



WEATHER AND CROPS

May 11, 2009

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Week Ending, May 10, 2009

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WEATHER: Much of the week was dominated by a frontal boundary located from the southeast states to the Mid-Atlantic coast, with high pressure located off the Canadian Maritimes. Waves of low pressure traveled northeast along this frontal boundary, producing significant rainfall across southeast portions of the state. Further north and west little rainfall fell until a strong cold front swept east across the region Saturday accompanied by numerous showers and thunderstorms. Some of the thunderstorms on Saturday afternoon and Saturday evening were severe, producing damaging winds and large hail. Precipitation amounts were above normal across southeast portions of the state with near to below normal amounts across northern and central portions of the state. Temperatures were generally near or below normal with the greatest departures below normal located across southeast portions of the state where persistent clouds kept temperatures cooler.

CROPS: Wet weather slowed spring plantings as scattered showers moved through the state. There were 4.0 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 12 percent short, 77 percent adequate, and 11 percent surplus. Condition of winter wheat was rated as 3 percent poor, 14 percent fair, 63 percent good, and 20 percent excellent. Oat condition was 2 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 66 percent good, and 17 percent excellent. Corn planting was 36 percent completed, ahead last year's 32 percent, and the five year average of 30 percent. Eighty-one percent of the oats were planted, behind last year's 85 percent, but ahead of the five year average of 72 percent. Potatoes were 48 percent planted, ahead of last year's 43 percent, and the five year average of 43 percent. Soybeans were 11 percent planted, ahead of both last year's 10 percent, and the five year average of 7 percent. The following are comments throughout the state: Ontario County continued to have pleasant weather for spring planting and field preparation. Chenango County was cooler due to the much needed precipitation, and all crops were beginning to be planted. Planting continued in Cortland County as producers finished small grain and began planting corn. Soil conditions remained on the dry side for this time of year in Albany County, and field work continued at a fast pace. Small grains and seedings are winding down in Montgomery, Fulton, and Herkimer Counties. A few soybeans were planted with most farmers planting corn. Rainfall in Saratoga County helped hay stands, and some farmers will harvest haylage in the coming week. Field work continued at a brisk pace in Washington County. Steuben County is still quite dry for this time of year with hit or miss showers. A lot of corn was planted with most days good for field work. Alfalfa looked good with early oats looking spotty. High winds and some low temperatures were reported in Schuyler County, but no damage had been reported yet. Rain during the week in Delaware and Otsego Counties brought pasture and hay crops closer to normal. Dutchess County farmers received some much needed rain and corn planting began. Many fields were too wet to work in Jefferson County, and cool weather was slowing the growth of hay. Corn was planted in the first part of the week in Lewis County, but was held up mid-week due to the rain. Farmers have been quite busy despite the rain in St. Lawrence County. Lots of fields had been planted with some corn already sprouted.

FRUIT: Apples across the state were at 75 percent full bloom and 50 percent petal fall, compared with 52 and 50 percent average progress. Peaches reached 75 percent full bloom and 65 percent petal fall, ahead of the average progress of 59 and 32 percent. Apples were blooming in Chenango County. Strawberries in that area need warmer nights for growth. Apples in Albany County were in full bloom with the exception of the later varieties such as Northern Spy. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, first bloom occurred in most parts of the region in Idared and Gingergold apple varieties. Peaches, sweet cherries, tart cherries, and plums were all in full bloom and some were starting to lose petals. Strawberry flower buds were also beginning to open in some plantings. In Long Island vineyards, Chardonnay were at 1-4" shoots. Everything was in budbreak or beyond. Daily rainfall and cooler temperatures caused a big phomopsis infection period.

VEGETABLE: High winds on Saturday caused damage to cauliflower and cabbage seedlings in Ontario County. Sweet corn, snap beans, and cabbage planting were picking up in Western New York. Sweet corn was at 24 percent planted, up from 18 percent previous week and compared to 35 percent previous year, and 28 percent for the five year average. Onions were at 64 percent planted, up from 60 percent previous week, 58 percent previous year, and 49 percent previous five year average. Onion planting in Orange County reached 99 percent complete. Cabbage was at 9 percent planted, up from 7 percent previous week, and compared to 28 percent previous year, and 23 percent for the five year average. Snap beans were at 4 percent planted, up from 2 percent previous week, down from 11 percent previous year, and 17 percent previous five year average.

