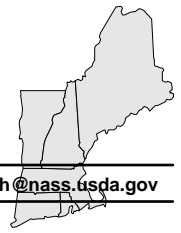




New England Agricultural Statistics



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October 11, 2005 – 4 pm

For week ending 10/9/05

Everything Afloat

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending October 9, 2005, there were 4.9 days suitable for field work. Topsoil moisture was rated 2% short, 55% adequate, 43% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 3% short, 66% adequate, 31% surplus. Pasture condition was rated 5% very poor, 14% poor, 42% fair, 31% good and 8% excellent. Warm, sunny weather dominated the beginning of the week, providing excellent harvest conditions. Rain arrived Friday afternoon and continued into the early evening bringing all activities to a halt. Heavy rains continued through the holiday weekend and brought eight to ten inches of rain to some locations, causing flooding and mudslides along rivers and streams. Hundreds of acres of corn, hay and potatoes along the Connecticut River were flooded and crops were lost. Heavy winds also caused damage. Major farm activities included applying cover crops, baling hay, chopping corn silage, chopping grass, cleaning and putting away equipment, harvesting an array of fruits and vegetables, and spreading manure.

FRUIT: Warm weather early in the week provided ideal conditions for peach growers to finish harvest. Cranberry harvest continued strong until the weekend rain hindered dry harvesting. At week's end, cranberry harvest passed the halfway point to the season. Pear harvest was close to finishing and conditions varied in the region. In Connecticut, pear condition was rated fair and good to fair elsewhere. Apple harvest continued mostly with strip picking and on pace with last year and the five year average. Over the holiday weekend, PYO operations were at a standstill due to the rains and windy conditions. During the week, growers continued to harvest McIntosh, Macoun, Cortland, Red Delicious, Empire, and other varieties. Apple growers were also busy making apple cider. Fall raspberry growers continued to harvest berries. Maine wild blueberry growers were busy flail mowing fields since foliage is still too green to burn.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2005	2004	5-yr Avg	Fruit Size	Condition
- Percent Harvested -					
Apples	80	80	80	Avg	Good/Fair
Peaches	100	100	100	Avg	Fair/Good
Pears	95	85	75	Avg/B. Avg	Fair/Good
Cranberries, MA	55	45	45	Avg/B. Avg	Good

VEGETABLES: Heavy rain and windy conditions over the weekend limited sweet corn growers from finishing harvesting the 2005 crop. Sweet corn conditions varied from excellent to good in Vermont and good to fair elsewhere. Producers were busy harvesting brussel sprouts, cabbage, eggplant, greens, kale, pumpkins, tomatoes, and winter squash. There were reports of pumpkins floating down rivers over the holiday weekend. The warm weather continued to plague pumpkins with fungal diseases. Growers were also busy planting cover crops on harvested fields.

Rains over the holiday weekend hurt farmers markets and roadside stands business for fall mums, pumpkins and vegetables.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	3	0
Short	2	13	10
Adequate	55	81	83
Surplus	43	3	7
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	4	0
Short	3	14	10
Adequate	66	80	84
Surplus	31	2	6

FIELD CROPS: Warm, dry days early in the week allowed great conditions to harvest crops in the field; however, rains over the weekend put all field activities to a halt. Most farmers were near completion of chopping corn silage at the end of the week, except Maine growers were behind the other five states. Conditions during the first half of the week allowed farmers to bale second and third cutting of hay. Both, second and third cutting of hay conditions were rated good. Maine barley harvest advanced slightly with the warm, sunny days early in the week. But Maine oats harvest was slowed due to the weekend rain. Both oats and barley conditions were rated good. Maine potato growers took advantage of the early warm, sunny days to harvest the crop before the fall frost arrives. Potato conditions improved slightly during the week to excellent to good. Massachusetts potato growers reported hundreds of acreage of potato land damaged from flooding over the weekend. The flooding caused for a dramatic crop conditions change and was rated very poor to poor at week's end. Rhode Island potato harvest continued along as the season comes to a close. Some broadleaf tobacco was taken down in sheds.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2005	2004	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Harvested --				
Barley, ME	95	99	99	Good
Oats, ME	90	99	99	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	80	95	85	Excel/Good
Mass.	85	85	80	Very Poor/Poor
Rhode Isl.	95	100	95	Fair/Good
Sweet Corn	99	99	99	Good/Fair
Field Corn	85	75	75	Good/Excellent
Dry hay, 2 nd cut	99	99	99	Good
Dry hay, 3 rd cut	90	85	85	Good

