



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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Crop Weather

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For week ending 5/16/04

Planting Pace Picks Up

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending May 16, 2004, there were 6.1 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated two percent very short, seven percent short, 84% adequate, seven percent surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated two percent very short, four percent short, 89% adequate, five percent surplus. Pasture condition was rated as 18% fair, 63% good, 19% excellent. Temperatures during the week were warm and mild which allowed growers to make significant progress with crop plantings. Many locations reported adequate precipitation levels which aided planting activities. Garden center sales have been brisk. Farmers kept busy during the week planting early vegetables, sweet corn, and potatoes; spreading manure; applying fertilizer; disking, pruning, plowing and fixing fences, and turning livestock out to pasture.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	2	3	2
Short	7	5	5
Adequate	84	74	75
Surplus	7	18	18
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	2	3	4
Short	4	4	6
Adequate	89	81	81
Surplus	5	12	9

FRUIT: The warmer conditions were favorable for fruit development. Apple development was in the bud stage in Maine, but in the other states, development ranged from early bloom to the petal fall stage from North to South. Peach and pear development ranged from full bloom to petal fall across the six State region. Fruit growers continued with protective sprays on fruit trees. Burning and mowing continued in wild blueberry fields. Fungicides were sprayed to protect against Mummyberry disease. Cranberry bogs have experienced some winter kill however vines are reported in good shape. Growers applied insecticides for fireworm and cranberry weevil.

FIELD CROPS: Pasture and hay fields continue to green as farmers lime and fertilize the fields. Planting conditions were favorable for farmers during the week. Silage corn planting advanced to 35 percent, 15 percent ahead of last year and five percent above the five year average. Five percent of the crop has already emerged. Massachusetts and Rhode Island potato farmers made significant gains and have planted 85 percent of the crop. The sunny weather helped warm soil temperatures in Maine as potato planting progressed to 25 percent, ahead of last year and only slightly behind the average.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

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

EB - Early Bloom, FB - Full Bloom, PF - Petal Fall

VEGETABLES: Early season vegetable plantings continued. Sweet corn plantings advanced to 25 percent with 10 percent of the crop emerged. Green house and high tunnel tomatoes continue to do well and asparagus and radishes were harvested during the week.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2004	2003	5-yr Avg	Percent Emerged	Condition
	-- Percent Planted --				
Barley, ME	60	10	40	--	Good
Oats, ME	60	10	35	--	Good
Potatoes					
Maine	25	5	30	--	Good
Mass	85	75	70	25	Good
Rhode Isl	85	65	80	--	Good
Silage Corn	35	20	30	5	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	25	30	30	10	Good/Fair
Tobacco					
Shade	10	25	10	--	Good/Fair
Dry Hay					
First Cut	0	0	0	--	Good

