

# Crop Progress & Condition



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For week ending 6/6/10

## Thunderstorms Welcomed Despite Intensity

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending June 6, 2010, there were 4.6 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 1% very poor, 6% poor, 25% fair, 61% good, and 7% excellent. The week began partly cloudy with average to above average daytime temperatures ranging from the upper 60s to low 80s. With the exception of Maine, average to above average temperatures in the 70s and 80s persisted through Saturday in the region. Rain showers and thunderstorms affected New England on Tuesday leaving 0.01 to 0.40 inches and from Thursday night into Friday dumping 0.10 to 1.61 inches throughout the region. The weekend saw heavy rain showers and thunderstorms throughout New England with most of the region experiencing over half an inch of precipitation. New England experienced hail, heavy winds, and the majority of the region was under either a tornado watch or warning. Tornadoes touched ground in the northern States, causing localized damage, while high winds caused some damage in the southern States. The week ended rainy with above average temperatures in southern New England and below average temperatures in the northern States. Nighttime average temperatures for the week ranged from the low 50s to low 60s. Total rainfall for the week ranged from 0.50 to 2.81 inches.

**FRUIT:** Development of blueberries and strawberries neared completion by the end of the week. Extent of frost damage is still being assessed as fruits continue to mature. The first "Pick Your Own" (PYO) strawberry operations were open and underway last week, a week earlier than normal in some locations. As of June 6, ten percent of the strawberry crop was harvested. Raspberry and blueberry PYO operations were about to open by week's end. Grapes lost due to freeze were beginning to bud again. Cranberry vines were blooming, except for later varieties. Bee hives have been placed adjacent to cranberry bogs and first fungicides for fruit rot applied. Dodder has been found in the vicinity of the cranberries. Strong winds and large hail caused localized damage to apple orchards throughout New England. Orchardists were applying herbicides, fertilizers, and mowing the orchard floors. Fruit growers continued to monitor for pests and crop development while applying cover sprays as needed. Fire blight has also made an appearance in apple orchards. Cranberry vines have bloomed for all but later varieties. Bee hives have been placed adjacent to bogs and first fungicides for fruit rot applied.

**VEGETABLES:** Transplants, including tomato and pepper plants, were moved from greenhouses into fields. Farmers were also occupied harvesting asparagus, fiddleheads, greens, spinach, scallions, radishes, cucumbers, tomatoes, rhubarb, and lettuce. Summer squash was ready for picking in some areas. Vegetable operators were weeding and irrigating fields in some areas to make up for the lack of rain at the beginning of the week. Cutworms began to appear in vegetable fields while growers scouted for flea and cucumber beetles, cabbage caterpillars, and thrips.

**FIELD CROPS:** After some much needed rain, pastures have begun to look more promising. In some areas such as Connecticut, the soil was still not saturated. Field corn continued doing well throughout the region and reached knee high in Massachusetts by week's end. Where the soil was dry, there were reports of uneven emergence. Corn and other crops germinated quickly and were growing well as farmers finished up planting and weed spraying fields. Corn borer larvae have been spotted in some areas and overgrazed pastures were dominated by buttercups. Cutting of dry hay was not significantly slowed despite the constant rain and a few farmers began a second cut last week which is unusual at this time of the year. Alfalfa harvesting started last week in some areas. Grasses have been maturing despite abundant clouds.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	1	16	2
Short	10	39	17
Adequate	76	44	76
Surplus	13	1	5
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	1	9	2
Short	11	35	13
Adequate	79	54	80
Surplus	9	2	5

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Development	Set	Condition
Apples	PF	Avg/Below	Fair/Good
Peaches	PF	Avg/Below	Fair/Good
Pears	PF	Avg/Below	Good/Fair
Blueberries			
Highbush	PF	Average	Good/Fair
Wild	FB/PF	Avg/Below	Good
Cranberries, MA	BS/EB	N/A	Good
Strawberries	FB/PF	Avg/Below	Good/Fair

