



# WEATHER AND CROPS

## October 1, 2007

---

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets  
10B Airline Drive, Albany, New York 12235  
(518) 457-5570 · (518) 485-8719 FAX · [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

---

Released, October 1, 2007

Week Ending, September 30, 2007

No. 977-23-07

**WEATHER:** The period began dry with high pressure in control over the northeast. The surface anticyclone near the Mid Atlantic coast funneled unseasonably warm air into the region in the middle of the week, with temperatures soaring well above normal. A slow moving cold front progressing from west to east across upstate New York produced bands of showers and thunderstorms Wednesday and Thursday. An upper level low generated some scattered showers and thunderstorms over upstate New York on Friday. High pressure settled back in with cooler and drier weather to open the weekend. Rainfall for the week ended above normal north and west of the Capital District, mid Hudson Valley region, and Long Island. Temperatures ended well above normal with some record highs occurring across the state in the middle of the week.

**CROPS:** A few scattered showers in the region slowed the harvest of hay and corn for silage, but overall it was a great week to be in the field. There were 5.8 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated as 9 percent very short, 29 percent short, 60 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus. Hay condition was rated as 27 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 41 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. Corn condition was rated as 5 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 26 percent excellent. Third cutting of alfalfa hay was 93 percent completed ahead of last years 88 percent and the five year average of 89 percent. Potatoes were 85 percent harvested ahead of 54 percent from last year and 72 percent for the five year average. Forty-four percent of the dry beans were harvested compared with 12 percent from last year and 28 percent for the five year average. Soybeans were 15 percent completed compared to 6 percent from last year and 10 percent for the five year average. Corn for grain was 10 percent harvested compared to last years 2 percent and the five year average of 4 percent. Corn for silage was 65 percent completed ahead of last years 52 percent and the five year average of 53 percent. The following are comments from across the state: Jefferson County received a light rain that was quickly soaked up and the corn chopping was winding down as the combining of high moisture corn began. Some rain also fell in St. Lawrence County where it was needed and the corn chopping was nearly complete. The corn and soybean harvest continued in Ontario County. Wyoming County received a light rain this week that is too late to help most crops. Another warm week in Cortland County was ended by rain. The silage harvest continued and the hay was still growing thanks to the rain and warm weather. Good weather permitted the silage harvest to continue in Albany County and the quality and quantity were looking good. Montgomery and Fulton Counties reported that the silage and dry hay harvest continued. Super corn harvesting conditions in Delaware County kept the choppers busy all week. Weather conditions in Dutchess County were still dry with only .10 inches of rain since September 11.

**FRUIT:** Apples were judged to be in 4 percent poor condition, 4 percent fair, 63 percent good, and 29 percent excellent. Apples were 58 percent harvested compared to the average of 57 percent. Grapes were 6 percent fair and 94 percent good. Grapes were 55 percent harvested compared to the average of 38 percent. Peaches were 8 percent poor condition, 8 percent fair, 67 percent good, and 17 percent excellent. Peach harvest reached 98 percent complete, on schedule with the average progress of 99 percent. Pears were 5 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 60 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Pears were 92 percent harvested, compared with the average of 89 percent. Grape harvest is in full swing and despite rain over the past few days, weather trends look stable and favorable for continued ripening, with little additional rain and cooler temperatures. With little disease pressure to date, growers should not be forced into early harvest. In the Finger Lakes region, harvest activity has really picked up. Major juice and bulk wine processors started harvesting Concords, early Catawbas and ripe Elviras. Much of the region's Cayuga White and Seyval Blanc crops were brought in as well. Many wineries started to harvest some vinifera varieties in earnest, particularly Pinot Gris, Pinot Noir, Gewurztraminer and Chardonnay. Unprecedented warm dry weather in the Long Island grape region continued. Though some variation from farm to farm, blocks of Pinot Gris, Sauvignon Blanc and some Chardonnay were harvested. Growers report whites have high sugars and acids that balance nicely with intense flavors. In the Lake Erie and Niagara region, wine grape harvest is fully underway. This harvest season had been excellent so far for wine grape varieties with no problems. Niagara harvest for juice wrapped up for the major processors in the Lake Erie region with what many stated was an excellent crop. Niagara harvest was followed almost immediately with the first load of Concords destined for juice and wine. In the Hudson Valley region, harvest will be completed in many Hudson Valley blocks of Chardonnay and white hybrids. The red varieties continue to advance nicely in maturity toward and expected early harvest.