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

For the Period: Monday October 3, 2005
To: Sunday October 9, 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
MAINE														
Augusta State A	44	76	62	+11	2339	+271	1039	+293	5.40	+4.61	5	7.71	+4.69	15
Bangor Intl_Arp	45	76	62	+11	2285	+403	975	+353	5.08	+4.37	4	7.90	+4.82	15
Bethel	44	76	61	+12	2073	+224	828	+232	3.61	+2.82	2	5.57	+2.47	9
Caribou Municip	40	79	59	+13	1840	+394	686	+308	2.07	+1.37	2	6.23	+3.21	13
Dover-Foxcroft	40	74	57	+10	1744	+153	589	+137	3.01	+2.17	2	5.15	+1.60	8
Frenchville	39	79	59	+13	1812	+469	680	+357	0.91	+0.14	2	5.21	+1.97	14
Houlton	42	78	60	+13	1847	+336	697	+273	1.79	+1.08	2	5.12	+1.99	12
Livermore Falls	39	79	62	+15	2113	+554	895	+466	3.89	+3.06	2	5.98	+2.72	9
Moosehead	40	82	58	+12	1609	+294	521	+211	1.88	+1.11	2	4.84	+1.58	13
Portland_ME	46	75	62	+11	2325	+409	1033	+396	6.04	+5.27	2	7.91	+4.93	10
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	43	78	61	+12	2044	+355	817	+341	4.01	+3.31	2	6.25	+3.42	11
Berlin_AG	44	78	61	+14	2064	+374	823	+326	3.45	+2.68	2	6.02	+3.04	8
Concord	46	81	65	+14	2618	+551	1242	+503	6.09	+5.39	2	8.48	+5.88	10
Diamond Pond	41	76	58	+13	1537	+421	486	+281	1.90	+1.06	2	5.16	+1.99	13
Keene_AP	45	79	65	+12	2607	+276	1226	+310	7.94	+7.24	2	9.30	+6.58	6
North Conway	39	78	61	+12	2280	+380	990	+357	4.29	+3.45	2	7.11	+3.90	9
Rocheſter	41	79	63	+10	2386	+151	1076	+224	6.80	+5.94	2	9.30	+6.16	8
VERMONT														
Burlington Intl	43	79	63	+12	2785	+589	1381	+540	1.61	+0.98	2	4.05	+1.23	10
Island Pond	43	77	61	+14	1982	+596	785	+460	2.10	+1.40	2	4.36	+1.47	13
Montpelier	44	79	61	+13	2358	+638	1043	+531	3.22	+2.59	2	5.25	+2.71	15
Pownal	45	78	63	+13	2370	+561	1007	+455	5.69	+4.87	2	9.18	+5.77	10
Rochester	41	81	62	+13	2285	+573	988	+484	2.82	+1.98	2	6.29	+2.89	10
Rutland_AG	43	82	61	+9	2466	+162	1133	+233	4.06	+3.37	2	7.05	+4.01	10
Sutton	41	77	60	+14	1960	+569	763	+426	2.91	+2.19	3	5.79	+2.83	15
Townshend_Lake	43	77	62	+10	2444	+263	1100	+277	5.56	+4.86	2	7.73	+4.83	10
MASSACHUSETTS														
Ashburnham	48	77	65	+15	2540	+672	1166	+568	5.54	+4.84	2	7.49	+4.77	9
Boston/Logan_In	50	81	66	+9	2962	+210	1535	+312	1.97	+1.27	2	3.56	+0.76	7
Greenfield	43	77	63	+9	2659	+132	1260	+211	5.63	+4.86	4	7.53	+4.44	9
New_Bedford	45	78	66	+8	2703	-100	1302	+39	2.41	+1.68	2	6.38	+3.41	8
Otis_AFB	45	79	66	+11	2901	+647	1448	+583	2.19	+1.35	2	7.08	+3.84	8
Plymouth	47	78	66	+12	2675	+374	1323	+420	2.59	+1.70	2	6.79	+3.08	7
Walpole	49	79	67	+14	2862	+569	1437	+543	2.88	+2.04	2	5.58	+2.22	9
Chicopee/Westov	48	78	66	+10	3040	+127	1537	+194	7.11	+6.34	2	9.61	+6.41	8
Worthington	40	79	61	+10	2289	+431	962	+387	10.20	+9.42	2	11.49	+8.19	10
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	51	78	67	+11	3149	+530	1666	+536	2.64	+1.87	3	6.92	+3.77	9
Woonsocket	47	80	67	+14	2865	+608	1420	+574	3.22	+2.36	2	5.50	+2.04	9
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	54	76	68	+10	3275	+428	1711	+391	2.80	+2.13	5	4.92	+2.12	10
Hartford/Bradle	46	79	67	+12	3243	+475	1709	+469	5.42	+4.61	2	6.89	+3.48	8
Norfolk	45	74	62	+12	2392	+543	1023	+450	6.69	+5.83	2	8.25	+4.57	9
Thomaston_Dam	46	78	65	+11	2873	+619	1410	+566	7.22	+6.35	3	9.61	+6.00	11
Willimantic	50	78	67	+13	2908	+606	1430	+554	3.79	+2.88	2	5.09	+1.43	9

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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1-888-798-9955.

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 9, 2005

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	36	82	60	+11	0.91	8.82
NH	34	83	62	+13	1.21	9.84
VT	38	82	61	+12	1.61	6.07
MA	37	86	65	+12	0.42	10.20
RI	47	80	66	+11	0.72	3.22
CT	36	81	65	+11	1.62	7.22

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: Rain fell at the end of the week. Farmers are nearly finished chopping silage corn. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Early in the week mornings were foggy and afternoons were mostly sunny and humid allowing for some third cutting to be baled. Most finished chopping corn silage. Rain started on Friday and continued thru the holiday weekend, which hurt pumpkin and apple sales. Some broadleaf was taken down in sheds. Grain corn was just about ready to combine but fields are too wet or under water. Pumpkins were seen floating down the Connecticut River on Monday. Some trucks and tractors are under water along the CT River. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Warmer temperatures than normal. Heavy rain and wind, some flooding and broken branches. All crop harvests are nearly complete, apple picking, making cider, applying cover crops, spreading manure, cleaning equipment and putting it away. Fall changing leaf colors brightening the landscape. Wildlife, deer, and turkeys out in the open fields. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** The rains finally came but it was too late for the crops. Now producers are trying to cope with the results of too much rain all at once. Rain on Saturday ranged from 4 to 6 inches throughout the two county areas resulting in gully erosion and there were some reports of wind damage. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Fifteen degrees above normal and drought early in the week to seasonable temperatures and flood late in the week! Five to ten inches of rain throughout the area. Field work came to a screeching halt for those few not already finished.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Warm sunny weather during the week enabled several growers to complete potato harvest. However, growers with late maturing varieties still have considerable acreage left to harvest. Showers predicted for the next week could delay potato harvest. Also wet soils will also slow down harvesting process. Yields of late maturing varieties such as Russet Burbanks are higher than originally expected. Quality is very good. Still some small grains yet to be harvested. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: A lot of moisture. Waiting for things to dry up. **Leslie Nelson (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Conditions early in the week were good for field work, but heavy rain over the weekend saturated fields and left many with standing water. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Excessive rain this weekend have halted all field activities. **Donald Burke (FSA), Waldo:** PYO apples now available. Silage corn harvest happening at a rapid pace, trying to take advantage of the weather. Haying will continue once silage corn is in. High fuel prices still affecting local farmers. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Flail mowing has begun on blueberry fields, but too early to start burning as the foliage is still green. Silage corn harvest is almost complete. Haying is still underway. No frosts yet and very little fall foliage along the coast. The warm weather this fall is in contrast to the cold wet and rainy spring. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The area received 6-8 inches of rain over the weekend. The ground is very soggy, luckily most crops have been harvested. Rain over the holiday weekend wiped out income from pick your own visitors. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** The ground is saturated. Silage corn could be tough to get off in places. Some remaining apples were knocked off the trees. Grain corn & soybeans left to go. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County has received in spots more than 7 inches of rain over the weekend. This has brought mud to fields and will make harvesting fall crops harder. Farmers have reported that cows do not want to go out in this weather but it's too early for that!! Waiting on the sunshine to help dry up some of these muddy and wet fields. **Laura Rand (FSA), Androscoggin:** Silage and potato growers are completing harvest. Rain over the weekend hampered harvesting activities and will take awhile to dry out. No reports of frost.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Well, the big story everywhere in the county was up to 8 1/2 inches of rain on Saturday. The Housatonic and Hoosic rivers both flooded. We are waiting to hear the reports from those farms in the floodplains but it looked like it took 2 days for the water to recede. Fortunately, most of the silage has been cut and things will dry out a little before grain harvesting. Saturday was a bust for farmers'

