



# Newsletter

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## CaroVail

### Agronomy Update

May 20, 2016

#### Locations

##### *Auburn*

55 Columbus St  
Auburn, NY 13021  
315-253-7379

##### *Bernardston*

472 Northfield Road  
Bernardston, MA  
01337  
413-648-9900

##### *Niverville*

831 Route 28  
Niverville, NY 12130  
518-784-9166

##### *Oriskany Falls*

8341 US State Rt 20  
Oriskany Falls, NY  
13425  
315-841-3201

##### *Salem*

4134 State Rt 22  
Salem, NY 12865  
518-854-9446

##### *Tri Valley Crop Ctr*

337 State Hwy 162  
Sprakers, NY 12166  
518-673-5336



## Alfalfa

### Frank Flis

Making the decision on when to cut alfalfa is a difficult one. For feed quality, it would be pre-bud, but from a plant health standpoint it would be one-tenth bloom or full bloom. At tenth bloom, root reserves are at the highest before the plant thinks to reproduce. Could there be a compromise?

This is where walking the field becomes important around pre-bud. The crown will begin to sprout new shoots. This is the sign that the previous generation is nearing completion. This is also still a point where the forage quality will be high. While out checking stage of maturity, it is also a good time to evaluate for abnormalities, leaf size, shape, and color. All of these can tell you a lot about plant health.

When checking your fields do the following:

- Looking at stems again for discoloration and evidence of disease or insects.
- Have a sweep net with you to check for insect presence (no sweep -- your hat will work).
- Sweep 10 times and take a look. Note: some caution here -- when replacing hat to it's holder, keep in mind that you may have captured some stinging or biting insects as well.
- The new growth on the crown signals crop vigor and time to bring in the mower.

Be aware of cut height being careful not to shatter the new growth or damage the crowns. Tracking yields and quality along with knowledge of nutrient applications will assist in making future nutrient supplementation following harvest. Look back also to those observations while evaluating stands and formulating a feeding plan.

For every ton of dry matter (DM) removal of nutrients is 60# Nitrogen (N), 12# Phosphorus (P), 60# Potassium (K), 5# Magnesium (Mg), 28# Calcium (Ca), 5# Sulfur (S). Alfalfa also will respond favorably to Boron (B), a micronutrient that is limited in the soil and is highly leachable. Applications following harvest of K, Mg, S, and B will help maintain yields and plant health. Although alfalfa is a N-fixer, most varieties are only 65-80% efficient in gathering enough N to support rapid regrowth, so do not forget the N. Adding N with topdress can be beneficial.

Just remember that when evaluating the proper time to cut, you may also want to take the opportunities to check for and address abnormalities, insects or disease pressures. Taking care of alfalfa will help future forage quality and soil health.



Potassium (K) Deficiency



Leaf Hopper Damage



Phytophthora Root Rot

**Auburn**

**Bernardston**

**Niverville**

**Oriskany Falls**

**Salem**

**Tri Valley**

# Weather Update

	Approx. Weekly Rainfall	Avg expected high Temp next week	Avg expected Low Temp next week	GDD (Base 50) since Jan 1	GDD (Base 50) since Mar 1	GDD (Base 50) since Apr 1	GDD (Base 50) since May 1
Auburn	0.08	76	52	108.5	108.5	84	47.7
Bernardston	0.21	74	54	133.3	133.3	107.4	54.3
Niverville	0.05	76	55	146.5	146.5	113.6	56.9
Oriskany Falls	0.11	72	53	128.5	128.5	91	54.5
Salem	0	74	53	113.5	113.5	89	45
TVCC	0.03	74	54	170.9	170.9	140.6	67.2

**Auburn**

**Bernardston**

**Niverville**

**Oriskany Falls**

**Salem**

**Tri Valley**



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



## Crop Progress & Condition



**New York**

Blair Smith, State Statistician

10B Airline Drive, Albany, NY 12235

Phone: 518-457-5570

Fax: 800-591-3834

[www.nass.usda.gov/ny](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ny)  
Week ending May 15, 2016

Issued weekly on the internet, April - November  
by the Northeastern Regional Field Office of NASS

[nassrfoner@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nassrfoner@nass.usda.gov)  
Released May 16, 2016

**Good Week for Field Work:** New York had an average of 5 days suitable for field work. Weather was irregular this week with warm days intermixed with wind frost snow and hail. Hay and pasture progress in good. Pastures are seeing use. Grain crops are making good progress. Fruit damage continues during poor weather periods. Worries of fruit diseases continue. However, more trees are being put in. Field activities for the week include tillage, seeding, applying fertilizer, manure and pesticides, repair and maintenance.

### Crop Progress as of May 15, 2016 (in percent)

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
SPRING TILLAGE: SINGLE	66	50	73	49
BARLEY: PLANTED	48	36	75	40
BARLEY: EMERGED	19	6	16	<5
CABBAGE: PLANTED	18	12	14	7
CORN: PLANTED	32	9	45	33
OATS: PLANTED	70	54	74	64
OATS: EMERGED	27	14	22	8
ONIONS DRY: PLANTED	87	80	86	67
POTATOES: PLANTED	40	16	45	44
SOYBEANS: PLANTED	13	<5	14	8
APPLES: GREEN TIP	86	80	88	91
APPLES: PINK	60	44	65	80
APPLES: FULL BLOOM	28	13	49	58
PEACHES: GREEN TIP	95	90	85	91
PEACHES: PINK	55	54	65	76
PEACHES: FULL BLOOM	33	27	37	53
PEARS: PINK	67	57	68	79
PEARS: FULL BLOOM	40	38	41	58
CHERRIES, SWEET: GREEN TIP	82	78	82	88
CHERRIES, SWEET: PINK	53	44	64	78
CHERRIES, SWEET: FULL BLOOM	38	18	54	64

### Soil Moisture for Week Ending May 15, 2016 (in percent)

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
TOPSOIL	0	8	68	24
SUBSOIL	1	9	71	19

### Crop Conditions as of May 15, 2016 (in percent)

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
BARLEY	0	2	35	60	3
HAY, ALFALFA	1	4	44	41	10
HAY, OTHER	1	3	45	45	6
OATS	0	0	26	67	7
PASTURE AND RANGE	0	2	37	51	10
WINTER WHEAT	0	3	25	53	19

For a complete nationwide weekly weather and crop bulletin, please visit [www.usda.gov/oc/weather](http://www.usda.gov/oc/weather) and click on "Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin."