



# New England Agricultural Statistics



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## Crop Weather

( <http://www.nass.usda.gov/nh/cwxyyearsmain.htm>, May – October) September 12, 2005 – 4 pm

For week ending 9/11/05

### A Great Week for Farming

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending September 11, 2005, there were 6.7 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture: 12% very short, 35% short, 52% adequate, 1% surplus. Subsoil moisture: 10% very short, 26% short, 63% adequate, 1% surplus. Pasture condition: 7% very poor, 15% poor, 37% fair, 28% good and 13% excellent. The week began with cooler temperatures and clear skies. On Wednesday, warmer weather arrived to the region and remained through Thursday. Some light rain hit parts of northern New Hampshire and Vermont on Thursday afternoon and into the evening. On Friday, a cool front arrived and remained through the weekend bringing plenty of sunshine. Connecticut crops and pastures are suffering from prolonged lack of moisture. All six states need more rain to improve crop sizing. It was a great week to do field work and to prepare for harvest as fall is approaching. Major farm activities included weeding, irrigating, monitoring pests and diseases, spraying fungicides and pesticides, spreading manure, baling hay, chopping grass, chopping corn silage and harvesting a variety of fruits and vegetables.

peas, peppers, pumpkins, radishes, snap beans, summer squash, tomatoes, zucchini and winter squash. Some farmers started to clean up harvested fields and planted cover crops. Greenhouse and nursery operations were busy harvesting and selling a variety of flowers.

#### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	12	8	0
Short	35	26	5
Adequate	52	65	69
Surplus	1	1	26
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	10	8	0
Short	26	22	5
Adequate	63	68	73
Surplus	1	2	22

**FRUIT:** Sunshine provided great weather to harvest fruits and berries. Early apple harvest was in full swing with a quarter of the apples picked. Apple growers reported that fruit size was varying from average to below average in Connecticut, Maine and Vermont. Peach harvest should finish shortly and crop condition was rated good to fair. Very dry conditions continued to hinder pear production in Connecticut with fruit size ranging from average to below average, whereas Massachusetts had harvested a fourth of the 2005 crop. Great weather allowed Maine wild blueberry growers to finish raking the last of the berries. Maine wild blueberry growers were also busy weed controlling fields and using more flail mowing instead of burning fields due to fuel prices. Highbush blueberry harvest should finish up this coming week and crop condition was rated good to excellent. Cranberry growers expect to slowly start the 2005 harvest this week. More rain is needed to help fill up reservoirs and water supplies to protect against frost during harvest. Hopefully Hurricane Ophelia will provide some much needed rain this coming week.

**FIELD CROPS:** Dry, warm days provided farmers great conditions to do field work. Both barley and oats harvest continued strong, as growers were close to wrapping up combining. Maine potato harvest was in full swing after a late start and crop condition was rated good to excellent. Dry weather improved Rhode Island potato harvest from fair to poor from the previous week to fair to good. Massachusetts potato harvest continued behind the five year average. The recent dry conditions have caused variability in field corn conditions throughout New England. Field corn crop condition in northern New England was rated excellent to good and fair to good elsewhere. Farmers in the southern region were chopping corn to avoid silage from being burnt. Both broadleaf and shade tobacco growers were close to finishing up harvest. Dry, warm days provided great conditions for the curing process. Dry conditions also provided for great days to bale hay, if fields were in good condition due to the prolonged lack of moisture. Second cutting of hay should finish up soon if weather continues to stay dry, due to limited re-growth of grass. The lack of rain has caused conditions for third cutting of hay to decline to good, whereas the previous week was rated good to excellent.

#### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	- Percent Harvested -			Fruit Size	Condition
	2005	2004	5-yr Avg		
Apples	25	30	25	Avg	Good/Fair
Peaches	90	95	85	Avg	Good/Fair
Pears	15	35	30	Avg	Fair
Blueberries					
Highbush	99	99	99	Avg/A. Avg	Good/Excel
Wild, ME	100	100	100	Avg	Fair
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-	Avg/B. Avg	Good

#### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2005	2004	5-yr Avg	
Barley, ME	80	75	70	Good/ Excellent
Oats, ME	70	35	55	Good/ Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	5	10	Good/Excellent
Mass.	35	45	45	Fair/Good
Rhode Isl.	65	50	60	Fair/Good
Sweet Corn	80	85	85	Good/Fair
Field Corn	15	5	10	Good/ Excellent
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	95	95	95	Good/Fair
Shade	95	99	95	Good
Dry hay, 2 <sup>nd</sup> cut	90	90	90	Good/Excellent
Dry hay, 3 <sup>rd</sup> cut	45	55	55	Good

**VEGETABLES:** Recent dry weather is having a negative effect on vegetable crops in New England. Growers continued to irrigate or pump water to crops since some crops were starting to dry up. Great weather provided ideal conditions for farmers markets and local farm stands but high fuel prices hindered markets. Sweet corn harvest had started to wind down in the region and crop condition was rated good to fair. Growers were busy harvesting a variety of vegetables such as: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, onions,

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics  
Prepared By AWIS, Inc.

