

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops

Field Crop Update Aug 26, 2021

1. Field Observations
2. Growing Degree Days and Weather Outlook
3. Pest Monitoring

1. Field Observations

*Coming soon to a field near you: **Corn Silage Harvest 2021***

And just like that, our recent warm spell has led to our GDD accumulations since planting date to reach or exceed the 15-yr normal and have given us ***near-record GDD since silking dates between July 22-26!*** So if you are in one of the warmer areas (northern Madison Co and Saratoga Co) and you're planning on chopping short-season corn that silked on or before July 19th, your whole-plant dry matter may reach 35% as early as this weekend, and those chopping longer maturity corn that silked on or before July 19th may be ready to chop by this time next week. So get out there and check on your crop's conditions. See the GDD table in section 2 for more detailed info for your area.

As for field conditions, it's been mixed. I saw many folks making hay this week while others need to wait until next week. The forecast calls for more hot weather through Monday, with milder, drier weather in the forecast for the rest of next week. If you can wait, it may pay off. But if you're already late, get out there as soon as you possibly can in order to cut down those weeds before they set seed. That act alone will pay off next year....

Spring grains are still being harvested, though the rains have obviously made for some difficult conditions with regards to not only ruts, but weeds and increased grain moisture.

With fall approaching, be mindful of avg first killing frost date in your area with regards to your cover crops and late-summer seedings. The window to plant alfalfa (no later than 6 weeks before the first killing frost) is closing fast, if it's not already too late in your area.

Click to see the latest [Oneida County Scouting Report](#), [Northwest NY Crop Alert](#), [Capital Area Ag Report](#), and [New York State IPM Weekly Field Crops Pest Report \(cornell.edu\)](#)

2. Growing Degree Days (GDD) for planting date and silking date ([Climate Smart Farming Growing Degree Day Calculator](#))

GDD are calculated by taking the average daily temperature and subtracting the base temperature for development of a given organism ((High + Low)/2 – base temp = GDD). For corn silage, we are using base 50/86, as corn development starts at 50F and ceases above 86F. **Silage corn needs 750-800 GDD (depending on hybrid maturity) after silking to reach a whole plant DM of 32%.** Remember that we can expect to accumulate 20-25 GDD per day, or even up to 30, so this is not a large window. **Under typical late season dry down conditions we can expect the crop to reach 35% DM four to seven days later. Check your crop to see how close you may be to harvest.**

Call your backup and make your plans (you will be at 35% DM anywhere between 5 – 11 days from now)

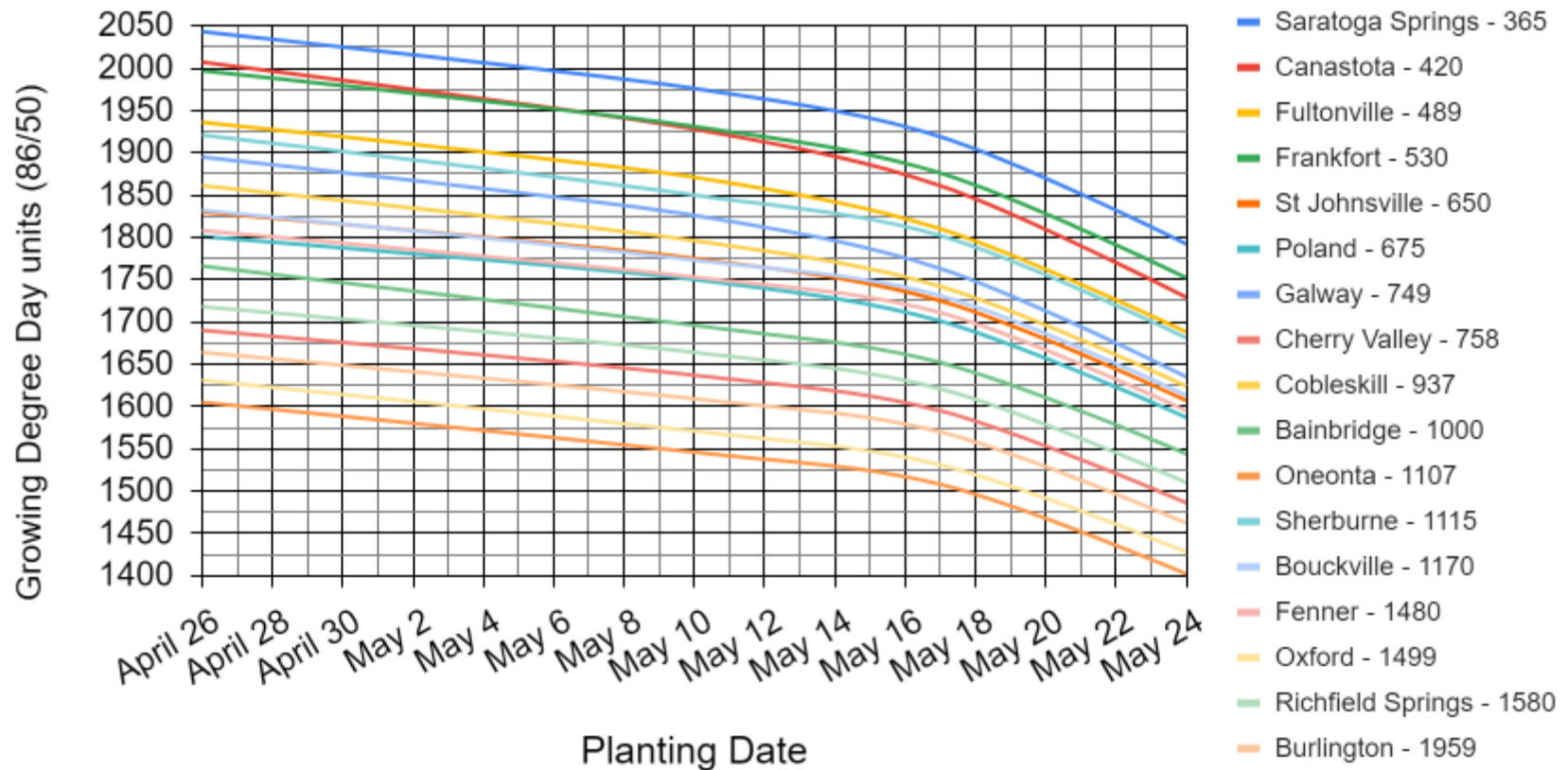
Gas up the harvester and the trucks (you're chopping in 2 – 8 days)

