



# WEATHER AND CROPS

## July 13, 2009

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, July 13, 2009

Week Ending, July 12, 2009

No. 977-12-09

**WEATHER:** A persistent upper level trough brought cooler than normal temperatures and periods of rain showers and thunderstorms. Wetter than normal conditions were noted across the St. Lawrence Valley, Adirondack Mountains, Lake Erie Shoreline, and western Catskill Regions. Drier than normal conditions were recorded across the southern tier of New York and over the area from New York City north to Kingston and Poughkeepsie. Elsewhere, precipitation was near normal. Weekly temperature departures from normal were 5 to 6 degrees below normal at Albany, 6 degrees below normal at Buffalo, 6 degrees below normal at Rochester, 5 degrees below normal at Binghamton, 4 to 5 degrees below normal at Watertown, 4 to 5 degrees below normal at Poughkeepsie, 7 degrees below normal at Islip, and 5 degrees below normal at Massena.

**CROPS:** Scattered showers and lower than normal temperatures continued to hinder hay harvest and crop development. There were 3.7 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 63 percent adequate, and 37 percent surplus. Condition of winter wheat was rated as 16 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 41 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Oat condition was 3 percent poor, 10 percent fair, 68 percent good, and 19 percent excellent. Condition of hay was 7 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Alfalfa 1<sup>st</sup> cutting was 90 percent completed, behind last year's 92 percent. Clover-timothy hay was 77 percent harvested, behind last year's 79 percent, and the five year average of 84 percent. Ninety-two percent of the grass silage was harvested, below last year's 93 percent, and the same as five year average. Dry beans were 85 percent planted, below the five year average of 94 percent, and below last year's 91 percent. The following are comments throughout the state: Warmer weather in Jefferson County helped the corn crop, but persistent rain kept balers out of the field. Some lodging of hay and small grains occurred due to heavy rain. Thursday and Friday offered an opportunity for Lewis County farmers to harvest 2<sup>nd</sup> cutting following rain early in the week. St Lawrence County received over 4 inches of rain this week, but the crops are continuing to grow. Niagara County is worried about vomitoxin and sprouting wheat. Wheat harvest was ready to start, and the quality looked variable. More rain and cool temperatures in Ontario County made dry hay difficult to make, and hard to plant dry beans. Corn and soybeans were yellowing in wet areas, and yields are expected to be adversely effected. The past two weeks in Wayne County brought rain every other day which prevented planting. Minor hail damage was reported in Onondaga County, and farmers in Cayuga County were catching up on hay baling this week with the rain letting up. Much needed heat and sun jumped the corn growth in Cortland County. Hay was also regrowing well with farmers finishing up some first cutting and starting on second cutting in other fields. Corn was finally growing in Madison County, but is behind in development. There is still a lot of 1<sup>st</sup> cutting to be harvested, and 2<sup>nd</sup> cutting is a struggle for everyone. Fusarium head blight was reported in some fields. Hail was reported in Albany County on Tuesday, and dry hay production began in earnest at weeks end. Dry hay harvest was way behind in Montgomery, Herkimer, and Fulton Counties. Corn was hurting on poorly drained soils, and some hail damage was reported. Cool, wet weather have continued into July with only one day having a temperature of 80 degrees in Washington County. A few good days helped get hay harvest back on track in Delaware County. On July 8, a freak hail storm in Westchester County produced up to 2 inches of hail/sleet. Corn is sporadic in growth in Dutchess County due to too much moisture and not enough heat. Farmers were scrambling to get hay in, and not good hay either.

