



WEATHER AND CROPS

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USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, N.Y. Dept. of Agriculture and Markets, Division of Statistics
cooperating with
U.S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA National Weather Service and Cornell Cooperative Extension

Released, May 23, 2005

Week Ending, May 22, 2005

No. 977-05-05

WEATHER: Temperatures for the week averaged 3 to 5 degrees below normal with precipitation once again well below normal across much of the state. The week started off mild on Sunday, but the rest of the week was cool with some pockets of frost each morning from Tuesday through Friday. Most of the rain which fell during the week occurred on Sunday, with scattered showers also producing rain in some areas on Monday and Saturday. On Saturday scattered thunderstorms also occurred which produced pea size hail in some areas. During the mid week period a large ridge of high pressure associated with cold air from Canada settled over the state and with clear skies and light winds pockets of frost developed during the late night and early morning hours.

CROPS: Some areas experienced dry cool weather. Other areas received some moisture by week's end. There were 6.5 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated 4 percent very short, 31 percent short, 62 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus. Winter Wheat was 24 percent fair, 64 percent good and 12 percent excellent. Oats were rated 20 percent fair, 70 percent good, and 10 percent excellent. Field corn was 76 percent planted, ahead of last years 55 percent. Soybeans were 40 percent planted compared to 17 percent a year ago. Dry bean and potato planting progress was also pushed along by excellent weather conditions. Following are comments from reporters across the state: In Jefferson County, corn and soybean planting continued. Some early planted corn was up in Jefferson County and some operators started chopping alfalfa haylage despite the cool dry weather that slowed plant growth. The threat of rain in Jefferson County had corn planters moving in high gear. Corn planting continued in Lewis County while a few producers revved up the haybines and began first cutting. In Franklin County, corn was growing fast, but alfalfa was very short. Farmers had a full week of fieldwork and some needed rain for the crops already planted in Ontario County. In Wayne County, some farmers finished corn planting and were moving full speed to soybeans. In Cortland County, farmers were lamenting dry conditions effect on first cutting for grass. Short topsoil moisture had the dust flying. In Herkimer County, hay showed the effects of lack of rain. In Montgomery County corn was coming up a little yellow due to the cool weather. In Cattaraugus County field corn planting was near completion and grass harvest started with good hay quality although the yields were a bit low. In Dutchess County, the weather was good for fieldwork. Cool temperatures were slowing forage crop progress in Clinton County. Warm and dry weather allowed most of the corn to be planted in Delaware County.

FRUIT: Across the State, hard frost from May 13 effected bud development of many tree fruit and vineyards. In Albany County, there were reports of freeze damage on tree fruit. The overall effect was still uncertain as there was a big bloom on many varieties. In Schuyler County, frost occurred with temperatures ranging 24-39 degrees. There was possible moderate to severe bud injury to grape vineyards. In the Lake Ontario region, cold temperatures prolonged blossom period for tart cherries and apples therefore causing a concern to producers. In Ontario County, two hard frosts may have damaged fruit trees. In the Lake Erie fruit region, grape development is at 2-4 inch stage of development. The growing degree days were lagging behind average. In the Hudson Valley fruit region, frost damage on apples was reported. However, some late apple blossoms and sweet cherries resulted in no damage from the frost. Slow shoot growth in Long Island vineyards was a result of recent cold weather. Chardonnay varieties ranged from 3-6 inch stage of development. Disease pressure was low due to minimal rain the last two weeks.

VEGETABLE: Vegetable planting continued at a rapid pace. Soil moisture was getting critical. Rain over the weekend was welcomed for transplants and germination. Irrigation was already in use in some of the drier areas. Temperatures remained cool. Warmer weather is needed to push growing degree days up. Early planted vegetable crops may have been damaged from the two hard frosts that occurred earlier in the month. Only time will tell.

LIVESTOCK: Weather conditions last week were mainly dry with rain moving in over many areas during the weekend. Pasture conditions in some areas have been slowed due to the slightly dry conditions and cool temperatures. Hay fields will soon be ready to cut as many grasses are reaching boot stage. Many areas expect good quality hay but with lower yield due to the dry weather up to this point. Conditions for livestock continue to improve by the week. Pasture conditions were 5 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 12 percent excellent.

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Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, May 22, 2005

Station	Temperature (°F)				Growing Degree Days Base 50°			Precipitation (Inches)			
	High	Low	Avg	Dep. from Norm	Week	Season <u>1</u> / 	Dep. from Norm	Week	Dep. from Norm	Season <u>1</u> / 	Dep. from Norm
<u>Hudson Valley</u>											
Albany	73	38	55	-4	39	218	+37	0.30	-0.47	3.08	-2.27
Glens Falls	69	32	52	-6	20	122	-16	0.27	-0.57	5.30	-0.22
Poughkeepsie	73	39	57	-4	50	216	+1	0.31	-0.67	4.43	-2.13
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Utica	69	34	52	-6	21	160	-1	0.34	-0.50	5.89	-0.23
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	68	33	52	-6	17	95	-44	0.49	-0.14	5.88	+1.10
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	69	32	51	-5	12	77	-41	0.00	-0.67	3.77	-1.16
Massena	69	31	51	-6	16	93	-41	0.00	-0.56	5.11	+0.70
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	69	36	52	-7	25	170	+3	0.00	-0.70	4.86	-0.18
Colden	68	33	51	-5	17	107	-13	0.05	-0.75	5.06	-1.21
Niagara Falls	73	36	53	-6	30	167	-14	0.01	-0.63	4.49	-0.71
Rochester	67	35	51	-8	18	144	-43	0.09	-0.54	4.94	+0.43
Watertown	71	35	51	-5	16	98	-24	0.00	-0.63	6.04	+1.65
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	75	33	52	-6	27	138	-33	0.12	-0.51	4.00	-0.79
Geneva	69	37	53	-5	27	143	-17	0.05	-0.62	5.89	+0.93
Honeoye	71	33	51	-7	21	133	-31	0.00	-0.63	5.38	+0.47
Ithaca	70	31	50	-7	20	120	-17	0.04	-0.73	5.13	-0.06
Penn Yan	69	36	52	-5	27	173	+13	0.08	-0.59	5.29	+0.33
Syracuse	71	38	53	-6	28	197	+10	0.04	-0.69	6.03	+0.41
Warsaw	65	33	49	-6	11	91	-13	0.05	-0.72	5.81	+0.02
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Alfred	68	32	50	-6	16	108	-14	0.16	-0.61	4.82	-0.57
Elmira	72	28	51	-7	23	153	+2	0.04	-0.68	4.20	-0.68
Franklinville	69	29	48	-6	7	65	-16	0.03	-0.75	5.13	-0.58
Sinclairville	69	32	50	-5	17	110	+4	0.05	-0.85	4.98	-1.56
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	69	38	52	-6	22	162	+18	0.04	-0.73	4.76	-0.74
Cobleskill	69	36	52	-6	17	103	-24	0.39	-0.45	4.42	-1.38
Morrisville	69	32	51	-5	14	102	-17	0.16	-0.68	5.63	-0.01
Norwich	75	33	51	-6	19	106	-25	0.07	-0.77	4.73	-1.25
Oneonta	74	32	54	-2	31	138	+25	0.08	-0.90	5.41	-1.10
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	72	44	56	-3	41	123	-18	0.08	-0.76	6.10	-0.60
New York	78	49	61	-3	77	331	+16	0.22	-0.62	5.13	-1.40

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

R14May411

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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