For the Period: Monday September 5, 2005  
To: Sunday September 11, 2005

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F TOT	DFN	BASE-60F TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta State A	45	80	63	+2	2001	+112	947	+223	0.19	-0.51	2	3.28	+0.37	11
Bangor Intl_Arp	40	82	62	+2	1969	+244	893	+287	0.07	-0.76	2	3.26	+0.12	12
Bethel	40	80	60	+1	1802	+97	761	+177	0.00	-0.79	0	4.73	+1.26	9
Caribou Municip	37	79	57	+2	1628	+253	649	+271	0.42	-0.42	1	3.88	+0.35	8
Dover-Foxcroft	43	80	60	+3	1538	+48	571	+123	0.00	-0.91	0	2.58	-0.92	8
Frenchville	39	80	58	+3	1607	+330	643	+320	0.00	-0.91	0	4.79	+1.09	7
Houlton	32	79	57	+2	1622	+185	651	+228	0.38	-0.51	1	3.58	-0.09	14
Livermore Falls	35	84	60	+3	1844	+380	827	+401	0.09	-0.76	1	3.16	-0.51	8
Moosehead	37	83	58	+2	1420	+181	496	+186	0.23	-0.65	1	4.60	+1.20	9
Portland_ME	46	81	64	+3	1973	+230	926	+303	0.00	-0.70	0	2.06	-0.65	6
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	37	77	58	-1	1774	+208	740	+270	0.08	-0.69	1	4.46	+1.02	10
Berlin_AG	36	79	59	+0	1793	+217	753	+261	0.00	-0.81	0	3.79	+0.14	10
Concord	37	85	63	+2	2227	+332	1098	+376	0.00	-0.69	0	1.91	-0.96	8
Diamond Pond	35	76	54	+0	1349	+290	455	+250	0.32	-0.68	1	4.93	+0.55	13
Keene_AP	37	82	62	-2	2219	+103	1082	+200	0.00	-0.73	0	2.47	-0.78	7
North Conway	38	80	61	+1	1974	+212	907	+282	0.10	-0.73	1	5.04	+1.54	9
Rochester	42	84	63	+1	2050	+22	969	+147	0.11	-0.62	1	1.83	-1.24	7
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Burlington Intl	42	81	62	+0	2388	+366	1218	+399	0.26	-0.57	1	3.61	+0.07	10
Island Pond	38	78	58	+2	1718	+424	709	+389	1.31	+0.45	1	5.53	+1.54	12
Montpelier	40	79	60	+2	2023	+432	925	+425	0.12	-0.59	3	4.43	+1.17	15
Pownal	39	80	61	+2	2047	+388	910	+372	0.03	-0.88	1	2.33	-1.48	8
Rochester	36	82	61	+2	1963	+392	880	+391	0.10	-0.82	1	3.67	-0.33	11
Rutland_AG	36	82	60	-3	2130	+37	1022	+163	0.00	-0.89	0	4.21	+0.50	10
Sutton	38	77	58	+2	1709	+401	698	+365	0.18	-0.68	2	5.17	+1.24	13
Townshend_Lake	39	82	62	-1	2114	+128	996	+203	0.00	-0.80	0	3.12	-0.34	8
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Ashburnham	45	80	63	+4	2166	+446	1035	+446	0.00	-0.70	0	2.97	+0.02	9
Boston/Logan_In	53	85	67	+0	2493	+66	1335	+200	0.00	-0.72	0	1.63	-1.37	7
Greenfield	41	84	64	-2	2287	+20	1124	+130	0.00	-0.84	0	2.99	-0.32	9
New_Bedford	42	82	64	-5	2257	-196	1109	-50	0.00	-0.84	0	7.69	+3.99	6
Otis_AFB	45	79	64	-2	2451	+454	1251	+435	0.00	-0.77	0	1.85	-1.25	6
Plymouth	43	81	62	-3	2238	+183	1139	+279	0.00	-0.98	0	5.17	+1.35	6
Walpole	44	85	66	+3	2444	+369	1271	+416	0.00	-0.91	0	3.13	-0.51	8
Chicopee/Westov	39	85	65	-3	2589	-6	1343	+87	0.00	-0.84	0	2.22	-1.09	7
Worthington	37	82	61	+1	1983	+293	872	+315	0.00	-0.87	0	3.18	-0.42	9
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	51	84	68	+2	2653	+337	1438	+385	0.00	-0.84	0	4.35	+0.99	4
Woonsocket	44	84	65	+3	2428	+385	1239	+423	0.00	-0.91	0	4.00	+0.36	7
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	56	82	69	+2	2738	+245	1450	+243	0.00	-0.74	0	1.32	-1.52	5
Hartford/Bradle	45	87	67	+2	2752	+263	1480	+304	0.00	-0.91	0	2.17	-1.34	8
Norfolk	45	82	63	+3	2065	+373	927	+368	0.00	-0.98	0	2.11	-2.01	8
Thomaston_Dam	45	83	65	+3	2450	+428	1244	+447	0.00	-0.98	0	2.19	-1.73	9
Willimantic	42	84	65	+2	2458	+395	1236	+405	0.00	-0.91	0	1.02	-2.55	6

