



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, September 24, 2006

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WEATHER: The region was under the influence of a subtropical high the first two days of the week with average temperatures nearly 10 degrees above seasonal normal and highs of 75 to 85 degrees. A cold front passed through the region on Tuesday bringing rain to the region with nearly an inch of rain along the Niagara Frontier. A Canadian air mass moved in to dominate the weather for the remainder of the week with temperatures dipping to the freezing point in a few areas in the Adirondacks and Catskills the early morning hours of Friday the 22nd. The high moved off the coast making way for warm and moist air to return to the region Saturday bringing another period of rain associated with the approach and passage of a warm front.

CROPS: Wetness limited farmers to 4.2 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture was rated as 3 percent short, 58 percent adequate and 39 percent surplus. Hay was in 16 percent poor, 28 percent fair, 42 percent good, and 14 percent excellent condition. Corn condition was reported as 12 percent poor, 20 percent fair, 49 percent good, and 19 percent excellent. Potato harvest was just passed the half way mark. Soybeans harvest was getting underway. Silage corn harvest reached 35 percent complete behind last years 58 percent. Following are comments from reporters across the state: Rain off and on throughout the week in Jefferson County left many fields saturated, but silage harvest continued. All over St. Lawrence County corn chopping was steady. The weather has really been cooperating. A week of corn silage harvest in Clinton County. The continued rain in Ontario County slowed down the corn silage harvest and adversely affected the quality of hay. The yields for the corn and soybeans are still forecasted to be high. Corn silage harvest in western New York was in full swing. Rainfall slowed harvest but workers were moving forward. Corn silage harvest was getting underway in Cortland County. Most reports show that the ears are of good size and filled out, though stalk height varies greatly due to the wet year. Some areas have stalks yellowing from the lack of nitrogen-either didn't get applied at the right time or has washed out. Fields also showing signs of scattered light frost. Cool weather continues. Frost touched several locations in Herkimer County. Some low elevations had frost in Otsego County. Corn silage harvest got underway. Silage corn harvest just beginning in Albany County. Corn still fairly immature and too wet to chop for silage. Grain corn crop won't be harvested for another 3 weeks. Soil condition is good for fall tillage. In Montgomery and Fulton Counties a few more producers began to chop corn. There were a lot of nice 2nd and 3rd cuttings of hay that are not being harvested due to the weather. Rain on Monday the 18th and over the weekend slowed down fieldwork in Washington County. Some farmers were done chopping corn silage and others who planted late because of the wet weather have not started yet.

FRUIT: Apples were judged to be in 5 percent poor condition, 33 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 15 percent excellent. Apples were 40 percent harvested overall, compared to 38 percent last week and 33 percent last year. Grapes were 4 percent poor condition, 43 percent fair, 37 percent good and 16 percent excellent. Grapes were 24 percent harvested overall, compared to 12 percent last week and 26 percent in 2005. Peaches were 50 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 3 percent excellent. Pears were 40 percent fair, 55 percent good, and 5 percent excellent. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, early grape varieties were being harvested. In the Lake Erie fruit region, unfavorable weather slowed the ripening process of grapes. Niagara harvest was close to completion. Processors delayed Concord harvest for a few days in hopes of vineyards gaining some sugar and drying out a bit. In the Southern part of the Lake Erie Grape Belt, Concord grapes were at 13 Brix by the lake. Niagara grapes were harvested at 13 Brix. In the Lake Champlain Valley fruit region, orchards received heavy rains and hail damage to the apple crop this past season. Therefore, many apples harvested will be utilized for juice or apple sauce. The apples were large in size due to heat and abundant rains. In the Long Island Fruit region, harvest began for some white and Pinot Noir blocks. According to the research vineyard lab, berries had high sugars and high acids. Some individual berries were at 23 Brix. Deer continue to graze on unprotected fruit.

VEGETABLE: Harvest advanced rapidly. Onions were in 28 percent poor condition, 52 percent fair, 18 percent good and 2 percent excellent. Sweet corn was in mostly fair to good condition as were tomatoes, cabbage, and snap beans. Cucumber condition declined to mostly poor to fair. Tomato harvest reached 82 percent complete, onions 85 percent, sweet corn 88 percent, snap beans 80 percent, and cabbage 65 percent. Many reports were received from onion growers in all parts of the state reporting that onion condition and yield suffered with the excessive rain and the excessive heat this summer, and some reported some internal decay in the onions. A farmer in Cortland County reported that his pumpkin crop was a total loss due to too much rain during the summer. Roadside stands across the state continued selling a variety of fresh vegetables.

