



# WEATHER AND CROPS

## October 14, 2008

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Released, October 14, 2008

Week Ending, October 12, 2008

No. 977-25-08

**WEATHER:** Temperatures averaged slightly above normal with precipitation near to above normal across much of upstate New York and below normal across southeast New York. High pressure remained across the region through the middle portion of the week. A cold front then swept east on Wednesday into Thursday preceded and accompanied by scattered to numerous showers. High pressure then moved southeast into the region for Friday into Saturday. A widespread frost and freeze occurred across upstate New York Tuesday morning and Wednesday morning ending the growing season in many areas as temperatures fell into the mid 20's to lower 30's at many locations.

**CROPS:** Frost hit a majority of the state ending the growing season, but harvesting continued. There were 5.9 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated as 5 percent short, 87 percent adequate and 8 percent surplus. Hay condition was rated as 8 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 14 percent excellent. Alfalfa third cutting reached 96 percent complete, ahead of the average progress of 97 percent. Corn condition was rated as 2 percent poor, 12 percent fair, 63 percent good, and 23 percent excellent. Silage corn harvest advanced to 78 percent complete, the same as the five year average. Grain corn was 11 percent completed behind last years 18 percent, and the average of 14 percent. Potatoes were 89 percent dug compared to the average of 87 percent. Dry beans were 68 percent harvested, ahead of the 51 percent average. Soybeans were 19 percent harvested behind the five year average of 24 percent, and behind last years 30 percent. The following are comments from across the state: Soybean harvest began in Madison County, and grain corn harvest will begin soon. Silage harvest continued in Cortland County with yields being very good, and grain corn harvest began. Onondaga County made good hay and the soybeans were turning out well. Saratoga County also made hay last week, and expectations for grain corn yields were high. Silage harvest advanced in Delaware County. Good weather over the weekend boosted agritourism turnout in Dutchess County. Producers chopped corn and hay in Ontario County, and harvested soybeans for grain. Soybean harvest proceeded rapidly throughout Niagara County with good yields reported, and wheat planting winded down. Silage chopping should finish this week in Jefferson County. Wind damaged corn still in the field was showing significant mold, and will likely remain unharvested to avoid potential animal health problems.

**FRUIT:** Apples were in 21 percent poor condition, 29 percent fair, 32 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. The harvest was 75 percent complete, in line with the average of 72 percent. Pears were 39 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 33 percent good, and 2 percent excellent. Pears were 95 percent harvested, in line with the average of 96 percent. Peach harvest was complete. Grapes were in 11 percent poor condition, 28 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Grapes were 74 percent harvested, above the average of 66 percent. Despite freeze warnings at the beginning of the week, the Finger Lakes escaped with little or no damage from the early morning cold. Growers picked Vignoles, DeChaunac, Chardonnay and some early Lemberger. Brix development continued to lag in several vineyards. In the Lake Erie region, harvest continued for both wine and juice grapes and most fruit looked good. Downy mildew infections were found in many vineyards due to the season's wet weather. Light frost in the Hudson Valley did not damage canopies, and ripening continued normally. Grapes had good flavor and little disease thus far. In Long Island vineyards, the sunny and dry weather provided great conditions for ripening. Harvest of white varieties was almost complete. Cluster rot was present in some blocks at low levels.

**VEGETABLE:** Several mornings of hard frost hit Eastern and Central New York. Tomatoes were 96 percent harvested, down from 98 percent harvested last year. Tomato conditions were 24 percent poor, 47 percent fair, 26 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Lettuce conditions were 17 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 63 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Cucumber conditions were 10 percent poor, 50 percent fair, and 40 percent good. Onion harvest was 92 percent complete, down from 100 percent harvested last year. Onion conditions were 10 percent fair, 77 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Sweet corn harvest was 97 percent complete, down from 98 percent harvested last year. Sweet corn conditions were 5 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 21 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 99 percent complete, down from 100 percent harvested last year. Snap bean conditions were 9 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 57 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 81 percent completed, down from 98 percent harvested last year. Cabbage conditions were 2 percent poor, 12 percent fair, 62 percent good, and 24 percent.

**LIVESTOCK:** Pasture growth continues to slow across the state. Pasture conditions across most of the state were estimated to be in good condition. Pasture conditions were rated 4 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 55 percent good and 9 percent excellent. Supplemental feeding for livestock on pasture continues and some livestock were being moved into barns due to the cooler weather.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, October 12, 2008**

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	73	32	53	+1	29	2849	+375	0.40	-0.23	24.53	+3.83
Glens Falls	71	27	49	-2	14	2253	+120	0.29	-0.34	22.64	+2.10
Poughkeepsie	79	36	55	+3	35	2928	+315	0.02	-0.65	27.26	+3.53
<b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>											
Boonville	65	30	48	0	9	1744	+83	0.95	-0.03	29.55	-0.15
<b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>											
Plattsburgh	72	28	50	0	19	2164	+3	0.37	-0.19	20.79	+0.79
<b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b>											
Canton	71	28	49	0	10	2148	+204	0.45	-0.28	21.60	-0.22
Massena	68	28	50	+1	17	2156	+130	0.26	-0.37	18.86	-0.98
<b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>											
Buffalo	72	36	55	+2	38	2653	+242	0.17	-0.48	22.17	+0.71
Wales	71	29	50	-1	16	1992	+49	0.25	-0.59	25.25	-0.09
Niagara Falls	71	32	53	-1	27	2510	+93	0.18	-0.45	19.48	-1.50
Rochester	72	34	54	+1	32	2731	+389	0.16	-0.39	15.34	-3.02
Watertown	66	28	50	-1	17	2210	+204	0.47	-0.14	22.40	+4.96
<b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>											
Dansville	74	31	52	-2	24	2444	+99	0.07	-0.54	21.68	+1.45
Geneva	72	33	52	-1	26	2387	+69	0.24	-0.39	19.76	-0.28
Honeoye	72	29	50	-4	15	2312	-137	0.00	-0.63	19.76	-0.06
Ithaca	73	28	49	-2	14	2211	+122	0.06	-0.71	19.62	-2.13
Penn Yan	74	36	55	+4	40	2804	+486	0.06	-0.57	18.91	-1.13
Syracuse	71	32	53	+1	30	2614	+254	0.26	-0.46	20.19	-2.59
Warsaw	68	32	50	0	15	1957	+181	0.25	-0.52	28.24	+4.45
<b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>											
Angelica	72	26	48	-3	3	1715	-39	0.08	-0.62	21.97	-0.42
Elmira	74	27	51	-1	17	2403	+198	0.04	-0.59	17.59	-2.66
Franklinville	73	27	48	0	6	1823	+214	0.22	-0.62	25.02	+0.89
Jamestown	76	32	51	+2	18	2106	+282	0.28	-0.63	22.10	-4.99
<b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>											
Binghamton	70	34	53	+3	29	2374	+248	0.06	-0.57	19.81	-1.58
Cobleskill	70	31	50	0	15	2165	+187	0.15	-0.55	25.87	+2.78
Morrisville	67	34	50	+1	13	2007	+130	0.23	-0.54	22.00	-1.35
Norwich	72	30	49	-1	12	2101	+126	0.23	-0.48	20.85	-2.14
Oneonta	76	30	51	+2	17	2461	+652	0.12	-0.65	19.22	-5.28
<b><u>Coastal</u></b>											
Bridgehampton	71	37	55	-2	38	2802	+273	0.36	-0.34	24.86	+2.38
New York	77	48	62	+3	84	3823	+453	0.12	-0.51	24.58	+1.08

<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.

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