



# New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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## Crop Weather

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June 7, 2004 - 4 pm

For week ending 6/6/04

### Hot, Dry Weather Needed

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending June 6, 2004, there were 4.3 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated one percent short, 57% adequate, 42% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated two percent short, 70% adequate, 28% surplus. Pasture condition was rated as two percent poor, 10 percent fair, 63% good, 25% excellent. Another week of cool, wet weather slowed planting progress in most locations across New England. Though conditions were dry over the weekend, soils were too wet in some areas to allow farmers to plant, while other growers were able to continue planting of some crops. Hot, dry weather is needed to aid in crop growth and development. Major farm activities included: planting vegetables, sweet corn, field corn, tobacco, potatoes, small grains; harvesting spinach, radishes, asparagus, rhubarb; applying fertilizer, herbicides and fungicides.

**FRUIT:** Orchardists were busy applying protective fungicides and insecticides as they continued scouting for disease and insect pest. Peaches incurred some heavy damage from weather, disease and insects; the full extent is not yet known. Mummyberry disease was reported as severe in Wild Blueberry fields not protected by fungicides. Cranberry growers continued to watch for insects and disease, and applied pesticides as needed. Growers were still concerned with outbreaks of weevil, fireworm and other caterpillar pests. Strawberries were ready for picking in some southern areas.

#### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	1	1	2
Adequate	57	67	62
Surplus	42	32	29
<b>Subsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	0	0	2
Short	2	2	8
Adequate	70	80	73
Surplus	28	18	17

**FIELD CROPS:** The cool, damp weather has taken a toll on crops. The wet conditions made it difficult for farmers to harvest hay or plant crops. Corn growth is slow due to the lack of sun and in some areas the plant has yellowed. In spite of all the rain, first cut hay progressed to 15 percent. Potato producers in Maine and Massachusetts are nearing completion with 99% of their crop planted. Growers finished transplanting Shade tobacco during the week while Broadleaf tobacco growers had half of their crop transplanted.

#### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

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

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

**VEGETABLES:** Farmers were able to continue with vegetable planting at week's end. Operators harvested asparagus, rhubarb, lettuce, radish and spinach during the week.

#### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2004	2003	5-yr Avg	Percent Emerged	Condition
-- Percent Planted --					
Barley, ME	99	90	95	75	Good/Excel
Oats, ME	99	95	99	75	Good/Excel
Potatoes					
Maine	99	95	95	5	Good/Excel
Mass	99	99	99	75	Good
Rhode Isl	90	100	100	70	Good/Excel
Silage Corn	75	70	80	55	Good/Excel
Sweet Corn	75	65	70	55	Good/Fair
Tobacco					
Shade	100	100	90	--	Good
Broadleaf	50	25	40	--	Good
Dry Hay					
First Cut	15	10	25	--	Good/Fair