LIVESTOCK: Pastures were rated as 3 percent very poor condition, 9 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 42 percent good, and 17 percent excellent. Conditions remained nearly identical to the previous week due to abundant moisture supplies and warm temperatures. Producers were emptying manure lagoons as crops were harvested.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, September 24, 2006

Station	Temperature (°F)				Growing Degree Days Base 50° ^{1/}			Precipitation (Inches) ^{1/}			
	High	Low	Avg	Dep. from Norm	Week	Season	Dep. from Norm	Week	Dep. from Norm	Season	Dep. from Norm
<u>Hudson Valley</u>											
Albany	80	41	63	+4	91	2690	+326	0.43	-0.23	27.55	+8.47
Glens Falls	78	32	58	+1	59	2210	+156	0.26	-0.44	26.88	+8.00
Poughkeepsie	81	41	62	+2	86	2797	+307	0.13	-0.64	32.23	+10.29
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Utica	81	38	61	+3	79	2327	+177	0.40	-0.61	27.09	+4.62
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	82	40	60	+4	73	2350	+270	0.20	-0.47	19.99	+1.51
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	81	39	60	+4	70	2180	+310	0.87	+0.00	16.63	-3.18
Massena	81	37	60	+4	70	2230	+276	0.82	+0.03	20.40	+2.31
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	84	45	62	+3	89	2683	+397	1.47	+0.70	20.88	+1.20
Wales	80	39	58	0	59	2029	+177	1.42	+0.34	24.16	+1.16
Niagara Falls	82	41	62	+3	88	2572	+282	1.46	+0.64	18.98	-0.26
Rochester	84	44	65	+5	105	2760	+544	0.71	+0.05	23.12	+6.24
Watertown	81	36	61	+5	80	2281	+364	0.84	+0.11	16.45	+0.67
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	82	41	60	-1	70	2344	+121	0.50	-0.27	24.38	+5.85
Geneva	81	41	61	+2	76	2325	+122	0.69	-0.06	23.47	+5.18
Honeoye	83	38	60	-2	72	2308	-6	0.89	+0.19	20.47	+2.38
Ithaca	80	38	59	+2	67	2165	+174	0.22	-0.61	25.01	+5.26
Penn Yan	80	42	62	+3	83	2497	+294	0.36	-0.39	17.38	-0.91
Syracuse	82	41	64	+4	98	2613	+375	0.66	-0.23	27.38	+6.58
Warsaw	79	39	57	+2	54	1946	+243	1.53	+0.62	28.36	+6.65
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Angelica	78	34	56	0	47	1787	+108	0.58	-0.25	24.27	+3.78
Elmira	81	37	60	+3	74	2236	+134	0.17	-0.53	25.76	+7.21
Franklinville	79	38	56	+2	50	1853	+311	1.26	+0.35	24.55	+2.65
Jamestown	80	39	58	+2	59	2106	+363	1.37	+0.29	21.80	-2.69
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	76	39	60	+2	69	2207	+174	0.31	-0.46	30.34	+10.70
Cobleskill	79	37	58	+2	61	2100	+208	0.31	-0.54	28.26	+7.09
Morrisville	75	39	57	0	49	1940	+140	0.50	-0.41	35.78	+14.57
Norwich	80	38	58	+2	58	2105	+211	0.62	-0.25	32.43	+11.41
Oneonta	84	40	61	+5	75	2414	+679	0.24	-0.60	31.70	+9.20
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	79	34	63	0	91	2685	+316	0.41	-0.36	37.76	+17.13
New York	83	55	70	+5	143	3719	+570	0.10	-0.67	30.96	+9.19

^{1/} Season accumulations are for April 1st to date. Weekly accumulations are through 7:00 AM Sunday Morning. R40Sept417

The information contained in this weekly release is obtained from reports from Cornell Cooperative Extension agents, IUSDA 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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