For the Week Ending Sunday, May 16, 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		DFN	DAYS
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN		
MAINE															
Augusta_State_A	40	85	59	+5	148	+74	30	+29	0.68	-0.16	3	2.51	-1.06	12	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	36	85	57	+5	123	+72	23	+23	1.12	+0.28	3	2.66	-0.56	11	
Bethel	38	89	59	+7	150	+93	39	+39	0.48	-0.33	2	2.53	-0.78	10	
Cari bou_Muni ci p	27	84	52	+3	89	+53	26	+26	0.16	-0.54	3	2.11	-0.49	12	
Dover-Foxcroft	30	84	52	+2	80	+43	16	+16	0.62	-0.15	4	2.05	-1.24	11	
Frenchville	29	81	50	+2	74	+52	18	+18	0.43	-0.27	4	2.09	-0.60	13	
Houlton	24	86	53	+4	91	+55	20	+20	0.22	-0.55	3	2.59	-0.24	11	
Livermore_Falls	34	91	59	+9	149	+112	38	+38	0.61	-0.23	2	2.63	-0.85	10	
Moosehead	27	86	52	+5	78	+62	16	+16	0.12	-0.65	4	1.50	-1.55	12	
Portland_ME	43	85	58	+6	134	+87	25	+25	0.78	-0.06	2	2.72	-0.84	9	
NEW_HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	40	83	62	+9	177	+101	53	+46	0.58	-0.19	1	2.86	-0.01	9	
Berlin_AG	37	87	60	+9	166	+105	48	+45	0.90	+0.13	1	3.82	+0.65	10	
Concord	41	90	64	+11	284	+197	96	+90	0.48	-0.22	2	3.27	+0.47	8	
Diamond_Pond	34	81	56	+10	105	+83	15	+15	0.37	-0.50	2	3.15	-0.08	16	
Keene_AP	43	86	64	+8	237	+110	69	+54	0.42	-0.42	2	2.58	-0.67	8	
North_Conway	41	90	62	+9	184	+113	60	+56	0.43	-0.48	1	2.53	-1.21	10	
Rochester	43	92	61	+6	201	+98	63	+54	0.67	-0.23	2	3.61	-0.17	7	
VERMONT															
Burlington_Intl	45	85	67	+12	252	+138	97	+83	0.54	-0.16	2	2.05	-0.70	14	
Island_Pond	34	82	59	+10	135	+93	33	+33	0.49	-0.33	3	2.34	-0.61	16	
Montpelier	37	84	63	+10	204	+131	64	+58	0.55	-0.17	3	1.84	-0.78	14	
Pownal	42	83	63	+11	217	+138	62	+53	0.80	-0.23	2	3.64	-0.50	12	
Rochester	39	85	62	+10	181	+117	54	+51	0.93	-0.05	3	2.24	-1.59	12	
Rutland_AG	40	84	62	+6	195	+55	48	+26	1.41	+0.64	3	2.91	+0.02	12	
Sutton	39	82	60	+11	134	+96	36	+36	0.36	-0.43	3	2.61	-0.36	18	
Townshend_Lake	33	87	63	+8	203	+101	59	+48	0.78	-0.06	4	2.39	-0.82	14	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Ashburnham	44	87	63	+11	211	+144	58	+58	0.62	-0.15	3	3.55	+0.38	11	
Boston/Logan_In	46	89	64	+7	293	+149	100	+95	0.21	-0.53	2	3.28	+0.12	10	
Greenfield	46	89	65	+8	238	+93	69	+56	0.79	-0.06	3	3.74	+0.28	11	
New_Bedford	38	85	62	+5	208	+61	44	+38	0.08	-0.76	1	1.90	-1.61	9	
Otis_AFB	41	84	61	+7	166	+97	35	+35	0.10	-0.74	1	2.54	-0.97	8	
Plymouth	39	86	61	+7	206	+128	52	+52	0.29	-0.62	3	2.25	-1.55	12	
Walpole	42	89	63	+8	258	+151	70	+65	0.51	-0.26	3	3.91	+0.47	11	
Chillicoet/Westov	45	88	68	+9	322	+115	115	+90	0.44	-0.47	4	2.56	-1.08	11	
Worthington	39	86	63	+10	193	+119	45	+41	0.35	-0.70	3	3.17	-0.95	13	
RHODE_ISLAND															
Providence	44	87	64	+9	265	+142	70	+67	0.08	-0.76	1	2.68	-0.89	9	
Woonsocket	42	88	63	+8	258	+155	76	+74	0.49	-0.42	2	3.51	-0.29	9	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport/Siko	50	83	65	+7	259	+103	59	+42	0.46	-0.45	5	3.16	-0.48	14	
Hartford/Bradlee	44	90	67	+9	317	+134	106	+82	0.56	-0.40	3	3.10	-0.59	10	
Norfolk	43	83	63	+11	216	+146	59	+57	0.37	-0.63	3	2.48	-1.66	13	
Thomaston_Dam	45	90	68	+12	293	+174	92	+82	0.51	-0.49	3	2.96	-1.14	12	
Willimantic	44	88	66	+11	288	+171	88	+79	0.16	-0.82	2	3.32	-0.60	11	

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY
For the Week Ending Sunday, May 16, 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	23	92	55	+4	1.10	1.12
NH	28	92	61	+9	0.14	1.23
VT	32	88	62	+9	0.20	1.41
MA	38	91	63	+8	0.06	1.35
RI	42	88	63	+8	0.08	0.49
CT	41	90	65	+9	0.00	0.56