**FRUIT:** Apples were 6 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 28 percent excellent. Grapes were 15 percent poor, 32 percent fair, 34 percent good, and 19 percent excellent. Peaches were 2 percent poor, 45 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Pears were 4 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 30 percent good, and 46 percent excellent. Sweet cherries were 56 percent poor, 18 percent fair, 18 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. Tart cherries were 31 percent poor, 52 percent fair, 10 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Strawberries were 24 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 36 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, codling moth flight continued in high pressure orchards. Japanese beetles were also emerging from the ground. The Lake Erie grape belt was past set in Concords, Elvira, and Niagaras, while many of the hybrids and vinifera finally finished bloom. Downy mildew infections were seen in the berries and clusters of Concord, Niagara, and Fredonia vines. In the Finger Lakes, grapes were showing minor amounts of disease with downy mildew the most common. There was a good set and vines were growing extremely well. Rain and hail caused problems, and more heat units were needed. In the Capital region, growers reported the good strawberry season ended. The season was shortened by wet weather. Apples were sizing nicely due to the abundant rainfall. In the lower Hudson Valley, fruit suffered from the many hail storms that hit the area, especially Ulster County. July 8 brought a severe storm to Westchester County with over 2 inches of hail. On Long Island, green aphids were spotted in apple orchards. Grapes in the vineyards were sizing up rapidly. A wet June led some blocks to have reduced set. Chardonnay and the Pinots were almost in cluster closing.

**VEGETABLE:** The cool wet weather continued to promote onion growth. In Dutchess Co. the excess moisture increased plant disease on vegetable crops. Lettuce was 84 percent planted with reported conditions of 86 percent poor, 7 percent fair, 6 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. Onions were 100 percent planted with reported conditions of 1 percent poor, 50 percent fair, and 49 percent good. Sweet corn was 97 percent planted with conditions of 3 percent poor, 12 percent fair, 70 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. Snap beans were 89 percent planted, cabbage was 96 percent planted, and tomatoes were 99 percent planted. Sweet corn picking began in southern areas.

**LIVESTOCK:** Pastures continue to grow with the warmer weather. Pasture conditions across most of the state were estimated to be in good condition. Pasture conditions were rated 2 percent poor, 2 percent fair, 56 percent good, and 30 percent excellent.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, July 12, 2009**