LIVESTOCK: Pastures continue to grow across the state. Livestock were back on pasture and enjoying the growth across the state. Pasture conditions across most of the state were estimated to be in good condition. Pasture conditions were rated 4 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 64 percent good, and 8 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, May 10, 2009

Station	Temperature (°F)				Growing Degree Days Base 50° ^{1/}			Precipitation (Inches) ^{1/}				
	High	Low	Avg	Dep. from Norm	Week	Season	Dep. from Norm	Week	Dep. from Norm	Season	Dep. from Norm	
<u>Hudson Valley</u>												
Albany	75	45	59	+5	64	204	+120	1.10	+0.36	2.62	-1.41	
Glens Falls	76	37	57	+5	51	150	+90	0.93	+0.16	2.70	-1.38	
Poughkeepsie	77	45	59	+4	64	220	+113	1.91	+0.93	4.04	-0.84	
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>												
Boonville	72	39	53	+4	22	79	+38	1.24	+0.26	5.37	-0.68	
<u>Champlain Valley</u>												
Plattsburgh	73	37	55	+3	37	123	+62	1.43	+0.80	3.59	-0.11	
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>												
Canton	71	35	55	+5	40	99	+48	1.37	+0.71	5.21	+1.40	
Massena	74	39	56	+5	44	126	+67	1.24	+0.68	4.10	+0.65	
<u>Great Lakes</u>												
Buffalo	70	43	58	+5	56	157	+79	0.53	-0.15	3.84	+0.00	
Wales	72	35	55	+5	41	125	+73	1.19	+0.40	4.03	-0.89	
Niagara Falls	73	41	58	+5	56	163	+76	0.43	-0.23	4.79	+0.68	
Rochester	75	37	57	+4	55	163	+72	0.66	+0.08	2.91	-0.55	
Watertown	71	37	56	+6	44	117	+63	0.90	+0.34	5.70	+2.37	
<u>Central Lakes</u>												
Dansville	73	37	57	+4	52	175	+94	0.63	+0.00	1.79	-1.92	
Geneva	75	38	57	+4	49	147	+73	0.87	+0.24	2.64	-1.20	
Honeoye	78	34	58	+6	58	165	+89	0.65	+0.02	3.19	-0.66	
Ithaca	75	37	56	+4	42	145	+84	0.49	-0.21	3.01	-0.90	
Penn Yan	75	36	57	+5	53	194	+120	0.56	-0.07	2.02	-1.82	
Syracuse	78	41	59	+5	62	200	+111	1.18	+0.45	3.80	-0.59	
Warsaw	71	39	55	+6	37	109	+66	1.00	+0.23	4.00	-0.47	
<u>Western Plateau</u>												
Angelica	73	34	55	+5	37	112	+70	0.52	-0.07	2.55	-1.08	
Elmira	75	37	57	+4	49	174	+105	0.40	-0.30	2.48	-1.18	
Franklinville	72	34	54	+6	32	106	+74	0.46	-0.31	3.17	-1.21	
Jamestown	72	41	57	+7	50	142	+96	0.50	-0.34	3.47	-1.57	
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>												
Binghamton	74	46	56	+4	45	181	+117	0.82	+0.10	3.18	-1.00	
Cobleskill	76	43	56	+4	41	127	+72	0.78	+0.01	2.12	-2.27	
Morrisville	73	42	54	+3	31	111	+61	0.86	+0.08	4.52	+0.32	
Norwich	76	37	55	+4	38	131	+73	1.44	+0.60	5.15	+0.61	
Oneonta	75	41	56	+6	42	134	+85	0.97	+0.01	3.50	-1.33	
<u>Coastal</u>												
Bridgehamton	71	47	55	+3	39	134	+73	2.30	+1.40	7.82	+2.56	
New York	78	49	60	+1	69	278	+109	2.69	+1.78	7.96	+2.87	

^{1/} Season accumulations are for April 1st 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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