



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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Crop Weather

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May 10, 2004 - 4 pm

For week ending 5/09/04

Breezy and Cool Conditions

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending May 9, 2004, there were 5.6 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated three percent very short, five percent short, 74 percent adequate, 18 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated three percent very short, four percent short, 81 percent adequate, 12 percent surplus. Pasture condition was rated as one percent very poor, eight percent poor, 37 percent fair, 43 percent good, 11 percent excellent. Temperatures were cool and breezy during the week with scattered showers mixed in throughout the six-State region. Light snow fell in some Northern New Hampshire and Vermont locations on Tuesday. Cooler temperatures hampered planting in some locations as soil temperatures haven't warmed up enough to begin planting. Major farm activities included: planting early vegetables, sweet corn, and potatoes; spreading manure; preparing seed beds for planting; applying fertilizer; disking, pruning, plowing and fixing fences.

FRUIT: Apples and peach development ranged from bud to early bloom, with northern areas still in dormant stage. There were some reports of winter injury to some peach buds. Pear development ranged from early bloom to full bloom stage with conditions reported as good. Strawberries were put under row cover to protect from frost. Growers were busy applying protective sprays on fruit trees. Herbicide applications were applied to wild blueberry fields as burning winds down. Cranberry growers finished first application of herbicides and were spreading fertilizer.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Stage	Condition
Apples	Bud/EB	Fair/Good
Peaches	Bud/EB	Fair/Poor
Pears	EB/FB	Good
Blueberries		
Highbush	Bud/EB	Fair/Good
Wild, ME	Bud	Good
Cranberries, MA	Bud	Fair/Poor
Strawberries	Dormant/Bud	Fair/Good

EB - Early Bloom, FB - Full Bloom

VEGETABLES: Early season vegetables such as cabbage, carrots, lettuce, potatoes, peas and radishes continued to be planted during the week. Asparagus, fiddleheads and rhubarb were harvested, and sweet corn under plastic and high tunnel tomatoes were doing well.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	3	2	1
Short	5	6	4
Adequate	74	70	81
Surplus	18	22	14
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	3	3	4
Short	4	4	5
Adequate	81	81	83
Surplus	12	12	8

FIELD CROPS: Pasture and hay fields continue to green as farmers lime and fertilize the fields. Rhode Island potato farmers remain at 25 percent planted, on schedule with last year but slightly behind the five year average. Massachusetts potato planting lags behind both last year and normal. Less than five percent of potatoes were planted in Maine but grain farmers made good planting progress during the week.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2004	2003	5-yr Avg	Condition
	-- Percent Planted --			
Barley, ME	15	0	20	Fair
Oats, ME	15	0	15	Fair
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	0	10	Fair
Mass	20	55	55	Fair
Rhode Isl	25	25	55	Good
Silage Corn	10	10	15	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	15	20	20	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Shade	0	0	0	--
Dry Hay				
First Cut	0	0	0	Good/Fair

