



WEATHER AND CROPS

April 30, 2012

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WEATHER: Strong low pressure moved up the eastern seaboard on Sunday and Monday bringing widespread rainfall to New York State with snowfall near and to the west of Interstate 81. The low pressure system stalled over eastern Canada on Tuesday and Wednesday bringing cold showery weather to the state. The higher elevations all across New York received more snowfall during this time. A reinforcing shot of cold air brought more light rain and scattered showers to the state Thursday and Friday with snow over the higher elevations. Saturday was cool, dry and windy. Temperatures averaged below normal for the period and precipitation was above normal.

CROPS: There were 2.9 days suitable for fieldwork during the week. Soil moisture was rated 2 percent very short, 10 percent short, 72 percent adequate, and 16 percent surplus. Oat seedings were 64 percent complete compared with 6 percent last year and the average of 43 percent. Condition of oats were 1 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 72 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Wheat was rated 1 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 62 percent good, and 20 percent excellent. Potatoes were 46 percent planted compared with 39 percent last year and the average of 31 percent. The following comments are from our reporters throughout the state: The return of rain and cool conditions put a stop to fieldwork for much of the week in Lewis County. In St. Lawrence County, grasses were really starting to jump. With the warm weather expected next week, grass hayfields may finally start to look like something. Some early alfalfa-grass seedings have emerged. In Erie County, snow fell with some areas seeing over a foot. In Ontario County, many farmers took advantage of the great weather during the previous week to start their corn planting, put in alfalfa seedings and try to finish their oat plantings. Heavy, wet snowfall in Yates County left wheat having a hard time standing back up and some of the rye was worse as it is taller. Cold, wet weather in Cayuga County delayed progress of fieldwork for row crops. Much needed rain arrived in Cortland County, but cooler temperatures slowed growth. Oats and seedings were up, but now need the return of sun and warmth to get growing. Corn planting has begun, but a few are hesitant to plant this early but want to take advantage of the weather. Most field prep work is near completion. In Madison County, snow, frost and cold temperatures were the weather topics of the week. Almost everyone is done with spring seeding of oats, barley, and new seedings. The forecast for warm weather during the upcoming week will see the start of corn planting. In Otsego County, showers helped with moisture concerns. Ground is mostly prepared and corn planting started. In Albany County, new forage seedings continued to go in. It has been an excellent year for completing forage seedings given the early warm weather and dry conditions. Oats look very good. Potato planting will go into high gear during the upcoming week. Fieldwork in Montgomery and Fulton Counties basically came to a halt with the rain and cool temperatures. Seedings were up and some corn got planted before the rain began. Everyone has their corn equipment ready to roll. Dry, cool conditions continued in Saratoga County. Corn planting slowly got started near the end of the week and was moving ahead. Hay crops were looking better with the early week rainfall. In Broome County, rain, heavy frost and below normal temperatures brought a halt to fieldwork and corn planting. The rains and cool temps did, however, kick start the grass hay growth. In Schuyler County, the cool and rainy week delayed any planting of crops due to extremely wet fields. Columbia and Greene Counties got much needed rain that slowed fieldwork but should help all the seeding and crops that are already in the ground. In Dutchess County, farmers were starting to plant field corn and some soybeans. Pastures and hayfields were starting to show signs of growth. Ulster County producers were busy cleaning up and repairing damaged fields.

FRUIT: Apples were 95 percent full bloom and 44 percent petal fall. Peaches were 98 percent half-inch green to pink, 90 percent full bloom, and 72 percent petal fall. Pears were 98 percent half-inch green to pink, 92 percent full bloom, and 75 percent petal fall. Sweet cherries were 98 percent full bloom and 64 percent petal fall. Tart cherries were 99 percent full bloom and 94 percent petal fall. In Wayne County, low freezing temperatures last week during full bloom has caused potential losses in tart and sweet cherries, peaches, apples, plums, and strawberries. In Cayuga County, strawberry and fruit tree growers had to use frost protection measures when overnight temps dropped in the twenties. In Albany and Schoharie Counties, apples were in full bloom and pears were starting petal fall. In Long Island, shoot growth was slow due to cooler temperatures.

