



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

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Crop Weather

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May 14, 2001 - 4 pm

For week ending 5/13/01

Crops Need Rain

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY

For the Week Ending Sunday, May 13, 2001

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	23	87	57	+7	0.00	1.90
NH	21	90	57	+6	0.00	0.75
VT	22	89	57	+6	0.07	1.40
MA	21	90	58	+4	0.00	0.38
RI	26	92	58	+5	0.00	0.00
CT	26	89	59	+3	0.00	0.36

Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

For the week ending May 13, 2001, there were 6.7 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 26% very short, 40% short, 32% adequate, 2% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 12% very short, 30% short, 57% adequate, 1% surplus. Pasture condition was rated as 1% very poor, 19% poor, 46% fair, 30% good, 4% excellent. Major farm activities included: planting row crops and vegetables, spreading manure, prepping seed beds for planting, applying fertilizer and lime, plowing, fixing fences, and setting up irrigation systems.

FIELD CROP PROGRESS ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	--Percent Planted--			2001 % Emerged	2001 Condition
	2001	2000	5yr-Avg		
Potatoes					
Maine	25	5	20	--	---
Mass	65	70	65	10	Good/Fair
Rhode Isl	85	50	60	--	---
Oats, ME	40	15	30	10	---
Barley, ME	45	15	35	10	---
Silage Corn	35	10	15	5	Good/Excellent
Sweet Corn	35	25	25	15	Good/Fair
Dry Hay	-Percent Harvested-				
First Cut	0	0	0		Fair/Good

FIELD CROPS: Crops continue to be planted at a fast pace due to the dry weather. Drought is a concern for most areas in New England, so farmers are irrigating where necessary to keep down dust and to aid with seed germination. Warm weather has permitted operators to plant field corn and potatoes, spread manure, apply fertilizer and fix fences. Planting of potatoes in both Maine and Rhode Island was ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Potato planting in Massachusetts was close to last year and equal to the 5-year average. First planted small grains have begun to emerge.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Stage	Fruit Set	2001 Condition
Peaches	Petal Fall/Full Blm	Avg/B. Avg	Fair/Good
Pears	Petal Fall/Full Blm	B. Avg/Avg	Fair/Poor
Strawberries	Bud Stage	--	Good
Cranberries, MA	Bud Stage	--	Good/Fair
Blueberries			
Highbush	Early Blm	--	Good/Fair
Wild, ME	Early Blm	--	Good

FRUIT: The extended dry weather has provided good pollinating conditions for most fruit crops this spring. Apples had advanced to the full bloom stage in most areas by week's end, and fruit condition was rated as excellent in the northernmost states. The severe frost which occurred early in the week hit southern states when the fruit trees were at peak bloom, and damage was extensive at some locations. Crop specialists rated fruit set for apples, peaches, and pears in southern New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut from average to below average. Strawberries were starting to grow and irrigating continued on established beds. Fungicide application for mummyberry disease in wild blueberries was active. Winter kill was found on blueberry and raspberry patches at some locations. Cranberry vines looked good as of mid-May, and were developing ahead of schedule.

VEGETABLES: Planting of broccoli, sweet corn, peas, lettuce and cabbage continued, along with some planting of early cucumbers and winter squash. Early week drop in temperatures to below freezing caused some frost damage to sweet corn in southern states. Asparagus currently being harvested. Vegetable growers are irrigating due to dry conditions and high temperatures. Farm stands seem to be doing well so far this year with demand strong for local produce.

To receive this report every Monday evening, send an e-mail message to listserv@newsbox.usda.gov and in the body, type **subscribe usda-new-eng-crop-weather**

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Director: Aubrey Davis Deputy: David Luckenbach

For the Week Ending Sunday, May 13, 2001

The 41 stations shown below are limited by space but are well distributed across the region. All 86 stations appear on the Internet and in e-mail subscriptions.