markets and farm stands but business picked up for the balance of the 3 day weekend. Our foliage should peak around next weekend so the tourist traffic will be high and school kids are making Halloween field trips to the local farms, both good for business. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvesting continues, with smaller crops than anticipated for many growers. Color still not very good. Horrible weather for dry harvesting over the weekend, and the coming week does not look very good either. Where was all this rain when the vines needed it in August? **Jason Otto (FSA), Bristol:** Very wet weekend hindered fall sales. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Ten inches of rain on October 8th flooded many sections of Franklin County. Producers have reported that the Deerfield and Connecticut River rose so fast that animals needed to be rescued by boat during the height of the storm. Preliminary indications suggest that no animals were lost to drowning. All remaining crops that were unharvested at the time of the storm have been affected. All farmland along these rivers, and their tributaries, has suffered some degree of erosion damage. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Two days if heavy, heavy rains brought all rivers overflowing their banks. The seven to ten inches of rainfall caused hundreds and hundreds of acres of corn, potato and hay to be flooded. There were reports of boats, pumpkins, and big white marshmallows (hay bales) floating down the Connecticut River. Farm stands and PYO operations were at a standstill this holiday weekend due to the rain. Fall harvest continues of apples, cabbage, greens, and potatoes. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Sweet corn harvest ended here on Sunday. None left to pick. Heavy rain (5") washed out driveways and flooded some roads. Field work mainly consisted of chopping corn, picking tomatoes, eggplant, and sweet corn. Warm weather slowed pumpkin and mum sales, wet Columbus Day weekend hurting farm stand sales of fall products. Cranberry harvest starts next week. Fall raspberry harvest best in years, still picking. New strawberry fields look wonderful!

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: The last fair of the season is in the bag, time to button everything up for the coming winter. Pumpkin and mum sales lagging, due to recent warm weather. Sales should pick up now that it's beginning to look and feel like fall. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Higher than normal temperatures. Heavy rains over the weekend caused flooding and washouts in areas, especially along Ashuelot River, but soil is water-saturated pretty much everywhere. Corn harvest pretty much done, many farms spreading manure and/or rye. Vegetable stands still offering pumpkins and a bit of sweet corn, but other crops are winding down. Orchards are doing well, but warm temperatures are holding back PYO customers - who wants to bake a pie when it's 80 degrees out? **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Crop season drawing to a close in Coos, yet still no hard killing frost/freeze. Silage corn continues to be chopped, most now in except for some of largest farm acreage on the CT River. Also fields on upper Androscoggin which were delayed in planting by late spring flooding. Bunk silos being packed and covered. Generally a good year for not much insect and disease pressure. Probably more apple scab than usual, also fungal disease in pumpkins, especially non-rotated plots. An unseasonably warm autumn. Still nice colors despite heavy rains on Saturday, corn stalks, pumpkins, mums, etc. still available at farm stands. Tomatoes still OK in high tunnels too! Canadian Geese are back. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn harvesting winding down to completion. Heavy rains over the weekend stop all field work. Fourth cutting looks good in some areas. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** The weather for the week of October 2nd was as you could ask for in October. Farmers were harvesting grass and alfalfa, along with what is left of the corn crop in a few cases. As a general rule, crops have done well, given the slow wet start that they had in the spring. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Major rain showers occurred Saturday causing flooding and eroding farm fields. At one farm, unharvested pumpkins were carried away by the strong flooded river current. Vegetables: Good demand for all vegetable continues. Harvesting wide array of vegetables including: cabbage, kale, brussel sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins along with the tail end of warm season crops. Farmers kept busy working on harvested fields by pulling plastic mulch & tomato stakes, disking fields, cleaning up fields, and planting cover crops. Fruit: Pick-your-own apple operations had a bad rainy holiday weekend! Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on strip picking McIntosh, Macoun, and Cortland. Harvesting late maturing varieties like Red Delicious, Empire, etc.