| 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                            | 80               | 51  | 66  | -6                   | 116   | 1090   | +47                  | 0.87                                    | +0.16                | 14.66  | +3.38                |
| Glens Falls                       | 80               | 47  | 64  | -7                   | 97  | 895    | 0                    | 1.44                                    | +0.81                | 12.23  | +1.37                |
| Poughkeepsie                      | 81               | 54  | 67  | -5                   | 123   | 1154   | +59                  | 1.04                                    | +0.13                | 17.59  | +4.41                |
| <b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>       |                  |     |     |                      |   |        |                      |   |                      |        |                      |
| Boonville                         | 75               | 46  | 60  | -7                   | 73  | 595    | -85                  | 1.75                                    | +0.84                | 17.53  | +2.31                |
| <b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>    |                  |     |     |                      |   |        |                      |   |                      |        |                      |
| Plattsburgh                       | 79               | 48  | 63  | -8                   | 91  | 820    | -96                  | 1.77                                    | +1.14                | 10.88  | +1.02                |
| <b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b> |                  |     |     |                      |   |        |                      |   |                      |        |                      |
| Canton                            | 79               | 51  | 63  | -6                   | 92  | 757    | -39                  | 1.79                                    | +1.09                | 12.91  | +2.55                |
| Massena                           | 82               | 52  | 65  | -5                   | 107   | 856    | +4                   | 1.30                                    | +0.60                | 11.53  | +2.00                |
| <b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>         |                  |     |     |                      |   |        |                      |   |                      |        |                      |
| Buffalo                           | 83               | 54  | 67  | -5                   | 117   | 1002   | +18                  | 0.30                                    | -0.37                | 9.02   | -1.72                |
| Wales                             | 79               | 48  | 62  | -5                   | 88  | 761    | -17                  | 1.81                                    | +0.98                | 13.38  | +0.41                |
| Niagara Falls                     | 83               | 49  | 67  | -5                   | 117   | 1006   | +8                   | 0.48                                    | -0.14                | 10.65  | +0.05                |
| Rochester                         | 81               | 52  | 65  | -5                   | 107   | 952    | -15                  | 0.93                                    | +0.33                | 13.30  | +3.92                |
| Watertown                         | 83               | 48  | 65  | -3                   | 109   | 814    | +22                  | 0.82                                    | +0.40                | 11.70  | +3.06                |
| <b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>       |                  |     |     |                      |   |        |                      |   |                      |        |                      |
| Dansville                         | 80               | 49  | 63  | -8                   | 96  | 984    | +21                  | 0.85                                    | +0.13                | 10.09  | -0.72                |
| Geneva                            | 82               | 51  | 64  | -6                   | 108   | 927    | -14                  | 0.70                                    | +0.00                | 11.18  | +0.36                |
| Honeoye                           | 83               | 47  | 65  | -7                   | 104   | 919    | -58                  | 0.88                                    | +0.23                | 14.47  | +3.82                |
| Ithaca                            | 80               | 46  | 63  | -6                   | 92  | 827    | -22                  | 0.37                                    | -0.40                | 12.14  | +0.78                |
| Penn Yan                          | 80               | 50  | 65  | -5                   | 111   | 1026   | +85                  | 0.35                                    | -0.35                | 10.49  | -0.33                |
| Syracuse                          | 83               | 52  | 67  | -3                   | 123   | 1061   | +84                  | 0.52                                    | -0.38                | 11.77  | -0.18                |
| Warsaw                            | 77               | 48  | 62  | -5                   | 87  | 721    | +1                   | 1.79                                    | +1.00                | 14.29  | +1.75                |
| <b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>     |                  |     |     |                      |   |        |                      |   |                      |        |                      |
| Angelica                          | 78               | 45  | 60  | -7                   | 71  | 658    | -46                  | 0.99                                    | +0.12                | 11.60  | -0.35                |
| Elmira                            | 81               | 47  | 64  | -6                   | 96  | 950    | +44                  | 0.44                                    | -0.35                | 8.76   | -2.28                |
| Franklinville                     | 78               | 47  | 61  | -4                   | 81  | 695    | +57                  | 1.50                                    | +0.66                | 13.37  | +0.82                |
| Jamestown                         | 81               | 48  | 62  | -5                   | 89  | 845    | +115                 | 0.74                                    | -0.17                | 13.64  | -0.28                |
| <b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>     |                  |     |     |                      |   |        |                      |   |                      |        |                      |
| Binghamton                        | 77               | 49  | 64  | -6                   | 95  | 934    | +58                  | 0.78                                    | -0.03                | 12.65  | +1.15                |
| Cobleskill                        | 78               | 46  | 63  | -6                   | 90  | 830    | +19                  | 0.98                                    | +0.16                | 13.12  | +0.56                |
| Morrisville                       | 77               | 49  | 63  | -5                   | 93  | 735    | -28                  | 0.80                                    | -0.04                | 15.13  | +2.80                |
| Norwich                           | 80               | 44  | 63  | -6                   | 92  | 818    | +9                   | 1.23                                    | +0.42                | 15.53  | +2.92                |
| Oneonta                           | 78               | 49  | 64  | -4                   | 96  | 839    | +94                  | 0.82                                    | -0.09                | 14.13  | +0.58                |
| <b><u>Coastal</u></b>             |                  |     |     |                      |   |        |                      |   |                      |        |                      |
| Bridgehamton                      | 82               | 48  | 67  | -5                   | 119   | 985    | +46                  | 0.59                                    | -0.11                | 18.54  | +5.95                |
| New York                          | 85               | 61  | 72  | -5                   | 153   | 1415   | +22                  | 0.72                                    | -0.19                | 18.63  | +5.89                |

<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 GETTING FREE ELECTRONIC SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THIS REPORT. YOU MAY ALSO VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO ACCESS ALL OUR REPORTS WHICH ARE AVAILABLE FOR FREE ONLINE.**