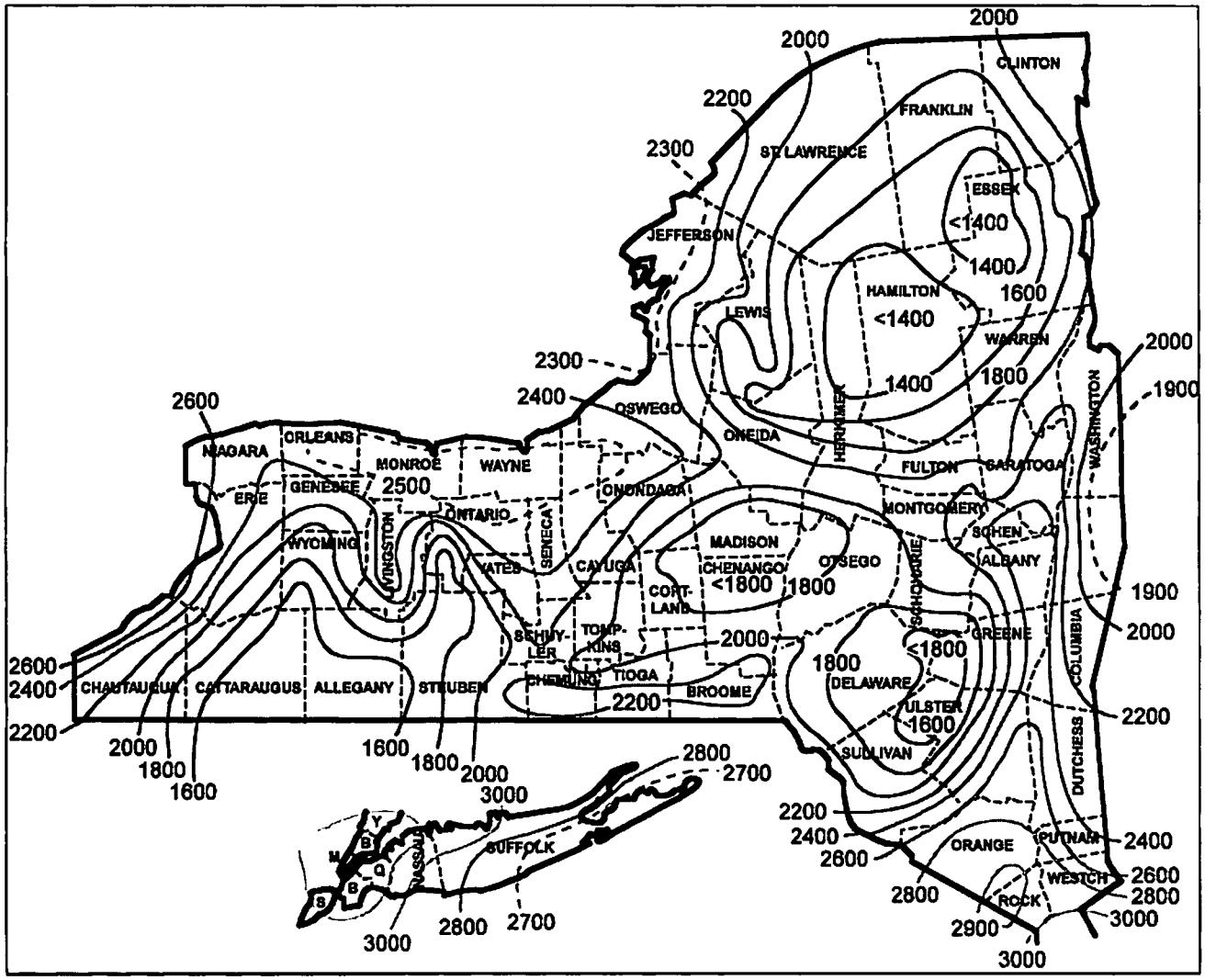
ACCUMULATED GROWING DEGREE DAYS (BASE 50 DEGREES F) IN FREEZE-FREE SEASON



Northeast Regional Climate Center

The growing degree day—sometimes called a heat unit—has become a useful indirect measure of the heat available for growth and development of corn and soybeans. In the 86/50 method it is assumed that for corn and soybeans, growth increases linearly from 50° F to 86° F, at which peak growth occurs, and growth remains at peak for temperatures above 86° F. The maximum temperature for the day is set at an upper limit of 86° F, and the minimum temperature is set at the lower limit of 50° F. On each day of the growing season the crop receives a number of growing degree days equal to the number of degrees that the daily adjusted mean temperature is higher (warmer) than the 50° F base temperature. Growing degree days are then accumulated each day as the crop progresses toward maturity.

Soil in Franklin County currently supports a variety of crops, including corn for silage, small grains, hay, vegetables and small fruits. Since the soils vary from clays to sandy loams to sand, we suggest you contact Cooperative Extension or the Soil Conservation District for detailed information about the specific area of interest to you.