



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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Crop Weather

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For week ending 6/9/02

Wet Weather Continues to Delay Planting

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending June 9, 2002, there were 5.5 days suitable for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 0% very poor, 3% poor, 15% fair, 71% good, 11% excellent. Precipitation in New England has continued to delay planting of certain crops, as well as the making of dry hay. Cooler than normal temperatures have slowed growth in some crops. Frost and hail hit localized areas during the week. Major farm activities included: planting field corn, vegetables, sweet corn, tobacco, potatoes, oats and barley; harvesting strawberries, asparagus and rhubarb; cutting dry hay and chopping haylage; thinning fruit; picking rocks; applying fungicides, herbicides and insecticides.

FRUIT: Frost continues to be a concern to all fruit growers. Strawberry harvest has begun; the crop is close to ten percent harvested. Apples progressed to petal fall stage and orchardists applied thinning sprays last week where needed. Mummyberry disease is currently present and being treated in Maine wild blueberry fields. Massachusetts cranberries are beginning to bloom and growers are preparing to make fungicide applications.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Stage	Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
Apples	PF	Avg/B.Avg	Avg/B.Avg	Fair
Peaches	PF	B.Avg/Avg	Avg	Fair/Poor
Pears	PF	B.Avg/Avg	B.Avg/Avg	Fair/Poor
Blueberries				
Highbush	PF/FB	Avg	Avg	Good/Fair
Wild, ME	FB/PF	Avg	--	Fair/Good
Cranberries, MA	Bud/EB	Avg	--	Good
Strawberries	PF	Avg/B.Avg	Avg/B.Avg	Fair/Good

* PF = Petal Fall, FB = Full Bloom, EB = Early Bloom

VEGETABLES: The planting of sweet corn, tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, peppers and other vegetables continued last week. Some vegetable crops have been delayed for planting due to the cool, wet conditions. The earliest planted sweet corn is showing tassels. The harvest of asparagus and rhubarb continued last week.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	4	1	7
Short	10	14	8
Adequate	68	73	79
Surplus	18	12	6
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	7	5	8
Short	22	25	7
Adequate	65	68	81
Surplus	6	2	4

FIELD CROPS: Farmers had to delay harvesting hay last week due to the moisture-laden fields. The planting of potatoes, oats and barley in Maine is almost complete and the three crops are looking good. Potato planting in Massachusetts has nearly come to a close, as well. Farmers took advantage of the dry days last week to progress with field corn planting. Tobacco continued to be transplanted in the Connecticut River Valley; shade tobacco is just about complete in Massachusetts.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2002	2001	5-yr Avg	Percent Emerged	Condition
-- Percent Planted --					
Barley, ME	99	100	99	80	Good
Oats, ME	99	100	99	75	Good
Potatoes					
Maine	99	99	95	10	Good
Mass	99	100	100	70	Good
Rhode Isl	100	100	99	90	Excellent/Good
Silage Corn	85	95	90	60	Fair/Good
Sweet Corn	75	85	75	55	Good/Fair
Tobacco					
Shade	80	95	95	--	Good
Broadleaf	50	55	55	--	Good/Fair
Dry Hay	-- Percent Harvested --				
First Cut	35	30	35	--	Good

