



# WEATHER AND CROPS

## August 1, 2011

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Week Ending, July 31, 2011

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**WEATHER:** A cold front exited south of the region on July 24<sup>th</sup> and became stationary south of Long Island and through the Mid-Atlantic states. Waves of low pressure traveled along the front south of our region on July 25<sup>th</sup> and July 26<sup>th</sup>. The waves of low pressure in combination with an upper level disturbance helped produce showers and thunderstorms on the afternoons of July 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Temperatures were a little above normal on July 24<sup>th</sup> but after the passage of the cold front, it cooled to around normal. Up to a quarter inch of rain fell across the central and southern New York on July 25<sup>th</sup>, while a half inch or more of rain fell in many areas of New York on July 26<sup>th</sup>. Over one inch of rain fell across western New York through the Catskills, western Mohawk Valley, southern Adirondacks, Schoharie Valley and the rest of eastern and southern New York. Slightly above normal temperatures returned by July 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> ahead of a warm front. A warm front tracked through the region on July 29<sup>th</sup> with more showers and thunderstorms. The heaviest rain fell in northern and western New York with over one inch in the southern Adirondacks and western Mohawk Valley to the Lake George, Saratoga region. Dry weather with above normal temperatures returned on July 30<sup>th</sup>.

**CROPS:** There were 6.1 days suitable for fieldwork. Soil moisture was rated as 27 percent very short, 37 percent short, 34 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus. Condition of corn was rated as 15 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 43 percent good, and 8 percent excellent. Condition of soybeans was rated as 10 percent poor, 36 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 7 percent excellent. Hay condition was rated as 13 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. The second cutting of alfalfa was 88 percent complete, in line with the 88 percent cut last year. The third cutting of alfalfa was 6 percent complete, behind the 32 percent cut last year. The first cutting of clover timothy was 99 percent complete, while the second cutting of clover timothy was 74 percent complete, behind the 80 percent cut last year. The third cutting of clover timothy had begun. Winter wheat was 94 percent harvested, behind the 97 percent harvested last year. Oats for grain were 15 percent harvested, behind the 36 percent harvested last year. Potatoes were 11 percent harvested, slightly ahead of the 10 percent harvested last year. The following are comments from throughout the state: Some parts of Jefferson County received significant rainfall with over 5 inches of rain, while other areas of the county received less than an inch. Regrowth of the hay crop was slow. Much needed rain showers in Lewis County came on Monday and Friday, however more rain was needed for many crops. St Lawrence County had another week of nice weather with rain and a lot of sunshine and heat. Corn was rolling on lighter soils in Franklin County. Clinton County was very dry with corn rolling in some fields, and a good rain was badly needed. Genesee County received heavy rain on Sunday night. Rain on Friday brought about an inch of rain to Niagara County, but fields were still very short of soil moisture, and both corn and soybeans were in dire need of rain. Leaf hopper in alfalfa became an epidemic in many fields, and insecticides were applied. The seriousness of the dry weather conditions in Ontario County continued to grow with only a trace amount of rain in some areas of the county. Corn and soybean fields were stressed and hay fields had little to no regrowth due to the lack of rain. Extreme dry conditions continued to prevail in Cayuga County with severely curled corn. Also, hay was light in spots. Chenango County crops were coming along nicely and corn shot up in some places over the head. Rain was needed. The quantity of second cutting was not good, but quality appeared good. Cortland County received much needed sporadic rain showers, but all crops were suffering from the drought. Corn was in full pollination, but showed signs of stress with leaves curling, bottom leaves burning off, and death of some upper leaves starting. Dry beans began flowering 2 to 3 weeks ago and pods were now forming and developing. Late second cutting of hay had short yields and third cutting was not coming on at all. Farmers were worried about a possible shortage of forages. Hit-and-miss showers came through Madison County which improved field conditions considerably. Corn looked good. Most of it had tasseled and silk had turned brown in 55 percent of fields. Wheat and straw harvest was at its peak. A tornado touched down in Oneida County causing extensive damage to corn, soybeans, and other crops. Second cutting of hay did not look as good as expected. Extreme hot and dry conditions affected crops in Oswego County. Corn was hurting and hay yields were reduced. Timely showers in Otsego County helped relieve drought conditions. Field work continued and much corn was tasseled and eared. Corn fields in Albany County improved significantly with ample moisture and warm weather. Many fields tasseled and had good color. Haying progressed very well. Fulton and Montgomery Counties received needed rain in thunderstorms. Crops were responding to the heat and moisture. Hit-or-miss thunderstorms hit portions of Washington County. Corn was curling on fields that missed the storms. Much needed rain in Broome County was received in storms. Most areas received enough to give the corn a growing boost as well as green up the grass hay fields. Third cutting had headed out, but with very limited production tonnage due to the lack of rain. Spotty rain showers occurred on a few days in Schuyler County. It was not significant enough to change crop conditions. Some areas of Delaware County received much needed rain, while others only got brief showers and were on the dry side. Corn in Dutchess County was starting to curl due to the heat.

**FRUIT:** Apple harvest was 8 percent complete, up from 4 percent previous year. Apple condition was 2 percent poor, 76 percent fair, 18 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Grape condition was 5 percent fair, 91 percent good, and 4 percent excellent. Peach harvest was 40 percent complete, up from 36 percent last year. Peach condition was 1 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. Pear harvest was 2 percent complete. Pear condition was 49 percent fair, 40 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Sweet cherry condition was 32 percent poor, 8 percent fair, 48 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. Tart cherry condition was 2 percent poor, 7 percent fair, 72 percent good, and 19 percent excellent. Sweet cherry and tart cherry were 100 and 95 percent harvested, respectively. In Long Island vineyards, Marquette was 25 percent through veraison while Pinot Noir and Zweigelt were starting. Grapes are not as early as last year but still ahead of the long term average. Growers were hedging and cluster thinning, also. In Dutchess County, cherries were lost due to hail and splitting. Apples were sizing up nicely in Albany County.

