



WEATHER AND CROPS

April 23, 2012

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This is the first edition of the New York “Weather and Crops” for the 2012 season. The USDA/NASS, New York Field Office looks forward to working with the Agricultural Weather Information Service, National Weather Service personnel, Agricultural Extension agents, USDA Farm Service Agency agents, and independent volunteer observers who collectively make this report possible.

WEATHER: High pressure controlled the weather April 15th through April 17th. Temperatures were above normal during the period with highs on April 16th in the 80’s to lower 90’s. A cold front tracked through the region early on April 17th and a reinforcing cold front tracked through late on the 17th and early the 18th. High pressure built into the region from Canada with cooler temperatures on the 18th. Temperatures were below normal on the 18th with highs in the 50’s. Then, high pressure built east of the region by the 19th and 20th helping to bring back warm temperatures to the region on south to southwest winds. Temperatures warmed back up into the 70’s on the 19th through the 21st. Low pressure tracked into the region on the 21st with locally heavy rain. Rainfall amounts across the region were between a half inch and 2 inches.

CROPS: There were 6.0 days suitable for fieldwork during the week. Soil moisture was rated 5 percent very short, 36 percent short, 57 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus. Oat seedings were 57 percent complete compared with 3 percent last year. Condition of oats were 1 percent poor, 21 percent fair, 57 percent good, and 11 percent excellent. Wheat was rated 2 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 58 percent good, and 21 percent excellent. Potatoes were 12 percent planted. The following comments are from our reporters throughout the state: Ideal field conditions have allowed farmers in Jefferson County to spread manure and prepare their ground for corn planting. Planters are getting ready to roll and will likely begin at the first opportunity next week. Small grains and new seedings continue to be planted. In Lewis County, dry conditions continued and a great deal of fieldwork was performed including grass seedings and oats. Grass growth in St. Lawrence County has slowed down due to dry conditions. In Franklin County, field conditions were drier than normal for this time of year. Producers were doing seedings, spreading manure and prepping fields for planting. In Genesee County, winter wheat was in growth stage 6 to 7 with stems elongating. Second node was obvious in wheat planted in September. Oats are up and off to a great start – most were planted before April 12. Alfalfa has come back from the freezes and is 6-12 inches. Grasses were likewise ahead of normal. Corn planting was in full swing. Many acres have been tilled and are ready for planting. Rains would be welcome. Producers in Ontario County were able to complete a lot of fieldwork such as spreading manure, plowing, discing/fitting, picking rocks and even some planting of corn. Another week of dry weather in Cortland County had planting moving at full speed. Corn started going in the ground. Most farms have seedings and small grains complete. Many oats are up at least 1.5 inches. A soaking rain is desperately needed as ground is getting hard to plow. A lot of fieldwork was being done in Madison County but it was very dry. Oats were taking longer to emerge. Many farmers were getting their corn planters ready for planting during the upcoming week. Fieldwork has progressed well ahead of schedule in Otsego County. Growers have held back, but corn planting will start this week, weather permitting. Dry cool conditions have held back pasture and hay growth. Another dry and warm week in Albany County allowed farmers to complete many new forage seedings. Earlier seedings were emerging. Oats looked good. There has been a lot of plowing and fitting accomplished and farmers are poised to have an early season for planting corn. Field repairs continue in Schoharie, Albany, and Schenectady Counties from the late summer storms of last year. In Montgomery and Fulton Counties most of the seeding and small grains are in the ground. Recent rains will encourage corn planting as soon as it warms up. Saratoga County received much needed rain which will improve soil conditions for corn and other spring planted crops. Many farmers were holding off on corn planting until soil moisture conditions improved. Corn planting should start during the upcoming week. Most Washington County farmers had taken advantage of the dry April to put in new seedings of alfalfa-grass and to do tillage on corn ground. Fieldwork is several weeks ahead of this time last year. Much needed rains during the weekend should help get the hay crop growing. Much needed weekend rains in Broome County restarted grass growth that had halted because of lack of moisture. In Schuyler County, a lot of ground has been worked, but farmers are using caution on planting considering it is too early to plant without fear of frost. Farmers in both Columbia and Greene Counties have been very busy working and planting ground. In Delaware County, small grains such as barley and spring triticale were about 75 percent planted. New seeding and pastures were in need of the weekend’s rains. Some planting was taking place in Dutchess County, but fields were extremely dry and in need of rain.