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	-----				BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL	DFN DAYS		TOTAL	DFN DAYS	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	DFN	DAYS	INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta_ME	37	83	59	+7	186	+133	64	+64	0.08	-0.80	1	0.20	-3.40	5
Bangor	30	83	58	+7	154	+119	48	+48	0.00	-0.84	0	0.19	-2.99	5
Bethel	29	85	58	+7	149	+109	36	+36	0.25	-0.54	1	0.30	-3.01	2
Cari bou	32	80	59	+11	125	+101	27	+27	0.04	-0.66	1	0.17	-2.35	4
Dover-Foxcroft	29	79	56	+7	107	+82	19	+19	0.20	-0.61	1	0.37	-2.96	4
Frenchville	38	79	60	+13	111	+97	26	+26	0.07	-0.63	1	0.40	-2.24	5
Houlton	27	80	57	+8	117	+93	27	+27	0.00	-0.76	0	0.08	-2.67	3
Livermore_Falls	26	87	58	+9	152	+127	48	+48	0.36	-0.48	1	0.43	-3.09	4
Moosehead	25	81	55	+10	89	+80	12	+12	0.69	-0.08	1	0.84	-2.17	4
Portland_ME	31	77	55	+4	157	+125	49	+49	0.01	-0.83	1	0.15	-3.49	3
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	33	82	58	+7	150	+93	34	+31	0.55	-0.20	1	0.75	-2.04	4
Berlin_AG	32	82	58	+8	139	+94	27	+27	0.16	-0.61	1	0.26	-2.95	4
Concord	26	88	58	+6	207	+143	73	+71	0.03	-0.67	1	0.18	-2.62	3
Diamond_Pond	28	80	55	+9	96	+82	20	+20	0.62	-0.22	1	1.12	-2.00	4
Keene_AP	28	84	58	+3	196	+100	64	+54	0.00	-0.84	0	0.99	-2.22	2
North_Conway	29	88	60	+9	194	+143	69	+69	0.31	-0.60	1	0.36	-3.42	3
Rochester	25	89	59	+6	211	+134	91	+86	0.11	-0.80	1	0.56	-3.31	5
VERMONT														
Burlington_VT	40	85	61	+8	224	+138	79	+69	0.78	+0.08	1	1.00	-1.71	3
Island_Pond	31	81	55	+7	98	+68	17	+17	0.80	+0.02	1	1.06	-1.77	4
Montpelier	32	82	57	+6	148	+94	38	+36	0.17	-0.53	1	0.22	-2.30	4
Pownal	32	82	58	+7	184	+125	54	+49	0.21	-0.78	1	0.26	-3.87	2
Rochester	29	80	56	+6	127	+80	21	+21	0.12	-0.86	1	0.25	-3.53	4
Rutland_AG	31	82	57	+2	150	+41	33	+19	0.25	-0.52	1	0.52	-2.29	4
Sutton	33	83	58	+10	121	+95	30	+30	0.77	+0.00	1	1.11	-1.80	3
Townshend_Lake	28	84	57	+4	155	+78	39	+32	0.19	-0.65	1	0.24	-2.93	2
MASSACHUSETTS														
Ashburnham	34	85	59	+7	205	+157	73	+73	0.05	-0.72	1	0.12	-3.05	3
Boston	38	88	61	+5	285	+173	118	+117	0.00	-0.77	0	0.16	-3.07	4
Greenfield	28	89	59	+4	214	+102	75	+67	0.00	-0.84	0	0.02	-3.43	1
New_Bedford	29	86	56	+1	200	+85	67	+65	0.00	-0.84	0	0.37	-3.22	3
Otis_AFB	30	86	56	+4	172	+122	63	+63	0.00	-0.84	0	0.72	-2.83	4
Plymouth	26	87	56	+4	191	+134	60	+60	0.00	-0.91	0	0.92	-2.95	4
Walpole	28	90	60	+6	263	+182	110	+109	0.00	-0.77	0	0.23	-3.35	2
Westover	28	88	60	+3	281	+115	109	+92	0.09	-0.82	1	0.17	-3.47	4
Worthington	22	82	56	+5	181	+126	59	+59	0.00	-1.05	0	0.07	-4.00	2
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	33	90	60	+6	267	+173	108	+108	0.00	-0.85	0	0.13	-3.52	4
Woonsocket	26	92	60	+7	258	+181	106	+106	0.00	-0.91	0	0.18	-3.66	3
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport	38	84	60	+5	263	+141	88	+78	0.04	-0.87	1	0.31	-3.33	3
Hartford_AP	28	89	60	+3	295	+150	115	+99	0.28	-0.64	1	0.41	-3.24	4
Norfolk	27	83	58	+6	211	+160	76	+76	0.11	-0.90	1	0.25	-3.91	3
Thomaston_Dam	28	88	58	+4	218	+126	77	+71	0.06	-0.98	1	0.17	-3.93	3
Willimantic	28	89	60	+6	278	+189	103	+98	0.00	-0.98	0	0.10	-3.82	2

Summary based on NWS data.
 DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
 Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
 Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.
 Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.
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Weather Summary for New England Agricultural Statistics Service
 Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County: *Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext); Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), or other knowledgeable individuals.*

