



Field Crop Finds

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September 15th, 2026

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 ((High + Low)/2 - base temp = 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		Cumulative GDD since May 15		Cumulative GDD since June 1		Cumulative GDD since June 15	
Town	Elevation (ft)	Latitude (N)	Current Year	15 Year Avg	Current Year	15 Year Avg	Current Year	15 Year Avg	Current Year	15 Year Avg
Alden	860	42.91	2184	2243	2125	2130	1925	1906	1675	1712
East Aurora	906	42.76	2167	2215	2110	2100	1914	1876	1672	1685
Eden	830	42.65	2208	2252	2155	2137	1966	1916	1718	1722
East Concord	1430	42.55	1976	2009	1927	1907	1750	1706	1524	1534
Angola	667	42.63	2222	2266	2165	2156	1978	1939	1733	1744
Fredonia	725	42.44	2292	2290	2234	2181	2040	1961	1787	1761
Mayville	1356	42.25	2058	2053	2008	1951	1833	1748	1597	1568
Panama	1539	42.07	1964	1960	1917	1862	1749	1666	1526	1494
Jamestown	1372	42.09	2030	2077	1976	1968	1793	1756	1565	1571
Cherry Creek	1346	42.29	2019	2091	1969	1985	1789	1775	1557	1592
Randolph	1286	42.16	1962	2033	1913	1927	1732	1720	1508	1541
Cattaraugus	1395	42.33	1849	1944	1810	1846	1641	1650	1424	1483
Machias	1673	42.41	1904	1949	1855	1850	1679	1652	1456	1484
Olean	1445	42.07	2030	2093	1972	1980	1783	1765	1549	1579
Perrysburg	1311	42.45	2176	2249	2118	2132	1923	1906	1670	1709
Belfast	1287	42.34	2029	2064	1968	1952	1775	1739	1536	1558
Wellsville	1506	42.12	1890	1891	1838	1792	1659	1599	1440	1433
Alfred	1804	42.25	1865	1946	1808	1844	1634	1641	1411	1470
Canaseraga	1255	42.46	1875	1954	1824	1856	1648	1657	1423	1487
Cuba	1496	42.21	1873	1930	1822	1828	1646	1630	1425	1462
Hornell	1146	42.32	1941	2031	1887	1923	1701	1715	1468	1536
Woodhull	1333	42.07	1881	1967	1829	1864	1648	1662	1426	1490
Corning	931	42.14	1811	1825	1761	1735	1584	1551	1373	1395
Bath	1106	42.33	1910	2010	1857	1904	1675	1698	1449	1524
Hammondsport	754	42.41	1974	2065	1919	1957	1733	1746	1500	1567

Location	Cumulative GDD since July 15		Cumulative GDD since Aug 1		Cumulative GDD since Aug 15		Cumulative GDD since Sep 1	
Town	Current Year	15 Year Avg	Current Year	15 Year Avg	Current Year	15 Year Avg	Current Year	15 Year Avg
Alden	1093	1117	781	764	474	486	192	176
East Aurora	1100	1101	794	755	482	481	196	175
Eden	1125	1130	812	776	499	494	201	180
East Concord	998	999	722	682	437	435	180	158
Angola	1134	1151	817	791	504	505	203	185
Fredonia	1175	1163	853	799	528	512	212	187
Mayville	1037	1023	752	699	464	446	193	164
Panama	991	973	719	664	443	423	188	156
Jamestown	1017	1026	734	703	450	451	194	166
Cherry Creek	1004	1040	720	711	442	454	187	165
Randolph	974	1004	702	686	429	440	184	162
Cattaraugus	916	966	659	659	402	421	168	153
Machias	950	965	679	658	417	421	175	154
Olean	994	1032	711	708	435	453	187	166
Perrysburg	1084	1119	775	765	477	488	198	178
Belfast	988	1014	703	692	429	443	181	162
Wellsville	921	933	659	636	406	406	178	149
Alfred	906	953	642	648	390	413	161	151
Canaseraga	911	965	642	656	387	417	162	152
Cuba	915	952	653	651	400	416	174	152
Hornell	941	1000	665	681	406	434	170	158
Woodhull	913	968	649	658	393	418	169	152
Corning	875	906	611	609	363	386	155	140
Bath	930	991	657	674	396	427	166	156
Hammondsport	963	1020	680	693	413	440	172	160

*GDDs accumulated as of 9/11

Hybrid Relative Maturity	GDD's (86/50)
101-110	800
96-100	750
<96	750 or slight less (extrapolated)

For silage, we track GDD from silking to help get you in the ballpark for harvest. You still should check your crop DM to determine harvest timing.

Pheromone Traps

Pheromone traps have been pulled for the season.

Field Observations

Personally, I am apart of the group of people who feel that pumpkin-spice everything is now socially acceptable, especially with these cooler nights that feel like autumn. We're only a week away from the fall equinox, and it certainly feels that way with these silage piles starting. Here are some quick harvest thoughts:

- Prediction models such as Climate Smart Farming's Growing Degree Tool can be a useful tool for helping indicate harvest timing but should not be used alone. Visualizing crop stage and testing dry matter of your crop is important, as research shows weather patterns and crop health can cause differing maturity between the plant and kernel. Basing harvest decisions on indicators such as firing up of leaves can be a misleading indicator.

Goal: Dry Matter Nutrients for Cows

Tons of good feed reaching the cow
is not the same as **tons/acre**.

Yield, tons/acre	DM %	Shrink,%	tons DM for cows	Starch, %	Starch, lbs/acre
21	30	14	5.42	30	3,250
18	35	14	5.42	35	3,793
Difference			-		+ 543
Yield, tons/acre	DM %	Shrink,%	tons DM for cows	Starch, %	Starch, lbs/acre
21	30	18	5.16	30	3,096
18	35	14	5.42	35	3,793
Difference			+0.26		+ 697



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- Tons per acre out of the field and tons of good feed reaching the cow are not equal. This table shows the adjustment of a 4 percent unit change in shrink and how it equates to nutrition for the cow. These results have remained consistent, even for the same set of hybrids planted on the same date but harvested a week apart.
- After managing yields and the quality you want, storage presents one of the biggest opportunities and challenges. In addition to harvesting at the right dry matter, ensiling properly to avoid excessive shrink is crucial. Pack well to achieve a high density and consider using bacterial inoculants.

Recently, I have been getting all the calls about controlling weeds in pastures so I wanted to share this article I wrote a couple years back.

<https://swnydlfc.cce.cornell.edu/submission.php?id=1919&crumb=fieldxxcrops|22>

Since knapweed has been one of the specific weeds I am getting calls about, here's an article specific to this pesky weed.

<https://swnydlfc.cce.cornell.edu/submission.php?id=2051&crumb=fieldxxcrops|22>

This summer, there have been limited reports of diseases in corn. To be expected, things like northern corn leaf blight have been found, but it's been a quiet disease season. Tar spot is just starting to make its appearance in more counties, but we are well past the window of any concern.

We hope you have a safe and successful harvest season!