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 9, 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	39	68	55	-7	259	-20	40	+0	0.74	-0.04	4	3.38	+0.08	12	
Bangor	34	70	55	-6	208	-20	20	-5	1.22	+0.43	4	2.90	-0.30	11	
Bethel	34	72	53	-8	227	-15	36	+6	0.64	-0.27	3	3.97	+0.52	11	
Caribou	32	67	51	-8	141	-34	21	+5	0.26	-0.38	4	2.66	-0.08	18	
Dover-Foxcroft	30	69	51	-9	117	-63	6	-9	0.21	-0.63	4	1.67	-1.61	11	
Frenchville	31	65	49	-9	109	-35	20	+15	0.47	-0.23	3	2.90	+0.07	17	
Houlton	29	69	51	-8	180	+1	28	+11	0.16	-0.61	3	2.89	-0.19	15	
Moosehead	30	70	50	-7	116	-4	6	+5	0.18	-0.71	2	3.35	+0.08	13	
Portland_ME	37	69	57	-4	253	+40	31	+15	1.54	+0.72	5	5.04	+1.86	12	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	33	76	54	-6	264	+7	67	+32	0.37	-0.52	4	4.02	+0.71	20	
Berlin_AG	33	77	53	-7	231	-5	41	+10	0.74	-0.20	3	4.55	+1.10	16	
Concord	33	77	58	-5	416	+112	133	+81	1.59	+0.88	4	5.13	+2.28	16	
Diamond_Pond	31	67	50	-7	119	+3	10	+10	1.49	+0.44	4	7.04	+3.17	17	
Keene_AP	34	75	59	-6	416	+26	127	+39	0.99	+0.15	4	5.03	+1.60	15	
North_Conway	36	74	56	-6	302	+31	72	+31	0.47	-0.45	5	4.20	+0.56	15	
Rochester	37	79	57	-6	372	+28	94	+27	1.63	+0.79	5	5.89	+2.49	14	
VERMONT															
Burlington_VT	37	74	59	-5	396	+38	128	+51	1.29	+0.52	2	4.55	+1.62	12	
Island_Pond	33	72	54	-5	218	+44	46	+28	1.11	+0.13	4	6.13	+2.48	20	
Montpelier	32	76	56	-4	308	+57	89	+53	1.14	+0.30	3	4.05	+0.89	17	
Pownal	39	80	57	-3	314	+48	80	+39	2.74	+1.65	3	9.79	+5.55	18	
Rochester	32	80	57	-3	266	+31	69	+37	0.47	-0.44	3	5.66	+1.83	15	
Rutland_AG	34	80	57	-8	314	-88	84	-13	1.15	+0.32	3	5.39	+2.14	14	
Sutton	32	69	52	-6	220	+48	46	+28	0.61	-0.37	3	5.80	+2.23	17	
Townshend_Lake	37	80	58	-6	364	+30	98	+31	1.64	+0.87	3	6.29	+3.16	15	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Ashburnham	38	72	57	-4	377	+122	94	+61	1.95	+1.12	4	6.57	+3.31	15	
Boston	47	76	62	-4	535	+107	158	+75	1.65	+0.90	4	6.00	+3.12	12	
Greenfield	41	74	59	-6	439	+10	117	+21	2.64	+1.73	4	8.18	+4.58	19	
New_Bedford	43	78	60	-6	473	+50	115	+37	2.36	+1.50	4	7.85	+4.51	12	
Otis_AFB	41	73	58	-4	395	+126	78	+45	2.52	+1.75	4	6.13	+2.89	11	
Plymouth	39	76	58	-5	423	+127	107	+64	2.26	+1.42	5	7.24	+3.79	15	
Walpole	38	78	58	-5	471	+126	139	+78	2.23	+1.39	4	7.73	+4.56	15	
Westover	43	75	62	-5	555	+23	192	+55	2.03	+1.05	4	6.03	+2.22	17	
Worthington	34	79	56	-5	328	+65	88	+51	2.24	+1.33	4	8.90	+4.91	19	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	45	78	61	-4	516	+131	145	+75	2.25	+1.46	4	6.66	+3.38	14	
Woonsocket	38	76	59	-5	474	+134	140	+88	2.64	+1.71	3	7.57	+3.91	12	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport	49	79	64	-2	536	+93	148	+44	2.26	+1.43	4	6.63	+3.19	12	
Hartford_AP	42	78	62	-4	594	+96	209	+80	2.45	+1.54	4	7.27	+3.54	15	
Norfolk	42	79	60	+0	403	+145	113	+79	3.27	+2.18	4	7.75	+3.54	14	
Thomaston_Dam	39	82	60	-3	479	+119	147	+79	2.69	+1.71	4	7.60	+3.68	15	
Willimantic	40	75	60	-4	503	+140	161	+94	1.84	+0.95	4	6.48	+2.81	15	

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY
For the Week Ending Sunday, June 9, 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.