BS = Bud Stage, EB = Early Bloom, FB = Full Bloom, PF = Petal Fall

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2010	2009	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Planted--				
Potatoes				
Maine	100	100	90	
Mass	100	100	100	
Rhode Island	100	99	99	
Silage Corn	90	90	85	
Sweet Corn	80	75	70	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	40	35	40	Good/Fair
Shade	100	100	95	Good/Fair
--Percent Emerged--				
Barley, ME	99	80	65	Good/Excellent
Oats, ME	95	90	70	Good/Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	55	5	15	Good
Mass	100	85	65	Good
Rhode Island	100	80	85	Good
Silage Corn	65	60	50	Good
Sweet Corn	55	55	50	Good
-- Percent Harvested --				
Dry Hay				
First Cut	55	30	25	Good/Fair
Second Cut	<5	0	0	Good

**Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics**

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday May 31, 2010  
 To: Sunday June 6, 2010

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	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
	---	---	---	---	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	---	---	INCHES	---	---
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_State_A	47	80	62	+2	467	+224	116	+85	1.37	+0.56	4	1.86	-1.48	6
Bangor_Intl_Arp	46	78	62	+3	426	+230	101	+82	1.06	+0.25	4	1.81	-1.42	7
Bethel	46	79	63	+3	387	+178	90	+66	2.18	+1.27	4	2.93	-0.46	7
Caribou_Municip	44	74	59	+2	311	+162	76	+63	2.63	+1.96	5	3.42	+0.65	9
Dover-Foxcroft	38	77	59	+2	295	+142	62	+50	2.64	+1.80	5	3.07	-0.19	7
Frenchville	41	72	56	+0	256	+136	55	+53	1.74	+1.04	5	1.91	-0.92	7
Houlton	42	74	59	+2	293	+141	71	+57	2.70	+1.93	5	4.13	+1.05	9
Livermore_Falls	39	79	62	+5	353	+198	82	+70	1.01	+0.06	5	1.79	-1.72	7
Moosehead	36	75	57	+3	224	+125	40	+40	2.74	+1.88	5	2.94	-0.27	8
Portland_ME	50	79	63	+5	438	+256	103	+93	0.94	+0.15	4	2.02	-1.16	6
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	45	81	63	+5	370	+143	96	+67	1.23	+0.37	6	1.47	-1.78	12
Berlin_AG	43	82	63	+5	355	+150	85	+60	1.80	+0.89	5	2.28	-1.08	7
Concord	50	85	70	+9	560	+293	205	+162	0.86	+0.15	5	1.86	-0.98	9
Diamond_Pond	31	78	53	-2	146	+48	23	+23	2.76	+1.73	5	3.71	-0.07	11
Keene_AG	54	85	70	+8	509	+162	176	+103	0.30	-0.55	4	2.09	-1.34	11
North_Conway	47	82	64	+4	428	+192	111	+78	1.06	+0.15	5	1.73	-1.90	9
Rochester	52	82	68	+6	544	+240	174	+119	0.88	+0.04	3	2.86	-0.57	7
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Bennington_AP	52	85	69	+11	528	+294	194	+159	1.21	+0.15	5	1.94	-2.24	11
Burlington_Intl	47	84	67	+6	563	+245	206	+141	1.55	+0.78	6	1.97	-0.93	11
Island_Pond	37	79	62	+6	334	+184	81	+66	1.73	+0.75	6	2.85	-0.71	15
Montpelier	45	81	65	+6	440	+219	142	+112	1.51	+0.67	6	2.17	-0.93	15
Rochester	46	84	65	+8	401	+196	113	+87	1.33	+0.41	5	1.87	-1.99	11
Rutland_AG	51	84	68	+6	478	+118	158	+75	0.98	+0.17	4	1.86	-1.36	7
Springfield_VT	53	85	69	+10	534	+286	187	+149	1.01	+0.09	6	2.50	-1.20	12
Sutton	42	77	61	+5	335	+187	75	+60	3.14	+2.18	6	3.86	+0.38	14
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	59	85	71	+8	714	+333	259	+194	1.86	+1.13	5	3.52	+0.64	10
Fitchburg	56	86	73	+14	725	+503	285	+259	1.00	+0.19	4	2.88	-0.35	10
Greenfield	55	87	71	+8	537	+154	193	+114	0.26	-0.65	3	1.35	-2.22	11
New_Bedford	54	81	70	+7	587	+209	185	+123	1.17	+0.33	2	2.75	-0.57	8
Otis_AFB	55	79	66	+7	458	+225	111	+87	0.97	+0.19	5	2.97	-0.30	11
Plymouth	60	84	71	+10	631	+374	218	+186	0.69	-0.15	3	2.12	-1.36	8
Walpole	57	82	70	+9	637	+332	229	+180	0.86	+0.03	5	2.82	-0.32	11
Chicopee/Westov	54	87	72	+7	661	+180	254	+138	0.99	+0.01	5	2.18	-1.60	13
Worthington	52	83	68	+10	475	+245	156	+125	0.99	+0.05	3	2.43	-1.62	10
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	61	84	73	+10	727	+386	251	+196	1.32	+0.51	4	2.54	-0.77	9
Woonsocket	57	85	72	+11	655	+354	233	+193	1.33	+0.42	4	3.80	+0.16	10
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	62	86	74	+10	663	+267	217	+131	0.38	-0.46	2	2.30	-1.18	11
Hartford/Bradle	58	88	74	+10	796	+348	313	+205	1.62	+0.71	4	3.40	-0.33	12
Norfolk	57	81	69	+10	521	+296	173	+145	0.76	-0.30	4	2.66	-1.49	12
Thomaston_Dam	57	85	72	+11	622	+301	221	+165	0.74	-0.24	4	2.80	-1.15	12
Willimantic	56	86	73	+11	671	+348	252	+197	0.62	-0.29	4	2.43	-1.29	12

