



WEATHER AND CROPS

May 4, 2009

Cooperating with New York Department of Agriculture and Markets
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WEATHER: An April “heat wave” started the week mainly to the south of Albany with temperatures reaching and in some cases eclipsing the 90 degree mark. Hot weather spread back north again Monday and especially Tuesday when temperatures reached 90 as far north as Albany. A cold front brought back reality to more normal April temperatures along with some showers late Tuesday into very early Wednesday. The most significant rainfall fell across the Adirondacks where more than a quarter inch fell in some spots. Much lighter amounts fell elsewhere. Another round of rain fell with a warm frontal/cold frontal passage late Thursday through Friday. Up to half an inch of rain fell south of the greater Capital District and a quarter to half an inch to the north and west. This left very little rain to fall in the greater Capital District itself, which only received a tenth to at most a quarter of an inch the entire week, thus increasing the rainfall deficit this year to nearly 5 inches by week’s end.

CROPS: Cool, wet weather slowed spring plantings as scattered showers moved through the state. There were 5.3 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated 1 percent very short, 20 percent short, 69 percent adequate, and 10 percent surplus. Condition of winter wheat was rated as 1 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 69 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Oat condition was 22 percent fair, 69 percent good, and 9 percent excellent. Corn planting was 18 percent completed ahead last year’s 13 percent, and the five year average of 11 percent. Seventy-seven percent of the oats were planted ahead of last year’s 69 percent, and the five year average of 54 percent. Potatoes were 43 percent planted ahead of last year’s 43 percent, and the five year average of 27 percent. The following are comments throughout the state: Dutchess County has not received rain for seven days, and will need at least two inches to get to normal amounts. Corn planting started in Delaware and Otsego Counties, but some rain is needed to get the grasses growing. Tillage and corn planting continued between the showers in Washington County. In Saratoga County the crops being planted were on or ahead of schedule, and the grass crops need some rain. Seedings and small grains were over two-thirds completed in Montgomery, Fulton, and Herkimer Counties. Corn planting also began in all three counties. Field work was in full swing in Albany County with a variety of crops being planted. Hay was growing slower than normal due to dry conditions. Some much needed rain fell in Cortland County causing small grain and new seedings to emerge. Chenango County should begin planting this week. First cutting may be short unless some showers arrive this week. Ontario County continued to have weather that allowed field work and planting to continue. Wheat in Niagara County had started to send up stems with the first nodes visible. In Erie County, producers took advantage of the good weather to get oats and seedings in the ground before the arrival of some anticipated precipitation. St. Lawrence County received so much rain that the fields were too wet for fertilizer application. Corn planting began in Clinton and Jefferson Counties.

FRUIT: Apples were at 60 percent half-inch green to pink stage of development, compared to 40 percent last year. Peaches were at 75 percent half-inch green to pink, ahead of 68 percent last year. Pears were at 70 percent half-inch green to pink, compared to 64 percent last year. Sweet cherries were at 70 percent half-inch green to pink, ahead of 68 percent last year. In the Lake Ontario fruit region, some Idared blossoms were open. Showers during the week led to apple scab infections, and growers were busy spraying. On Long Island, development progressed quickly after a few very warm days early in the week. Early strawberry varieties began to bloom and vineyards were in budbreak for all varieties except Cabernet Sauvignon. Apple growers in Albany County continued with their busy schedules of spraying, mowing, and bringing in bees for pollination. Apples in Saratoga County went very quickly from green tip and pink to full bloom in some areas due to very warm weather.

VEGETABLE: Warm weather allowed farmers to continue planting crops. Sweet corn was at 18 percent planted, up from 10 percent previous week and compared to 19 percent previous year, and 16 percent for the five year average. Onions were at 60 percent planted, up from 10 percent previous week, up from 40 percent previous year, and up from 33 percent previous five year average. Onion planting in Orange County reached 90 percent complete. Cabbage was at 7 percent planted, up from 1 percent previous week, and compared to 16 percent previous year, and 16 percent for the five year average.

LIVESTOCK: Pastures continue to green across the state. Livestock were beginning to move back onto pasture but still need some supplemental feed. Pasture conditions across the state were estimated to be in good condition. Pasture conditions were rated 3 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 4 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, May 3, 2009

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	90	38	61	+10	79	140	+94	0.12	--0.58	1.52	-1.77	
Glens Falls	89	30	58	+9	61	99	+69	0.26	-0.50	1.77	-1.54	
Poughkeepsie	91	40	63	+10	90	156	+93	0.24	-0.69	2.13	-1.77	
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>												
Boonville	86	31	55	+9	40	57	+35	1.04	+0.00	4.13	-0.94	
<u>Champlain Valley</u>												
Plattsburgh	93	28	55	+6	49	86	+54	0.52	-0.13	2.16	-0.91	
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>												
Canton	87	30	54	+6	35	59	+33	1.34	+0.64	3.80	+0.65	
Massena	88	32	55	+7	43	82	+52	0.90	+0.31	2.86	-0.03	
<u>Great Lakes</u>												
Buffalo	80	39	57	+7	53	101	+57	0.54	-0.15	3.31	+0.15	
Wales	82	34	57	+9	50	84	+57	0.86	+0.02	2.84	-1.29	
Niagara Falls	83	38	57	+6	51	107	+58	0.89	+0.19	4.36	+0.91	
Rochester	85	37	56	+5	47	108	+56	0.34	-0.29	2.25	-0.63	
Watertown	85	31	54	+7	35	73	+44	0.89	+0.28	4.80	+2.03	
<u>Central Lakes</u>												
Dansville	91	37	60	+10	73	123	+77	0.62	-0.02	1.16	-1.92	
Geneva	88	37	58	+8	55	98	+57	0.43	-0.27	1.77	-1.44	
Honeoye	89	32	58	+8	58	107	+65	0.82	+0.15	2.54	-0.68	
Ithaca	91	35	59	+11	67	103	+71	0.57	-0.13	2.52	-0.69	
Penn Yan	93	36	60	+10	72	141	+100	0.43	-0.27	1.46	-1.75	
Syracuse	91	37	60	+9	71	138	+88	0.47	-0.30	2.62	-1.04	
Warsaw												
<u>Western Plateau</u>												
Angelica	88	32	57	+10	51	75	+56	0.91	+0.28	2.03	-1.01	
Elmira	92	34	59	+10	67	125	+88	0.52	-0.14	2.08	-0.88	
Franklinville	86	34	56	+11	46	74	+59	0.74	-0.03	2.71	-0.90	
Jamestown	85	39	59	+12	62	92	+69	0.82	-0.07	2.97	-1.23	
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>												
Binghamton	89	37	61	+11	77	136	+103	0.60	-0.17	2.36	-1.10	
Cobleskill	89	33	57	+9	52	87	+58	0.30	-0.47	1.34	-2.28	
Morrisville	87	35	57	+9	54	80	+55	0.71	-0.06	3.66	+0.24	
Norwich	92	34	56	+8	53	93	+63	1.01	+0.20	3.71	+0.01	
Oneonta	89	36	58	+11	59	92	+67	0.51	-0.40	2.53	-1.34	
<u>Coastal</u>												
Bridgehamton	86	36	58	+8	59	95	+64	0.61	-0.30	5.52	+1.16	
New York	91	50	65	+10	109	209	+101	0.58	-0.33	5.27	+1.09	

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

The information contained in this weekly release is obtained in cooperation with Cornell Cooperative Extension, USDA Farm Service Agency, 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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