



## 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  
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Week Ending, October 1, 2006

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**WEATHER:** The last week of September featured very changeable weather. On Sunday a cold front passed through the region sparking showers and some thunderstorms. Much of Monday was dry with seasonal temperatures and a weak high pressure in control, however, by Monday evening another cold front dove southeast through the Great Lakes and produced more showers and thunderstorms across the northern and western part of the state. Tuesday and Wednesday featured dry conditions as high pressure drifted eastward across the state. After cool starts to both days temperatures warmed up nicely during sun filled afternoons. As the high drifted off the eastern seaboard, a southerly flow developed across the region and helped boost temperatures into the 70's in many areas on Thursday. By Thursday night though, a low pressure system developed in the mid-Atlantic region and tracked northeast through eastern New York. This storm system brought moderate to locally heavy rainfall to the entire state. The rain lingered into the first half of Friday across the eastern portion of the state, before drier and cooler air filtered in from the Great Lakes region. After a chilly start to the day Saturday, temperatures rebounded to near seasonal levels with increasing clouds ahead of the next system that brought some light rainfall to western New York by the end of the day.

**CROPS:** There were 4.2 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture was rated 55 percent adequate and 45 percent surplus. Hay was in 14 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 14 percent excellent condition. Corn condition was reported as 9 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 19 percent excellent. Potato harvest was 55 percent complete compared with 67 percent last year. Soybeans were 6 percent harvested. Silage corn harvest reached 55 percent complete behind last years 75 percent. Grain corn harvest was barely underway. Following are comments from reporters across the state: Corn silage chopping continues in Jefferson County with the majority of the crop harvested. Most were reporting very good to excellent yields and quality. Grain corn moisture was generally less than 35 percent, so most of the crop needs to dry down some more. Soybeans continue to turn. Some fall tillage was done. We seem to have gotten adequate rain in St. Lawrence County. Thursday had some pretty heavy downpours. Hopefully most producers had a chance to get a good amount of their corn chopped before the fields get too muddy. Soil profile was very dry. Corn silage harvest was still in full swing. Many of our large growers were either done or close to being done. Corn silage harvest and manure spreading were the two most common activities in Clinton County. Fall alfalfa harvest on a few farms. Late week rain will put a monkey wrench in most field activities. In Ontario County the continued rain showers delayed harvest and was starting to negatively effect the quality of the fall harvest crops. The corn, soybean and hay harvest has been adversely affected by the continued rains. The fall/winter wheat plantings for 2007 have also been delayed and need some drier conditions to get back into the fields to plant. Corn for grain was harvested in Wyoming County. Most is high moisture corn for dairy herds. Essentially too much rain for the week of harvest activities. Silage corn continues to mature as well. Due to crop in 2005 and 2006 there is plentiful hay crop silage and corn silage. If not sold to others as silage there will be more field corn grain put up as high moisture corn or dry shelled corn than in past years. Corn silage harvest is moving along in Cortland County between the rain showers. Ongoing cool temperatures, but no hard frost yet. Early planted corn was drying down fast in Herkimer County. Frost hit most areas. Corn harvest really got started in Madison County. Yields have varied. Some early corn harvested for high-moisture shelled in Otsego County. Corn harvest continues in Albany County with producers being selective as to where to chop. Some fields are ready while others are not. Grain harvest was just starting with moisture at about 25 percent. Dry hay makers continue to struggle trying to make hay. In Montgomery and Fulton Counties the corn silage yields are varying just as the fields looked like. Any place that was a little off in drainage the corn is affected. Ears are shorter than common on all corn from the wetness. Many producers were chopping all the grass they can to make up for the loss of corn silage. Grain harvest began in Fulton County.

**FRUIT:** Apples were judged to be in 8 percent poor condition, 33 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Harvest reached 56 percent finished compared with 49 percent last year. Grapes were 18 percent poor condition, 45 percent fair, 23 percent good and 14 percent excellent. Harvest was 28 percent completed compared with 54 percent last year. Peaches were 2 percent poor condition, 63 percent fair, 23 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. Pears were 4 percent poor, 48 percent fair, 38 percent good and 10 percent excellent. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, continued rain showers have delayed grape harvest for some grape producers. In the Finger Lakes Fruit Region, early to mid-season grapes were harvested, including Cayuga White, Seyval Blanc, Niagara, Elviras, early Concords, and Pinot Gris. In the Lake Erie fruit region, wine varieties continued to gain sugar and acidity levels increased. Despite all of the rain received over the past couple of weeks, very little bunch rot was observed. The rainy weather has delayed most processors from starting the Concord season. In the Southern part of the Lake Erie belt, Concord grapes by the lake were currently recorded at 14.2 Brix. In Albany County, the apples appeared to be in good quality where the hail did not hit.