See you in the field...:

As of: 25 Aug 2021 (Base: 86/50)			Planting Date				Silking Date (750-800 GDD to 32% DM):			
Location	Elevation (ft)	Latitude N	April 26	May 10	May 17	May 24	July 14	July 18	July 22	July 26
Poland	675	43.23	1801	1750	1701	1587	793	714	644	580
Canastota	420	43.08	2043	1976	1919	1792	870	787	709	637
S'toga Springs	365	43.08	2007	1928	1861	1729	873	781	705	633
Frankfort	530	43.03	1997	1931	1876	1752	865	777	701	630
Galway	749	43.02	1895	1826	1763	1635	844	731	655	584
St Johnsville	650	43	1830	1775	1725	1607	798	716	646	582
Fenner	1480	42.97	1808	1753	1711	1595	781	706	639	575
Fultonville	489	42.95	1936	1871	1810	1688	844	756	681	611
Bouckville	1170	42.93	1832	1773	1731	1613	791	712	645	579
R'field Springs	1580	42.85	1718	1664	1621	1510	748	669	605	545
Cherry Valley	758	42.81	1690	1637	1595	1486	734	656	594	536
Burlington	1959	42.72	1664	1609	1570	1462	723	646	585	529
Sherburne	1115	42.69	1921	1850	1802	1681	802	740	670	601
Cobleskill	937	42.68	1861	1796	1742	1624	807	719	649	586
Oneonta	1107	42.47	1605	1546	1508	1402	699	621	561	510
Oxford	1499	42.4	1631	1571	1531	1428	709	628	570	517
Bainbridge	1000	42.3	1766	1696	1652	1544	764	676	612	555

