



WEATHER AND CROPS

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Week Ending, May 15, 2005

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WEATHER: Above normal temperatures during the first part of the week were offset by freezing temperatures near the end of the week. High temperatures were 88 degrees at Danesville and Honeoye while the low dipped to 22 degrees in Watertown. Departures from normal ranged from 3 below to 6 above. Growing degree accumulations for the season range from 11 below average in Plattsburg to 60 above average in Albany. Totals for the season range as high as 179 in Albany and 254 in New York City. Rainfall was sparse and mostly fell at the end of the week. Totals varied from none at Bridgehampton to 0.75 inches at Honeoye. Departures from normal were almost all on the negative side.

CROPS: Excellent weather conditions across the state encouraged fieldwork and pushed planting progress ahead of last year. Rain over the weekend benefited plantings. There were 6.2 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture was rated 17 percent short, 77 percent adequate, and 6 percent surplus. Corn planting moved to 50 percent complete, ahead of last years progress of 39 percent. Oats were 89 percent seeded compared with 61 percent in 2004. Oats were in 12 percent fair condition, 81 percent good and 7 percent excellent. Wheat condition was 19 percent fair, 70 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Soybeans were 21 percent planted, well ahead of only 6 percent last year. Potato planting continued active and neared the half way mark. Following are comments from reporters across the state: Quite a range of temperatures in Jefferson County with frost and highs in the 80's. Dry conditions allowed fieldwork to continue at a hectic pace. Reports of some producers that had completed corn planting and had begun planting soybeans. Rain expected by Saturday will really help with the hay and small grain crops. Cool temperatures delayed grass and alfalfa maturity. Corn planters are rolling throughout the county. In Lewis County, new seedings that were planted mid-April were starting to poke through. Corn was being planted fast and furious. Several reports that some producers in St. Lawrence County were finished planting corn. Weather has been excellent. We received some rain but did not stop fieldwork. Not everyone planting corn yet. A much better fieldwork week in Clinton County, though for the most part it didn't start until Monday. Showers prevented work for only a portion of one day after that. Corn going in fast and furious. Seedings are up, but with the recent chill were growing slowly. Alfalfa making okay progress. Ontario County had an excellent week for planting. The only concern is the frost and cool temperatures that occurred. Field conditions were very good for planting in Ontario County. Fieldwork is back on track in Herkimer and Otsego Counties. Hay growth has been stunted some, although growing conditions should be good, when the soil warms up. This weeks weather in Madison County was welcome though Thursday nights frost was not needed. Planting is really moving quickly, seedings were getting done along with corn. The weather cooperated well for fieldwork in Albany County. Soil temperatures began to warm up enough for farmers to begin planting field corn in earnest. This has been a very good year for farmers to get new seedings completed, the oats that were planted as a nurse crop are beginning to grow. Pasture growth has been slowed due to the dry conditions and cool temperatures. In Montgomery County over half of the corn is in the ground. However Fulton County is behind that but corn is being planted. Hay needs a drink of rain also. Washington County has had dry conditions since early part of May. The dry weather enabled corn to be planted and seedings went in. Dry weather throughout the week in Cattaraugus County allowed for a hasten pace of field activities. Light to moderate frost occurred on May 13th in Schuyler County. Planting continues as weather permits in Suffolk County. Field conditions are slightly dry.

FRUIT: On May 13, apple, peach, cherry and strawberry growers reported early morning temperatures at damaging levels throughout the State. Early blooming varieties of apples and small fruits were impacted by the cold snap. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, Red Delicious apples were at full bloom in inland sites. Growers were finishing up herbicide applications. In the Long Island grape region, weather was sunny but cool. Cool weather slowed bud break and early shoot growth. Orchardists had hives set in the trees and were hoping for some good pollinating weather. In the Hudson Valley Fruit region, apple growers reported frost damage. Apples were at 20 percent half-inch green to pink stage of development; 80 percent full bloom. Peaches were 10 percent half-inch green to pink; 90 percent full bloom. Pears were at 100 percent petal fall and sweet cherries were at 100 percent petal fall.

VEGETABLE: Drier weather allowed for good field conditions despite a frost around most areas of the state on Thursday night. Planting of vegetables for processing continued. The majority of processing peas were in the ground in Ontario County. Rain showers over the weekend were welcomed in most areas as some of the fields were dry. Reports from Albany County indicate that some vegetable growers had begun irrigating in order to get sweet corn to germinate.

LIVESTOCK: Weather conditions were a bit cooler than average allowing only moderate pasture growth. Pasture conditions in some areas have been slowed due to the slightly dry conditions and cool temperatures. Conditions for livestock continue to improve by the week. Pasture conditions were 1 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 13 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, May 15, 2005

Station	Temperature (°F)				Growing Degree Days Base 50°			Precipitation (Inches)				
	High	Low	Avg	Dep. from Norm	Week	Season 1/	Dep. from Norm	Week	Dep. from Norm	Season 1/	Dep. from Norm	
<u>Hudson Valley</u>												
Albany	83	30	59	+3	68	179	+60	0.33	-0.44	2.78	-1.80	
Glens Falls	84	24	56	+2	52	102	+14	0.21	-0.61	5.03	+0.35	
Poughkeepsie	84	35	59	+2	65	166	+19	0.09	-0.89	4.12	-1.46	
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>												
Utica	83	28	58	+4	68	139	+31	0.16	-0.64	5.55	+0.27	
<u>Champlain Valley</u>												
Plattsburgh	80	30	52	-3	28	78	-11	0.40	-0.23	5.39	+1.24	
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>												
Canton	84	25	52	-2	32	65	-10	0.58	-0.05	3.77	-0.49	
Massena	85	26	53	-2	35	77	-9	0.42	-0.14	5.11	+1.26	
<u>Great Lakes</u>												
Buffalo	81	36	58	+3	64	145	+35	0.37	-0.33	4.86	+0.52	
Colden	82	32	56	+4	48	90	+14	0.60	-0.17	5.01	-0.46	
Niagara Falls	83	36	58	+3	66	137	+16	0.26	-0.37	4.48	-0.08	
Rochester	84	31	57	+2	61	126	-1	0.69	+0.11	4.85	+0.97	
Watertown	84	22	54	+2	44	82	+4	0.74	+0.15	6.04	+2.28	
<u>Central Lakes</u>												
Dansville	88	28	56	+2	53	111	-3	0.30	-0.33	3.88	-0.28	
Geneva	84	28	55	+1	52	116	+11	0.39	-0.24	5.84	+1.55	
Honeoye	88	26	56	+2	59	112	+4	0.75	+0.14	5.38	+1.10	
Ithaca	82	27	55	+2	51	100	+11	0.26	-0.45	5.09	+0.67	
Penn Yan	85	27	57	+3	67	146	+41	0.11	-0.52	5.21	+0.92	
Syracuse	85	30	59	+4	73	169	+44	0.18	-0.52	5.99	+1.10	
Warsaw	81	30	54	+3	44	80	+15	0.45	-0.32	5.76	+0.74	
<u>Western Plateau</u>												
Alfred	83	29	56	+3	51	92	+15	0.42	-0.30	4.66	+0.04	
Elmira	83	25	57	+3	61	130	+32	0.14	-0.56	4.16	+0.00	
Franklinville	83	26	53	+4	38	58	+9	0.35	-0.42	5.10	+0.17	
Sinclairville	82	34	56	+5	50	93	+26	0.70	-0.14	4.93	-0.71	
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>												
Binghamton	81	29	58	+4	66	140	+47	0.30	-0.47	4.72	-0.01	
Cobleskill	82	29	54	+1	46	86	+5	0.13	-0.66	4.03	-0.93	
Morrisville	77	30	55	+2	48	89	+14	0.30	-0.53	5.47	+0.67	
Norwich	85	27	55	+2	49	87	+2	0.16	-0.68	4.66	-0.48	
Oneonta	87	32	57	+6	54	107	+35	0.30	-0.68	5.33	-0.20	
<u>Coastal</u>												
Bridgehamton	67	38	54	-2	27	82	-7	0.00	-0.85	6.02	+0.16	
New York	70	46	59	-3	62	254	+30	0.00	-0.86	4.91	-0.78	

1/ Season accumulations are for April 1st to date.

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The information contained in this weekly release is obtained from reports from Cornell Cooperative Extension agents, USDA Farm Service Agency agents, 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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