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: Most farmers spent the week planting field corn. Some farmers have started chopping grass. Crops look good. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Planting of field corn continued at a fast pace. More planting of sweet corn and snap beans. Laying plastic mulch and drip irrigation for squash and pepper plants. A bit early for tomatoes. A heavy bloom for apples. Mowing grass for silage. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Busy planting silage corn, sweet corn and other vegetables. Beginning first cut of hay in the dryer fields. Greenhouse sales have been very good. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Petal fall on most fruits. No frost. Good moisture. Hot weather pushing things. Too early to tell on pollination. Peach crop light due to lack of buds. Still pruning, mowing, mulching blueberries. Getting ready to plant vegetables. Blueberries not in full bloom yet. Corn planting just beginning. Fields in good condition, not too wet, not too dry in most areas. **Karen Vozarik (FSA), New Haven:** Hay looks good. Warm and humid weather for the past week has brought up the silage corn. We have had showers during the night. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Orchard grass is in full flower. Timothy is showing a few flowers. Grass in general is short. Temperatures that jumped from late winter to mid summer seem to have hastened flowering at the expense of height for the grass. A number of fields are still too wet for corn to get planted. Grass harvest is also going to have to wait for ground to dry.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: This past week has been a beehive of activity with all growers in the fields; planting potatoes, small grains, etc. Lime being applied. Cool weather with gusty winds made it somewhat uncomfortable on open machinery. Soils, although somewhat cold, appear to be working up real well. No emergence of any crop as of yet. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Farmers are planting grains. Some field work has begun to plant potatoes. This past weekend soil temperatures are warmer because of the sunny weather. If this warm weather continues, farmers will be planting all week. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Producers are planting when weather is good. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Farmers are still spreading manure. Livestock are starting to graze. A lot of tilling is going on. A heavy shower Saturday seemed to bring out the wild cherry blossoms and some apple blossoms by Sunday. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Corn ground being limed and fertilized. Some corn is being planted. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Nice rain on Saturday night helped with the dry soil conditions. A lot of field work was done last week and the corn planters are out. Apples are blooming and the early strawberries are now flowering. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Bees have been set out on blueberry fields. Salad greens are available. Summer weather on Saturday was great news for flowering plant and vegetable seedling sales. An inch of rain Saturday night was a mixed blessing - some fields were getting dry, others hadn't dried out since spring. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Fields being pruned by mowing and burning. Crop fields being sprayed with Indar fungicide to protect them from Mummyberry disease. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** Greenhouses have been busy. Trees, shrubs and seedlings now available. Soil moisture is good. Farmers fixing pasture fences. Pastures not quite ready for grazing. Manure spreading continues. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Growing season is about five days ahead of schedule here. Peas are doing well. Sweet corn under plastic up four to five inches. Oats and Barley planted. Strawberries under special cover have berries setting already. Field conditions are excellent. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Grass is getting green and the soil is getting prepared for planting. Peas and sweet corn (under cover) are being planted. Many producers are mending fences after winter storms and spreading manure.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Everybody is planting field and sweet corn. Some spraying for weed control. Orchards are misting spray on the trees. Forage seeding is about all done. Crop conditions appear to be good. One

