



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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United States Department of Agriculture

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Crop Weather

Volume 22, Number 13

(issued weekly on the Internet, May - October)

July 22, 2002 - 4 pm

For week ending 7/21/02

Drought-Like Conditions Persist

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending July 21, 2002, there were 6.2 days suitable for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 1% very poor, 15% poor, 26% fair, 37% good, 21% excellent. Northern New England states recorded slightly below average temperatures last week along with some rainfall, while southern states underwent exact opposite conditions. All states continue to experience drought-like conditions, and it has been necessary for many growers to irrigate, where available. Major farm activities included: planting vegetables; harvesting tobacco, strawberries, highbush blueberries, peaches and vegetables; weeding, tilling and cultivating fields; sidedressing fields with fertilizer; cutting dry hay and chopping haylage; mowing orchards and around fields; monitoring for pests and disease; irrigating, where necessary and available; applying fungicides and insecticides.

FRUIT: Strawberry harvest is nearing completion in New England and fields continue to be renovated. Raspberry and highbush blueberry picking was active last week, and peach harvest is currently underway. Pears remain in poor condition, particularly in Connecticut. Maine wild blueberry fields are looking extremely spotty due to uneven pollination this year. Massachusetts cranberry growers are awaiting significant rainfall to size up the berries, and in the meantime are irrigating bogs.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2002	2001	5-yr Avg	
Apples	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Peaches	<5	<5	<5	Good/Fair
Pears	--	--	--	Poor
Blueberries				
Highbush	15	15	15	Good
Wild, ME	--	--	--	Good
Cranberries, MA	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Strawberries	99	99	99	Good/Fair

VEGETABLES: Where irrigation was available, vegetable growers took advantage of it and gave their crops a drink. Newly harvested sweet corn is showing up at farmers' markets and roadside stands, always a popular item. Beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, eggplant, greens, lettuce, peas, peppers, radish, spinach, squash, tomatoes and zucchini continued to be harvested last week.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	11	7	2
Short	32	21	19
Adequate	47	62	77
Surplus	10	10	2
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	10	7	0
Short	28	20	26
Adequate	60	70	70
Surplus	2	3	4

FIELD CROPS: First and second crops of hay were cut last week; farmers have had an easier time making dry hay since rainfall has lessened. Oat and barley crops in Maine were rated in good to excellent condition. Potato condition also ranged from good to excellent in Maine, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and growers cultivated and applied fungicides last week. Broadleaf tobacco harvest has begun in Massachusetts, Connecticut harvest is expected to begin soon.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2002	2001	5-yr Avg	
Barley, ME	--	--	--	Good/Excellent
Oats, ME	--	--	--	Good/Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	--	--	--	Excellent/Good
Mass	--	--	<5	Good
Rhode Isl	--	--	--	Good
Silage Corn	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	5	15	10	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Shade	10	10	15	Good/Fair
Broadleaf	<5	--	<5	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	95	95	90	Good/Fair
Second Cut	45	55	35	Good
Third Cut	--	10	<5	Good/Excellent

