



# WEATHER AND CROPS

## May 9, 2011

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Week Ending, May 8, 2011

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**WEATHER:** The week began with high pressure across the region on Sunday allowing for dry conditions. However, a frontal system approaching the state began to spread showers across western areas by Monday. This led to a period of steady rainfall for Tuesday into Wednesday, as a wave of low pressure moved along the slow moving frontal boundary. With the ground already saturated due to heavy rainfall from the previous week, some flooding continued mainly across northern and eastern New York. A few scattered rain showers continued for Thursday as an upper level trough remained over the region. Most areas remained dry for Friday. Another weak upper level disturbance moved across the region for the weekend which allowed for a few additional light rain showers and isolated thunderstorms for Saturday. The week began with temperatures rather close to seasonal averages for Sunday and Monday. Daytime temperatures were even above normal in eastern and southern areas for Tuesday ahead of the approaching storm. However, with the steady rainfall, many areas saw daytime temperatures below average for Wednesday. With the upper level trough overhead, temperatures remained cool for Thursday. Overnight lows were chilly for Thursday and Friday mornings and a few places saw areas of frost develop especially for northern, central and eastern parts of the state. Both maximum and minimum temperatures returned to near normal levels for Friday and Saturday.

**CROPS:** Wetness continued to delay fieldwork. Rainfall averaged from slightly below to slightly above normal for the week and kept fields from drying. Topsoil moisture was rated at 33 percent adequate and 67 percent surplus. Days suitable for fieldwork were limited to 2.3 days. Winter wheat was in 4 percent poor, 43 fair, 47 good and 6 percent excellent. Corn planting was just getting underway, mostly in southern regions. Progress only reached 3 percent finished, behind last years 37 percent and the 30 percent average. Oats were 14 percent planted, well behind the 90 percent a year ago and the 78 percent average. Soybean planting was just starting. The following are comments from throughout the state: Despite the rainy weather in St. Lawrence County, farmers are still preparing fields for planting. Some areas of the county have been flooding for the last week. There was so much rain and flooding in Clinton County nothing is planted. There is still a lot of standing water in Franklin County. Soil conditions are saturated for most producers. Weather finally improved in Genesee County. Corn planting underway. Oat and spring barley planting going as rapidly as possible. Limited corn planting has started on well drained soils in Livingston County. Excessive moisture, flooding and slightly below normal temperatures have severely limited fieldwork in Cayuga County. Weather is nice enough to get to the fields so plowing and planting is taking place in Chenango County. In Cortland County, fieldwork is underway in earnest, manure pits are being agitated and spread, seedings put in, ground tilled and corn planting beginning. Many fields are still wet in Madison County. Plowing has started and some corn is planted. During the last half of last week, we've seen a flurry of field activity – particularly new seedings and corn planting in Madison County. Record rain fall has led to flooding and extremely poor field conditions in Onondaga County. In spite of scattered showers Saturday, tillage occurred, and finally some seed went in the ground in Otsego County. With the break in the weather producers have begun making up lost planting time in Albany County. In Montgomery and Fulton Counties, plowing and the first corn was planted Sunday, however, this was done on the best drained ground. Farmers can't harvest hay because the fields are wet in Rensselaer County. Very little field work is being done in Chautauqua County due to the excessive amount of rainfall received during the month of April. With heavy rains falling through Wednesday in Broome County, most fields remain too wet to start any type of fieldwork. There is still water standing in fields in Schuyler County. Continued wet, cool weather kept farmers off of Delaware County fields most of the week. Wet weather has hampered field activity with many fields too wet to work or cut hay in Sullivan County.

**FRUIT:** Apples were 99 percent green tip or earlier, up from 94 percent last year and above the five year average of 85 percent, and 80 percent half-inch green to pink, down from 89 percent last year, and 30 percent full bloom. Peaches were 99 percent green tip or earlier and 85 percent half-inch green to pink, above the five year average of 68 percent. Pears were 100 percent green tip or earlier and 90 percent half-inch green to pink, down from 97 percent last year. Sweet cherries were 96 percent green tip or earlier and 85 percent half-inch green to pink, down from the 97 percent previous year. Tart cherries were 99 percent green tip or earlier and 85 percent half-inch green to pink. Strawberry fields were blooming and some early varieties were close to full bloom in Long Island. In Long Island vineyards, explosive shoot growth had Chardonnay grapes in the range of 1-2". All grapes were in budbreak or beyond. Apples and pears were headed into full bloom in Albany County.