For the Week Ending Sunday, May 9, 2004

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 INCHES		DFN DAYS	
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN	DAYS	
MAINE															
Augusta_State_A	34	75	52	+1	85	+45	14	+14	1.13	+0.22	2	3.62	+0.02	12	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	31	73	52	+3	70	+44	12	+12	1.13	+0.31	2	2.88	-0.27	12	
Bethel	28	77	49	-2	84	+55	24	+24	1.40	+0.58	4	4.09	+0.75	11	
Cari bou_Muni ci p	29	79	49	+2	62	+44	22	+22	0.82	+0.12	3	2.82	+0.36	12	
Dover-Foxcroft	29	81	51	+3	52	+34	11	+11	0.71	-0.13	2	2.97	-0.39	11	
Frenchville	27	77	47	+2	53	+44	18	+18	0.72	+0.02	3	2.88	+0.30	12	
Houl ton	25	78	50	+3	56	+38	14	+14	1.28	+0.55	2	3.44	+0.77	12	
Livermore_Falls	25	81	51	+3	83	+65	21	+21	1.44	+0.60	4	4.45	+0.90	11	
Moosehead	30	82	48	+4	50	+44	11	+11	0.84	+0.07	2	2.68	-0.30	12	
Portland_ME	33	77	53	+3	79	+56	6	+6	1.02	+0.17	2	3.84	+0.14	10	
NEW_HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	29	75	49	-2	95	+50	29	+29	1.47	+0.75	3	3.21	+0.48	11	
Berlin_AG	31	80	50	+2	93	+58	28	+28	2.23	+1.46	3	3.70	+0.49	12	
Concord	29	79	56	+5	184	+135	55	+55	1.05	+0.35	2	5.11	+2.31	10	
Diamond_Pond	25	77	48	+5	56	+46	7	+7	1.28	+0.44	6	3.61	+0.55	18	
Keene_AP	28	77	52	-3	137	+61	29	+22	0.65	-0.19	2	3.77	+0.62	8	
North_Conway	29	79	51	+0	103	+64	32	+32	1.27	+0.36	3	4.26	+0.45	12	
Rochester	30	80	54	+2	123	+63	35	+33	1.05	+0.14	1	5.20	+1.29	9	
VERMONT															
Burlington_Intl	29	79	51	-3	133	+65	44	+37	0.92	+0.22	5	2.31	-0.37	15	
Island_Pond	26	75	47	-1	67	+44	13	+13	0.89	+0.12	4	2.69	-0.07	17	
Montpelier	26	78	50	-1	112	+70	29	+29	0.62	-0.07	3	2.11	-0.35	16	
Pownal	29	72	47	-4	122	+75	27	+25	0.90	-0.11	4	4.40	+0.28	13	
Rochester	28	77	48	-3	94	+58	24	+24	0.60	-0.38	3	2.35	-1.37	13	
Rutland_AG	29	74	49	-6	107	+19	19	+8	0.64	-0.12	3	2.08	-0.67	13	
Sutton	25	74	46	-2	64	+45	19	+19	0.79	+0.02	5	3.10	+0.22	19	
Townshend_Lake	30	83	51	-2	111	+50	25	+21	0.60	-0.23	4	3.18	+0.04	14	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Ashburnham	35	79	53	+3	116	+80	23	+23	1.08	+0.31	4	5.38	+2.21	11	
Boston/Logan_In	40	84	58	+3	195	+104	58	+58	0.85	+0.08	3	5.45	+2.19	11	
Greenfield	31	79	52	-4	130	+40	23	+18	1.01	+0.17	4	5.41	+1.96	11	
New_Bedford	32	84	55	-1	119	+25	11	+11	0.62	-0.22	3	3.64	-0.01	12	
Otis_AFB	37	73	55	+4	89	+51	7	+7	1.08	+0.23	2	3.91	+0.33	10	
Plymouth	30	85	55	+4	122	+78	19	+19	0.66	-0.27	3	3.97	+0.07	12	
Walpole	34	85	57	+4	166	+102	33	+33	1.00	+0.20	3	6.61	+2.91	12	
Chillicoet/Westov	32	82	55	-3	197	+58	52	+41	0.98	+0.07	3	4.25	+0.61	11	
Worthington	28	76	49	-2	100	+57	14	+14	0.74	-0.31	4	4.77	+0.76	13	
RHODE_ISLAND															
Providence	36	86	56	+2	162	+86	28	+28	0.96	+0.08	3	5.50	+1.79	11	
Woonsocket	33	85	56	+3	163	+103	39	+39	0.98	+0.04	2	6.73	+2.86	11	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	40	85	56	+2	156	+56	20	+13	0.69	-0.22	4	6.98	+3.37	13	
Hartford/Bradle	33	85	55	-2	194	+75	45	+34	0.86	-0.05	3	5.15	+1.51	11	
Norfolk	30	76	49	-3	120	+81	24	+24	0.52	-0.52	5	3.65	-0.54	13	
Norwich	36	83	55	-1	138	+35	11	+3	1.19	+0.14	3	8.66	+4.40	10	
Thomaston_Dam	30	82	54	+0	166	+92	31	+28	0.87	-0.18	4	5.33	+1.25	13	
Willimantic	32	84	55	+2	172	+101	34	+32	1.12	+0.14	3	7.02	+3.10	13	

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY
For the Week Ending Sunday, May 9, 2004

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	24	84	50	+2	0.16	1.63
NH	10	81	50	+0	0.65	2.23
VT	20	83	48	-3	0.36	2.13
MA	27	87	54	+1	0.50	1.10
RI	33	86	54	+1	0.06	0.98
CT	29	85	54	-1	0.52	1.19