**VEGETABLE:** Some rain was received by the dry western section of the state, but the amount was not enough to compensate for the dry conditions there. Condition of cucumbers and lettuce was poor to fair. Tomato condition was reported as fair to good, while harvesting of tomatoes was 89 percent complete, slightly ahead of the five year average of 90 percent. Condition of onions was fair to good. Harvest of onions was 91 percent complete throughout the state, slightly ahead of the five year average of 89 percent. Sweet corn harvest was 94 percent complete, and condition was fair to good. Snap bean harvest was 97 percent complete, ahead of the five year average of 94 percent. Condition of snap beans was fair to good. Cabbage harvest was 90 percent complete, ahead of the five year average of 76 percent. Harvesting of processing snap beans and sweet corn will be finishing up in the next week or so. Yields of processing snap beans are poor due to the combination of drought and viruses.

**LIVESTOCK:** Pasture conditions across much of the state were estimated to be in poor condition. Pasture conditions were rated as 12 percent very poor, 32 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 26 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. Pasture conditions continue to show signs of stress.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, September 30, 2007**

| Station                           | Temperature (°F) |     |     |                      | Growing Degree Days<br>Base 50° <sup>1/</sup> |        |                      | Precipitation<br>(Inches) <sup>1/</sup> |                      |        |                      |  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-----|-----|----------------------|---|--------|----------------------|---|----------------------|--------|----------------------|--|
|                                   | High             | Low | Avg | Dep.<br>from<br>Norm | Week  | Season | Dep.<br>from<br>Norm | Week                                    | Dep.<br>from<br>Norm | Season | Dep.<br>from<br>Norm |  |
| <b><u>Hudson Valley</u></b>       |                  |     |     |                      |   |        |                      |   |                      |        |                      |  |
| Albany                            | 89               | 45  | 67  | +11                  | 122   | 2759   | +350                 | 0.21                                    | -0.42                | 24.94  | +5.32                |  |
| Glens Falls                       | 87               | 39  | 65  | +11                  | 105   | 2249   | +161                 | 1.24                                    | +0.56                | 18.59  | -0.87                |  |
| Poughkeepsie                      | 89               | 46  | 68  | +10                  | 125   | 2949   | +408                 | 0.43                                    | -0.31                | 25.86  | +3.29                |  |
| <b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>       |                  |     |     |                      |   |        |                      |   |                      |        |                      |  |
| Boonville                         | 81               | 43  | 60  | +8                   | 72  | 1828   | +199                 | 1.12                                    | -0.04                | 21.76  | -6.21                |  |
| <b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>    |                  |     |     |                      |   |        |                      |   |                      |        |                      |  |
| Plattsburgh                       | 91               | 38  | 64  | +9                   | 97  | 2151   | +36                  | 0.74                                    | +0.11                | 19.73  | +0.71                |  |
| <b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b> |                  |     |     |                      |   |        |                      |   |                      |        |                      |  |
| Canton                            | 88               | 39  | 64  | +10                  | 99  | 2188   | +286                 | 2.58                                    | +1.76                | 20.70  | +0.19                |  |
| Massena                           | 90               | 40  | 63  | +10                  | 94  | 2221   | +236                 | 1.88                                    | +1.14                | 18.16  | -0.56                |  |
| <b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>         |                  |     |     |                      |   |        |                      |   |                      |        |                      |  |
| Buffalo                           | 87               | 48  | 65  | +8                   | 108   | 2814   | +477                 | 1.94                                    | +1.21                | 13.62  | -6.68                |  |
| Wales                             | 88               | 43  | 62  | +8                   | 87  | 2130   | +240                 | 1.19                                    | +0.18                | 15.74  | -8.12                |  |
| Niagara Falls                     | 87               | 45  | 64  | +7                   | 98  | 2703   | +362                 | 1.03                                    | +0.28                | 13.38  | -6.50                |  |
| Rochester                         | 92               | 47  | 65  | +8                   | 106   | 2814   | +547                 | 0.72                                    | +0.10                | 11.58  | -5.83                |  |
| Watertown                         | 89               | 41  | 64  | +10                  | 102   | 2292   | +338                 | 0.87                                    | +0.18                | 11.27  | -5.10                |  |
