



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National  
Agricultural  
Statistics Service  
New York Field Office

## WEATHER AND CROPS

Fact Finders for Agriculture  
10B Airline Drive  
Albany, New York 12235  
(518) 457-5570  
[www.nass.usda.gov/ny/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ny/)

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Week Ending, September 25, 2005

No. 977-23-05

**WEATHER:** The week started out cloudy and mild but high pressure moved into the region Monday sending temperatures soaring to nearly ten degrees above normal under bright sunshine. A frontal system passed through Tuesday bringing light rain to parts of the area and ushered in drier weather but temperatures continued to average around ten degrees above normal on Wednesday and Thursday as a strong high established itself over the eastern seaboard. A cold front came through Friday with very little rainfall but it brought in much cooler air out of Canada bringing temperatures close to seasonal normals on Saturday. Temperatures averaged about seven degrees above normal but rainfall was well below normal almost everywhere. Rainfall has been well below normal south and east of Albany since early July.

**CROPS:** There were 5.7 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 18 percent very short, 20 percent short, and 46 percent adequate and 16 percent surplus. Corn was rated 8 percent poor, 23 percent fair, 44 percent good and 25 percent excellent. Silage Corn was 60 percent harvested compared to 22 percent a year ago. Corn for grain was 6 percent harvested. Hay was rated 12 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. Alfalfa third cutting was 86 percent harvested compared to 75 percent a year ago. Potatoes were 65 percent harvested compared to 95 percent last year. Dry beans were 29 percent harvested compared to 14 percent last year. Soybeans were 9 percent harvested. Following are comments from reporters across the state: In Jefferson County, rain slowed silage harvest; corn in many cases dried down beyond ideal harvest levels. Reports of yields over 20 ton per acre were normal. Some fall tillage took place. Wet field conditions made corn harvest difficult. Corn was drying down rapidly. In Lewis County, corn dried down fast and silage harvest was going as fast as possible between rain showers. In St. Lawrence County, producers were well along on corn silage. High moisture ear corn was close. Lots of corn was chopped. Reports of excellent yields were recorded. The weather was very cooperative. Soybeans for forage were 90 percent harvested and grain harvest began. Many acres of 4<sup>th</sup> cut alfalfa were still awaiting dry weather for removal. Many had feed for sale. In Clinton County, producers experienced a great week for fieldwork; the heavy rain soaked in the ground well on all but poorly drained fields and wet holes. This hampered corn harvest very little. Field conditions were good, and some farmers welcomed the rains since it gave a boost to alfalfa grass growth. Corn harvest was in full swing, yields appeared pretty good, but not quite as good as 2004. In Franklin County, rain delayed some of the harvest. Fields that were tilled were still getting harvested, but fields without drainage were getting wet. In Cortland County, scattered showers with more rain on the way from Rita had the grass growing again, but the same showers slowed the corn harvest for those waiting for stalks to dry down. Soybeans were getting closer to harvest. Seasonal cool temperatures were moving in. In Herkimer County, fieldwork had gone well. Corn yields were better than expected. In Ostego County, fieldwork had gone well. Corn yields were good. In Albany County, nice weather pushed the fall harvest along well. Corn chopping moved ahead very well given excellent harvest conditions. Yields were generally good. Farm stands were in their busiest season with the biggest variety of product currently available. In Montgomery and Fulton County, corn silage continued to be harvested with the crop rated from poor to excellent. In Dutchess County, although the dry weather permitted fieldwork to move ahead at a rapid pace, an increasing number of producers were concerned with their corn crop being "burned" up. Silage harvest moved along ahead of schedule with good to very good yields. Corn crop did not seem as bad as western New York. Alfalfa and mixed alfalfa production produced up to 4 cuttings, but lighter gravelly ground was producing less due to drought stress. In Orange County, conditions were very dry. Ear corn was drying very fast.

**FRUIT:** Apples were judged to be in 14 percent poor condition, 31 percent fair, 41 percent good, and 14 percent excellent. Grapes were 21 percent poor condition, 26 percent fair, 40 percent good and 13 percent excellent. Peaches were 65 percent poor condition, 30 percent fair, and 5 percent good. Pears were 15 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 46 percent good and 5 percent excellent. In the southern part of the Lake Erie Grape Belt, disease has remained relatively low for most of the season. So far this month, 3.80 inches of precipitation was accumulated and recorded at the Fredonia Vineyard Lab. The fruit region in the eastern part of the state has reported the "Pick your own apples" season to be in full swing. Apple production in parts of the Hudson Valley appeared to be above average, with good size and excellent coloring. In the Long Island fruit region, Chardonnay harvest can be seen in many vineyards. The fruit quality was excellent in vineyards where diseases were controlled and drought stress was minimal. Bird pressure has also been spotty. Overall Long Island expects a good year for the industry.