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 - Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland: Showers off and on during the week did little to keep farmers from planting field corn, sweet corn, onions, potatoes, and turf/sod. Cool temperatures hampered crop development and sunshine was hard pressed to stay out two days in a row. Apples nearing full bloom. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Fields are still wet with producers commenting that they have never seen the fields this wet this late in the season. Producers who were hoping to begin first cutting are finding the fields still too wet. The warm weather predicted this week will bring tasks closer to normal. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Glorious sunshine but a bit cool, corn seeds are not ready to go into the cold crop beds, manure spreading continues, picking up debris in fields from storms and thoughtless people. Fruit trees are showing their commitment to a new year of production. Early bedding plants enticing garden work. **Karen Vozarik (FSA), New Haven:** Rain has been steady, plants are selling, hay is growing, fields are being cultivated. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Spreading manure, planting corn and getting hay equipment ready. Sweet corn under row covers ready for nitrate testing. Many fields still too wet to work.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Some field work began during the week but limited primarily to seeding small grains. Very few potatoes planted. Ground temperatures remain too cold for proper germination of seed. Some rock picking and tillage being done. A couple of heavy morning frosts slowed down soil warming. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Farms are getting some grain in and a few potatoes started last week. Field conditions are pretty good. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Farmers are spreading manure, fencing, and tilling. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Manure spreading and tillage are the main farm activities this week. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Corn is being planted. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Warm dry weather with lots of drying winds have allowed a lot of field work. Corn is being planted and field prep continues. Several frosts last week. Major winter injury is now apparent in Alfalfa fields throughout the state, with some fields with 75-80 percent kill. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Herbicide application has begun on blueberry fields as burning winds down. Fungicide application for mummyberry underway. Possible damage to this years crop from extreme cold and lack of snow cover. Shrubs, seedlings and flowers for sale at roadside stands and green houses. Black flies are out! **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** The week turned out to be fair weather, a few days even very warm. Producers were busy in the fields spreading manure and preparing the land for planting. **Jill Littlefield (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Cool damp weather slowed field work a bit. Farmers market open this week. Green houses had a busy week. Peas made it into the ground this week. Some producers had a hard frost with the full moon. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Conditions are excellent for land preparation planting. Grass is growing well. Psst... brook trout are biting in ponds!!! **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Green houses are up and going. Mother's Day was a big opening event for most greenhouses. Oats and potatoes are being planted. Conditions are cool, at times damp, and the woods are dry. Livestock producers are spreading manure and crop producers are preparing fields for planting.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Manure is being spread and plowing or chiseling and some crops being planted. Nearly everybody is planting sweet corn, some under plastic. Still some vernal pools. Cool air with breeze. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** Cool weather continues. Planting is going very slow. Crops that are planted are starting to emerge. Cranberry growers have finished their first herbicide application and are spreading fertilizer for the bloom. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Planting continues. A couple of warm days last week allowed more fields to dry out enough to be worked. Sweet corn under plastic looks good at this time. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Temperatures in the low 30's on Tuesday morning

prompted producers to break out the irrigation equipment early this season! This was especially true with strawberries under remay row cover. Variable temperatures and soggy field conditions have kept tractors idling this week. Alfalfa and peach producers are reporting severe winter kill damage. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** It was a rainy week but well needed. This rain caused a delay in planting potatoes, cabbage and sweet corn. Asparagus, rhubarb, spinach and fiddleheads were being harvested. Sweet corn under plastic up five to six inches and looks good. Orchardists were applying a fungicide spray, fertilizing and mowing under trees. Farm stands opened for Mother's Day and business was very good selling flowers, shrubs, and early harvested vegetables. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Another difficult week as we struggled to plow fields and fit plastic. Soil really heavy and cool temps slowed us down. No corn up yet. Green houses look great with flowers. Best Mother's Day on record as consumers purchased everything in bloom, despite rain on Sunday.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Sunny spring weather contributed to brisk garden center sales over the weekend. Cold tolerant vegetable crops are planted or soon to be. Fields are being prepped for vegetable transplanting. Fruit growers are watching the weather and spraying fungicides and insecticides. Pastures are green. We are in need of rain. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Rain early in the week, warm and pleasant the rest of the week. Fertilizing, manure spreading, planting prep work continues where possible. Poorly drained fields are still too wet to do much with. Blueberries showing some winter damage up to 15 percent in places. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Generally sunny but cool weather - a little rain and a couple of frosts over the week. Many farms finishing with manure applications, continuing field prep. A couple farms have started planting corn, with a lot of ground ready to go this week. Grass and alfalfa is growing strong. Vegetable operations continue planting and putting out transplants for cole crops, etc. Orchards and berry operations seem to be doing well. Green houses doing a brisk business. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Fertilizer and manure spreading on meadows. Corn fields continue to be prepared for planting although appear somewhat delayed by cold wet weather. Many fields yet to be worked up. Garden centers open up for Mother's Day with nice sunny conditions although hard freezes the night before and during the week make plant displays a challenge. Orchard grass a foot or more tall now, dandelions about in full bloom, a welcome sight for beekeepers. Dog ticks being picked up in noticeable numbers. More cattle and livestock now on pasture. Snow! Early this week, two to eight inches or so depending on county location. Rivers and streams running well. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Field preparation and corn planting continues. Hay growing slowly. Cool temperatures have limited crop growth. Soil temperatures still cool (less than 50 degrees) especially on wetter soils. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Planting is in full swing. Top soil moisture conditions are just right. The ground is dry enough to work without any problems. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruits: Made sure bees were in apple orchards beginning of week. Plum were at petal fall beginning of the week. Peach full bloom during beginning of week and petal fall at mid-week. Apples and pear were in full bloom. Planting fruit trees. Fertilizing orchards. Protective fungicide sprays applied on fruit trees. Field Crops: Farmers are liming and fertilizing hayfields; spreading manure, plowing, discing, fertilizing and planting corn. Vegetables: Continue early season vegetables (peas, lettuce, greens) planting, along with sweet corn and potatoes. High tunnel tomatoes looking good. Liming, fertilizing, discing and getting ready to plant fields. Laying plastic mulch and drip irrigation tape. Harvesting asparagus. **John Porter (Ext), Merrimack:** Corn planting is well underway. Some delay in planting due to earlier wet conditions on upland soils. A lot of land is tilled and ready for planting. About 20 percent of the acreage is planted. Pastures are doing very well. Rotational grazing was started by April 30. Blueberry growers concerned about this year's crop due to winter damage. They are bringing in bees to maximize pollination. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Great sunny days with midweek rain and almost freezing

