

NNY Receives Official “Abnormally Dry” Classification, May 19, 2020

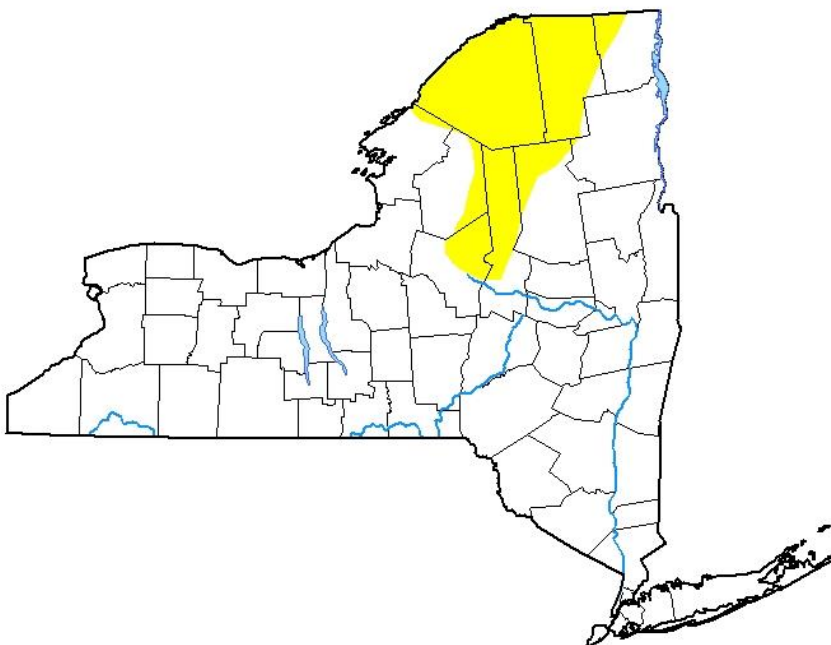
By Kitty O’Neil, PhD

The USDA Drought Mitigation Center in Lincoln, NE officially classified St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties, along with portions of Lewis and Clinton Counties, as D0 or ‘abnormally dry’ in their weekly update published May 21st. Much of Herkimer County and portions of Hamilton and Oneida Counties are also abnormally dry. The Center bases this classification on conditions that respond to precipitation on time scales ranging from a few days to a few months, such as wildfire danger, non-irrigated agriculture, topsoil moisture, range and pasture conditions, and unregulated streamflows. Fire risks have also been rated as ‘moderate’ for NNY and the Hudson Valley regions this same week. The D0 classification indicates that an area is experiencing general short-term dryness that is typical with the onset of drought or that may be experiencing lingering water deficits after a drought. This type of dryness can slow crop growth and elevate fire risk to above average.

Cooler than normal temperatures have dominated the whole Northeast, with most areas at least 2-4 degrees below normal for the past week. Precipitation was mixed for the week for the Northeast region,

U.S. Drought Monitor New York

May 19, 2020
(Released Thursday, May. 21, 2020)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu

with NYS remaining dry while some northern states recorded normal to slightly above normal precipitation. Ongoing dryness in portions of northeastern New York did allow for the introduction of D0 this week, based upon the short-term indicators.

The outlook for the next 6 to 10 days from the Drought Mitigation Center are for slightly above normal temperatures and precipitation while the 8-14 day outlook predicts slightly greater probabilities for below-normal temperatures and normal precipitation.

For more information about field crop and soil management, contact your local Cornell Cooperative Extension office or North Country Cornell University Cooperative Extension Regional Field Crops and Soils Specialists, Mike Hunter and Kitty O'Neil.

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Our Mission

“The North Country Regional Ag Team aims to improve the productivity and viability of agricultural industries, people and communities in Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton and Essex Counties by promoting productive, safe, economically and environmentally sustainable management practices and by providing assistance to industry, government, and other agencies in evaluating the impact of public policies affecting the industry.”

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