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, June 6, 2010

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	36	84	60	+3	0.84	3.09
NH	30	88	66	+7	0.50	2.76
VT	37	93	65	+7	0.45	3.59
MA	52	90	70	+9	0.18	2.08
RI	57	85	70	+9	0.75	1.62
CT	54	89	73	+10	0.35	1.62

**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:** We had scattered heavy thunderstorms, high winds, and hail over the weekend. Several areas lost power for hours. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Several severe thunderstorms and high winds provided much needed rain, without any known damage. Transplanting tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and other transplants moving out of greenhouses into fields. Direct seeded veggies emerged and are looking good. Field corn nearly all planted and in good condition. Some dry hay harvested, but most chopped as silage. Broadleaf tobacco setting continues and shade tobacco is all planted. Strawberry harvest is in full swing with raspberries and blueberries not far behind. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Corn planting is progressing well. Soil is dry, scattered showers have helped in spots but we need rain. The heavy showers never seem to saturate the soil, most of it runs off. We need a good soaking. **Patricia Smith (FSA), New London:** Crops continue to thrive. Everything is still ahead of schedule. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Scattered showers every other day this week slowed down hay making but brought some needed rain to some areas. Other areas are getting dry. Corn planting continued where it was dry. Vegetables are doing fine. Strawberry harvest has begun and looks good. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Scattered hail around on Sunday June 6th, thank goodness no tornadoes, despite the warnings. Sweet corn is silking in the CT River Valley. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Warm sunny week, with a few fast moving thunderstorms dropped 1/4 then 1/2 inch of rain and high winds. Strawberry harvest has begun about a week early due to heat, good growth on the plants and berries are good. Grapes that lost the first cluster of flowers due to freeze are beginning to bud again. Cutting off damage to the vines, going through the vineyard and tucking the vines in to direct growth and manage the vines. Farmers Markets have begun. Growers are netting blueberries. Corn and hay look good.