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 21, 2002

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			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL		DFN	DAYS
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN		
MAINE															
Augusta_ME	56	84	68	-3	970	-33	373	+32	0.05	-0.65	2	1.76	-1.14	12	
Bangor	50	84	67	-2	902	+6	331	+57	0.49	-0.28	2	1.94	-1.14	13	
Bethel	48	83	65	-5	846	-64	284	+6	0.77	+0.00	3	1.85	-1.45	11	
Cari bou	46	77	63	-4	683	-57	209	+23	1.06	+0.15	5	6.86	+3.50	17	
Dover-Foxcroft	45	82	62	-5	653	-121	186	-18	0.65	-0.15	4	2.13	-1.19	14	
Frenchville	47	75	62	-4	602	-80	179	+24	0.95	+0.09	4	4.35	+1.08	16	
Houlton	41	82	63	-4	724	-40	226	+24	2.05	+1.21	5	6.55	+3.29	19	
Livermore Falls	48	90	67	+0	886	+116	327	+129	0.15	-0.62	3	2.61	-0.65	14	
Moosehead	42	82	61	-4	615	-14	161	+26	0.48	-0.43	2	3.49	-0.21	14	
Portland_ME	55	83	69	-1	967	+83	361	+94	1.65	+0.95	3	2.78	-0.15	11	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	44	85	65	-3	873	+10	307	+76	0.69	-0.08	3	3.45	+0.26	9	
Berlin_AG	45	84	65	-3	827	-35	270	+26	1.53	+0.69	4	3.67	+0.21	12	
Concord	47	88	70	+0	1175	+144	503	+146	0.62	-0.10	3	1.79	-1.04	8	
Diamond Pond	44	77	59	-5	526	-28	125	+42	0.99	-0.06	3	3.89	-0.29	13	
Keene_AP	48	88	71	+0	1173	-3	487	+36	0.46	-0.38	2	1.81	-1.46	4	
North Conway	51	91	68	-2	1036	+74	418	+105	0.88	+0.04	4	1.91	-1.54	11	
Rochester	52	89	69	-2	1119	+19	448	+46	0.21	-0.56	2	1.04	-2.06	7	
VERMONT															
Burlington_VT	52	86	69	-3	1178	+53	498	+75	0.00	-0.84	0	3.59	+0.32	9	
Island Pond	44	81	62	-3	763	+71	238	+83	1.15	+0.18	3	3.60	-0.24	13	
Montpelier	45	83	66	-2	935	+62	334	+80	0.99	+0.29	3	4.74	+1.89	12	
Pownal	52	83	68	+0	1003	+105	376	+113	0.72	-0.19	3	3.51	-0.29	9	
Rochester	49	85	66	-1	895	+53	313	+76	0.45	-0.40	3	4.02	+0.65	12	
Rutland_AG	50	83	66	-5	991	-182	368	-77	0.93	+0.04	2	2.06	-1.35	9	
Sutton	45	81	63	-3	789	+87	248	+81	1.31	+0.35	2	5.25	+1.42	13	
Townshend Lake	53	87	70	-2	1094	+5	432	+35	0.59	-0.18	2	1.78	-1.13	8	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Ashburnham	52	85	69	+1	1125	+197	451	+161	0.73	-0.11	3	1.66	-1.70	9	
Boston	60	91	74	+0	1469	+155	694	+149	0.25	-0.38	3	2.21	-0.40	6	
Greenfield	48	93	73	+2	1280	+17	557	+49	0.29	-0.55	3	2.31	-1.08	9	
New Bedford	52	94	72	-3	1317	+20	551	+27	0.05	-0.63	1	1.00	-1.81	5	
Otis_AFB	54	91	71	+0	1203	+186	481	+128	0.06	-0.57	1	0.27	-2.36	5	
Plymouth	51	94	72	+0	1246	+177	530	+139	0.02	-0.75	2	0.23	-2.85	5	
Walpole	53	91	72	+2	1317	+193	588	+171	0.71	-0.06	3	1.57	-1.61	7	
Westover	55	91	75	+1	1466	+14	697	+62	0.68	-0.13	3	1.50	-1.93	10	
Worthington	49	87	69	+2	1030	+125	402	+136	3.44	+2.46	3	4.33	+0.53	8	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	58	95	75	+3	1475	+237	695	+198	0.07	-0.63	1	0.28	-2.59	5	
Woonsocket	54	91	72	+2	1316	+210	584	+190	0.40	-0.46	3	1.37	-2.22	8	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport	63	94	77	+3	1539	+214	736	+176	0.33	-0.53	1	1.46	-1.96	4	
Hartford_AP	57	94	76	+3	1554	+153	756	+147	1.32	+0.62	2	1.70	-1.29	7	
Norfolk	55	88	72	+5	1193	+284	499	+228	1.10	+0.19	2	2.77	-1.11	7	
Thomaston_Dam	54	95	74	+5	1351	+245	603	+211	0.33	-0.61	1	0.94	-2.73	5	
Willimantic	53	93	73	+4	1367	+247	618	+216	0.88	-0.10	2	1.49	-2.24	8	

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY
For the Week Ending Sunday, July 21, 2002

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.

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	41	90	65	-4	0.05	2.05
NH	37	91	66	-2	0.15	3.14
VT	38	90	66	-2	0.00	3.05
MA	46	94	71	+0	0.00	3.63
RI	54	95	72	+2	0.00	0.40
CT	53	95	74	+2	0.18	2.57

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

CONNECTICUT - Howard Rood (FSA), Fairfield/Litchfield:

Heavy rains fell Friday afternoon. There was some erosion on open fields and farm roadways. Most crops really needed the rain.

Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland: Very dry, all those who have irrigation are using it! Harvesting sweet corn, summer squash, cukes, blueberries and beans. Early field corn is tasseling and drying up in normally dry spots. Making second cut hay and silage. Some still working on first cut. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Orchards using trickle irrigation. Nice plump blueberries, early peaches. Corn is "pineapplying" in dry soils and hay fields are toasting, with no real rain in sight. **Nancy Welsh/Karen Lockman (FSA), New Haven:** Temps have been hot and humid. One afternoon of thunderstorms, rain was spotty. Areas in counties received a tenth of an inch to an inch and over. First peaches (clingstone) being harvested, along with green beans and cucumbers. We are still in drought conditions, still down twelve inches of rain. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Some corn was "pineapplying" due to dry conditions. Heavy rain on Friday night was needed. Wish it had come down slower.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook:

Potatoes: Growers applying fungicides, some foliar feeding being done. Most growers have completed final hilling. Minor insect problems. No reports of blight being found. Growth has pretty much caught up to previous years. All crops doing very well. Heavy rain showers have caused a few washouts. Some barley has lodged. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Farmers are applying fungicides and insecticides in amongst continuing showers. Some cultivation continuing. The crop is growing excellent. Some blossoms are appearing. The potato crop looks very good. **Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook:** Potato growers are behind on cultivation. Despite receiving lots of water, the crop looks good. Some corn borer activity has been reported. Grain crops also look good at this time. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Showers most days keeps farmers from getting dry hay into barns. Excellent year for raspberries. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Strawberries are just about finished being harvested. Raspberries and black raspberries are being picked, blueberries are ripening and should be ready to pick very soon. Corn in the fields looks good. Hay crop is very good this year. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Periodic thunderstorms have made harvesting dry hay a real challenge. Corn growth is still behind normal schedule. Strawberry harvest has been extended, with some fields still open for PYO. Sweet corn may hit the market this coming week. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Haying conditions with a good crop being reported. Blueberry raking begins next month. Uneven ripening of blueberries being observed due to inclement weather during pollination. Some areas getting showers frequently, others getting no rain at all. **David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild Blueberries: Fruit Flies beginning to be captured on traps and insecticides are being applied. Fruit is approximately 20% blue, but ripening is very uneven. Crop development is a week or more behind normal. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** What a week! It was one of those weeks where we office folks wouldn't mind helping out in the fields (as long as we could have some breaks and lemonade readily available). Most all crops are doing great and are on schedule. Some of the first sweet corn has been harvested and found its way to the consumer's plate. Apples appear to be in good shape and good supply. The market garden stands are doing great business (there's nothing like fresh from your neighbor's fields). Two silage corn producers reported hail damage. One got hit especially hard with the corn shredded down to the ground in places. The weather has allowed most producers to do all the fieldwork they could accomplish in the daylight hours. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Excellent week for haying. Some second crop hay has been harvested. A few showers during the week and at night were welcomed, but we could use more. **Laura Rand/Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County producers are irrigating their crops because the soil is so dry. Farmers are still harvesting first cut hay and some are starting on second cut hay. Strawberries are still being harvested. Market

garden producers are concerned with the ongoing drought, as the rain we have received to date is not sufficient.

MASSACHUSETTS - Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester:

The rain was a welcomed sight last week. Crops that are being harvested include cucumbers, spinach, summer squash, zucchini, broccoli and some cabbage. All crops continuing to grow through this heat and humidity. Fairly normal rate of growth for most crops for this time of year. Overall, it's looking like a good crop year. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Only spotty blossoms remain. Fruit has set up well, but irrigation is a constant, every 3-4 days. Only rain will sufficiently size up the fruit and this is the critical time for sizing. There may be small berries at harvest otherwise; frustrating, if you are a farmer. Applications of Avaunt still going on for cranberry weevil. Fruit rot showing up in some locations. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Hot, muggy weather continues to push crops. Rain on Thursday and Friday gave non-irrigated fields their first taste of water in a month. Shade tobacco growers have started their first picking this week. Mechanical cucumber harvesting also started this week and the crop looks very good. Some silage and grain corn fields are beginning to tassel this week. Roadside stands have been busy selling sweet corn and tomatoes. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Very dry for the beginning of the week. Then we had a million dollar rain which saved all the crops. Started harvesting broadleaf tobacco, topping continues. All summer crops are in season with good supply. Growers are always busy cultivating, fertilizing, and scouting for pests and diseases. Japanese beetles are active. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Harvesting squash, eggplant, cucumbers, tomatoes, beans. Thunderstorms brought much needed water here; however, they were widely scattered and even farms on the other side of town did not receive rain. Finished renovating strawberry field. Mowing around fields and roto-tilling between plastic were major activities this week. Farm stand sales excellent with corn leading the way. Perennials still very strong during the week, annuals just about finished. Picking my own corn this coming weekend.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap:

