Portions of St. Lawrence, Jefferson and Lewis Counties are considered abnormally dry. Abnormally Dry (D0) areas persist in southern portions of New Hampshire and Vermont, southeastern Maine, western Massachusetts, and Upstate New York where short-term (30-day) precipitation deficits exist and stream flows are below normal. Precipitation accumulations during the past week ranged from 0.5 to 2" with greatest accumulations in northern Maine and New Hampshire. Average temperatures were slightly above-normal in northern portions and two-to-five degrees below-normal in southern portions of the region.

April and May temperatures have been abnormally cool. The maps below show the temperature departure from normal for April and May 2016 in the Northeast region. Average daily temps were 3 to 5 °F below normal for much of the North Country during April. May has also been below average temperature so far for much of the North Country, though not by quite the same margin. To see what this means for GDD accumulation, examine the 2 line graphs below the maps. They depict accumulated base 50 GDD from March 1 through May 20 this season for Gouverneur (left) and Malone (right). On each graph the 2016 accumulation is below the normal and for Gouverneur, the 2016 accumulation is close to the lowest GDD accumulation ever, which occurred in 1956 for that station.
The abnormally cool spring has been good for cool-season grass growth, but alfalfa is behind normal production in most areas. Alfalfa growth is generally stunted this spring, while grass is growing well and maturing normally, but may be shorter than normal. Orchardgrass and other early heading grasses are in boot stage in many locations now. Jerry Cherney recommends that you think about this, along with the % grass in each field, when planning first cutting:

- > 50% grass in the stand: Harvest like a grass stand and ignore the alfalfa.
- <25% grass in the stand: Wait for a little more alfalfa growth (more like a PEAQ chart), to minimize chances of damaging alfalfa stand. Grass will be more mature than normal.
- 25-50% grass: Something in between. Harvest a little earlier than normal for alfalfa.

Alfalfa height probably will not have a normal relationship with NDF this year. Keep in mind that the alfalfa has continued to mature (increase in fiber, lignify) even if it is not growing upward much.

In 2015, alfalfa was a few inches taller at this point than most of it is this year.
• General predictions for the Northeast for the next 2 weeks are for warmer than normal temperatures with continued dry weather.

• 3-Month outlook for the North Country includes warmer than normal temperatures with above normal rain. See the maps below.

---

- - Accumulations from April 1 to May 15, 2015 - -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Precipitation, inches</th>
<th>GDD Base 50 °F</th>
<th>GDD Base 40 °F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>DFN¹</td>
<td>Days²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highmarket</td>
<td>5.77</td>
<td>-0.90</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowville</td>
<td>2.29</td>
<td>-2.44</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watertown Int'l Airport</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>-1.13</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Drum</td>
<td>3.66</td>
<td>-0.98</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massena</td>
<td>2.79</td>
<td>-1.50</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malone</td>
<td>4.70</td>
<td>+0.60</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plattsburgh Int'l Airport</td>
<td>2.10</td>
<td>-2.29</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tupper Lake</td>
<td>4.10</td>
<td>-0.83</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newcomb</td>
<td>4.93</td>
<td>-0.04</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ DFN = difference from normal; ² precipitation days = number of days with ≥ 0.01” precipitation.

Additional resources:
2. [Northeast Regional Climate Center](https://www.northeastclimate.org)
3. [U.S. Drought Monitor](https://www.drought.gov)
For more information about field crop and soil management, contact your local Cornell Cooperative Extension office or NNY Cornell University Cooperative Extension Regional Field Crops and Soils Specialists, Mike Hunter and Kitty O’Neil.

Kitty O’Neil  
St. Lawrence County CCE Office, Canton  
(315) 379- 9192 x253 or (315) 854-1218  
kitty.oneil@cornell.edu

Mike Hunter  
Jefferson County CCE Office, Watertown  
(315) 788-8450  
meh27@cornell.edu

Our Mission
“The Northern New York Regional Ag Team aims to improve the productivity and viability of agricultural industries, people and communities in Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton and Essex Counties by promoting productive, safe, economically and environmentally sustainable management practices and by providing assistance to industry, government, and other agencies in evaluating the impact of public policies affecting the industry.”

Contact us directly through our website:  http://nnyrap.cce.cornell.edu

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities
Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities. NYS College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, NYS College of Human Ecology, and NYS College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University, Cooperative Extension associates, county governing bodies, and U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.