



## WEATHER AND CROPS

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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, August 7, 2006

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**WEATHER:** The weather was dominated by a very warm and sultry air mass which moved into the region on Monday. The air mass was unstable resulting in scattered thunderstorms, some of which contained very heavy rainfall and damaging winds. The unseasonable hot and humid weather persisted until early Thursday when cloudiness associated with an approaching front limited the heat to the lower Hudson Valley, the New York Metro Area, and Long Island. Cooler weather came to the region Friday and Saturday. Temperatures for the week averaged around 7 degrees above normal with Tuesday and Wednesday particularly oppressive with high temperatures in the mid 90's and dewpoints in the 70's. Rainfall for the week varied widely as it usually does with convection, with some sites well over two inches with hardly any at all in the New York City Metro Area or on Long Island.

**CROPS:** Hot, sunny conditions provided 5.5 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture was rated as 2 percent short, 78 percent adequate and 20 percent surplus. Hay was in 12 percent poor condition, 28 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 20 percent excellent. Alfalfa second cutting reached 78 percent finished behind last years 84 percent. Third cutting was 22 percent complete compared to 35 percent a year ago. Corn condition was 11 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 37 percent good, and 29 percent excellent. Oats were 35 percent harvested about equal to last years 36 percent. Soybeans were in 3 percent poor condition, 14 percent fair, 57 percent good, and 26 percent excellent. Potatoes were 20 percent harvested, ahead of last years 10 percent. Winter wheat was 71 percent harvested, ahead of last years 64 percent. Following are comments from reporters across the state: In Jefferson County, a sweltering week allowed haying to continue, but high humidity slowed curing. The hay crop is very heavy. Small grain harvest wrapped up with initial reports of very good to excellent yields. Corn continues to thrive in the heat and humidity. Even long season varieties should mature this year with above average growing degree days and adequate rain. It has been a very nice week for St. Lawrence County. A little hot and humid Tuesday and Wednesday which also got a good amount of rain around that was needed in some areas. Hot weather really moved forages ahead in Clinton County. It was a great week for corn, as the crop may have picked up most of a much needed week in maturity for the past four weeks. Farmers on un-drained lake plain clay loams are still hurting, a terrible year for them. Record high temperatures accompanied with rainfall about every 3<sup>rd</sup> day may set record crop yields in Wyoming County. However, heat combined with prolonged high humidity conditions may begin to show up as fungal diseases, especially in soybeans, possible corn in the form of stalk rot and related maladies. Fieldwork advanced in Herkimer County. Some barley was harvested. Summer heat and adequate soil moisture in Oneida County has really helped the corn crop in areas with well drained or improved soils. Areas where soils are less well drained have had delayed harvest of mixed forages. Hay harvest in Otsego County progressed better. This past week was another suitable week for producers in Albany County despite scattered rain showers. Record breaking heat affected some crops but producers continued harvesting. Montgomery and Fulton Counties continued to harvest first cutting hay and struggled to harvest dry hay. The corn is from very good to very, very poor. Overall, Steuben County crops are looking good with most of the week being suitable for harvesting. Dry hay moved into storage in Delaware County despite the high heat. Farmers have made headway into 2<sup>nd</sup> cutting.

**FRUIT:** Apples were judged to be in 11 percent poor condition, 15 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 21 percent excellent. The crop was sizing well due to ample moisture and sunny days. Grapes were 8 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 40 percent good and 25 percent excellent. Pears were 10 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 40 percent good and 25 percent excellent. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, growers were finding difficulties in pest management due to spraying in the rain and the hot humid heat. In the Lake Erie fruit region, black rot was showing up in the vineyards. Downy mildew was in Concords and powdery mildew was also observed in vineyards. Grape berry moth eggs were also seen on clusters at this time. In Albany County, the apple and pear crops appeared in good conditions. In the Long Island fruit region, no veraison was observed in Chardonnay as of August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris were turning. The vineyards have endured the recent heat very well due to all of the ample rainfall earlier in the season.

**VEGETABLE:** Onions were in 20 percent poor condition, 40 percent good, 35 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. Harvest was only 10 percent complete. Sweet corn was 20 percent harvested, snap beans 34 percent, cabbage 12 percent, and tomatoes 12 percent. Farmers markets are going strong with early vegetables. Harvest of processing snap beans was in full swing in western New York. Harvest of processing beets and sweet corn began in Ontario County. The Albany County tomato crop was struggling but coming along. Snap beans look great and harvest was going well. In Oneida County snap beans were affected by the loss of planting windows and elevated moisture levels.

**LIVESTOCK:** Pasture condition was rated 2 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 19 percent excellent. Grazing pastures in Albany County looked great for August. Some Jefferson County dairies reported drops in production due to oppressive heat.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, August 6, 2006**

Station	Temperature (°F)				Growing Degree Days Base 50° <sup>1/</sup>			Precipitation (Inches) <sup>1/</sup>			
	High	Low	Avg	Dep. from Norm	Week	Season	Dep. from Norm	Week	Dep. from Norm	Season	Dep. from Norm
<b><u>Hudson Valley</u></b>											
Albany	96	56	77	+7	193	1897	+304	0.72	-0.05	22.42	+8.56
Glens Falls	96	49	75	+6	175	1602	+210	0.49	-0.28	23.51	+10.13
Poughkeepsie	100	61	81	+9	215	1961	+298	0.63	-0.21	21.69	+5.40
<b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>											
Utica	94	54	75	+5	174	1650	+209	1.26	+0.48	22.88	+7.07
<b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>											
Plattsburgh	97	50	74	+5	169	1668	+246	1.26	+0.40	17.99	+5.45
<b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b>											
Canton	92	50	73	+6	164	1563	+302	0.32	-0.55	13.11	-0.12
Massena	93	53	74	+5	166	1600	+261	2.49	+1.71	17.29	+5.13
<b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>											
Buffalo	90	62	78	+7	196	1901	+384	0.49	-0.35	12.51	-0.86
Wales	88	54	73	+7	166	1445	+218	1.36	+0.52	16.57	+0.77
Niagara Falls	92	61	78	+7	196	1806	+278	0.99	+0.22	12.93	-0.08
Rochester	94	62	79	+9	202	1920	+443	1.25	+0.54	16.99	+5.34
Watertown	91	53	75	+7	175	1609	+342	0.01	-0.59	11.36	+1.01
<b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>											
Dansville	94	56	76	+7	184	1666	+190	1.00	+0.33	16.44	+3.30
Geneva	93	58	76	+7	186	1655	+195	0.75	+0.11	15.90	+2.82
Honeoye	93	55	76	+5	182	1644	+127	1.52	+0.86	13.36	+0.49
Ithaca	94	51	75	+7	176	1524	+201	0.47	-0.30	18.61	+4.51
Penn Yan	93	58	77	+8	193	1758	+298	0.68	+0.04	10.44	-2.64
Syracuse	95	56	77	+8	192	1839	+345	0.79	+0.01	22.19	+7.31
Warsaw	87	56	73	+7	162	1369	+227	1.70	+0.91	19.34	+4.09
<b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>											
Angelica	91	53	73	+8	164	1273	+152	0.30	-0.47	15.58	+0.86
Elmira	93	52	76	+8	184	1544	+141	0.63	-0.07	17.27	+3.65
Franklinville	90	51	74	+9	165	1309	+285	0.54	-0.30	15.21	-0.20
Jamestown	92	57	76	+10	181	1462	+307	0.20	-0.72	14.41	-2.60
<b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>											
Binghamton	92	53	75	+7	179	1561	+199	0.07	-0.70	21.97	+7.72
Cobleskill	92	51	75	+7	174	1498	+236	1.08	+0.31	22.52	+7.22
Morrisville	89	53	74	+7	169	1387	+183	1.59	+0.82	29.21	+14.12
Norwich	96	52	75	+7	175	1486	+221	0.45	-0.25	23.52	+8.31
Oneonta	94	56	78	+12	196	1696	+526	0.26	-0.58	24.66	+8.04
<b><u>Coastal</u></b>											
Bridgehamton	97	65	82	+11	225	1830	+338	0.00	-0.70	23.48	+8.50
New York	102	73	88	+11	265	2576	+510	0.00	-0.88	23.85	+7.85

<sup>1/</sup> Season accumulations are for April 1<sup>st</sup> to date. Weekly accumulations are through 7:00 AM Sunday Morning. R29August418

The information contained in this weekly release is obtained from reports from Cornell Cooperative Extension agents, IUSDA 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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