



WEATHER AND CROPS

USDA, Agricultural Statistics Service, NY Field Office, 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

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Week Ending, May 14, 2006

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WEATHER: The week was dominated by warm, wet weather. Temperatures averaged above normal in all areas except Long Island which was only 1 degree below normal. Temperatures at Buffalo were 9 degrees higher than normal. Warmer weather pushed the growing degree accumulations to a high of 134 above normal in New York City and 134 above normal in Buffalo. Rainfall totals varied from 0.10 inches in Watertown to a high of 3.82 at Bridgehampton. Stations totals were still mixed. Deviations with more than twice as many below normal stations as above ranged from 2.21 inches below normal at Honeoye to 2.81 inches above normal at Bridgehampton.

CROPS: Warm, dry weather permitted producers to continue spring fieldwork and planting. Near ideal conditions provided 5.3 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 3 percent very short, 24 percent short, 62 percent adequate, and 11 percent surplus. Oats were rated 18 percent fair, 68 percent good and 14 percent excellent. Winter wheat was rated 13 percent fair, 67 percent good and 20 percent excellent. Corn for grain was 61 percent planted compared to 45 percent last year. Oats were 95 percent planted compared to 85 percent last year. Potatoes were 45 percent planted compared to 49 percent last year. Soybeans were 11 percent planted compared to 18 percent a year ago. Following are comments from reporters across the state: It was another good week, with the end of the week bringing in some much needed rain in Jefferson County. Hay and pasture have finally shown some good growth. Several producers have finished corn planting; the earliest many have finished in several years. In Lewis County, many got their corn all planted, while others were waiting and remained skeptical of frost. The dust was flying everywhere and many had prayed for rain. In St Lawrence County, needed rain stopped fieldwork after many fields were completed and new seedings were already showing. In Erie County, much needed rain was received. In Livingston County, they received much needed rain. Planting season was great with some much needed rain in Ontario County. Heavy rain in Wayne County relieved dry conditions for field crops. Hail was produced in a heavy rain storm. Corn planting was moving very rapidly. End of week rains greatly improved the outlook for crops. Dry weather was broken by a good rain in Cortland County. Some farmers got all crops in already; while others waited to be sure no more cold snaps were coming. In Herkimer County, cool dry weather continued to slow grass and germinating plant development, but fieldwork went well. The weather was very cooperative in getting crops in the ground in Madison County. Rain came and was needed after all the recent planting. Farmers were just getting started planting soybeans. In Oneida County, dry conditions provided an ideal window for planting corn. Many have completed their corn planting. In Onandaga County, cool dry weather continued to slow grass and germinating plant development, but fieldwork was going well. Heavy rains put an end to fieldwork in Albany County. Much of the corn has been planted already. In Montgomery and Fulton County corn was being planted and most of the seedings were completed. Some farmers had not begun to plant corn; most were plowing. In Steuben County, planting of crops was ahead of normal. Hay was short due to lack of moisture. In Delaware County, corn was in the ground and farmers were moving towards haylage. Fields were dry after receiving only an inch of rain. The weather was perfect for spring planting in Greene County.

FRUIT: In the Lake Ontario fruit region there was quite a difference in bloom stage across the region, from lake to inland. It looks like most apple orchards were at or just past full bloom. Farmers were thinking about their thinning strategies. In Broome County, the apples were in full bloom. In the Southern part of the Lake Erie Belt, Concord shoots were 2.5 - 3.5 inches in length. Due to severe frost received during the last week of April, grape buds were significantly damaged in Cattaraugus, Chautauqua and Erie counties. However, in some areas vineyard damage from frost was less than originally estimated. In the Long Island grape region, cool wet weather dominated the week and was forecast for the following week. The continued wet weather has provided favorable conditions for the spread of disease and fungus in the crops. Focusing on cultural practices has been most important for managing any form of disease. Farmers in Long Island were also concerned about the spread of leaf scorch on strawberries, due to the prolonged wet weather. Currently, the biggest disease threat has been phomopsis, on spur pruned vines. Farmers will continue to observe for Botrytis blight, which may appear this spring.