**MAINE – Casey Cote (St John Valley Soil & Water Conservation Dist), Northern Aroostook:** Much needed rain fell on the St. John Valley this week. Seed potato growers are finishing up planting. The emerged small grains look good. **Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Two and half inches of rain this weekend kept farmers out of the fields. They will be anxious to get back to catch up on hilling and herbicide application. Timothy hay has headed out about a week to ten days early. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Rain, Rain and more Rain - farmers have not been able to go into the fields because of the weather. Rain started on Wednesday and has continued throughout the week & weekend. The crops are emerging and looking great so far. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Ah, rain just in time to water the plants and make the grass jump in growth! The soils are warm and moist. Planted crops are emerging very quickly. **Megan McDonough (FSA), Kennebec:** Kennebec received much needed rain last week. Planting continues, corn has emerged and appears to be off to a good start. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Much needed rain arrived now we need some sun to help germinate existing crops. Corn is emerging and looks good. Fruit is starting to set on plants. Spraying will be on going in the next weeks to come to prevent diseases from starting. Hay fields have started being harvested of first crop and look pretty good. Manure has been applied to fields that have first crop taken off. Overall crops are looking good. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** A wet weekend was experienced in the mid-coast area. Approximately 3 inches of rain fell during various periods. Some areas experience hail yesterday, but none has been reported in the mid-coast. Rain was needed and most crops continue to do well. No improvements reported on the apple or strawberry crops. Strawberry yields may be off by as much as 50 percent. There could be a much higher loss to the apple crop. Normal field activities continued through most of the week with some crops being transplanted and grass being chopped. Post emergency herbicide and fertilizer were applied to blueberry fields. Right now the crop looks good although there are some spotty losses on high ground that may have been caused by blight. A good week is forecasted with plenty of sunshine. This is welcomed after a dreary week and very wet weekend in this area. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County sustained a very strong storm late afternoon Saturday, June 5th which some are reporting a "TORNADO" touched down once again in Oxford County. The towns hit the hardest were Oxford, Hebron, South Paris, West Paris, Buckfield and Sumner. Trees were hit hard with damage and several houses and out buildings were damaged. Some have reported damage to

apple orchards due to high wind and large hail. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Rain this weekend helped replenish the soil and should help crops. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Much needed rain over the weekend, will help with the crops. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Rain over the weekend was much needed for all crops. Crop progress is still well ahead of normal. **Amanda May (FSA), Washington:** Thankful for the much needed rain.

**MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** Soaking rains this week gave crops a boost as we had been dry. Strawberries are a week early, blueberries are coming along quickly. Field corn is ahead...knee high by the 4th of June? First hay, with reports of early maturity and short height was cut, low yield but good quality. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Great week for planting crops! Still need a good soaking rain though. Producers are irrigating crops. Planting of tobacco is in full swing. Strawberry harvest has begun as asparagus harvest is ending. Spring crops like radishes and lettuce are starting to come in as well. Haying is also in getting underway. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Rain was greatly needed this week. Harvesting lettuce, radishes, greens, strawberries, rhubarb, and asparagus continues. Planting winter squash, peppers, tomatoes, pumpkins, cabbage, greens and tobacco has commenced. Vegetable growers are scouting for flea and cucumber beetles, cabbage caterpillars and thrips. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Vines are blooming for all, but the later varieties. First fungicides for fruit rot are being applied. Bee hives are being located bog side. Dodder is starting to show up. Insect levels have been reasonably high this season.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE – William Lord (Ext), Belknap:** Very dry weather continues although today (6/3) has brought some light rain. The dry conditions have allowed some hay harvest. Corn and other crops are germinating quickly and growing well as soil temperatures are nearly ideal. A good soaking rain is needed. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Warm weather all week, with a few showers and thunderstorms to provide some needed moisture. Field corn growing rapidly- earliest planted fields now at 4-5 leaf stage. Hay crops and pastures are doing well. Farm stands, etc. offering lettuce, radishes, other greens, and just starting to have a few strawberries. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Cooling temperatures and rain this week. Especially heavy down pour and high winds towards week's end, slowing farm activity but rain was needed. Corn and grass are growing well. Fields are quite sodden now. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the first week of June, we had some light level of rain fall during six of the days. Most of the rain arrived over the weekend, with total rain at just over 2.7 inches. First cut hay is almost completed. Yield reports indicate that the yield per acre of first cut hay is down significantly in many cases. The producers hope to make it up on subsequent cuttings. Most of the field corn is in and emerged. Vegetable growers are doing well. The rains that arrived over the weekend were needed. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Strawberries were being picked during the week and Strawberry Pick-Your-Own operations opened over the weekend. Fruit growers are monitoring pest and crop development and applying cover sprays for pest. Mowing orchard floors and weed spraying under trees also, hand thinning peaches. Fire blight strikes are showing up in apple orchards. Field Crops: Most farmers are finishing-up planting and weed spraying corn fields. Farmers are trying to make haylage and baled hay between showers. Grasses maturing, especially orchard grass. Vegetables: Harvesting spinach, greens, asparagus and rhubarb. Finishing most transplanting tomato and pepper plants, and continue making successive planting of various vegetable crops. Some vegetable growers were irrigating fields at beginning of the week. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Very dry conditions during the week until a bit of rain came on Saturday and more on Sunday. Farmers set up irrigation to water in newly set transplants. All vegetables can be put out in the field now and farms are working to accomplish this task. Lettuce, greens, radish and asparagus are available in farm stands and markets. The first strawberries were picked late in the week. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Strawberry crop looks great and early season picking started last week. Harvesting greenhouse tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini, asparagus and scallions. Cutworms are active in vegetable fields. Growers busy planting sweet corn, vegetables, small fruits, tree fruits. Monitoring pests in orchards and spraying protective fungicides. Pasture and hay crops look good. The weekend saw gusty winds and torrential rain. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Dry and warm weather most of