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 WEATHER SUMMARY**

For the Week Ending Sunday, September 11, 2005

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	32	84	60	+1	0.00	0.60
NH	28	86	60	+1	0.00	0.32
VT	31	89	60	+0	0.00	1.31
MA	36	86	64	+0	0.00	0.01
RI	44	84	67	+1	0.00	0.00
CT	40	87	66	+1	0.00	0.03

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

**CONNECTICUT - Howard Rood (FSA), Fairfield/Litchfield:** Farmers are harvesting field corn. It is very dry. Vegetable crops need rain. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Another dry week, no rain once again. Pumping water where available on vegetable crops. Chopping field corn to get it in the silo before it burns up in the field. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** Another good week for making hay although there is little out there to harvest. The hot dry week did not contribute to re-growth. Drought conditions continue. Field corn harvesting is in full swing with fields being cut fairly rapidly due to dry fields and lower yields. Some typically wet fields did produce a fair crop considering the lack of rain in the county throughout the growing season. Corn yields and quality was severely reduced in dry fields. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Very, very dry. Need Rain! **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Dry, dry, dry, no rain in most of the county since early July. Mac's a little early, fruit are small, some fruit trees stressed looking. Pumpkins drying up, small in size, would have been a good crop if we had rain a few weeks ago. Rain this late and apples mush up, too hot for good color in apples, cool days needed. Irrigated crops good but no water left to irrigate. Making cider with Gravenstein, Jersey Mac, Paula Red and Bartlett Pears. Tomato prices hit rock bottom. Squash is low too, some concern with vegetables from Canada bringing down local prices. Field corn continues to be harvested with results varying from poor ear development and yellow stalks to nice green corn on heavier soils with smaller ears. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** It is very dry and dusty out here. Producers have begun chopping corn for silage earlier than they would ordinarily like to because it has dried down so fast. The vegetables have just dried up and died due to the heat and abnormally dry conditions. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** August forage seedings drying up with no rain, no subsurface moisture. No threat of getting stuck due to mud while chopping, but sandy soils are difficult to maneuver also, when so dry. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Warm and dry - good hay weather - if we had water to make the grass grow. Most pastures and hay land are dormant. Silage harvest is on hold waiting for full season corn to dent, short season is all in the bunker. Some early pumpkins being picked as folks start fall decorating projects.

**MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Most growers ready for harvest. Vine desiccation continues. Still quite a few acres of potatoes have not been killed as of yet. Small grain harvest continues. Some harvesting will begin next week but majority of growers are waiting for tubers to put on more size. Potato harvest in the valley not to begin until Sept. 26, which is a week later than normal. Tuber size on late maturing varieties is still small due to late planting this spring. The quality of this potato crop looks very good. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Fungicides are still being applied. Some farmers have begun to apply vine killing to their potato fields. Broccoli harvesting continuing. Harvesting of hay and grains continuing. **Leslie Nelson (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Beautiful weather last week was good for second crop hay. Apples and pumpkins filling up roadside stands. **Donald Burke (FSA), Waldo:** Farmers still harvesting second crop hay. No silage corn has been harvested yet, but hopefully this weather will continue through the harvest. Showers in the forecast will help alleviate dry conditions. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Weed control on wild blueberry fields is underway. Harvesting of second crop hay is still underway. The high cost of fuel will mean less burning on wild blueberry fields and more flail mowing on fields being burned with straw. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The area needs rain badly, everything is dusty! Apples that are being picked for the early market are small. If two inches of rain are received the rest may size up. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Summer is hanging on. That is good because we need every day we can get for crops to mature. Corn silage harvest is about to begin. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County producers are busy harvesting vegetables and getting them to market. Sweet corn still being harvested. Field corn looking nice but still maturing as was planted late in most of the county. Second crop hay being harvested. Potato crop has started to be harvested with signs of the wet spring becoming a factor. Apples have begun to be