Fruit size is good, but bruising can be a problem. Pear harvest almost completed. Field Crops: Field corn harvest in full swing end is in sight. Cover crops were being planted in harvested fields. **Sadie Puglisi (Ext), Merrimack:** We had some great warm days last week, then rain this weekend. Some flooded areas in the county. Had at least one good day this weekend for orchards to get some good business. People are harvesting, and others are preparing the soil for next spring. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Heavy rains at the end of the week. Fruit growers busy harvesting apples and Fall raspberries. Vegetables growers harvesting sweet corn, tomatoes and other vegetables. Garden centers busy with fall mum sales. Most Garden centers and nurseries have trees and shrubs on discounted sale prices. Poinsettia crop growing well at most greenhouse operations. Some hay producers still doing second cut haying.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Warm summer like weather came to an end with several days of rain. Corn silage harvest is almost over. High moisture corn harvest has not yet started. Manure being spread on cut cornfields and grass fields. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Another warm and dry week helped some

farmers finish their corn harvest. This has been a really good season for corn. Temperatures were in the 80's. Is this August or October? A few farmers are taking advantage of the long, warm season by harvesting some forth cut hay. **Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham:** Corn harvesting is pretty much completed. Now finishing 3rd cut. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Another warm week, some record highs, fog some mornings did not lift until noon. Old timers say they have never seen green grass like this in October. Most of corn in, virtually all hay, good crop year. Five inches of rain on Saturday, steady heavy rain, little washout damage, don't know about flooding. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Rain last week kept field work to a minimum. However, in some areas farmers were still able to harvest corn and forage. Manure spreading continues as well as fall plowing. Cover crops are up on some fields. Combining of corn and soybeans has started. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** All harvested fields seeded to winter rye. Potatoes all dug. Still cutting cabbage and broccoli, nice green cover crop of rye on early seeded fields. 0.392 inches of rain for the week. The fall market garden season in full swing from pumpkins to bitter sweet. Big crop of pumpkins and squash. Markets full for the season. Still lack of color in Rutland County.

September 2005 Crop Weather Summary: The month of September brought mild temperatures to the six-state region. Prolonged lack of moisture in August continued into early September, and at mid-month topsoil moisture levels were rated short or very short in 47 percent in the region. Rains finally arrived with the remnants of Hurricane Ophelia at mid-month, and again at the end of the month with Hurricane Rita, bringing much needed moisture to New England. Soil and pasture conditions improved, however, the rains came too late for many crops to recover from the long stretch of dry weather. Second cutting hay harvest was nearly complete by month's end. Rains at the end of the month enhanced re-growth of third crop hay and many farmers delayed harvest to increase yields. Growers taking a third cutting had 15 percent left to harvest at the end of September. Lack of moisture forced farmers in southern New England to chop corn silage earlier than normal, with many starting the first week in September to avoid crops burning up in the fields. Field corn harvest in the six state region proceeded at a fast pace this season because the crop dried down so quickly. Close to three quarters of New England field corn was in the silo by month's end, compared with 60 percent last year and normal. Warm, dry conditions provided excellent harvest and curing conditions for the 2005 tobacco crops. Lack of moisture kept most of the broadleaf crop disease-free, with harvest complete at mid-month. Shade tobacco harvest was also winding down by mid-September; damage from TMV (Tobacco Mosaic Virus) has shown up at some locations as the crop cures. Maine small grain farmers also took advantage of early September's dry weather to move combining along at a fast clip. Progress of oats and barley harvest remained strong until rains arrived at the end of the month, with ten percent left to combine. Maine potato growers held off harvest until the end of September to allow tubers to bulk up after a late start in June. Just as harvest was gaining momentum, heavy rains hit, leaving many fields with standing water in the rows. As of September 26th, ten percent was harvested, compared with 30 percent last year and normal. Potato harvest in Massachusetts and Rhode Island was active during the month, with good or fair conditions reported dependant on moisture availability. Sweet corn harvest also dominated fieldwork activities in New England during the month, and picking neared completion at month's end. Dry weather reduced yields on many vegetable crops and irrigation was in full force if available. Blueberry harvest was complete in New England by mid-September, on schedule with normal. High bush blueberry condition was rated good or excellent region-wide, with fruit size average to above average. Poor pollinating conditions early in the season and lack of moisture at critical times during the summer kept Maine's wild blueberry condition at mostly fair, and fruit size average. The 2005 cranberry harvest season was underway at the end of September, but proceeding slowly in hopes of rainfall to increase sizing and cooler temperatures to improve coloring. The warm month provided great weather to get folks out to pick-your-own tree fruit operations in New England. Peach harvest was winding down at month's end, with the crop rated in good to fair condition. Apple harvest reached the half-way point as the month came to a close, with fruit size varying from average to below average in the six state region due to lack of moisture. Pear growers had 35 percent of the crop left to pick at the end of September, with fruit size at average or below average.

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