**VEGETABLE:** Lack of substantial amounts of rain was affecting vegetable crops. Lettuce had reported conditions of 4 percent fair and 96 percent good. Onion harvest was 13 percent complete compared to 16 percent last year. Onion conditions were 3 percent poor, 10 percent fair, and 87 percent good. Cabbage harvest was 12 percent completed compare to 29 percent last year. Cabbage conditions were 11 percent poor, 26 percent fair, and 63 percent good. Sweet corn harvest was 16 percent complete compared to 24 percent last year. Sweet corn conditions were 11 percent poor, 17 percent fair, 66 percent good, and 6 percent excellent. Tomatoes were 11 percent harvested compared to 29 percent previous year. Tomato conditions were 3 percent poor, 14 percent fair, 70 percent good, and 13 percent excellent. Snap bean harvest was 11 percent complete compared to 27 percent last year. Snap bean conditions were 9 percent poor, 13 percent fair, 76 percent good, and 2 percent excellent.

**LIVESTOCK:** Pasture was rated 15 percent very poor, 21 percent poor, 36 percent fair, 26 percent good, and 2 percent excellent.

**Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, July 31, 2011**

Station	Temperature (°F)				Growing Degree Days Base 50° <sup>1/</sup>			Precipitation (Inches) <sup>1/</sup>				
	High	Low	Avg	Dep. from Norm	Week	Season	Dep. from Norm	Week	Dep. from Norm	Season	Dep. from Norm	
<b><u>Hudson Valley</u></b>												
Albany	87	60	74	+3	169	1833	+371	1.69	+0.97	17.05	+3.85	
Glens Falls	86	54	70	0	142	1573	+298	1.02	+0.30	15.60	+2.88	
Poughkeepsie	90	60	75	+3	177	1925	+397	1.11	+0.27	17.66	+2.09	
<b><u>Mohawk Valley</u></b>												
Boonville	80	53	65	-2	109	1179	+186	1.26	+0.35	23.82	+6.18	
<b><u>Champlain Valley</u></b>												
Plattsburgh	83	53	69	-2	132	1449	+145	0.50	-0.28	18.39	+6.59	
<b><u>St. Lawrence Valley</u></b>												
Canton	83	55	69	-1	131	1455	+302	1.53	+0.72	18.93	+6.45	
Massena	88	53	71	+2	146	1581	+356	0.63	-0.13	14.70	+3.21	
<b><u>Great Lakes</u></b>												
Buffalo	85	62	75	+5	179	1708	+317	0.84	+0.09	20.02	+7.38	
Wales	83	55	70	+3	143	1407	+287	0.76	-0.03	16.92	+1.84	
Niagara Falls	86	59	75	+4	174	1651	+249	1.32	+0.65	16.39	+4.05	
Rochester	86	60	73	+3	164	1713	+355	1.17	+0.52	13.65	+2.61	
Watertown	83	57	71	+3	147	1483	+330	0.87	+0.38	15.09	+5.26	
<b><u>Central Lakes</u></b>												
Dansville	89	57	75	+5	174	1915	+559	0.77	+0.14	12.56	+0.00	
Geneva	84	60	72	+2	158	1667	+329	0.40	-0.23	12.98	+0.45	
Honeoye	84	55	71	-2	145	1595	+204	0.44	-0.19	15.54	+3.24	
Ithaca	85	56	71	+2	146	1551	+341	0.75	-0.01	18.36	+4.92	
Penn Yan	87	62	74	+4	170	1777	+439	0.40	-0.23	11.57	-0.96	
Syracuse	87	61	74	+4	172	1942	+569	1.27	+0.45	19.07	+4.86	
Warsaw	82	56	69	+3	137	1360	+317	0.76	-0.01	18.69	+4.12	
<b><u>Western Plateau</u></b>												
Hornell Almond Dam	86	53	70	+3	141	1456	+327	0.47	-0.15	17.30	+4.77	
Elmira	89	52	73	+4	163	1685	+399	0.56	-0.14	14.49	+1.47	
Franklinville	85	51	69	+5	138	1362	+428	2.05	+1.25	21.94	+7.25	
Jamestown	89	51	72	+6	156	1523	+470	0.91	+0.00	20.69	+4.35	
<b><u>Eastern Plateau</u></b>												
Binghamton	85	58	71	+2	149	1595	+347	0.21	-0.56	20.62	+7.03	
Cobleskill	85	56	70	+3	143	1434	+280	0.88	+0.12	18.82	+4.18	
Morrisville	84	56	70	+3	145	1405	+304	0.77	+0.00	17.42	+2.99	
Norwich	87	55	70	+2	138	1462	+305	1.22	+0.52	23.33	+8.72	
Oneonta	86	51	69	+3	137	1447	+378	2.26	+1.42	23.48	+7.58	
<b><u>Coastal</u></b>												
Bridgehamton	89	62	74	+2	167	1712	+352	0.87	+0.17	14.73	+0.35	
New York	92	68	80	+3	209	2219	+315	2.20	+1.29	15.89	+0.64	

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