Cornell Cooperative Extension

Central New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops

Field Crop Update September 9, 2021

1. **Field Observations**
2. **Growing Degree Days and Weather Outlook**

1. Field Observations

Corn silage harvest is upon us in many places, though hay crops are competing for farmers' attention. The latest GDD numbers are in for Sept 8th (see section 2), and they suggest that while most of the early-silking crops are past their prime, crops that silked during the latter half of July are at or are very near peak quality in most places. Here is the link to our recent webinar on things to keep in mind in advance of this year's silage harvest: 2021 Central NY Corn Silage Pre-Harvest webinar

There was a second alfalfa field in the Hudson Valley that experienced high fall armyworm populations, so keep your eyes peeled. My traps have been empty for two weeks running and I have found very few in the alfalfa fields I've been sweeping, but that doesn't mean they aren't still a threat for another few weeks.

Other than some pea aphids and the odd alfalfa caterpillar larva, alfalfa crops in our region are generally quite clean heading into fall.

Take note of problem areas in your soybean fields and let me know if you would like me to sample your field for soybean cyst nematode. This pest is widespread in NY, and I'm afraid that this year's wet conditions may have allowed them to spread more easily through infested fields. Sampling and analysis are free via grant funding from the NY Corn and Soybean Growers Association, though I am limited in the number of samples I can submit. So let me know.

Have a good rest of the week, and happy harvesting!

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*)

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)

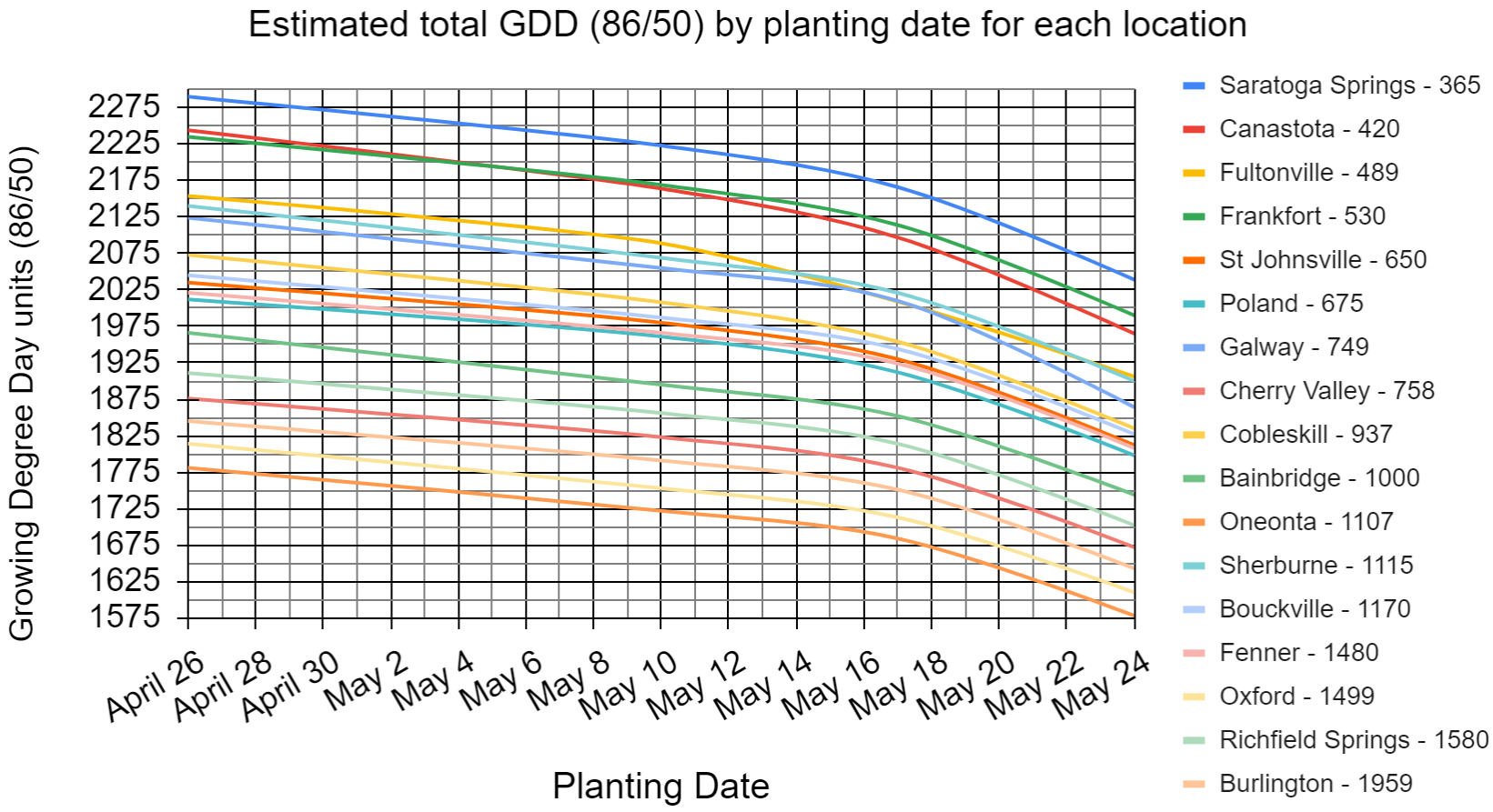
Gas up the harvester and the trucks (you're chopping in 2 – 8 days)

See you in the field (DM is likely in the optimal 32-38% range)

It's either in the bunk or it's going in the bin (DM% is likely higher than 38-40% at this point)

As of: 8 Sept 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	2012	1961	1912	1798	1004	925	855	791
Canastota	420	43.08	2290	2223	2166	2039	1117	1034	956	884
S'toga Springs	365	43.08	2244	2164	2097	1965	1110	1018	942	870
Frankfort	530	43.03	2235	2169	2114	1990	1103	1015	939	868
Galway	749	43.02	2124	2055	2010	1864	1048	960	884	813
St Johnsville	650	43	2035	1980	1930	1812	1003	921	851	787
Fenner	1480	42.97	2021	1966	1924	1808	994	919	852	788
Fultonville	489	42.95	2154	2089	2009	1906	1063	974	899	830
Bouckville	1170	42.93	2045	1987	1944	1827	1005	926	859	793
R'field Springs	1580	42.85	1911	1856	1814	1702	940	862	798	738
Cherry Valley	758	42.81	1876	1823	1781	1672	920	842	780	722
Burlington	1959	42.72	1845	1791	1751	1643	904	827	767	711
Sherburne	1115	42.69	2140	2069	2021	1900	1047	959	889	820
Cobleskill	937	42.68	2073	2008	1954	1835	1019	931	860	797
Oneonta	1107	42.47	1781	1722	1684	1578	875	796	737	685
Oxford	1499	42.4	1814	1753	1713	1610	892	811	752	699
Bainbridge	1000	42.3	1966	1895	1852	1744	964	875	811	755

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.



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.***