



# WEATHER AND CROPS

## May 7, 2012

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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)

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Week Ending, May 6, 2012

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**WEATHER:** The weather was unsettled much of the week with needed rainfall occurring. We started out with high pressure over the region and had issues with freeze and frost. The high moved eastward and shifted offshore Monday night then a series of low pressure systems moved across the region bringing bouts of rainfall chipping away at our deficits.

**CROPS:** There were 3.5 days suitable for fieldwork during the week. Soil moisture was rated 2 percent very short, 10 percent short, 62 percent adequate, and 26 percent surplus. Oat seedings were 73 percent complete compared with 12 percent last year and the average of 60 percent. Condition of oats were 1 percent poor, 14 percent fair, 69 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Wheat was rated 2 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 62 percent good, and 21 percent excellent. Corn was 15 percent planted compared with 2 percent last year and the average of 18 percent. The following comments are from our reporters throughout the state: Wet field conditions continued to limit field activity in Jefferson County. Some were able to resume fieldwork at the end of the week. In St. Lawrence County, late week rains kept farmers out of the field until next week at the earliest. The rains were not timely, with corn planting just about to get underway. Corn planting in Genesee County continued on well and moderately well drained soils. Last week's rains slowed planting progress. Oats were showing rapid growth. Wheat was in growth state 8 with rapid stem elongation, 2 nodes obvious. Few or no disease symptoms were observed. Early planted alfalfa and/or grass seedings looked excellent. Ontario County has been experiencing roller coaster ride weather patterns, with highs and lows in temperatures. Major rain with winds and pea-sized hail swept through the county on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Hail was also observed in Yates County. Wet, cold weather early in the week slowed progress of fieldwork in Cayuga County. Even with the warmer drier weather during the weekend, some fields were still too wet to work. In Cortland County, the combination of heat and moisture has grass growing. Small grains and seedings are in and coming up nicely. Corn planting was underway. Madison County saw lots of fieldwork underway with corn and soybeans being put in. Otsego County growers were feeling a little behind after a cold, wet stretch. Good advances were made during the week with plantings. In Albany County, rains slowed fieldwork, particularly corn planting. In Montgomery and Fulton Counties, more corn was planted during the first part of the week. Hay was growing and new seedings were coming up. In Saratoga County, corn planting progressed as drier fields got planted. Hay crops were catching up with some orchard grass coming out of the boot stage. Washington County saw cool, rainy conditions which made for slow going with fieldwork. Some farmers have planted corn on well drained soils. Things need to dry out so that corn planting can get going. Most fields in Broome County have been prepped and corn was being planted between storms. In Schuyler County, rain most of the week made for another week of nothing getting planted. Dutchess County producers received much needed rain. Farmers were busy planting corn and soybeans between the rainstorms. Hay fields were finally showing signs of growth.

**FRUIT:** Apples were 61 percent petal fall. Peaches were 95 percent full bloom and 75 percent petal fall. Pears were 95 percent full bloom and 78 percent petal fall. Sweet cherries were 69 percent petal fall. Tart cherries were 94 percent petal fall. In Ontario County, grape producers were concerned over frost damage and will be monitoring the amount of yield damage in the next few weeks. In Cayuga County, producers were still determining the damage to fruit crops. In Saratoga County, some orchardists reported as high as a 60 percent anticipated loss to the crop. In Long Island, a few vineyards saw minor frost damage.

**VEGETABLE:** Sweet corn is now being planted without row covers or plastic. Onions were at 48 percent planted, significantly above 19 percent previous year, and near the 49 percent for the five-year average.

**LIVESTOCK:** This is the earliest that many producers have let their livestock out on the pastures and some said they are doing it because they have run out of feed. Pasture was rated 2 percent very poor, 9 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 54 percent good, and 7 percent excellent.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, May 6, 2012**

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 County AP	78	29	54	+2	36	123	+57	1.23	+0.52	4.20	+0.59
Glens Falls AP	74	25	51	-1	23	87	+41	0.87	+0.10	3.56	-0.09
Poughkeepsie AP	80	28	57	+4	58	170	+84	0.89	-0.08	2.96	-1.39
<b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>											
Boonville	67	25	49	+1	19	52	+20	0.76	-0.24	3.86	-1.62
<b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>											
Plattsburgh Int AP	63	26	49	-2	15	66	+19	0.80	+0.16	3.02	-0.33
<b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b>											
Canton	70	24	51	+2	24	69	+30	1.05	+0.36	4.08	+0.62
Massena	71	24	51	+1	26	69	+24	0.79	+0.23	3.24	+0.11
<b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>											
Buffalo Int AP	82	34	57	+5	52	107	+45	0.81	+0.14	3.25	-0.20
Wales	84	25	54	+5	44	83	+43	0.73	-0.09	3.41	-1.06
Niagara Falls	82	30	54	+2	40	91	+22	0.55	-0.14	3.62	-0.12
Rochester NY	82	30	56	+4	54	120	+47	0.50	-0.11	3.36	+0.22
Watertown Intl	73	23	53	+4	38	92	+50	0.83	+0.25	2.65	-0.36
<b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>											
Dansville AP	87	30	59	+7	70	143	+78	0.95	+0.32	2.74	-0.62
Geneva Research	77	29	54	+2	42	92	+33	1.07	+0.41	3.58	+0.09
Honeoye	87	26	57	+6	56	110	+50	1.49	+0.86	4.21	+0.72
Ithaca Cornell Univ.	82	27	55	+5	50	105	+58	1.50	+0.80	4.68	+1.16
Penn Yan	78	28	57	+6	60	129	+70	1.37	+0.71	3.27	-0.22
Syracuse	77	31	57	+5	60	129	+58	1.08	+0.32	3.18	-0.80
Warsaw	81	30	53	+5	40	79	+47	0.56	-0.21	3.31	-0.73
<b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>											
Hornell Almond Dam	86	24	55	+6	57	93	+54	0.92	+0.29	3.39	+0.18
Elmira	86	22	59	+8	74	138	+84	1.22	+0.55	2.88	-0.40
Franklinville	84	23	54	+7	48	78	+55	0.57	-0.20	3.88	-0.07
Jamestown 4NE	85	27	57	+9	62	98	+63	1.54	+0.68	4.96	+0.40
<b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>											
Binghamton/Broo	79	29	56	+6	55	113	+64	1.30	+0.57	3.96	+0.20
Cobleskill	75	28	52	+2	26	80	+37	0.81	+0.04	3.74	-0.22
Morrisville	76	25	53	+4	42	83	+45	1.05	+0.28	4.57	+0.80
Norwich	79	22	55	+5	49	86	+41	1.14	+0.33	3.93	-0.15
Oneonta	80	26	57	+8	55	108	+71	0.74	-0.19	3.83	-0.48
<b><u>Coastal</u></b>											
Bridgehamton	60	32	52	-1	18	108	+61	1.55	+0.64	4.40	-0.35
New York LGA	75	47	58	-1	55	246	+106	1.34	+0.43	4.53	-0.05

<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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