inch of rain Saturday night into Sunday morning. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** Conditions are greatly improved, weather was normal and growers got a lot of planting completed. Cranberry bogs have some winter kill but in general vines and buds are average. Growers are applying insecticides for fireworm and cranberry weevil. Growers also continue to apply fertilizer. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Growers are applying pre-emergence herbicides, first insecticides and fungicides (for root rot control). Several beds have exceeded thresholds for cranberry weevil, black-headed fireworm, and cutworm. Unfortunately, it looks like its going to be another bad year for insects. No frost nights this week. Winter injury still looks horrid on some beds. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** A great week for field work, a lot of planting being done. Tomatoes, peppers and eggplant all being planted now. Beets, beans and cucumbers all up and looking good. Apples, and strawberries in full bloom. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** It was a dry and very warm week. Everyone is planting. Growers are planting field corn, sweet corn, potatoes, cucumbers, winter squash, cabbage, etc. We are a week ahead of schedule in planting crops. Early potatoes are emerging and sweet corn under plastic is 10 to 12 inches tall. The seed onion crop looks good. Harvesting hay, spinach, asparagus and rhubarb. Orchardists are mowing and applying a fungicide spray. More rain is needed and some vegetable growers are irrigating already. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Great week for farm work. Fields being plowed and fitted. Herbicide on corn fields being applied. Corn planted May 2, finally up. Retail sales of flowers strong with consumers willing to pay slightly higher price for quality plants and products, than at "box" stores.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Farmers are very busy with field prep including liming, fertilizing, seeding, laying plastic, planting corn and transplanting. Fruit growers are monitoring pests, spraying, fertilizing and finishing up pruning winter damage out of blueberries. Hayfields and pastures are looking good. Garden center sales are brisk. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Plenty of warm sunshine all week - great conditions for field work. Corn planting preceding at a furious pace, some is just starting to emerge. Grass and pastures continue to look great, a couple of producers have started first cutting baleage. Orchard grass starting to head out. Vegetable growers continuing to lay plastic and put out transplants. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Corn planting has begun. Most fields now worked up for seeding. Manure fertilizer spreading continues throughout week. Nice weather for field work with some rain over weekend. Grass meadows now growing well, pastures looking good. Some winter damage being seen on blueberries. Garden centers doing an active trade. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn planting continues as weather permits. Some early planted corn is just emerging. Dry soils were helped by rain late in the week but wet soils are now too wet to work. Grass hay and pasture growing well. Alfalfa growing slowly. New seeds are emerging and added moisture should help. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruits: Peaches were in petal fall stage. Apples and pear were at full bloom at the beginning of week and petal fall by end of week. Some orchardists concerned about the hot weather that occurred during week, where bloom went by quickly and possibility of fire blight infection. Planting fruit trees, raspberries, blueberries and strawberries. Orchardists making sure to have protective fungicide sprays applied. Vegetables: Successive plantings of sweet corn and trying to finish potato planting. Growers were plowing, discing fertilizing and laying down plastic mulch and drip irrigation tape. Some growers are gambling by transplanting field tomatoes. Weed spraying on planted sweet corn fields. Harvesting asparagus on weekend. Field Crops: Farmers spreading manure, plowing, discing, fertilizing and planting corn on fields. Grasses and forage crops growing quickly. First hayfield being mowed. **John Porter (Ext), Merrimack:** Good conditions for planting corn. Farmers were waiting for the weekend rain to apply herbicides, because conditions have been too windy, dry, and dusty. New grass and alfalfa seeds are starting to look green. Mid May applications of

fertilizer on high bush blueberries should be timed around rain and stage of fruit development. Great rotational pasture conditions so far. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Busy week preparing and planting vegetable field. Picking rocks. Strawberries and raspberries are in full bloom and bees are active. Apples are mainly at petal fall stage. Spraying protective fungicides and insecticides for plum curculio in orchards. Mowing grass. Rain and thundershowers occurred on late Saturday afternoon. Pastures and hay fields look good. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** A good week for field work. Showers mainly coming in the evening. Some first cut of alfalfa has begun in the valley. Silage corn planting has been moving right along with good weather. First crop of dry hay looks to be good quality. Most vegetable gardens and fields have been planted and early vegetables have been emerging and look real healthy. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** In general it was a good week to work the fields. However, the weekend was overcast, rains and thunderstorm. Grass in hay fields and pastures is growing well. Farmers busy planting corn. Vegetable growers busy planting sweet corn and laying plastic mulch for other vegetable crops. Greenhouse and high tunnel tomatoes are growing very well. Fruit growers busy monitoring diseases and spraying protective sprays against scab. Greenhouses and garden centers continue to experience increased plant sales.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Lots of field activity. Planting sweet and field corn, planting potatoes, harvesting some lettuce and early vegetables, especially those under row cover. Spraying for insect and disease control on Christmas Trees. Roadside stands and garden centers are steamy

with activity, the weather is cool and sunny, great field weather. Catching up time. **Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** Bright sunny weather has the farmers out plowing and harrowing. The warm sunshine has brought fruit trees well into bloom and the maple trees are fully leafed out.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Many farmers worked hard at corn planting last week. Others are still spreading manure and preparing fields for planting. Warmer temperatures and a weekend rain was very beneficial for grass growth. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** It was a good week for planting corn. Top soil has dried enough to till and seed almost everywhere. Most cows and heifers are out on pasture now. First crop hay is growing well. **Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** This past week was hot dry and most of the corn is planted. Germination rate looks good with little insect damage. Sunday I saw my first haylage being cut for 2004. The local sweet corn producer reported that his corn is five to six leaves tall. Cutting spinach and harvesting radishes. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Planting corn, new seeding hay. Tilling soil for planting. Fertilizing hay fields, spray weed control on planted corn. Pasture growth good, Dandelions and Lilacs in full bloom. Soil moisture good at field capacity in most cases. Some fields still very wet in lower areas. **Chris Benedict (Ext), Chittenden:** At week's end apples (McIntosh) reached full bloom. Pest management concerns will take a week off, but thinning thoughts have begun. With good moisture last week, the trees are ready for warmer weather.

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