temperature. Continue on planting early vegetables and small fruits. Fertilizing small fruits, tree fruits and hay fields. Covering strawberries with straw or overhead irrigation in anticipation of the cold temperature. Garden centers busy selling pansies, bedding plants and nursery stock, etc... **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** A dry week to allow continuing field work to be completed. Silage corn planting progressing daily with many farms reporting close to 50 percent of their fields planted. Small amount of winter kill on alfalfa fields with most of the fields up and close to being cut for the first time. Spraying of fields is ongoing with first round of spraying in orchards winding down. Evidence of minor winter kill on some flowering shrubs as well as some blueberry bushes. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** This was a good week to work the farm. Although there were some partly cloudy days and a few showers, it was a good week. Farmers were busy preparing the fields for planting. Some vegetable growers still transplanting tomatoes into high tunnels. Hay fields greening nicely. Fruit growers applying protective sprays on fruit trees. Winter injury on most peach buds. Those that are still alive blooming nicely. Some limited winter damage on young apple trees. In general apples, blueberries and strawberries are looking great. Greenhouses and nurseries are full of bedding plants and perennials. Sales are picking up and most had good mothers day weekend sales.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Cool, breezy and some rain was the order of the week. Field work for field and sweet corn, planting potatoes and cole crops. Greenhouse work is very busy. Roadside stands were booming for Mother's Day weekend.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: A generally cool week with a trace of snow slowed the overall pace of fieldwork. Dry conditions were helpful to prepare for planting.

Manure spreading kept many very busy. Observed a dairy herd turned out to pasture for the first time. They were acting very frisky and glad it is spring!! Of course they were Jerseys. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Farmers spent the week spreading manure and tilling corn fields. Some grass seed has been sowed. Pastures are growing well and I have seen some young stock turned out to pasture. **Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** In the past week farmers have been planting some corn, but most of them report the ground temperature is still low. Apple producers have been dealing with below freezing temperatures in early morning this past week. Some winter kill to blueberries to what extent is to be seen. Alfalfa that survived the winter looks excellent. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Started planting field corn, newly seeded hay fields. Good soil conditions for primary and secondary tillage. Weed control spraying. Fertilizer and manure applications to hay land and corn fields. Cows turned out at last. Some alfalfa kill, mostly looks good and vigorous. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** A cooler week than last week. Measurable snow on Tuesday. Spreading manure, preparing corn ground. I have seen one herd of cows out on grass, there was not a lot of feed there. Still need warmer temperatures and rain. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Field work continues....mostly manure spreading and some tillage. Very little corn being planted. Some new seedings being planted. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Plowing under nice crop of Winter rye before planting. Spraying early corn fields for weed control. Keep planting sweet corn and peas each week. Started planting early potatoes. Ground in good shape. 0.748 ins. rainfall for week. Real warm weather early in week woke up the asparagus and we have started cutting, earliest cutting for some time. Peas and small vegetable crops beginning to show color and see the rows. Have a good growing week.

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