

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops

Field Crop Update – 30 September 2022

1. Reminders from last week
2. Growing Degree Days

The cold weather is here, but silage is still underway for many of us around the region. The weather over the next 10 days should allow the last acres of silage to dry down quickly. Because silage harvest is wrapping up very soon, **the Growing Degree Day unit totals in section 2 show GDD totals since *planting date only*.**

And because the GDD accumulations won't really budge very much from this point on, this will be the last regular update of the season. But as always, I'll be sure to reach out when timely information crosses my desk.

Happy and safe harvesting!

1. Reminders from last week:

Check out *last week's* Update for info on:

- a. Cover crops (there's still time!)
- b. Hay harvest considerations
- c. Free soybean cyst nematode screening
- d. The effect of rain on corn silage dry-down
- e. To assess the effectiveness of this year's nutrient plan, see this [factsheet](#) and this [factsheet](#) on the Corn Stalk Nitrate Test.

2. Growing Degree Days as of 28 Sept: See: [Climate Smart Farming Growing Degree Day Calculator](#)
 Growing degree days (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 50 degrees F and ceases above 86. **Check your location, planting date, and silking date.** Silage corn needs 750-800 GDD (depending on hybrid maturity) after silking to reach a whole plant DM of 32%. Under typical late season dry down conditions we can expect the crop to reach 35% DM four to seven days later (Remember that we can expect to accumulate **20-25 GDD per day**, or even up to 30, so this is not a large window). For more details, see [this article](#). **No matter what the numbers say, always check your crop to see how close you may be to harvest.**

Hybrid relative maturity	GDD from silking to reach ~32% DM
101-110	800
96-100	750
<96	750 or slightly less (extrapolated)

As of: 28 Sept 2022 (Base: 86/50)			Planting Date					
Location	Elevation (ft)	Latitude N	May 10	May 15	May 20	May 25	May 30	June 4
Poland	675	43.23	2171	2089	2048	1977	1911	1837
Canastota	420	43.08	2546	2450	2402	2326	2247	2164
Saratoga Springs	365	43.08	2456	2362	2310	2236	2158	2065
Frankfort	530	43.03	2423	2334	2286	2207	2129	2046
Galway	749	43.02	2335	2246	2197	2128	2055	1969
St Johnsville	650	43	2224	2142	2099	2024	1951	1871
Fenner	1480	42.97	2230	2145	2105	2040	1973	1898
Fultonville	489	42.95	2362	2276	2228	2152	2073	1989
Bouckville	1170	42.93	2195	2114	2073	2006	1940	1862
Richfield Springs	1580	42.85	2109	2033	1992	1920	1855	1779
Cherry Valley	758	42.81	2090	2016	1975	1904	1839	1764
Burlington	1959	42.72	2032	1957	1919	1854	1793	1720
Sherburne	1115	42.69	2274	2192	2147	2076	2008	1923
Cobleskill	937	42.68	2297	2218	2171	2098	2024	1940
Oneonta	1107	42.47	1985	1912	1873	1809	1752	1677
Oxford	1499	42.4	2128	2048	2005	1939	1878	1797
Bainbridge	1000	42.3	2180	2098	2052	1983	1921	1837