In the Long Island grape region, there was widespread budbreak on Chardonnay and other early varieties. Merlot is expecting to break bud very soon and Cabernet Sauvignon is just around the corner.

VEGETABLE: Mild spring weather and a warm winter resulted in farmers being able to get out in their fields sooner than normal. The rains last week brought in some beneficial moisture for the Capital Region and points south. The western section of the state is still somewhat dry and could benefit from some moisture. Planting of vegetables under plastic has begun in the eastern section of the state; however, planting was proceeding more slowly in the western section of the state. Planting of onions in Orange County was mostly completed, but only 3 percent of onions in the western section of the state were planted. Sweet corn was being planted with approximately 10 percent planted throughout the state. Planting of snap beans and cabbage was proceeding slowly. Planting for green peas for processing was begun in mid-April. Planting of minor crops such as beets and carrots also began.

LIVESTOCK: Pasture conditions are slowly improving across the state allowing more herds to begin grazing. Pasture condition estimates show relatively good conditions for this time of the year. Pasture conditions were rated 12 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 7 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, April 30, 2006

Station	Temperature (°F)				Growing Degree Days Base 50°			Precipitation (Inches) ^{1/}			
	High	Low	Avg	Dep. from Norm	Week	Season ^{1/}	Dep. from Norm	Week	Dep. from Norm	Season	Dep. from Norm
Hudson Valley											
Albany	65	30	48	-3	3	106	+72	1.33	+0.63	4.73	+1.74
Glens Falls	63	24	44	-6	0	52	+31	1.16	+0.43	4.09	+1.11
Poughkeepsie	75	33	52	0	17	118	+70	1.17	+0.28	5.02	+1.53
Mohawk Valley											
Utica	65	27	44	-6	0	67	+35	0.06	-0.76	2.94	-0.62
Champlain Valley											
Plattsburgh	61	26	43	-6	0	60	+37	0.32	-0.35	2.47	-0.32
St. Lawrence Valley											
Canton	63	23	42	-5	0	50	+32	0.43	-0.27	2.78	-0.07
Massena	61	26	41	-7	0	55	+34	0.64	+0.02	2.58	-0.07
Great Lakes											
Buffalo	65	28	46	-4	4	85	+53	0.24	-0.46	2.14	-0.73
Wales	63	23	42	-6	0	58	+40	0.26	-0.58	2.48	-1.29
Niagara Falls	64	27	45	-6	2	71	+34	0.59	-0.11	2.07	-1.08
Rochester	60	29	47	-4	5	86	+47	0.21	-0.42	2.23	-0.38
Watertown	65	24	44	-4	0	46	+26	0.38	-0.24	2.94	+0.43
Central Lakes											
Dansville	64	24	45	-5	4	73	+39	0.13	-0.54	1.81	-1.00
Geneva	61	28	45	-5	0	62	+32	0.23	-0.47	2.08	-1.41
Honeoye	63	25	45	-5	3	66	+35	0.23	-0.47	1.54	-0.69
Ithaca	63	24	44	-5	0	50	+27	0.12	-0.58	1.78	-1.13
Penn Yan	62	27	47	-4	3	74	+44	0.18	-0.52	1.45	-1.46
Syracuse	64	30	47	-4	2	82	+45	0.09	-0.68	3.94	+0.61
Warsaw	59	25	43	-4	0	49	+35	0.31	-0.46	3.01	-0.36
Western Plateau											
Angelica	66	20	43	-4	2	34	+21	0.21	-0.42	2.40	-0.37
Elmira	66	22	44	-6	0	52	+25	0.08	-0.58	2.47	-0.22
Franklinville	66	21	43	-4	1	35	+26	0.45	-0.32	2.73	-0.55
Jamestown	70	25	45	-3	1	50	+33	0.55	-0.35	3.01	-0.69
Eastern Plateau											
Binghamton	62	29	47	-3	1	69	+45	0.29	-0.48	2.61	-0.52
Cobleskill	62	27	44	-5	0	45	+25	0.77	+0.00	4.07	+0.78
Morrisville	60	26	43	-5	0	41	+24	0.23	-0.54	3.48	+0.39
Norwich	66	26	45	-4	0	31	+10	0.27	-0.57	3.39	+0.02
Oneonta	68	28	46	-1	0	62	+45	0.36	-0.52	3.57	+0.09
Coastal											
Bridgehamton	68	35	50	+1	10	72	+50	1.59	+0.68	3.40	-0.57
New York	73	44	57	+2	49	218	+131	1.05	+0.14	5.20	+1.41

^{1/} Season accumulations are for April 1st to date. Weekly accumulations are through 7:00 AM Sunday Morning. R12May423

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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