CONNECTICUT - Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham: Most fruit crops were in a bountiful full bloom thoroughly enjoying the warm sunny days, then mother nature decided to shock everyone with a big drop in temperatures down as low as 22 degrees, with a freeze one night followed by a frost the next. Will fruits make it, wait and see what the set ends up! Does not look good right now with black centers in many blossoms. Fresh asparagus being harvested and marketed, bedding plants and nursery crops selling well. Field crops continue to go in with only man-made delays. Ah, the smell of a farming community, what delight compares with the hefty aroma of chicken manure wafting through the air. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Cultivation, rock picking on vegetable land. **Nancy Welsh/Karen Lockman (FSA) New Haven:** Weather conditions have been bad. On Monday and Tuesday a full moon and cool weather created a heavy frost. This in turn has created heavy fruit damage to apples, pears, peaches, and strawberries. Blueberries and raspberries appear to have been damaged as well. Farmers have stopped planting due to the severe dry weather conditions. Herbicides are also ineffective.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes: Most growers got into the fields and began planting this week. Extremely dry field conditions are making the planting process move along very rapidly. Some first planted small grains have emerged. Some areas still have frost left in the ground which is causing some concern. **Erin Chadbourne (Ext), Aroostook:** Potato planting is in full swing. Central Aroostook county could use some rain. Frost pockets are giving some growers problems, but other than that, the planting season has been tolerable and manageable. Barley and oats are being planted, too. **Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook:** It has been very dry. Able to work all of last week. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Manure is mostly spread. Lack of rain allowing manure that is top-dressed to lose nitrogen into the atmosphere. Farmers are tilling; ready for corn and potato planting. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Manure spreading and tillage are the main farm activities this past week. Some farmers have been able to get some corn planted. Pastures and hayfields have started greening up. **Jennifer Zweig (FSA), Somerset:** Plowing and fertilizing have started. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Dry weather continues. Crop planting/manure spreading and tillage operations are in full force - with dusty dry conditions. Apples will be in full bloom soon. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Bees have been put out on blueberry fields. Some burning continues. Row crops being planted. Lack of rain affecting pastures. **David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild Blueberries: Fields being pruned by burning and mowing. Pre-emergence herbicide application being made to non-bearing fields. Fungicide applications being made for mummyberry disease. Insecticide applications being made for spanworm larvae. Fields extremely dry. Development normal. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** Fixing pasture fences and getting machinery ready to go. Fertilizing and tilling underway. Trees are starting to bud. Need rain, its too dry! **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** All manner of spring activities happening at a furious pace, weather has been perfect for all outdoor work, however it is starting to dry out, we need rain. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** We have had only one good shower in a month. We need some rain. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Producers are busy spreading manure, tilling, spreading fertilizer and lime, and planting. Busy, busy, busy. The week's warm weather activities helped in warming the soil for planting. Bedding plants are out in full array. Need rain.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Field preparation for planting all crops (sweet corn, field corn, vegetables and strawberries), as well as liming and fertilizing. Ground is very dry all over the county. Many previous wet areas are now very dry, planting right across wet lands. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** Conditions continue to be very dry. Many vegetable growers are irrigating after planting. Cranberry growers are getting ready to drop late water from their bogs, those that did not hold late

water are irrigating for frost protection. Shellfish growers are preparing to plant seed. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Sunny and dry, with two frost nights and negligible rainfall on Saturday and Sunday in most of the area. Vines continue to develop ahead of schedule. Later varieties have lost most of their winter color. Early varieties are pushing new growth from the buds. Weeds are beginning to show their ugly presence. Growers are less in evidence, as many are working other jobs. Scouting has begun, with some of the early-season Lepidopteran larvae feeding already. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Weather extremes have affected crop conditions in Franklin County. Frosts Monday and Tuesday followed by 90 degree weather. Many fruit farms have reported at least some frost damage. Asparagus growers have been irrigating their acreage to sustain this year's crop. These dry conditions have been compounded by very dry and windy weather. Most farms are planting forage crops and early vegetables. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Hot and very dry week with a killing frost at the beginning of the week. Some growers reported morning temperatures in the high teens to mid 20's which caused serious freeze damage to apples, peaches, and asparagus spears. Planting of field and sweet corn and potatoes is moving very rapidly along because of the dry conditions. Sweet corn under plastic is six inches tall. Some planting of early cucumbers and winter squash. Many growers are irrigating their early crops because it is so dry. Harvesting asparagus and fiddleheads. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Finally some rain after five weeks! Laying plastic, planting corn and harrowing fields are principal farm activities. Farm stands having busy weekend with very strong demand for hanging baskets, perennial and annual flowers. People this year so far, have strong desire to support local farm operations in lieu of large chain stores.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Bruce Clement (Ext), Cheshire: Warm weather has really brought on the bloom. Little spacing between different species. Seems like everything is in bloom at the same time - very unusual. Dry conditions prevail. Grass is green but growing slowly. Manure spreading, seeding, corn planting and vegetable planting all progressing well. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Rain this weekend, heavy at times, breaks long stretch of dry weather. Field conditions helped by dry weather spell allow for much ground preparation, including manure spreading. Some corn now being planted throughout county. Cows being pastured. Mulching, cleaning out, fertilization around blueberries. Frost Sunday night. Still experiencing cool evenings at times. Apple, Blueberry blossoms unopened. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Very dry conditions have farmers concerned, many farmers having to irrigate planted crops. Hard Frost on the morning of May 7, did severe damage to apple blossoms in southern part of the county and southern New Hampshire. This was followed by light frost conditions the next two days. Some strawberry growers had to irrigate for frost protection. Fruits: Apples and pears are at petal fall. All peaches are well past petal fall. Starting to move bees out of orchards. Blueberries are blooming and strawberries starting to bud and show signs of blooming. Fruit growers applying sprays for pest control. Continue to see blueberry and raspberry patches showing signs of winter kill. Damage from root weevils is showing up in some strawberry fields. Field Crops: Planting and weed spraying corn fields. Fertilizing hayfields. Vegetables: Plowing, disking, and fertilizing fields and planting vegetables. Laying down plastic and drip irrigation. Regular plantings of sweet corn germinated. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Liming and fertilizing hay fields; spreading manure, disking, plowing and fertilizing corn fields. Planting early vegetables. Seeding new pastures and hayfields. We had very little rain on Saturday and very strong winds. A soaking rain is badly needed. Apple and peach orchards were hit by two frosts on two consecutive nights, killing blossoms.