harvested and the fruit seems to be average size with some being on the small size. **Laura Rand (FSA), Androscoggin:** What a great week for farming. Hay being harvested, fresh vegetables being presented at farm stands, potato harvest underway, and apples are being picked. Soil conditions are dry and moisture is needed. Potatoes and apples are small in size.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire:** Another dry week with very fall like weather. No frost yet but one night down in the 30's in parts of the county. Dew is very heavy overnight with fog in the mornings. Corn is being cut and the weather has been great for haying. Fall vegetables are selling and pick your own pumpkin operations are open. Apples are plentiful and selling well. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Another week without rain continues to drain the reservoirs and water supplies. Some growers will be sweating whether they will have enough water for frost protection and water harvest if we don't get some rain soon. There are hopes that Ophelia will bring something this way. No frost nights so far, although temperatures have gotten down into the high 30's a few nights. Some harvesting will begin this week. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** The past ten days have been perfect for all farm activities. Farmers have been busy harvesting fall vegetables, 2nd and 3rd cut hay, and early silage corn. Orchardists have reported that the tree fruit harvest has begun and the crop looks a little thin but okay. Many producers have noted that field conditions are beginning to get very dry. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Excellent week for harvesting late summer/fall crops. Crop conditions are still dry and some growers are irrigating. Corn silage growers have started harvesting and area reporting very good yields. Tobacco farmers are reporting the weather is excellent for the curing process. Harvesting of potatoes, winter squash, apples, and peppers is in full swing in the valley. Sweet corn is coming to an end, but demand is very high. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Just another picture perfect week! However, it's getting mighty dry out in those fields. Ground cracking and crops showing water stress. Corn holding up, but just barely. Harvest of winter squash and pumpkins now in earnest. Raspberry harvest underway. Fall mums are all over and fall crops appearing at farm stands. Great citizen response at local stands as weather still fueling sweet corn purchases. No ECB or fall armyworm seen, crops on four day spray schedule. Squash vine borer population heavy in pumpkins.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap:** The week was beautiful for field work but we need rain. Early apples and fall raspberries are being harvested. Winter squash, pumpkins and large sized potatoes have hit the stands. Garden centers are happy to have fall sales of mums and grass seed. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Season winding down. Dry weather continues, rain would be welcomed. Field corn just about ready. Apples beginning to roll in seem a bit small. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Gorgeous, sunny weather all week. Corn silage harvest has started on some farms, and weather has allowed them to make good progress - ditto for third cutting hay. Soil is still a bit dry here and there, and a bit of rain wouldn't hurt pastures and other growing crops. Vegetable stands still doing well with a variety of produce. Apple harvest is continuing, blueberry harvest about done. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Cooling weather this week. Temps dropping into the low 30's by week's end. No reports of killing frost yet. Apple harvest beginning with earlier varieties, some dropping of fruit. Mum's now prominent at garden stands and nurseries. Fall asters in bloom, honey bee on this now. Field corn continues to look good, some in dough stage although late planted. Corn on flooded fields still at blister stage. Hay continues to come in as weather permits, heavy rainfall in scattered locations. Apple scab harder to control this year. A bit of color now starting to appear in higher elevations amongst swamp maples. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Corn harvest is underway. The crop looks good as a general rule. Many farms will not harvest for a couple more weeks in order to gain a little more maturity on later varieties. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, potatoes,

radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, zucchini, and other vegetables. Some farmers are starting to clean up harvested fields and planting cover crops. Mildew has killed a lot of vines on pumpkins and winter squash, farmers are cutting and picking up fruit. Fruit Orchardists harvesting Marshall McIntosh, Ginger Gold, Gala and Honeycrisp apples, peaches, and fall raspberries. Field Crops: Farmers are chopping corn silage and hay cutting continued during the week with the second and third cuttings being made. Some spreading manure on hay fields. **Sadie Puglisi (Ext), Merrimack:** This week looked a lot like last week. We are enjoying beautiful days with cool nights. Peaches are done, fall raspberries are starting, and apples are looking good this year. Potatoes are a little behind schedule but quality is good. Weekend visitors are starting to buy pumpkins, corn stalks and mums. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Nice dry sunny week for outdoor activities. Corn harvesting is progressing rapidly with the good weather. Last cuts of dry hay are being done. PYO apple orchards are busy with reports of apple size being less than average due to lack of rain in spring. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** This was a hot and dry week. Hay making continued through the week. Forage corn looks good and farmers are starting to get ready for chopping. Fruit growers harvesting peaches, apricots, and early apples. High bush blueberry harvesting winding down. Vegetable growers harvesting an array of vegetable crops, weeding and irrigating fields. Mums are now available at most farm stands and garden centers. Garden centers offering sale price for trees and shrubs to move the remaining inventories.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** Cutting and baling hay, harvesting all vegetables including gourds and winter squash. Digging potatoes is dusty work this year. Mums and fall decorations are filling roadside stands. Corn mazes and pumpkin festivals are getting busy.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille:** Corn silage harvest and second/third cut of grass took center stage last week. Conditions were great for all kinds of field work. Pumpkins are ripening and there are definitely signs of autumn all around. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** A very nice week allowed farmers to harvest a lot of third cut hay. There is a wide range of yields from excellent to poor depending on the soil moisture. Corn is nearly mature and we should start to see some harvesting this coming week. **Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Corn harvesting began the end of last week, still some finishing 3rd cut. **Terence Bradshaw, Univ of Vermont:** Apple harvest is underway with early varieties picked out. Growers are picking Mac, Galas, and Honeycrisp. Some reports of low color and small size are coming in. More rain and cooler days would be welcome. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Warm sunny week, about a half inch of rain. Lots of hay and haylage going in this week. Foggy mornings make drying difficult. Forecast of frost Saturday night, am not aware of any frost however.

**August 2005 Crop Weather Summary:** Hot, humid, and dry conditions dominated New England throughout August, and relief did not arrive until month's end when remnants of Hurricane Katrina brought heavy rains to the region. Rain was welcomed, but may have arrived too late for those crops under severe stress due to prolonged lack of moisture during August. Field crop harvest was delayed due to a wet spring but the long stretch of warm, sunny days brought harvest progress back to normal by month's end for most crops. At the end of August, Maine small grain harvest was ahead of the five-year average, with oats and barley harvest past the halfway point. Both crops were rated in good to excellent condition by area crop specialists. Maine potato growers remained on a seven to ten day spray schedule for the month to protect against late blight. The Maine crop was rated in good to excellent condition in response to late month rains. Massachusetts and Rhode Island potato harvest trailed the five-year average by month's end. Crop condition was good to fair in Massachusetts and fair to poor in Rhode Island due to lack of adequate moisture. Tobacco harvest was active throughout the month of August, and warm weather provided favorable growing, harvesting and curing conditions for both shade and broadleaf crops. Harvest neared completion at the end of the month, with broadleaf in good to fair condition, and shade type in good condition. Hot and dry conditions at the beginning of August provided great weather for haying. As the month drew to a close, prolonged lack of moisture caused concerns with third crop yields. First crop hay harvest was finished by the end of the month, and both second and third cutting were on pace with last year. Corn silage conditions varied throughout the region due to the variability in moisture received; crop conditions ranged from excellent to good in New Hampshire and Vermont, to good to fair elsewhere. Sweet corn conditions ranged from good to fair in southern New England to good to excellent in northern New England, and harvest was active throughout the month. Both highbush and wild blueberry harvest were near completion at month's end. Highbush blueberry condition was rated good to excellent. Poor pollination and lack of rain kept wild blueberry condition at fair to good and fruit size at average to below average. Early apple harvest was in full swing as the month came to a close, with condition dependent upon moisture availability. Apple conditions in Maine and Vermont were good to excellent, and conditions elsewhere were good to fair. Peach harvest continued strong and as the month came to a close crop condition was rated good to fair. The wet, cold spring delayed pear harvest and at month's end, crop condition was rated fair to good in the region. The remnants of Hurricane Katrina brought much needed rainfall to Massachusetts' cranberry bogs. Prolonged lack of moisture had lowered reservoirs needed for frost protection and growers remain concerned that levels are still not adequate for the upcoming harvest.

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