Blueberry and raspberry harvests in full swing. Strawberries are finished and renovation has begun. Drought stress is apparent in some strawberry and blueberry plantings. Several vegetable crops are ready for picking. Pepper harvest just started. Second cut hay still happening. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Dry, sunny weather has allowed many to perform field operations throughout the week. Silage corn is growing well, though the lack of significant rainfall has caused some isolated dry spots in certain fields. Hay crop regrowth for second or third cuttings is still fairly strong, and harvests are progressing well. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Frequent thunderstorms/showers make it a difficult year to put up dry hay, seems to be the wettest July in recent memory. Corn starting to put on noticeable growth, tasseling being seen. Topdress nitrate fertilizing should be completed. Strawberries now available. Peas, greens at stands, although a slow year for vegetable growers. Beekeepers seeing very good bee activity as honey sippers are being well filled. Scab noticeable in low managed apples. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Early corn has grown tremendously over the past week to 10 days. Sufficient moisture for corn and grass. Third cut is growing rapidly. No sign of significant insect feeding at this point. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Field Crops: Hay cutting continued at a rapid pace during the week with both the first and second cuts being made. Most of the first cutting is only good for mulch hay. Vegetables: Growers are irrigating fields!! Harvesting an array of vegetables: beets, broccoli, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, peas, potatoes, radishes, snap beans, summer squash and other vegetables. Sweet corn harvest began. Farmers kept busy cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures, and spraying pesticides for insects and diseases, if needed. Starting to see potato leaf hoppers building up in numbers and Asiatic Garden Beetle has appeared. Fruit: Orchardists began harvesting first peaches. Blueberry and raspberry harvests

continued. Blueberry fruit size is excellent. Strawberry growers finishing renovating beds and irrigating them. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, spraying if needed, and mowing orchard floors. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Isolated hail storm on Monday and some rain on Friday evening. Excellent blueberry crops. Harvesting an array of vegetables including sweet corn, potatoes. Renovating strawberry beds. Irrigating vegetable fields. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** A couple of days of quick rain storms helped to water all crops. Third cutting of haylage is coming along nicely. Silage corn is starting to tassel and is looking good. Sweet corn is beginning to be harvested and first signs are a good crop. Strawberry picking is over for this year. Mixed reviews with regard to yields. Most raspberries are mature and are being harvested. Crop looks good. Other vegetables are coming along nicely and will be harvested soon. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** The week was very dry and hot. Fruit and vegetable growers were busy irrigating their crops because of lack of precipitation. Growers were also busy monitoring for pests and diseases and spraying when needed. Harvesting of strawberries is over. Growers are busy harvesting raspberries and vegetables. Harvesting of high bush blueberries has just started. Greenhouse and garden centers are winding down their annual plant season and doing more with perennials and woody ornamentals.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Hot, dry & windy is the name of the game. Irrigation pipes, wheels and trickle tubes are out in force. Cabbage planted, spraying potatoes, corn, pumpkins and summer crops. Trying to keep cultivation down to stop the dust from blowing. Lots of haying being done, pasture looks tired. **Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** Rhode Island sweet corn is available at farm stands. Summer squashes and herbs are also in great supply. Salad vegetables have been good sellers during this hot weather! Lack of rain is still a problem for those without irrigation. Drought conditions are apparent throughout the state. Picking, grading, packing and selling are

keeping producers busy at this time. One producer has reported silage corn "burned up" in the field.

VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille: Overall a very nice week for fieldwork. Farmers were able to dry grass if they desired. Quite a few cornfields saw applications of nitrogen. First cut fields were seeing applications of manure. **Lynette Hamilton (FSA), Windham:** We received a half-inch of rain last Friday, but we need more. Corn is just starting to tassel and ear out. Late first cutting showing signs of drought. Blueberry and raspberry growers are having excellent crops. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Corn growth excellent, sidedress nitrogen response evident. Some corn land fallow due to wet soil at planting. Grass regrowth is very slow, alfalfa regrowth moderate. Very dry soils in the area. Pasture regrowth slow. New seeding alfalfa looks good, just late and fewer than normal. Summer seeding of hay fields starting. Manure spreading on hay land. **Richard Noel, Grand Isle/Franklin:** Franklin County field work all over the place! Second cut hay going in and manure being spread on some farms. First cut on a few farms still being done for baled hay. Some corn is tasseling and some is barely out of the ground. Some ground being seeded and some still fallow. Farmers have pretty much given up on corn. I've heard of some farmers going to Canada to buy standing corn for their silage needs. I think it's going to be a tough winter for some. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Cultivated and fertilized all vine crops. Sidedressed late corn with nitrogen. Started digging early potatoes for our stand. Still picking peas, started green beans and summer squash. Had to irrigate early corn and early potatoes. Corn will be later this year, last year started the 18th. Last week was dry, but yesterday gave us a beautiful, blessed half-inch of rain that will do a great job for entire garden. Chieftain potatoes a lovely picture in full bloom. Most all vegetables on market now. Have a good week.

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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