FRUIT: Apples were 95 percent half-inch green to pink, 89 percent full bloom, and 25 percent petal fall. Peaches were 95 percent half-inch green to pink, 85 percent full bloom, and 70 percent petal fall. Pears were 95 percent half-inch green to pink, 90 percent full bloom, and 52 percent petal fall. Sweet cherries were 95 percent full bloom and 39 percent petal fall. Tart cherries were 98 percent full bloom and 74 percent petal fall. In Ontario County, fruit trees, strawberries, and grapes continued to be stressed due to the fluctuation of temperature from the previous few weeks. In Albany County, apples and pears were in bloom. In Broome County, blossom mortality was the concern after unseasonably warm temperatures brought on early blossoms and last week had cold temperatures. Early strawberries have suffered a 50 percent loss and sweet cherries a 100 percent loss due to freezing. In Dutchess County, last week’s temps caused fruit tree blossoms to drop early. In Long Island, bud break began last week, similar to 2010.

VEGETABLE: Vegetable planting was underway, mostly in southern regions of the state. Irrigation was needed in fields that had been planted. Sweet corn was 8 percent planted, onions 2 percent, snap beans 2 percent, and cabbage 3 percent. Many acres have been tilled and are ready for planting. Field repairs continued in Schoharie, Albany, and Schenectady Counties from the late summer storms of last year.

LIVESTOCK: Pasture growth slowed due to dry conditions. Conditions were 2 percent very poor, 22 percent poor, 39 percent fair, 33 percent good and 4 percent excellent.

Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, April 22, 2012

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	91	30	59	+12	74	87	+73	1.22	+0.52	1.36	-0.84	
Glens Falls	87	27	56	+10	55	61	+54	1.25	+0.55	1.31	-0.84	
Poughkeepsie	91	38	62	+13	85	108	+85	0.16	-0.68	0.44	-2.05	
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>												
Boonville	81	24	50	+8	29	33	+27	0.97	-0.08	1.25	-2.18	
<u>Champlain Valley</u>												
Plattsburgh	84	26	53	+8	42	51	+43	0.44	-0.26	0.62	-1.42	
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>												
Canton	83	27	51	+7	31	33	+27	0.16	-0.54	0.88	-1.19	
Massena	86	28	51	+7	35	43	+36	0.63	0.00	1.22	-0.73	
<u>Great Lakes</u>												
Buffalo	82	31	53	+7	44	55	+41	0.51	-0.19	1.00	-1.08	
Wales	84	29	52	+8	37	39	+33	0.74	-0.17	1.07	-1.74	
Niagara Falls	82	30	53	+6	42	51	+35	0.47	-0.30	1.05	-1.30	
Rochester	87	31	55	+8	53	66	+49	0.70	+0.07	1.01	-0.89	
Watertown	86	24	52	+8	47	54	+47	0.62	+0.01	0.89	-0.92	
<u>Central Lakes</u>												
Dansville	88	30	57	+11	57	72	+57	0.57	-0.13	0.97	-1.09	
Geneva	87	30	53	+8	47	50	+38	0.78	+0.08	1.14	-0.99	
Honeoye	87	28	54	+8	49	54	+41	0.69	-0.01	1.34	-0.82	
Ithaca	87	32	55	+10	52	55	+47	0.60	-0.10	1.25	-0.87	
Penn Yan	87	31	56	+10	57	69	+57	0.46	-0.24	0.91	-1.22	
Syracuse	90	31	56	+9	57	69	+54	0.51	-0.29	0.76	-1.69	
Warsaw	80	27	50	+8	36	39	+35	0.67	-0.17	1.13	-1.37	
<u>Western Plateau</u>												
Hornell Almond Dam	85	28	52	+8	35	36	+30	0.69	+0.06	1.12	-0.82	
Elmira	89	28	55	+9	48	62	+52	0.51	-0.12	0.83	-1.12	
Franklinville	81	29	51	+9	30	30	+28	0.76	-0.02	1.43	-0.98	
Jamestown	81	30	52	+9	36	36	+30	0.77	-0.14	1.13	-1.67	
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>												
Binghamton	83	31	56	+11	50	58	+50	0.40	-0.36	0.94	-1.32	
Cobleskill	84	29	55	+11	49	54	+47	0.98	+0.21	1.12	-1.30	
Morrisville	81	28	53	+9	39	41	+36	0.56	-0.20	1.28	-0.95	
Norwich	85	29	55	+10	37	37	+30	0.39	-0.40	0.98	-1.45	
Oneonta	86	30	57	+13	51	53	+47	0.56	-0.28	1.47	-1.03	
<u>Coastal</u>												
Bridgehamton	77	39	59	+12	65	76	+69	0.02	-0.89	0.48	-2.45	
New York	85	50	65	+13	105	170	+122	0.42	-0.49	1.03	-1.73	

^{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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