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State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	27	76	53	-7	0.00	1.67
NH	16	80	55	-6	0.24	2.71
VT	27	85	56	-5	0.30	3.06
MA	34	79	59	-5	1.34	3.16
RI	38	78	60	-4	1.70	2.64
CT	38	82	61	-4	1.84	3.35

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 - Howard Rood (FSA), Fairfield/Litchfield: It has been a rainy week. Some fields are too wet to work. Heavy rains at the end of the week caused erosion problems in some steep fields and farm roads. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** The first week of June saw continued showers and rain totaling 2.4 inches in the Hartford area. Field corn planting and chopping of grass continued. Planting of tobacco and sweet corn continued; however, after Thursday's rain most everyone was waiting for fields to dry out. Earliest sweet corn showing tassels. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Wet and cold. Time for sunshine. Hay delayed, finishing corn planting delayed, planting vegetables delayed. **Nancy Welsh/Karen Lockman (FSA), New Haven:** Weather is warming up. Corn is three leaves. Bedding plants and strawberries are selling. Strawberries are small but sweet and quantities are limited. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Alfalfa is ready to harvest. Orchard grass reaching the mature stage. Weeds are at all stages - growing strong, where not tilled. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Making haylage and cutting dried hay is difficult with so many showers around. Finishing up corn planting delayed by rains, wet fields and grass harvest. Pre-sidedress nitrate testing of corn is starting on early fields.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potato planting just about finished, growers finishing up planting small grains, applying herbicides, picking rocks, etc. Growing conditions have been good, potatoes beginning to emerge. Small grains look good, also. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Farmers are finishing up planting grains and potatoes. It would be great if the sun would shine more than one day and the showers would cease up a bit. Some potato plants are just beginning to emerge. **Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: There have been wireworms found in the area. It has been cool, but the crops are growing well. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Frost in the low areas on Tuesday (6/4). Weather remained cool. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Cool temperatures have delayed crop growth. Frost Tuesday morning (6/4) caused some blossom damage to strawberries that were in full bloom. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** The warm weekend and the rain helped. Producers are chopping their first crop of grass silage. Corn is slowly breaking ground and strawberries should be ready in a couple of weeks. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Periodic rains have slowed first cutting harvest. Producers who harvested early are seeing the second cutting come back quick and heavy. Some frosts early last week have caused problems with many crops. Cool weather continues. Some hail last night. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Some grass is now being cut. Herbicide now being applied to crop fields. Growing conditions appear to be normal for most crops. It appears blueberry harvest could be delayed by one week, but this could change pending future weather conditions. Reports of frost in some areas. It was another good week for field work. **David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild Blueberries: Primary blight symptoms of mummyberry disease wide-spread, secondary infection occurring. Some applications being made for secondary infection. Spanworm infestation done, now seeing some flea beetle and thrips. Some frost conditions occurred in low areas of fields but since plant development is delayed in those areas, little damage is expected. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** What a great week! The corn went in the ground at a record rate. The grass has been flying into the wagons and into the silos. The weather has been good; we still need some warmer weather. Come on, I've been talking to farmers. It can't be perfect. The weatherman is telling us that rain is on the way. Oh well! **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Haylage harvest is in full swing, corn is emerging and gardens are showing plants. There was another frost last week, we need heat. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** The soil has finally warmed up and plants are beginning to grow. The grasses are doing real well. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Wish this weather would warm up! The week remained cool and windy, plants emerging everywhere. Mid-week received frost in some areas. Producers busy tying up planting activities and cutting haylage. A little warmer days and nights will go a long way in making things grow!

