



WEATHER AND CROPS

October 4, 2010

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
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Released, October 4, 2010

Week Ending, October 3, 2010

No. 977-24-10

WEATHER: The week started off dry with weak high pressure in control on Sunday resulting in dry conditions along with slightly above normal temperatures. A low pressure system lifted north from the southeast states on Monday into the Great Lakes region Tuesday morning bringing widespread rainfall to the state with most areas receiving a half inch to an inch of rain. High pressure then built in for later Tuesday into Wednesday bringing dry and very mild weather to the state with many areas averaging more than 10 degrees above normal. Thursday and Friday saw a low pressure system move up the east coast which brought tropical like rain to most of the state as moisture from the Atlantic Ocean and the remnants of Tropical Storm Nicole were drawn into the system. Many areas in the eastern half of the state received flooding rains from this system with rainfall amounts of 4 to 8 inches reported at many locations. Temperatures continued to be very mild on Thursday and started to cool down on Friday. High pressure built into the state on Saturday with cool, dry and windy conditions for much of the state, although low pressure moving into the eastern Great Lakes brought some rain to far western portions of the state Saturday evening. Temperatures averaged well above normal for the week. Precipitation for the week was also well above normal in most areas except for far western New York where precipitation for the week was near normal to slightly above normal as this area received much less rainfall on Thursday into Friday.

CROPS: There were 3.9 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 2 percent short, 51 percent adequate, and 47 percent surplus. Condition of corn was rated as 1 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 34 percent excellent. Soybean condition was 2 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 39 percent excellent. Hay condition was 8 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 21 percent excellent. Third cutting alfalfa was 98 percent completed, ahead of both last year's 95 percent and the five year average of 94 percent. Third cutting clover-timothy was 90 percent completed. Potatoes were 67 percent harvested, behind both last year's 71 percent, and the five year average of 73 percent. Eighty-four percent of silage corn was harvested ahead of both last year's 48 percent, and the five year average of 63 percent. Thirteen percent of the grain corn was harvested. Dry beans were 42 percent harvested behind both last year's 65 percent, and the five year average of 43 percent. Soybeans were 14 percent harvested ahead of both last year's 5 percent, and the five year average of 11 percent. The following are comments from throughout the state: Torrential rains throughout Jefferson County slowed crop harvest leaving some fields with standing water. Rain put a halt to most of the field operations such as harvesting, tillage, winter grain planting, and manure spreading. Between four and five inches of rain fell across Lewis County on Thursday, causing significant flooding of the Black River and the Beaver River. However, this flooding did not affect very many acres of row crops. Fields and yards in St. Lawrence County were under water as creeks, streams, or rivers rose to high levels. Heavy and excessive rain in Franklin County slowed down corn chopping, potato harvesting, and finishing up third cut hay. Wheat planting was halted in Genesee County due to wet weather, but more wheat will be planted if soils dry out by Oct. 10. Much of the "excellent" corn and soybeans have been harvested, and yields will be lower on the later planted fields. Cortland County received six and a half inches of rain in one day causing extreme flooding across the county. Some fields were already harvested, but others still have corn and soybeans waiting to be harvested which are now flooded. The water was receding, but the full extent of the damage will not be known until the fields dry up for harvest. Some of the grain corn in Madison County needs another week to dry down enough for harvest. Silage harvest was mostly complete in Albany County, and the grain harvest was moving along. Washington County had been so dry that the rain filled up ponds and wetlands, and very little flooding was reported. Soybeans that were ready for harvest are now under water in Broome County, and corn that was left on river flats for grain was knocked down by the heavy water flow. Fields along the Delaware River in Delaware County were flooded, and there was still corn and soybeans in some of the fields. Area flooding impacted some remaining standing corn in Sullivan County.

FRUIT: Apples were 13 percent fair, 67 percent good, and 20 percent excellent. Grapes were 2 percent poor, 6 percent fair, 54 percent good, and 38 percent excellent. Pears were 9 percent poor, 13 percent fair, and 78 percent good. Peaches were 4 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 76 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. Apples were 74 percent harvested, compared to 43 percent last year and the 5-year average of 55 percent. Grapes were 52 percent harvested, compared to 39 percent last year and the 5-year average of 51 percent. Pears were 98 percent harvested, compared to 97 percent last year and the 5-year average of 89 percent. Peach harvest was complete. Apple harvest continued across the state. Ulster County experienced a hail storm that damaged late harvest apples. Grapes continued ripening in all regions, but heavy rains and cooler weather slowed additional changes in maturity. Some growers were concerned that the rain would cause splitting. In the Lake Erie grape region, Niagara harvest finished up, while Concord harvest continued in full swing. Shelling was a problem in some Concord vineyards. Finger Lakes vineyards were harvesting Riesling, while Niagara and Concord harvests were winding down. Heavy rain in the Hudson Valley has caused concern about Botrytis. Harvest of red varieties has started. On Long Island, white wine grape harvest was winding down. Growers were pleased with fruit quality. Red varieties were almost ready for harvest, and growers were monitoring fruit integrity, flavors, and phenolic ripeness to gauge the optimal time to harvest.

