



**Cornell Cooperative Extension** Southwest New York Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Program  
A partnership between Cornell University and the CCE Associations in these five counties:  
Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, and Steuben.

# Field Crop Finds

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May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Welcome back to Field Crop Finds! We'll be sending out weekly updates to keep you in tune with all that's happening out in the field.

## **Growing Degree Days**

Growing Degree Days (GDD) is calculated by taking the average daily temperature and subtracting it from the base temperature of a specified plant ( $(\text{High} + \text{Low})/2 - \text{base temp} = \text{GDD}$ ). For corn, we use base 86/50, as corn development starts at 50°F and stops at 86°F.

**Check your location and planting date:**

Location	Geography		Cumulative GDD since May 1	
	Elevation (ft)	Latitude (N)	Current Year	15 Year Avg
Alden	860	42.91	26	43
East Aurora	906	42.76	25	44
Eden	830	42.65	26	45
East Concord	1430	42.55	23	39
Fredonia	725	42.44	28	43
Mayville	1356	42.25	24	40
Panama	1539	42.07	22	39
Jamestown	1372	42.09	24	43
Randolph	1286	42.16	23	42
Cattaraugus	1395	42.33	20	39
Machias	1673	42.41	22	38
Olean	1445	42.07	24	45
Belfast	1287	42.34	25	44
Wellsville	1506	42.12	23	40
Alfred	1804	42.25	25	41
Canaseraga	1255	42.46	23	39
Hornell	1146	42.32	24	43
Woodhull	1333	42.07	23	41
Corning	931	42.14	23	36
Bath	1106	42.33	24	42

This year, we are installing weather stations from Cornell IPM and are looking forward to sharing some of the data they collect with you all. So, stay tuned!

## **Pheromone Traps**

	<b>AMW</b>	<b>AMW</b>	<b>AMW</b>	<b>AMW</b>	<b>AMW</b>
	<i>Farmersville</i>	<i>Arkport</i>	<i>Brant</i>	<i>Randolph</i>	<i>Marilla</i>
Week of April 20	0	3	4	X	X
Week of April 27	0	8	16	5	X
Week of May 4	1	11	19	17	35

	<b>BCW</b>	<b>BCW</b>	<b>BCW</b>	<b>BCW</b>	<b>BCW</b>
	<i>Farmersville</i>	<i>Arkport</i>	<i>Brant</i>	<i>Randolph</i>	<i>Marilla</i>
Week of April 20	0	2	14	X	X
Week of April 27	9	33	19	20	X
Week of May 4	8	19	23	5	13

Our team has two sets of black cutworm (BCW) and common armyworm (AMW) traps across the region (Farmersville and Arkport), which were set April 17. WNYCMA has three sets of traps that will be included in our weekly reporting (Brant, Randolph, Marilla) as well. Flights have been active throughout the region, with first major flights (>10 moths) arriving in Brant the week of April 20. We have some other locations that are catching flights as well. From the first significant flights, we monitor GDD accumulation, which helps us determine when the BCW larvae will be large enough to cut plants.

## **Field Observations**

This year, it's been colder and wetter than normal. In my travels, I have been seeing fields being top-dressed, tillage, and have seen some corn go in the ground. I've also been getting some questions about the timeline of 1<sup>st</sup> cutting. Throughout the state, it appears that alfalfa height is ahead of schedule for those who monitor weekly heights to predict Neutral Detergent Fiber (NDF) of 1<sup>st</sup> cutting. At an alfalfa trial I have in Brant, height measured between 13-14.5" last week over two varieties. When 1<sup>st</sup> cutting is ahead of schedule based on alfalfa heights, it's good to monitor the location of grass heads in the stem. It's important for the grass head to be above the cutter bar height when mowed, or there will be negative consequences for grass regrowth.

Happy Planting!