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Finishing up corn planting, but not all done. No report of dry hay yet, just baleage and silage. Another rainy week with over three inches of rain. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** Heavy rains curtailed most field work at the end of last week, but the rainfall for the year is near normal. Soil moisture is ideal; however, ground temperatures are a bit cool and all plants are 10 days to two weeks behind. Cranberry bogs are just starting to move into bloom, reservoirs are full and conditions are near perfect. Some concern with insect pressure. Growers will be applying their first fungicide spray

and will continue to apply insecticide to control fireworm and cranberry weevil. Hay producers are having a difficult time making good hay because of the showers, but there is excellent production. **Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester:** Harvesting strawberries and asparagus. Applying herbicide on corn and insecticide on strawberries. Things are looking positive now. April was a dry month, but May and June brought more rain and soil conditions are very good at present. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Open blossoms in the early varieties; first fruit rot fungicide sprays will be applied this coming week. Many growers treated for insecticide-resistant cranberry weevils with great success. Except for black-headed fireworm, insects have been less problematic than had been expected, but things could change overnight. Beds look good overall, although perennial weeds are getting a good growth phase. More than ample rain last week. No reports of hail anywhere. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Heavy rain last week slowed field work. Strawberry harvest has begun. Earlier in the week some hay was made. Rhubarb and asparagus still being harvested. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** More wild weather this week in Franklin County, everything from tornado warnings to heavy soaking rains. The rain and poor field conditions are slowing crops that are already behind schedule. Many of the fruit crops are showing signs of frost or freeze damage. Early strawberries are small and mis-shaped. One consolation has been the hay crop, which has grown tremendously during the past two weeks. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** A very cool, wet week for farm activities. Crops need more heat and sunlight. Fields are saturated from the three inches of rainfall. Harvesting asparagus and rhubarb. Potatoes and silage corn 100% planted. Early potatoes are being hilled up. Fruit growers are applying fungicide sprays. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Transplanted summer crops look real good. Another great weekend for plant sales at farm stands. Wet weather stopped first cut haying operations and the next week's forecast doesn't help. Hosting Ren Faire at this farm for this past weekend and next. Good turnout. Finishing up corn planting and fall crop transplanting this week.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Bruce Clement (Ext), Cheshire: Heavy thundershowers (some with "strobe" lighting) during the week added to excess moisture situation. Cool weather also holding back crops. We need lots of heat if corn is to be "knee high by the 4th of July." Haylage and baleage making going on between showers. Some fields are now too wet to drive on. Some dry hay going in, but hay making is very difficult due to showers. Most fruits and vegetables growing slowly, at least two weeks behind. Greenhouse sales behind usual for most operations. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Good weather week for field work, although frost still a threat. Seeing strawberry growers paying attention to irrigation early this week. Most field corn now planted and emerged; however, delays have left a few fields still unplanted. Haylage being harvested, looks like a good crop. Also appears to be more dandelions and other weeds in some meadows. Spraying for apple/plum curculio. Early vegetables starting to show some signs of growth. Christmas trees being fertilized. Seeing Canada geese in corn fields - investigated one farm reporting problem because large flock of 50 plus are clipping new growth but not pulling plants. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Difficult to dry hay with intermittent showers. Corn planting almost complete and much of the corn has emerged. Growing well. Still dry despite showers. Grass hay headed out. Regrowth on second cut looks good to excellent. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying sprays for pest control, if needed. Orchardists applying thinning sprays to apple orchards. Mowing orchard floor and weed spraying under trees. Harvested first strawberry fruit over the weekend. Field Crops: Planting and weed spraying corn fields. Farmers are continuing trying to make haylage and baled hay between rain showers. Vegetables: Transplanting tomato and pepper plants, and making successive planting vegetable crops. Harvesting asparagus and rhubarb. Cabbage seed maggot damage seen, striped cucumber beetles can be found in vine crops and asparagus beetles are all over asparagus. Weather: Evaluating damage caused by hail this past week in localized areas. Some concern one night about a possibility of frost had growers crop frost-sensitive crops like tomatoes. **David Seavey (Ext), Merrimack:** Rhubarb and asparagus harvested. Blueberries fertilized. Vegetables planted on well-drained soils. Established vegetables sidedressed. Some herbicide applications ineffective. Orchards spraying for apple scab and plum curculio. Some pasture and hayland seedings on well-drained soils. Delayed planting of pumpkins and squash on upland soils due to wet conditions. Growth very slow on warm season vegetables due to cold temperatures. Frost injury reported on tomato and pepper transplants. Some hail damage, root rot on strawberries. Cold, wet weather has slowed growth of most crops. The blueberry