VEGETABLE: Sweet corn harvest was almost complete in eastern New York. Pumpkin's left in the field were damaged due to excessive rain in central New York. Lettuce had reported conditions of 18 percent fair, 34 percent good, and 48 percent excellent. Onion harvest was 80 percent complete, behind the 92 percent five-year average. Onion conditions were 24 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 27 percent excellent. Cabbage harvest was 85 percent completed, down from 88 percent last year, compared to 83 percent five-year average. Cabbage conditions were 20 percent fair, 63 percent good and 17 percent excellent. Sweet corn harvest was 97 percent complete, up from 91 percent last year, and the 95 percent five-year average. Sweet corn conditions were 1 percent poor, 18 percent fair, 66 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. Tomatoes were 95 percent harvested, up from 93 percent five-year average. Tomato conditions were 6 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 57 percent good, and 17 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 97 percent complete, ahead of the 96 percent five-year average. Snap bean conditions were 13 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 42 percent good, and 22 percent excellent.

LIVESTOCK: Pastures rebounded a little after receiving rains last week. Pasture improved with rain but soft ground made it easily punched. Some livestock needed to be evacuated after being trapped by high water. Pasture conditions were rated 3 percent very poor, 19 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 44 percent good, and 8 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, October 3, 2010

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	78	40	62	+7	86	3057	+629	6.09	+5.46	18.84	-1.05
Glens Falls	76	37	60	+7	69	2547	+445	5.54	+4.88	20.15	+0.41
Poughkeepsie	76	41	63	+6	92	3220	+658	4.61	+3.90	18.87	-4.00
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Boonville	72	35	54	+3	36	1981	+343	5.42	+4.31	32.36	+3.93
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	78	35	58	+5	59	2481	+352	3.66	+3.04	23.07	+3.79
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	75	34	66	+3	44	2400	+486	4.58	+3.79	26.16	+5.32
Massena	74	35	57	+5	55	2564	+567	4.43	+3.72	25.46	+6.44
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	72	40	56	-1	46	2863	+505	1.36	+0.66	21.30	+0.70
Wales	73	36	53	-2	31	2320	+415	2.15	+1.20	21.59	-2.66
Niagara Falls	72	39	57	-1	48	2935	+573	0.95	+0.23	17.67	-2.51
Rochester	77	41	58	+2	55	2881	+592	1.74	+1.15	21.81	+4.16
Watertown	77	36	58	+4	57	2576	+607	4.06	+3.40	21.72	+5.08
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	77	39	58	+2	55	2758	+465	2.39	+1.70	24.05	+4.62
Geneva	78	44	58	+2	54	2726	+456	4.03	+3.33	26.42	+7.23
Honeoye	76	40	56	-2	46	2677	+286	2.50	+1.80	26.00	+7.01
Ithaca	77	33	57	+3	54	2561	+513	4.83	+4.06	21.82	+1.08
Penn Yan	78	40	58	+3	57	2881	+611	3.64	+2.94	22.50	+3.31
Syracuse	79	43	59	+3	64	2995	+687	3.99	+3.19	26.40	+4.56
Warsaw	70	38	52	-2	21	2249	+503	2.61	+1.78	26.67	+3.88
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Angelica	72	38	55	+3	38	2472	+750	3.26	+2.50	25.54	+4.07
Elmira	78	35	59	+5	63	2739	+577	4.19	+3.51	21.27	+1.84
Franklinville	69	35	52	0	27	2146	+564	1.70	+0.83	24.74	+1.71
Jamestown	68	39	54	+1	33	2461	+670	2.34	+1.34	25.74	-0.17
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	77	39	59	+5	62	2720	+632	5.42	+4.71	22.61	+2.04
Cobleskill	74	34	58	+5	61	2448	+505	5.33	+4.55	25.25	+3.06
Morrisville	74	37	56	+3	45	2307	+461	4.61	+3.75	28.91	+6.58
Norwich	76	36	58	+5	55	2375	+432	4.17	+3.38	24.43	+2.38
Oneonta	74	37	58	+6	59	2498	+720	5.42	+4.65	27.58	+4.08
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehampton	79	48	68	+9	128	3219	+760	2.42	+1.66	16.32	-5.29
New York	80	52	69	+7	134	4256	+985	4.22	+3.52	17.00	-5.69

^{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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