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 6, 2004

The 41 stations shown below were limited by space but were 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		
<b>MAINE</b>															
Augusta_State_A	40	71	54	-8	251	-4	36	+2	0.43	-0.37	2	3.67	+0.35	16	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	37	72	53	-8	209	+3	26	+5	0.32	-0.49	2	3.62	+0.40	14	
Bethel	32	76	53	-8	247	+27	45	+19	0.44	-0.47	3	3.40	-0.01	15	
Cari bou_Muni ci p	36	69	50	-8	142	-15	27	+13	0.82	+0.16	3	2.25	-0.51	12	
Dover-Foxcroft	34	63	47	-11	124	-38	16	+3	0.59	-0.25	2	3.07	-0.19	15	
Frenchville	38	67	49	-9	121	-7	19	+16	0.80	+0.10	4	2.40	-0.43	15	
Houlton	30	70	49	-10	144	-17	22	+7	0.68	-0.09	4	2.31	-0.77	14	
Livermore_Falls	30	77	52	-7	242	+78	44	+31	0.43	-0.53	2	3.17	-0.36	14	
Moosehead	32	71	48	-8	123	+17	16	+16	0.63	-0.24	3	2.44	-0.79	15	
Portland_ME	38	67	54	-6	233	+41	36	+24	1.02	+0.22	4	4.27	+1.09	15	
<b>NEW_HAMPSHIRE</b>															
Benton	35	71	52	-8	264	+27	54	+23	0.64	-0.23	4	4.06	+0.79	14	
Berlin_AG	32	71	51	-9	249	+34	52	+25	0.68	-0.24	3	3.97	+0.58	10	
Concord	34	75	57	-6	432	+153	121	+75	0.54	-0.16	4	4.05	+1.21	15	
Di amond_Pond	29	70	47	-8	138	+34	15	+15	0.91	-0.13	4	4.68	+0.87	17	
Keene_AP	40	72	57	-7	416	+55	96	+18	0.25	-0.60	4	5.75	+2.32	17	
North_Conway	39	72	54	-7	306	+59	77	+42	0.66	-0.25	4	4.03	+0.40	15	
Rochester	38	71	55	-8	302	-15	70	+11	0.83	-0.01	4	6.79	+3.37	15	
<b>VERMONT</b>															
Burlington_Intl	39	77	57	-6	431	+100	132	+63	1.26	+0.49	4	5.31	+2.40	15	
Island_Pond	29	73	51	-7	209	+51	36	+20	1.42	+0.44	4	5.01	+1.42	16	
Montpelier	33	73	53	-6	317	+86	79	+47	1.12	+0.28	4	5.64	+2.52	17	
Pownal	39	70	56	-4	384	+140	83	+46	0.87	-0.20	4	4.87	+0.67	16	
Rochester	33	76	54	-6	301	+86	66	+38	1.00	+0.08	4	6.37	+2.52	16	
Rutland_AG	40	73	56	-8	339	-35	62	-25	1.16	+0.35	4	7.92	+4.69	15	
Sutton	33	73	51	-7	196	+40	36	+20	1.25	+0.28	4	5.44	+1.93	16	
Townshend_Lake	38	74	56	-6	359	+51	77	+18	0.87	+0.10	5	5.19	+2.04	19	
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>															
Ashburnham	40	73	57	-4	368	+135	75	+47	0.61	-0.20	4	3.81	+0.57	18	
Boston/Logan_In	49	75	60	-5	471	+75	133	+62	0.86	+0.13	4	3.09	+0.21	16	
Greenfield	42	75	58	-7	445	+47	111	+27	1.25	+0.34	5	5.76	+2.18	19	
New_Bedford	41	75	58	-6	387	-6	66	-1	0.77	-0.07	3	2.90	-0.42	11	
Otis_AFB	43	73	58	-3	331	+86	54	+27	0.93	+0.15	3	2.48	-0.78	10	
Plymouth	42	77	58	-4	361	+91	73	+38	1.00	+0.16	4	3.23	-0.24	17	
Walpole	42	75	59	-4	438	+120	96	+43	0.90	+0.06	4	3.71	+0.56	17	
Chilcopee/Westov	46	75	60	-7	564	+66	173	+50	0.52	-0.46	3	4.05	+0.26	17	
Worthington	36	72	55	-6	337	+96	63	+30	1.65	+0.72	4	5.08	+1.05	18	
<b>RHODE_ISLAND</b>															
Providence	47	78	60	-4	479	+124	107	+47	0.65	-0.16	4	2.16	-1.14	13	
Woonsocket	40	74	58	-5	440	+126	107	+63	0.61	-0.30	3	3.29	-0.35	13	
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>															
Bridgeport/Siko	51	77	62	-3	508	+97	112	+20	0.81	-0.03	3	2.60	-0.87	19	
Hartford/Bradle	43	78	61	-5	576	+112	175	+60	0.48	-0.43	4	2.77	-0.96	16	
Norfolk	41	69	56	-5	388	+152	87	+57	1.12	+0.05	4	5.15	+0.98	17	
Thomaston_Dam	41	81	61	-2	559	+225	168	+108	0.78	-0.20	4	3.63	-0.31	14	
Willimantic	41	72	59	-4	510	+174	137	+78	0.69	-0.22	4	2.61	-1.10	14	