crop looks good on sites that escaped the earlier frost. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** On and off rain making it difficult to get final corn and vegetable fields planted. Lots of haylage being harvested between rain showers. Strawberry fields looking good for picking soon. Some small areas were hit by frost a few weeks ago. First cut of baled hay also being done, again between rain storms. **Geoffery Njue (Ext), Strafford:** The week started off cold. Vegetable growers were worried about frost damage to the newly transplanted vegetable plants. Vegetable growers were using slitted row covers and floating rows covers to protect the plants from frost. Fruit growers were not sure of the fruit set due to cold nights. Most producers were busy making the first cut on their hay fields. Fruit growers were busy monitoring and spraying for plum curculio. Most of planted corn fields have germinated.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Rains and cool weather have put a damper on strawberry picking and haying. Field corn being planted, along with sweet corn. Planting vine crops and field work being done mid-week. Roadside stands still busy. Pastures look good. **Marilyn Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** Mother Nature caught some producers with their hay down this week. Spotty rain showers have been problematic. Violent lightening storms crossed the state mid-week at night. Reports of cows loose were received. Strawberry spot picking is underway. Peach set was much heavier than originally thought. Producers thinning fruit as needed. Sweet corn is up and rallying with the rain. Crops in general look pretty good at the moment. Roadside markets were busy with sunny weekend weather.

VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille: Improved weather conditions allowed corn planting to wind down and first cut to really get going. Custom herbicide applicators had a busy week. A light frost early in the week had vegetable growers very nervous. **Bill Snow (Ext), Orange:** Hay and haylage harvest in full swing. Rain during the week was on the light side; heavier rainfall occurred north and south of the center of the state. Hay crop yields seem to be variable. Corn planted in early May is same height as corn planted the third week of May. **Lynette Hamilton (FSA), Windham:** While the heifers were strolling up Main Street in Brattleboro, farmers were taking advantage of a few day of sunshine trying to get their first cut in. With the warmer weather the vegetable growers have reported that their crops are looking better. The cool weather didn't help them get the early start they wanted. **Richard Noel (FSA), Grand Isle/Franklin:** Aftermath of a wild week of weather in Franklin County still doesn't look too good. Fields are flooded in some areas, erosion and washouts have occurred and some corn not even planted as of yet! Farmers are trying to cut hay and are rutting up the fields something terrible. The extended forecast doesn't look that good, hope they're wrong! **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Plenty of sun and warmth, now comes the rain. Good start on first cut hay, seems like yields are lower than hoped for. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Peas looking good, starting to bud. Summer squash germination good. Green beans looking good, too, for this time of year. Asparagus cutting steady. 1.02 inches of rain. Small vegetable crops slow but beginning to grow. Radishes ready by weekend. Rhubarb doing great. All and all, market garden begins to show promise.

May 2002 Crop Weather Summary: Cool, damp weather conditions prevailed during the month of May, placing planting schedules behind normal, causing delayed bloom on fruit crops and slowing germination. As of mid-May, planting progress for most crops was behind last year and normal. The cool conditions forced growers to irrigate and protect from frost at many locations. Above average precipitation during May gave some relief to low soil moisture levels from drought conditions beginning last summer. This season's hay crop has a good chance of producing above average yields, if the saying, "A cold, wet May means a barn full of hay," holds true. Potato planting progress was at, or ahead, of the five-year average as of May 28 in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island, while Maine's progress trailed normal by ten percent. The potato crop was rated as good or better by month's end in all states. Growers were active planting field corn and sweet corn during the month, and progress had passed the halfway mark for both by the end of May. Shade tobacco transplanting was 20 percent complete as of May 28, and broadleaf growers had just begun to set out seedlings near month's end. A number of hard frosts that hit throughout the month caused localized damage to fruit crops, particularly peaches and pears. Below average temperatures during May were not conducive to good pollination. Cranberry plants remained in bud stage by month's end, and growers kept continually on the alert for frost. Maine's wild blueberry crop development was slightly behind schedule as of late May, due to delayed bloom.

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