VEGETABLE: Most of the state received beneficial moisture last week; however, a few sites reported less than ½ inch of rain. Planting throughout most of the state continued to progress, and the rains received will help germination of seeds in the ground. Planting of onions in Orange County and in the middle of the state was basically complete, with planting completed in the western part of the state on approximately 30 percent of acreage. Planting of sweet corn for fresh market was approximately 40 percent complete throughout the state, with planting of sweet corn for processing progressing at a slower pace. Planting of snap beans increased in the last week with approximately 25 percent of acreage planted, and cabbage is about 20 percent planted in the state. Green peas for processing have emerged and look good. Lettuce harvest began in the western part of the state.

LIVESTOCK: Pasture conditions finally showed some good growth, with orchard grass starting to head out across the state. Much needed rain stopped field work while hay improved do to the rain. Most pastured animals enjoyed the lush growth. Pasture condition estimates are 1 percent very poor, 10 percent poor, 26 percent fair, 51 percent good and 12 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, May 14, 2006

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	73	40	59	+4	66	221	+110	2.29	+1.52	7.13	+2.66
Glens Falls	72	33	56	+3	47	127	+45	1.97	+1.16	6.39	+1.83
Poughkeepsie	72	42	59	+2	63	246	+108	1.88	+0.90	6.95	+1.51
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Utica	73	38	58	+4	59	162	+61	0.48	-0.31	3.65	-1.51
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	74	34	57	+4	51	154	+71	0.89	+0.26	3.97	-0.09
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	76	34	58	+6	58	137	+67	0.46	-0.17	3.51	-0.66
Massena	77	36	58	+5	62	150	+70	0.74	+0.18	3.75	-0.02
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	82	43	63	+9	94	237	+134	0.83	+0.13	2.97	-1.27
Wales	76	30	56	+4	44	134	+63	1.10	+0.33	3.58	-1.78
Niagara Falls	79	41	59	+5	67	183	+69	0.86	+0.23	3.03	-1.44
Rochester	78	40	61	+5	75	205	+86	1.15	+0.58	3.38	-0.41
Watertown	77	35	59	+7	65	137	+64	0.10	-0.48	3.13	-0.54
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	80	36	58	+4	58	171	+64	1.02	+0.39	2.83	-1.24
Geneva	77	34	57	+4	56	150	+52	0.91	+0.28	3.09	-1.11
Honeoye	79	35	59	+5	61	162	+61	0.44	-0.17	1.98	-2.21
Ithaca	77	35	57	+5	52	125	+42	1.46	+0.76	3.27	-1.04
Penn Yan	76	39	58	+5	61	177	+79	0.98	+0.35	2.46	-1.74
Syracuse	76	39	60	+6	74	202	+85	0.89	+0.19	5.10	+0.31
Warsaw	74	31	56	+5	45	118	+58	0.97	+0.20	4.08	-0.83
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Angelica	79	28	53	+2	26	82	+23	1.10	+0.49	3.63	-0.36
Elmira	77	32	57	+3	48	126	+34	1.05	+0.35	3.56	-0.50
Franklinville	78	30	53	+4	27	79	+34	1.28	+0.51	4.09	-0.73
Jamestown	81	30	55	+4	38	125	+63	1.31	+0.47	4.32	-1.08
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	74	42	58	+5	60	169	+82	0.91	+0.15	3.53	-1.09
Cobleskill	69	35	56	+3	43	105	+30	1.38	+0.60	5.51	+0.67
Morrisville	72	31	56	+4	50	107	+37	2.76	+1.94	6.41	+1.73
Norwich	78	27	57	+4	53	107	+28	1.83	+0.99	5.29	+0.27
Oneonta	78	38	60	+8	70	167	+100	0.69	-0.29	4.38	-1.01
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	67	41	54	-1	29	151	+68	3.82	+2.96	8.55	+2.81
New York	70	52	61	+1	74	397	+185	1.49	+0.62	6.76	+1.19

1/ Season accumulations are for April 1st to date. Weekly accumulations are through 7:00 AM Sunday Morning.

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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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