VEGETABLE: The cold, wet weather this week delayed progress on field work for vegetables; however, vegetable planting continued. Sweet corn was 9 percent planted, compared to 3 percent last year and the 5-year average of 10 percent. Onions were 3 percent planted compared to 18 percent last year and the 5-year average of 25 percent. Snap beans 3 percent planted compared to 1 percent last year and the 5-year average of 3 percent. Cabbage 7 percent compared to the 5-year average of 4 percent.

LIVESTOCK: The grass is growing in pastures and livestock were released to the fields. Pasture was rated 1 percent very poor, 17 percent poor, 40 percent fair, 37 percent good, and 5 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, April 29, 2012

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 County AP	60	30	43	-8	0	87	+53	1.61	+0.91	2.97	+0.07	
Glens Falls AP	66	26	43	-7	3	64	+43	1.38	+0.65	2.69	-0.19	
Poughkeepsie AP	63	29	46	-6	4	112	+64	1.63	+0.74	2.07	-1.31	
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>												
Boonville	52	20	34	-12	0	33	+17	1.85	+0.80	3.10	-1.38	
<u>Champlain Valley</u>												
Plattsburgh Int AP	54	28	41	-8	0	51	+28	1.60	+0.93	2.22	-0.49	
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>												
Canton	55	25	38	-10	0	33	+15	1.36	+0.66	2.24	-0.53	
Massena	54	26	39	-10	0	43	+22	1.23	+0.61	2.45	-0.12	
<u>Great Lakes</u>												
Buffalo Int AP	61	28	41	-10	0	55	+23	1.44	+0.74	2.44	-0.34	
Wales	58	23	37	-11	0	39	+21	1.61	+0.77	2.68	-0.97	
Niagara Falls	59	25	40	-11	0	51	+14	2.02	+1.32	3.07	+0.02	
Rochester NY	62	27	40	-11	0	66	+27	1.85	+1.22	2.86	+0.33	
Watertown Intl	63	21	38	-10	0	54	+34	0.93	+0.31	1.82	-0.61	
<u>Central Lakes</u>												
Dansville AP	67	24	41	-10	1	73	+39	0.82	+0.15	1.79	-0.94	
Geneva Research	56	27	39	-11	0	50	+20	1.37	+0.67	2.51	-0.32	
Honeoye	59	24	39	-11	0	54	+23	1.38	+0.68	2.72	-0.14	
Ithaca Cornell Univ.	64	25	38	-11	0	55	+32	1.93	+1.23	3.18	+0.36	
Penn Yan	66	27	40	-10	0	69	+39	0.99	+0.29	1.90	-0.93	
Syracuse	60	26	41	-10	0	69	+32	1.34	+0.57	2.10	-1.12	
Warsaw	54	25	36	-11	0	39	+25	1.62	+0.85	2.75	-0.52	
<u>Western Plateau</u>												
Hornell Almond Dam	62	22	37	-12	0	36	+18	1.35	+0.71	2.47	-0.11	
Elmira	67	22	40	-11	2	64	+37	0.83	+0.17	1.66	-0.95	
Franklinville	62	22	37	-9	0	30	+21	1.88	+1.11	3.31	+0.13	
Jamestown 4NE	62	25	39	-8	0	36	+19	2.29	+1.39	3.42	-0.28	
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>												
Binghamton/Broo	55	26	38	-12	0	58	+34	1.72	+0.95	2.66	-0.37	
Cobleskill	55	26	40	-9	0	54	+34	1.81	+1.04	2.93	-0.26	
Morrisville	54	23	36	-12	0	41	+24	2.24	+1.47	3.52	+0.52	
Norwich	55	23	38	-11	0	37	+16	1.81	+0.97	2.79	-0.48	
Oneonta	64	26	43	-5	0	53	+36	1.62	+0.74	3.09	-0.29	
<u>Coastal</u>												
Bridgehamton	61	33	50	+1	14	90	+68	2.37	+1.46	2.85	-0.99	
New York LGA	63	41	52	-4	21	191	+105	2.16	+1.25	3.19	-0.48	

^{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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