

Checking the Back Forty



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Quick Update: Will it make it for corn silage as of August 18

I sent out a Checking The Back 40 in early July with corn planting dates, locations, relative maturity and date one might expect it would be ready for silage harvest. Here is a mid-August update. If you compare that issue of CTBF to this one you will see some locations have actually improved; Bainbridge, Bouckville and Oneonta have improved to 3-11 days earlier in maturity. Most others improved a day or two or even lost a day.

This has been a big turnaround in Growing Degree Days (GDDs) since the early part of the season where in mid to late June we were looking at close to record low GDD accumulations to date. Now in mid-August we are actually closer to the 30 year normal GDDs to date and in some instance closer to the 15 year average which runs higher. We can't get back the growing season lost by the last start but higher temperatures since have helped.

Table 1

Three planting scenarios and predicted harvest dates to achieve 30-35% DM based on GDDs, planting date and location. Data from August 18, 2019.

Location	Elevation	Planting Date June 10		Planting Date June 1		Planting Date May 20	
		GDDs Season To Date	Date to reach 1800 GDDs approx 80 Day RM hybrid	GDDs Season To Date	Date to reach 1950 GDDs approx 90 Day RM Hybrid	GDDs Season To Date	Date to reach 2100 GDDs approx 100 Day RM Hybrid
Bainbridge	1000	1244	Sep-29	1349	Oct-04	1453	Oct-07
Bouckville	1170	1199	Oct-07	1301	Oct-13	1406	Oct-24
Canastota	420	1344	Sep-15	1459	Sep-18	1586	Sep-19
Cherry Valley	758	1281	Sep-22	1383	Sep-26	1493	Sep-30
Cobleskill	937	1215	Oct-01	1307	Oct-09	1413	Oct-16
Frankfort	530	1224	Sep-30	1324	Oct-06	1428	Oct-12
Fultonville	489	1413	Sep-10	1530	Sep-12	1668	Sep-13
Galway	749	1341	Sep-18	1450	Sep-22	1582	Sep-23
Oneonta	1107	1175	Oct-10	1276	Oct-17	1389	Oct-27
Richfield Springs	1580	1094	Nov-11	1208	--/--	1298	--/--
Saratoga Springs	365	1350	Sep-17	1429	Sep-21	1580	Sep-23
Sherburne	1115	1240	Sep-28	1349	Oct-02	1475	Oct-05
St Johnsville	650	1192	Oct-09	1283	Oct-21	1380	Nov-29