**VEGETABLE:** It was a dry week, allowing the vegetable harvest to proceed. Summer produce harvest was winding down, as fall produce harvest was gearing up. Farmstands were filled with pumpkins and squash. Reports of cucumbers, cabbage, and snap bean condition were mostly good, while sweet corn, lettuce, and tomatoes were reported as mostly fair to good. There are continuing reports of small onion size, with onion acreage approximately 90 percent harvested. Tomatoes, sweet corn and snap beans acreage was greater than 90 percent harvested. Cabbage harvest was almost 90 percent harvested.

**LIVESTOCK:** Despite the slightly warmer temperatures no livestock problems were reported. Pasture condition estimates reflect the slow re-growth associated with this time of year. Pasture conditions were 10 percent very poor, 32 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 25 percent good, and 4 percent excellent.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, September 25, 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
<b><u>Hudson Valley</u></b>											
Albany	85	47	67	+9	120	2983	+611	0.05	-0.60	19.45	+0.28
Glens Falls	81	38	62	+6	86	2484	+424	0.37	-0.33	20.79	+1.81
Poughkeepsie	86	48	68	+9	127	3008	+509	0.00	-0.77	17.90	-4.15
<b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>											
Utica	81	39	64	+7	103	2677	+519	0.30	-0.70	18.08	-4.53
<b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>											
Plattsburgh	84	39	62	+6	87	2432	+345	0.03	-0.63	21.40	+2.83
<b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b>											
Canton	78	35	62	+7	85	2413	+537	0.28	-0.58	22.26	+2.33
Massena	79	38	62	+7	87	2411	+451	0.15	-0.63	20.14	+1.94
<b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>											
Buffalo	78	47	66	+7	116	2866	+571	0.57	-0.20	18.28	-1.51
Colden	78	45	63	+6	90	2409	+550	0.66	-0.41	22.38	-0.77
Niagara Falls	81	47	67	+8	119	2936	+637	0.48	-0.33	16.27	-3.08
Rochester	81	49	67	+8	124	2730	+505	0.32	-0.33	19.81	+2.84
Watertown	78	39	64	+7	96	2408	+484	0.09	-0.63	22.91	+7.03
<b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>											
Dansville	82	43	63	+5	95	2552	+320	0.62	-0.15	19.11	+0.47
Geneva	82	44	65	+7	108	2663	+451	0.51	-0.23	18.77	+0.38
Honeoye	81	39	64	+4	95	2498	+174	0.79	+0.09	21.45	+3.26
Ithaca	82	38	62	+5	86	2489	+491	0.23	-0.59	16.92	-2.94
Penn Yan	82	42	67	+9	120	2811	+599	0.02	-0.72	17.58	-0.81
Syracuse	83	41	67	+8	119	2957	+710	0.19	-0.69	19.40	-1.52
Warsaw	76	44	62	+7	86	2244	+535	1.08	+0.17	22.59	+0.75
<b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>											
Alfred	80	43	62	+6	87	2364	+550	0.49	-0.35	21.31	+0.51
Elmira	82	41	65	+7	103	2549	+439	0.30	-0.40	17.06	-1.59
Franklinville	78	41	60	+6	73	2062	+515	0.72	-0.19	20.13	-1.90
Sinclairville	79	46	63	+7	90	2386	+637	0.71	-0.36	21.82	-2.94
<b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>											
Binghamton	79	42	65	+8	108	2605	+565	0.28	-0.49	15.09	-4.66
Cobleskill	80	38	63	+7	91	2439	+540	0.06	-0.78	18.42	-2.87
Morrisville	76	40	62	+6	82	2313	+507	0.28	-0.63	19.41	-1.93
Norwich	81	40	62	+6	86	2410	+509	0.16	-0.70	22.28	+1.14
Oneonta	84	44	65	+10	105	2699	+958	0.20	-0.64	23.37	+0.75
<b><u>Coastal</u></b>											
Bridgehamton	85	43	69	+7	131	2758	+378	0.00	-0.77	12.02	-8.72
New York	87	61	76	+10	182	3721	+557	0.00	-0.77	14.38	-7.50

1/ Season accumulations are for April 1<sup>st</sup> 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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