RHODE ISLAND -Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: The lack of rain continues to be of concern. Frost hit blueberries, corn and strawberries. Potatoes are pretty close to planted, if not completed. Some early haying being done and fields being prepared for field corn.

Roadside stands were doing a booming business, encouraged by the weather and Mother's Day. Cole crops doing well, but everything could use a drink. **Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** The three-day heat wave brought all varieties of fruit bearers into a lush and full bloom simultaneously. Overnight on Monday and Tuesday, the state was hit with freezing temperatures in the 20s for several hours. Fruit producers are phoning in, describing devastating damage. Some with loss estimates of 90%. Also reported lost in the freeze were sweet corn, bedding plants, cabbage, cauliflower and hay. Animal operations are spreading manure. Potato planting continues. The ground is very dry. We're beginning to hear concerns about seed germination. Is there enough moisture in the ground?

VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille: Conditions have been ideal and farmers have been very busy planting corn, spreading manure, seeding fields, and fixing fence. Rain on the weekend should help with grass growth. **Bill Snow (Ext), Orange:** Continue spreading of manure, fertilizer, cornland plowing and disking and planting by larger farm acreages. Concern about lack of rain, only a tenth of an inch fell on Saturday. **Larry Hamel (NRCS), Orleans:** Excellent spring weather working conditions in Orleans County this week. Corn silage plantings are taking place. A lot of fence repair due to heavy snow, especially along roads. Manure being spread along with fertilizers over hay fields and corn fields. Nice and warm (but dry conditions) for spring plantings. Good rain on Saturday, in the evening. This should give the grassland farmers some encouragement because conditions were becoming too dry. Trees have pretty well leafed out except for Oaks, Ash and Butternut. Seems too early! **Lynette Hamilton (FSA),**

Windham: We had very little rain over the weekend in southern Vermont. Alfalfa is starting to show lack of rain. Hay fields have stopped growing and are turning brown from lack of moisture. There are no pastures growing. A lot of corn has been planted but without rain there will be no germination. Apple trees and other fruit trees are doing great. Bees should be working their magic with the dry weather. Veggie farmers are using a lot of irrigation in order to get their crops started. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Continued planting corn and newly seeded hay crops. Fertilizing hay fields, some manure spread. Corn spraying. Pasture coming along fine with first grazing done. Short soil moisture, little rain on Saturday. **Richard Noell (FSA), Grand Isle/Franklin:** Seedings came out of the ground beginning of week, corn and soybean came towards the end of the week on early planted fields! First crop hay may be short, but quality should be high if weather cooperates! **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Another very warm (mid-80's) week of spring. Top soil is very dry. Spring's work coming along well: fencing, spreading manure, forage crops seedings, preparing corn ground, and some corn planted. Some animals out on pasture, but there is not a lot of feed there yet. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Early corn still being planted at intervals to keep crops coming. Late peas also being planted. First planting of early vegetables in ground. New bed of strawberries went in this week. Started cutting asparagus May 8. First planting of early sweet corn is up with good germination, also early peas came up well. Has been drier than a cork all week. Surface soil has very little moisture. No rain to report this week.

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