| <b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>       |                  |     |     |                      |   |        |                      |   |                      |        |                      |  |
| Dansville                         | 92               | 44  | 65  | +8                   | 108   | 2493   | +221                 | 0.89                                    | +0.17                | 14.75  | -4.39                |  |
| Geneva                            | 91               | 43  | 64  | +8                   | 101   | 2528   | +278                 | 0.88                                    | +0.18                | 14.72  | -4.17                |  |
| Honeoye                           | 91               | 38  | 64  | +6                   | 101   | 2351   | -17                  | 1.47                                    | +0.77                | 18.06  | -0.63                |  |
| Ithaca                            | 88               | 40  | 64  | +8                   | 97  | 2284   | +253                 | 1.05                                    | +0.28                | 19.29  | -1.12                |  |
| Penn Yan                          | 91               | 47  | 67  | +10                  | 122   | 2757   | +507                 | 0.70                                    | 0.00                 | 14.68  | -4.21                |  |
| Syracuse                          | 91               | 44  | 66  | +9                   | 114   | 2715   | +428                 | 1.31                                    | +0.48                | 17.46  | -4.05                |  |
| Warsaw                            | 85               | 44  | 63  | +10                  | 95  | 2141   | +407                 | 0.96                                    | +0.10                | 18.18  | -4.26                |  |
| <b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>     |                  |     |     |                      |   |        |                      |   |                      |        |                      |  |
| Angelica                          | 84               | 36  | 59  | +6                   | 66  | 1826   | +116                 | 1.02                                    | +0.25                | 18.23  | -2.92                |  |
| Elmira                            | 89               | 38  | 63  | +8                   | 96  | 2417   | +273                 | 0.37                                    | -0.33                | 16.90  | -2.25                |  |
| Franklinville                     | 85               | 37  | 60  | +7                   | 70  | 1923   | +353                 | 1.30                                    | +0.40                | 18.23  | -4.44                |  |
| Jamestown                         | 87               | 41  | 62  | +8                   | 85  | 2152   | +375                 | 1.34                                    | +0.31                | 21.30  | -4.19                |  |
| <b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>     |                  |     |     |                      |   |        |                      |   |                      |        |                      |  |
| Binghamton                        | 86               | 43  | 65  | +11                  | 110   | 2500   | +428                 | 1.30                                    | +0.56                | 20.21  | -0.06                |  |
| Cobleskill                        | 86               | 42  | 62  | +8                   | 83  | 2096   | +168                 | 0.99                                    | +0.18                | 24.83  | +2.97                |  |
| Morrisville                       | 82               | 43  | 62  | +8                   | 84  | 2062   | +229                 | 1.50                                    | +0.61                | 21.79  | -0.18                |  |
| Norwich                           | 86               | 41  | 62  | +8                   | 87  | 2146   | +217                 | 1.60                                    | +0.78                | 23.41  | +1.69                |  |
| Oneonta                           | 88               | 43  | 65  | +12                  | 108   | 2598   | +832                 | 1.43                                    | +0.64                | 23.81  | +0.64                |  |
| <b><u>Coastal</u></b>             |                  |     |     |                      |   |        |                      |   |                      |        |                      |  |
| Bridgehamton                      | 80               | 50  | 68  | +9                   | 132   | 2769   | +337                 | 0.11                                    | -0.66                | 19.56  | -1.73                |  |
| New York                          | 90               | 61  | 75  | +11                  | 178   | 3855   | +621                 | 0.02                                    | -0.71                | 32.67  | +10.28               |  |

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

The information contained in this weekly release is obtained in cooperation with Cornell Cooperative Extension, USDA Farm Service Agency, the National Weather Service, Agricultural Weather Information Service and other knowledgeable persons associated with New York agriculture. Their cooperation is greatly appreciated.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [www.nass.usda.gov/ny](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ny) AND CLICK ON "SUBSCRIBE TO NY REPORTS" FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON SUBSCRIBING ELECTRONICALLY. YOU MAY ALSO VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO ACCESS ALL OUR REPORTS WHICH ARE AVAILABLE FOR FREE ONLINE.**