**VEGETABLE:** Vegetable planting continued throughout the state. Sweet corn was at 6 percent planted, up from 4 percent previous week and considerably lower than 17 percent previous year, and 23 percent for the five-year average. Onions were at 20 percent planted, up from 18 percent previous week and significantly below 69 percent previous year, and 56 percent for the five-year average. Snap beans were at 2 percent planted, up 1 percent from last week and below 10 percent previous year, and 10 percent five-year average. Cabbage was at 1 percent planted, up from last week and compared to 15 percent last year and 15 percent five-year average.

**LIVESTOCK:** Grass in pastures look good but conditions are too wet to put animals on pasture. Livestock are tearing up fields. Livestock producers are limiting access to pasture due to wet conditions risking pasture damage. Grasses and pastures are growing. Pasture was rated 3 percent very poor, 14 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 45 percent good, and 7 percent excellent.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, May 8, 2011**

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	75	32	55	+2	44	144	+72	0.75	+0.03	5.41	+1.60	
Glens Falls	71	29	52	-1	26	96	+46	1.05	+0.28	5.82	+1.96	
Poughkeepsie	78	37	56	+2	45	174	+81	0.79	-0.19	5.60	+1.00	
<b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>												
Boonville	64	33	47	-2	5	43	+8	1.70	+0.71	10.87	+5.10	
<b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>												
Plattsburgh	69	37	51	-2	21	72	+21	2.34	+1.71	7.97	+4.45	
<b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b>												
Canton	69	32	49	-2	15	48	+5	1.49	+0.81	7.73	+4.10	
Massena	72	32	52	+1	30	85	+36	0.95	+0.39	6.19	+2.90	
<b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>												
Buffalo	64	39	50	-3	17	109	+42	1.29	+0.62	7.03	+3.39	
Wales	63	35	48	-3	10	71	+27	1.49	+0.68	7.93	+3.23	
Niagara Falls	65	38	51	-3	15	92	+17	1.20	+0.52	6.33	+2.40	
Rochester	67	39	51	-3	23	109	+30	0.83	+0.23	6.52	+3.22	
Watertown	71	29	49	-3	14	77	+31	1.21	+0.64	6.77	+3.60	
<b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>												
Dansville	69	36	52	-2	27	133	+63	1.27	+0.64	5.77	+2.24	
Geneva	67	40	51	-2	20	89	+25	1.37	+0.72	7.80	+4.14	
Honeoye	67	34	50	-3	16	95	+30	1.32	+0.69	6.75	+3.08	
Ithaca	66	32	49	-3	16	88	+37	0.87	+0.17	8.28	+4.57	
Penn Yan	67	40	51	-2	19	100	+36	1.16	+0.51	6.92	+3.26	
Syracuse	72	41	54	+1	38	150	+73	1.19	+0.44	9.76	+5.57	
Warsaw	61	35	46	-4	6	56	+21	1.40	+0.63	8.54	+4.29	
<b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>												
Angelica	65	35	49	-1	11	76	+42	1.31	+0.71	8.60	+5.14	
Elmira	68	34	50	-3	18	99	+40	0.53	-0.15	7.17	+3.71	
Franklinville	64	31	47	-2	5	56	+30	1.83	+1.06	7.86	+3.70	
Jamestown	65	34	49	-1	11	77	+39	1.99	+1.14	8.24	+3.44	
<b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>												
Binghamton	67	36	51	-2	20	93	+39	2.36	+1.64	10.92	+6.96	
Cobleskill	72	39	52	+2	28	80	+33	1.06	+0.29	6.80	+2.63	
Morrisville	66	34	48	-3	12	63	+21	1.05	+0.28	8.70	+4.73	
Norwich	70	33	49	-3	12	77	+28	1.70	+0.88	9.29	+4.99	
Oneonta	73	38	52	+3	24	83	+42	1.80	+0.86	9.57	+5.02	
<b><u>Coastal</u></b>												
Bridgehamton	69	35	54	+2	34	109	+58	0.24	-0.67	3.18	-1.83	
New York	71	47	59	+2	66	213	+63	0.50	-0.41	5.63	+0.80	

<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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