**VEGETABLE:** Rain was the story this week. Fall harvest and condition of fall crops were negatively affected by the excessive rains. Farm stands were selling pumpkins and squash, as well as other fall produce. Reports of lettuce, sweet corn, tomatoes, cabbage and snap beans condition were mostly fair to good, while cucumbers were reported as mostly poor to fair. Sweet corn in Albany County was reported in good supply and in good condition. Onion condition was 36 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 20 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. There were continuing reports of small onion size and internal damage, with onion acreage approximately 90 percent harvested. Sweet corn acreage was 94 percent harvested, and snap beans acreage was over 90 percent harvested. Cabbage harvest was almost 70 percent harvested.

**LIVESTOCK:** Pastures were rated as 4 percent very poor condition, 8 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 17 percent excellent. Conditions remained nearly identical to the previous week due to abundant moisture supplies and warm temperatures

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, October 1, 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	74	35	58	+2	58	2748	+332	2.03	+1.40	29.58	+9.87
Glens Falls	75	32	55	+1	41	2251	+158	1.32	+0.64	28.20	+8.64
Poughkeepsie	78	38	59	+2	64	2861	+313	1.43	+0.70	33.66	+10.99
<b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>											
Utica	72	36	56	0	45	2373	+176	1.43	+0.51	28.52	+5.13
<b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>											
Plattsburgh	77	34	55	+1	46	2396	+276	0.22	-0.41	20.21	+1.10
<b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b>											
Canton	72	34	53	-2	28	2208	+302	2.74	+1.93	19.37	-1.25
Massena	73	31	54	+1	40	2270	+281	0.79	+0.06	21.19	+2.37
<b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>											
Buffalo	75	42	55	-3	40	2723	+379	1.56	+0.84	22.44	+2.04
Wales	71	39	52	-3	23	2052	+157	1.33	+0.34	25.49	+1.50
Niagara Falls	75	40	55	-4	39	2611	+263	1.17	+0.43	20.15	+0.17
Rochester	76	42	58	0	54	2814	+539	1.14	+0.53	24.26	+6.77
Watertown	74	32	56	+1	50	2331	+372	1.10	+0.42	17.55	+1.09
<b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>											
Dansville	74	38	54	-4	36	2383	+104	1.32	+0.61	25.63	+6.39
Geneva	72	39	54	-3	37	2362	+105	1.65	+0.95	25.12	+6.13
Honeoye	73	39	55	-4	38	2346	-30	1.18	+0.48	21.65	+2.86
Ithaca	72	35	54	-2	37	2202	+165	0.65	-0.12	25.66	+5.14
Penn Yan	74	42	57	-1	49	2546	+289	1.00	+0.30	18.38	-0.61
Syracuse	74	38	58	+1	57	2670	+376	1.26	+0.44	28.64	+7.02
Warsaw	69	38	50	-4	14	1960	+222	1.69	+0.84	30.05	+7.49
<b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>											
Angelica	69	33	50	-5	14	1801	+87	1.55	+0.78	25.82	+4.56
Elmira	73	34	54	-2	34	2270	+120	0.56	-0.14	26.32	+7.07
Franklinville	70	34	50	-4	18	1871	+297	1.92	+1.03	26.47	+3.68
Jamestown	71	35	52	-4	25	2131	+349	2.31	+1.29	24.11	-1.40
<b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>											
Binghamton	71	36	54	-2	35	2242	+164	1.94	+1.21	32.28	+11.91
Cobleskill	74	34	53	-2	31	2131	+198	1.19	+0.39	29.45	+7.48
Morrisville	68	35	52	-3	23	1963	+125	1.63	+0.75	37.41	+15.32
Norwich	71	35	53	-2	29	2134	+200	1.99	+1.18	34.42	+12.59
Oneonta	74	34	55	+2	39	2453	+683	1.82	+1.04	33.52	+10.24
<b><u>Coastal</u></b>											
Bridgehamton	77	41	61	+2	79	2764	+323	0.43	-0.34	38.19	+16.79
New York	83	54	67	+4	121	3840	+593	0.12	-0.60	31.08	+8.59

<sup>1/</sup> Season accumulations are for April 1<sup>st</sup> to date. Weekly accumulations are through 7:00 AM Sunday Morning. R41Oct417

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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