



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

Released, May 8, 2006

Week Ending, May 7, 2006

No. 977-03-06

WEATHER: The week started out dry with high pressure in control over the northeast. However, moisture from an oceanic area of low pressure backed in from the east over extreme eastern New York and Long Island with some rainfall. The heaviest rainfall was confined to New England and eastern Long Island. Rainfall amounts from the Hudson River Valley eastward were generally a few hundredths to a quarter of an inch on Tuesday and Wednesday. High pressure returned to close the week with warm and dry weather. An upper level low pushed a pair of cold fronts through to close the week, and open the weekend with scattered showers and cooler weather. Some scattered frost occurred on the weekend. Temperatures for the week were slightly above normal. Precipitation for the week was mainly well below normal, except over extreme eastern Long Island where precipitation was above normal.

CROPS: Warm, dry weather permitted producers to continue spring fieldwork and planting. Near ideal conditions provided 6.2 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 8 percent very short, 32 percent short, 58 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus. Oats were rated 1 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 64 percent good and 8 percent excellent. Winter wheat was rated 1 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 66 percent good and 12 percent excellent. Corn for grain was 31 percent planted compared to 14 percent last year. Oats were 82 percent planted compared to 60 percent last year. Potatoes were 43 percent planted compared to 42 percent last year. Soybeans were 5 percent planted compared to 2 percent a year ago. Following are comments from reporters across the state: Continued lack of rain was reported in Jefferson County, where producers began to worry that dryness may affect pre-emergence corn herbicide performance. In St Lawrence County, fields were in good shape to work and plant, but they still needed rain. In Niagara County, there was very warm weather. Fieldwork was great in Ontario County. Lack of rain in Cortland County was taking its toll on the fields. Grass, although green, was not growing as quickly as expected. Nights were still cool with light frost in some areas. Corn was starting to be planted. In Herkimer County, many growers were ahead of schedule. Some have held back for warmer soil temperatures. Most oats were in the ground and corn was going in the ground in Madison County. In Otsego County, many growers were ahead of schedule. Dry weather continued to push planting ahead in Albany County. In Montgomery and Fulton County corn was being planted and some oats and seedings were in. In Saratoga County, corn planting was moving ahead with dry ground progressing rapidly. Grass and alfalfa hays looked good to excellent. In Steuben County, corn planting was ahead of normal due to dry weather. Planting in both Columbia and Greene Counties was well ahead of last year.

FRUIT: In the Lake Ontario fruit region, pears were in bloom. Due to the hard frosts received overnight, farmers were observing the fruit trees and grape vines for possible damage. Currently, no injury has been reported. In the Lake Erie fruit region, frost damaged many vineyards. However, the vineyards close to the lake received little or no damage. In the Southern part of the Lake Erie Belt, 50 % of budburst has occurred in Concord and on May 3rd, Chardonnay and Chancellor had budbreak. Vidal, Vignoles, and Chambourcin were still at bud swell. At this point in the season, no frost damage has been reported. In the Long Island grape region, budbreak was widespread. Chardonnay blocks were in flat leaf. Currently budbreak looked good. Light frosts occurred in Albany and Greene Counties, causing minimal damage in the apples and other orchard trees.

VEGETABLE: The days through the week continued to be warm and dry, with scattered frosts at night. Most of the state could use some moisture. Some farmers were irrigating to alleviate the dry conditions. However, the dry spring has resulted in earlier plantings of sweet corn, onions, and green peas, with vegetable growers hopeful for a good season this year. Planting of onions in Orange County was basically complete, with planting in the western part of the state progressing slowly. Planting of sweet corn was approximately 25 percent complete throughout the state. Planting of snap beans and cabbage was progressing slowly, with approximately 10 percent of acreage planted in the state.

LIVESTOCK: Pasture conditions are slowly improving in some areas across the state. Other areas are seeing slower growth than normal due to a lack of rain. Pasture condition estimates show relatively good conditions for this time of the year despite a slight decrease from last week in the levels of good and excellent pastures. Pasture condition estimates are 2 percent very poor, 14 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 50 percent good and 4 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, May 7, 2006

Station	Temperature (°F)				Growing Degree Days Base 50°			Precipitation (Inches) ^{1/}			
	High	Low	Avg	Dep. from Norm	Week	Season <u>1/</u>	Dep. from Norm	Week	Dep. from Norm	Season	Dep. from Norm
<u>Hudson Valley</u>											
Albany	80	39	57	+4	49	155	+89	0.11	-0.60	4.84	+1.14
Glens Falls	76	29	53	+2	28	80	+34	0.33	-0.44	4.42	+0.67
Poughkeepsie	83	36	59	+5	62	180	+94	0.05	-0.92	5.07	+0.61
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Utica	77	31	54	+2	36	103	+42	0.23	-0.58	3.17	-1.20
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	74	32	56	+5	43	103	+56	0.61	-0.03	3.08	-0.35
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	77	28	52	+3	29	79	+40	0.27	-0.42	3.05	-0.49
Massena	79	26	52	+3	33	88	+43	0.43	-0.13	3.01	-0.20
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	75	34	57	+6	58	143	+81	0.00	-0.67	2.14	-1.40
Wales	74	27	53	+4	32	90	+50	0.00	-0.82	2.48	-2.11
Niagara Falls	76	29	55	+3	45	116	+47	0.10	-0.59	2.17	-1.67
Rochester	77	30	55	+3	44	130	+57	0.00	-0.61	2.23	-0.99
Watertown	76	32	52	+3	26	72	+30	0.09	-0.49	3.03	-0.06
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	77	29	55	+4	40	113	+48	0.00	-0.63	1.81	-1.63
Geneva	77	33	53	+2	32	94	+35	0.10	-0.56	2.18	-1.39
Honeoye	77	28	55	+3	35	101	+41	0.00	-0.63	1.54	-2.04
Ithaca	76	26	52	+1	23	73	+26	0.03	-0.67	1.81	-1.80
Penn Yan	77	31	55	+3	42	116	+57	0.03	-0.63	1.48	-2.09
Syracuse	79	33	55	+3	46	128	+57	0.27	-0.49	4.21	+0.12
Warsaw	72	28	52	+4	24	73	+41	0.10	-0.67	3.11	-1.03
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Angelica	75	25	51	+3	22	56	+25	0.13	-0.48	2.53	-0.85
Elmira	81	25	52	0	26	78	+24	0.04	-0.63	2.51	-0.85
Franklinville	76	29	51	+4	17	52	+29	0.08	-0.69	2.81	-1.24
Jamestown	76	28	54	+5	37	87	+52	0.00	-0.86	3.01	-1.55
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	76	31	54	+3	40	109	+60	0.01	-0.72	2.62	-1.24
Cobleskill	78	31	51	+1	17	62	+19	0.06	-0.71	4.13	+0.07
Morrisville	74	30	51	0	16	57	+19	0.17	-0.60	3.65	-0.21
Norwich	80	27	52	+1	23	54	+9	0.07	-0.74	3.46	-0.72
Oneonta	80	30	54	+6	35	97	+60	0.12	-0.81	3.69	-0.72
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	76	37	57	+5	50	122	+75	1.33	+0.42	4.73	-0.15
New York	81	49	65	+8	105	323	+182	0.07	-0.84	5.27	+0.57

^{1/} Season accumulations are for April 1st to date. Weekly accumulations are through 7:00 AM Sunday Morning. R13May423

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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