

## When Will Corn Silage be Ready for Harvest in 2025?

Research in New York shows that tracking Growing Degree Days (GDD) from tasseling is a good way to predict when corn silage will reach 32% dry matter, the earliest we recommend harvesting.

Hybrids grown in our area require about 750 GDD from tasseling to 32% DM.

The table below shows predicted date at 750 GDD for tasseling dates at one-week intervals starting July 23, about the time the earliest fields in our area started tasseling.

Joe Lawrence, Pro-Dairy Forage Specialist, reminds us, once corn begins the dry down process, an average rate of dry down is ½ percent per day (with a range of 0% to 1% percent per day) for example the crop may reach 35 percent DM approximately six days after reaching these GDD targets for 32 percent DM. So for silos that work best with drier corn silage, your best harvest dates will be a bit later than those shown below.

Recommended Corn Silage Dry Matter Range	
Storage Type	Dry Matter %
Bunk silos and piles	32-36
Bags	32-36
Concrete Uprights	35-38
Harvesting corn too wet results in poor fermentation, reduced silage quality and increased silo effluent. Excessively dry silage will also have poor fermentation and lower feed value.	

Some later planted corn likely will not make 32% DM before a frost. If you have fields at risk of frost before they reach ideal silage stage, be prepared to harvest quickly after frost, since frosted corn can dry down fast and move from too wet to too dry quickly.



Predicted Date at 750 GDD for Tasseling Dates at One-Week Intervals				
	Tasseling Date			
	7/23	7/30	8/6	8/13
Andes	22-Sep	14-Oct	15-Oct	X
Bloomville	13-Sep	28-Sep	13-Oct	16-Nov
Davenport Center	13-Sep	29-Sep	15-Oct	15-Nov
Franklin	9-Sep	24-Sep	6-Oct	4-Nov
Hobart	16-Sep	2-Oct	20-Oct	12-Nov
New Kingston	13-Sep	1-Oct	18-Oct	20-Nov
Stamford	14-Sep	30-Sep	16-Oct	16-Nov
Unadilla	9-Sep	23-Sep	4-Oct	30-Oct
Walton	7-Sep	21-Sep	2-Oct	21-Oct
Historically likely frost will have already occurred				

Model runs 9/8/2025



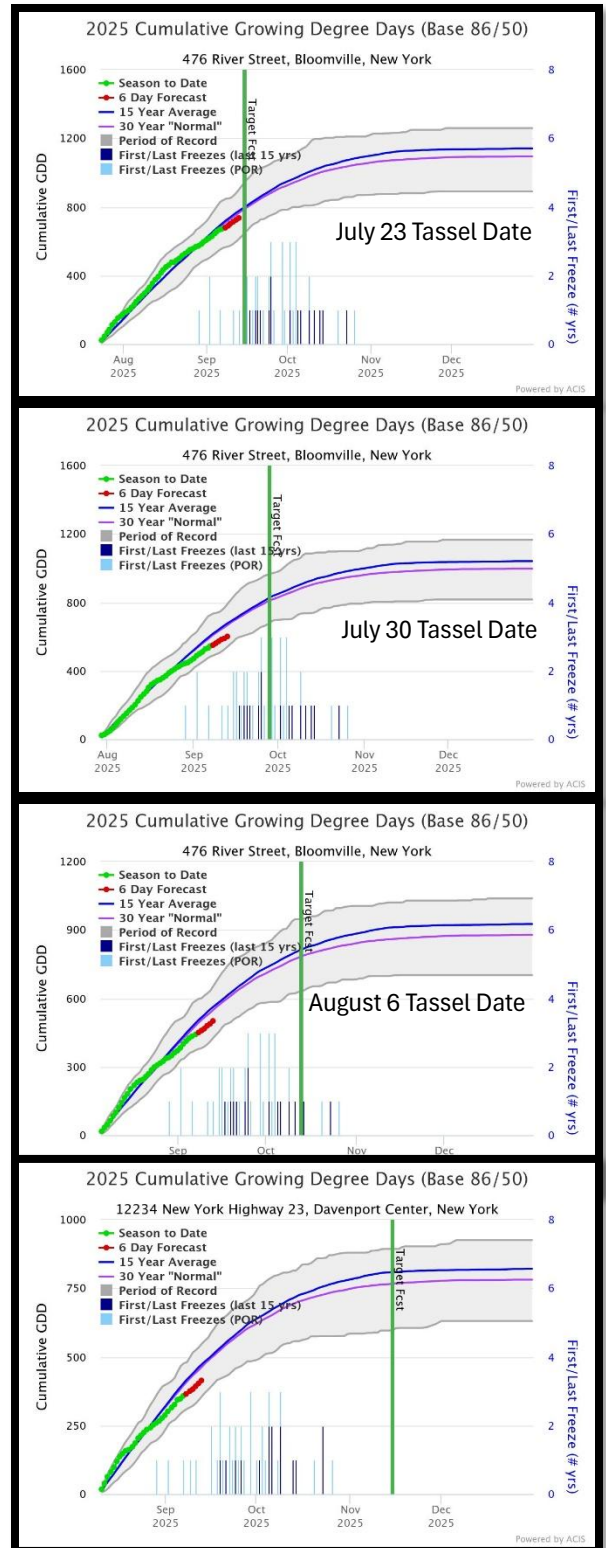
# Cornell Cooperative Extension Delaware County

As an example, I've included the predicted growing degree day accumulation graphs for Bloomville. For each graph, notice the tasseling date. The growing degree-days start at zero for the prediction and the lines go up each day by the number of degree days observed (green dots) or predicted (red dots). The blue and purple lines show the last 15-year average and the purple line the 30-year "normal" accumulation. The top and the bottom of the gray area indicate the highest and lowest limits observed. The vertical lines at the bottom of the graph show the dates of the first 32° frost observed, the darker lines show the last 15 years. The bold green vertical line shows the predicted day to reach 750 GDD from the selected tasseling date (this is when we would predict corn tasseling that day would reach 32%DM, and a potential first harvests day).

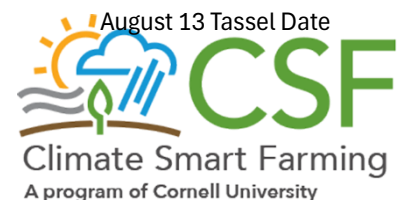
All the GDD lines start above the long term average, but dip below the average line for the past couple weeks.

You will notice that GDD accumulation is faster in August, slows considerably in September and becomes almost flat in October. This explains why for the 7/30 to 8/6 tasseling dates each one week later tasseling date results in a 2 week later 750 GDD prediction, and for the 8/13 tasseling date it predicts an addition 3 weeks to reach 750 GDD.

You can explore this tool yourself at <https://climatesmartfarming.org/tools/csf-growing-degree-day-calculator/>.



Model runs 9/8//25



Watershed Agricultural Council  
nycwatershed.org