**STATE WEATHER SUMMARY**  
For the Week Ending Sunday, June 6, 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	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	29	77	51	-9	0.15	1.23
NH	26	78	53	-7	0.25	1.19
VT	28	79	54	-6	0.46	2.30
MA	36	77	58	-5	0.29	1.65
RI	40	78	59	-5	0.61	0.65
CT	36	81	60	-4	0.48	1.12

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:** Hail fell Wednesday and Thursday and damaged fruit crops and early planted vegetable crops. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Off and on showers during the week slowed progress on wet fields. Planting more sweet corn, tomatoes and other vegetable crops. Cultivating shade tobacco and potatoes. Pulling row cover off of sweet corn to find tassels in the whorl. Picking strawberries locally. Grass chopping continues, no dry hay made to speak of. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Cooler temperatures, showers every other day with some light hail, kept crop conditions less than optimum, work continues in all areas with pruning, mowing, spraying, spreading, planting, cutting asparagus and haylage, fruit set looks good, vegetables going in. **Karen Vozarik (FSA), New Haven:** Showers at night are making it hard to cut hay and get in fields. Some strawberries are ready for picking. Problems have been reported with pears. On 6/2 severe thunder storms rolled through. Reports of hail damage to peach crop. Rains were heavy.

**MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Planting just about completed. It has been a struggle to get the last of the crops in the ground due to the rain. Weather improved by the week-end so growers were back in the fields. Herbicides are being applied. A few potatoes have emerged, warm temperatures will bring more out. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Most farmers have all of their crops planted. Now, we just need the warm temperatures and the "orbit" in the sky to shine to help crops emerge and grow. Some farmers are applying herbicides. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Potatoes have been emerging a little slow because of the cooler temperatures, but with the warmer temperatures at the end of the week they have been coming in good. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Rain slowed field work. Planting and tilling still going on. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Haying has started over the nice dry weekend. Corn and many crops are being planted. What we need is some warm days. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Dry weather allowed for more field work, but cold weather and soils continue to cause the corn crop to make slow progress. Some first cutting is finally in the silo. Wet, cold and windy conditions may have caused poor pollination conditions. Wet fields have caused farmers to pick and choose where they can harvest first cutting. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Silage corn still being planted, probably finished this week. Some row crops still not planted yet, the ground is still too wet. Haying not started yet, waiting for the weather to break. A beautiful week-end brought people out to greenhouses and farm stands. Monilinia blight showing up on blueberry fields due to the cold wet spring. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Cool wet weather delaying bloom and reducing pollination. Mummyberry disease severe on fields not protected by fungicides. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** The weather warmed up and dried up at the end of the week but most producers found it still difficult to get on the ground. Corn has emerged but much of it is yellow because of the lack of heat. Apple folks are concerned about dying trees. The unusual weather this past winter caused many trees to be damaged and each week orchardists are finding trees that are dying. They expect this trend to continue throughout the season. The coming week has good possibilities. Hang in there. **Jill Littlefield (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Farmers are worried about what mother nature has in store. This cold and damp weather is really taking a toll on the crops. Sweet corn under plastic is holding its own, but the crop without plastic is not growing. Rain has caused the nitrogen to leach off, forcing reapplication. Transplants are even looking poor due to the lack of sun. Strawberries are past bloom but not in color. Look to be about 2 weeks behind. Crows are reported to be problems, too. What we need is an extended period of sunshine and warm weather. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** The hay is growing with plenty of moisture. Hot weather this week should really make it take off. The large wrapped bales have revolutionized the ability to make hay during rainy June weather!!! **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Producers are busy trying to get the final plantings of corn in the ground. Plants that have emerged are turning yellow due to too much rain and not enough sun. Greenhouses are reporting steady sales in spite of poor weather. Come on heat!!!!

**MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire:** Despite rainy weather, some operators happy the corn planting was done. Ground too wet for spraying. Farmers have cut first cutting of hay. Chopping or covering the hay with plastic in round bales. The peach crop is a total loss this year. Tent caterpillars still working hard and setting back the trees. Wet weather has held up weed control spraying. Veggie growers are hard at work planting and some covering the ground with plastic. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** Cool wet weather continues, making it very difficult to make hay, plant crops etc. Planted crops are a little behind

schedule in their development but are emerging. Cranberries development has been slowed by the cool weather but the vines appear to be in good shape. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Wet and cool week that slowed activities down. Sanded beds are showing hook; will have open blooms this coming week. Growers are still dealing with insect outbreaks, particularly weevil, fireworm and various caterpillar pests. Beds are looking better, although winter-injured vines will not bear fruit. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Rate of growth is slow now due to lack sun. Everyone continues to plant. Strawberries being harvested. Crops being sprayed with fungicides. Some haylage being made. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Variable weather conditions continue to effect many of the early season crops in the Pioneer Valley. Strawberries are very close to picking, but need sun and heat to finish ripening. Cool wet weather has also effected harvest dates on sweet corn, summer squash, cucumbers and beans. Farmers are concerned that we're in the same type of weather pattern as last year. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Another week of very cool rainy weather. Crops are growing very slowly and lots of heat and sunshine is needed. Only hay and potatoes are growing well. The hay crop is getting over-ripe and early potatoes are being hilled up. Early sweet corn under plastic is in tassel stage. The strawberry crop is starting to ripen and disease pressure is high due to the wet weather conditions. Growers are harvesting radishes, spinach, lettuce, asparagus and rhubarb. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** You gotta love this weather! Yeah, right! Tough week for field work as cool, wet weather slowed or stopped transplanting of crops. Contact herbicide working well on perennial weeds despite weather conditions. Farm stands doing good with plant sales as consumers also fighting the elements. Perennials still strong sales leader. Quality sells.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap:** Plenty of rain made field planting challenging. Apple fruit set looks good. Many are waiting for warm dry days for first cutting of hay. Garden centers have been busy selling bedding plants and soil amendments. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Cold and wet conditions continue to make field work difficult. First cutting delayed by wet weather, corn planting halted because of wet conditions. Many reports of leaf eating caterpillars coming in from orchards, homeowners. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Field corn is all planted and most of it is up, but looks unthrifty due to cool rainy weather. Wet fields have hampered grass harvest; orchard grass is long overdue for mowing, and brome, timothy, and reed canary grass is starting to head out. Alfalfa/grass harvested as haylage is in full swing. Vegetable crops lack growth due to weather, though normal field operations are more or less on time. Some orchards are reporting difficulty keeping up with spraying due to wet conditions. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Another fairly cool rain-filled week delays first cut haylage although some fields manage to get started. Looks like a good crop if we can get it in. Field corn now at last finally all in, more early planted corn spiking. Could now use some hot dry weather. Vegetables plantings continue, plastic mulch being laid as field conditions permit. Reports coming in on hard freeze last week, some receiving temps in low to mid 20's, apparent in Japanese Knotweed burned down along sides of the road. Scouting for Armyworm moth larva on new mown hay land. Garden centers doing a brisk business. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Transplanting tomato and pepper plants, and making successive planting vegetable crops. Harvesting spinach, greens, radish, asparagus and rhubarb. Flea beetle and seed maggot damage seen, striped cucumber beetles can be found in vine crops and hornworms seen in greenhouse tomatoes. With all the cool rainy cloudy weather, sweet corn plantings and many other crops are yellow and not growing very well. The SUN is needed with some warmer temperatures. Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying cover sprays for pest control. Orchardists applying thinning sprays to apple orchards, however, fruit have developed very quickly, past size that some thinner are recommended. Mowing orchard floor and weed spraying under trees. Blueberries and most strawberries are beyond petal fall. Some winter damage is still show on many fruit crops. Field Crops Planting and weed spraying corn fields. Farmers are continuing trying to make haylage and trying to start baled hay between rain showers. **John Porter (Ext), Merrimack:** Farmers continuing to try to finish up corn planting and harvesting hay crop silage despite the wet weather. A few producers found a window of opportunity to harvest some dry hay. Strawberries are late due to the cold weather. Transplants are standing still waiting for heat units. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** This week was highlighted with scattered showers and thundershowers with some cold nights. Planting vegetables. Spraying protective fungicide sprays in fruit orchards and small fruit sprays as well as insecticides. Cranberries fruit worms and cherry fruit worms have been captured in blueberry fields. Harvesting strawberries grown under plastics, spinach, swisschard, lettuce, green garlic. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Rain continued through the