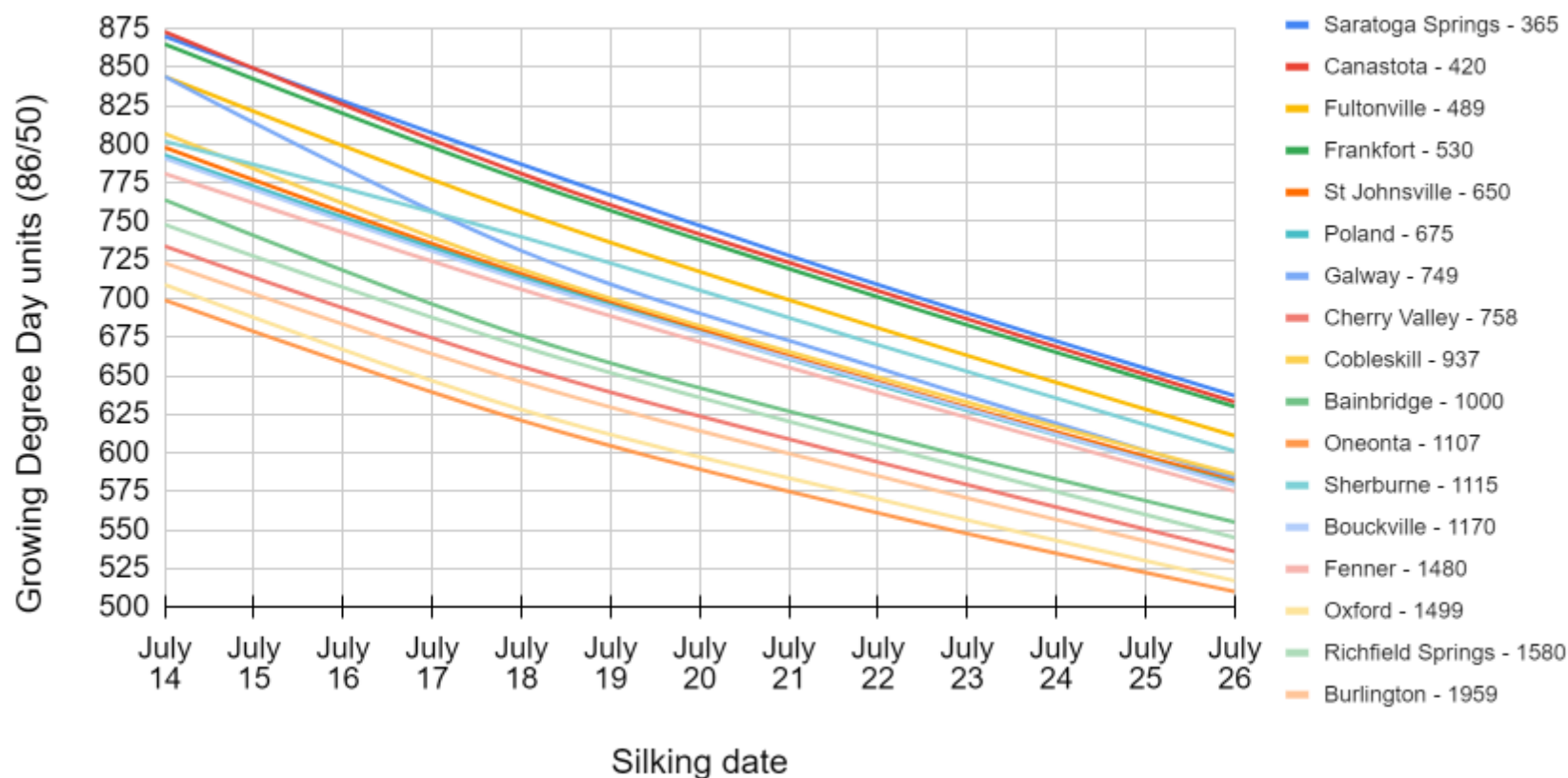
Not everyone planted their corn on one of the planting dates or in one of the locations I have listed, so this chart shows the estimated GDD for each location on each potential planting date in between (based on the actual GDD on those four dates). The locations are ordered top-to-bottom from lowest elevation to highest (the number after the location name is the elevation in feet above sea level). So if your farm is near one of the locations on this list but there's a location here that more closely matches your elevation, try that instead. You can find GDDs for your own specific location and planting date using the [Climate Smart Farming CSF Growing Degree Day Calculator](#), but for those who might have more difficulty using that tool, maybe this chart can help.

Estimated total GDD (86/50) by planting date for each location



As we get closer to silage harvest, remember that silage corn needs **750-800 GDD after silking to reach a whole plant DM of 32%** (depending on hybrid maturity). Under typical late season dry down conditions **we can expect the crop to reach 35% DM four to seven days later**. When using this chart, remember that actual GDD were calculated for July 14, 18, 22, and 26 silking dates. Dates in-between those four dates are estimates. As always, remember that GDD estimates **are good for getting you in the ballpark, but are no substitute for actual conditions in the field**.

Estimated GDD (86/50) by SILKING DATE



3. Pest Monitoring

The western bean cutworm traps were empty this week, so that's a wrap for this season's monitoring chart. I did not see any egg masses, but that doesn't mean they didn't do their damage – which should be evident now or in the coming weeks. Of course, let me know if you suspect your crop has an outbreak of this or any other earworm.

Fall armyworm larvae are showing up in my sweep net, so keep an eye on your sweet corn and organic corn crops.

Leafhoppers in alfalfa are still very low, while pea aphids have seen a recent surge. But so far nothing approaching threshold.

Check out [Potato Leafhopper Scouting and IPM Thresholds in Alfalfa](#)

I still have yet to see any soybean white mold, but I'm expecting to see quite a bit over the next month. I have seen some various other soybean fungi in patches, mostly associated with wet spots in fields, which of course are prevalent this year. Due to this, it will be especially important to rotate these fields into another crop next year.

I will also be reaching out to some of you for my upcoming soybean cyst nematode (SCN) soil-sampling program in another month or so. We know it's just about everywhere in NY by now, but knowing the SCN population number in your fields is essential to making sound management decisions. So stay tuned.

Have a good rest of the week, and have good weekend!