week with a welcome break in the weekend. Grass in pastures and hay fields continue to grow nicely. Most of the corn has germinated. However some fields have been too wet for planting. Because of very wet soils it's not been possible to do serious field work. Fruit growers continued to scout for diseases and insect pests and spraying when necessary. Vegetable growers continue to plant vegetables in the fields. Greenhouse and high tunnel tomatoes growing very well. Greenhouses and garden centers continued to experience poor plant sales due to bad weather.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** Some sunshine was welcome this week, but still waiting for some heat to help strawberries. Spraying potatoes, field work continues, planting sweet corn and summer vegetables. The cool weather continues along with the rain. **Marilyn Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** Farmers have been wrapping up plantings of corn, vegetables and starting some haying. Temperatures are still a little cool.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille:** Lowery weather prevented serious haying activity until late in the week. Warm weather crops have been more or less at a standstill waiting for sunshine. Have observed some significant weed problems in cornfields. Manure being spread on first cut hayfields. **Perley Sparrow**

**(FSA), Windham:** Another wet week with off and on showers no time to dry hay. Second time for herbicide on some corn ground trying to fight prickly cucumber, a real serious problem in Windham County. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** No corn planting with tilled fields too wet. Corn emergence good and mostly uniform. A few wet corners under water. Early corn to 12 inches height. Herbicide applications difficult with wet soils. Spreading liquid manure on hay crop stubble after early harvest. Mowing and chopping hay crop as haylage later in week. Pastures showing slower growth, weeds escaping to maturity. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Another rainy cool week. Some farmers managed to harvest first cut haylage last weekend. However, most fields have tire ruts because the ground is too soft. Manure is being spread on harvested hay fields. Corn continues to pop out of the ground. However, cool conditions allowed for little growth of corn last week. Corn is anywhere between spike and third leaf. Standing water in fields over the last few weeks have led many farmers to consider replanting. Warm sunny weather projected for this week will be welcomed. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Spraying corn and potatoes for weeds. Finished planting mid season corn. Small vegetables germination good but growth slow. Rain for week was 0.566, three mornings very near frost. One cold enough to freeze cucumbers that were up. A cold week for most crops, except peas which are starting to blossom. A real warm week would help out a lot.

**May 2004 Summary:** May began with warm temperatures, which helped fields to dry out from all the precipitation received during April. The warm temperatures soon gave way to cool, breezy, damp conditions, which prevailed the rest of the month. Soil moisture levels were rated adequate to surplus all month long. The frequent rains had many farmers scrambling to plant when they could between showers. Similar to last year, hay growers were optimistic about this year's crop due to the cool, wet conditions in spring providing optimal growing conditions. Potato growers in Maine patiently waited for soils to warm up to begin their planting season. Once they were able to get into the fields, the growers made up for loss time. As of June 1, potato planting progress in Maine was ahead of the five-year average by 15 percentage points. Likewise potato growers in Massachusetts made great advancements in plantings. Potato planting progress was in line with the five-year average at 95 percent. Rhode Island potato growers had planted 85 percent of their crop by this same date. Shade tobacco transplanting reached 90 percent complete by the end of the month, as broadleaf growers prepared to set out seedlings. Field and sweet corn plantings were ahead of normal schedules, at 75 and 65 percent planted respectively. Most tree fruit crops had reached petal fall stage and were rated in fair to good condition. Maine wild blueberry growers were kept active during the month as they sprayed fungicides to protect against Mummyberry disease. Cranberries in Massachusetts were in bud stage by month's end, and growers applied insecticides for fireworm and cranberry weevil.

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