the week, but much needed rain showers at the end of the week. Hay producers continued to make hay and haylage. Fruit growers were busy irrigating their crops and mowing the orchard floors. Fruit crops that survived the frost damage a few weeks ago are doing well. Some growers started harvesting strawberries and pick your own operations are opening their fields this week for picking. Vegetable growers were weeding and irrigating their crops. Growers were planting pumpkins and other vegetable crops. Some growers were harvesting cool season crops such as radishes, lettuces and other greens and greenhouse tomatoes and cucumbers. Garden centers and greenhouse operations were busy with customers buying vegetable transplants, bedding plants and other ornamental products.

**RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** Last week was not a good week for hay, a lot of cloudy days. Potatoes are looking terrific, no sign of blight yet. Strawberries are being picked. Pick your own and commercial are both doing great. We are still planting sweet corn for mid-season and late season picking. Livestock is looking good. Pastures are in good shape as far as feed availability. A lot of plants are going in now such as eggplants, peppers, tomatoes etc. Starting to pick summer squash this week. Sunday morning June 6th, we had terrific thunderstorms come through the area, as much as 1 to 2 inches of rain per hour. Have not heard of any crop damages as of yet. Overall, it's been a good week.

**VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Corn growth is excellent, crop plants are in very good condition. Some crusting of later planted clay soils. Wet conditions this week stalled planting, weed control spray still being applied. Dry hay harvest stopped, but haylage chopping continues with heavy grass yields. Alfalfa harvest has started. Manure spreading on cut hay fields, re-growth is very fast with warm weather and rain. New seeding hay looks a bit ragged, but complete stands. Continuous stocked pastures grazed down already, but still green in fair to good shape. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** We received an inch of rain last week, and it is raining as I write this. Everybody is happy to see the moisture. Farmers spreading manure onto hay stubble. Few were able to do some chopping or round baling, but it was rain every other day. Not too hot, not too cool, plenty of sunshine between the rains, a

good growing week. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Dry has turned to wet in Franklin County this weekend. Heavy rains, with no major flooding, across the county Saturday and Sunday have nullified any concerns of herbicide activity due to dry weather. Good week for haylage harvest. Amazing to see the majority of first cut for haylage harvested before June 1. Good thing we got the rains this weekend. The trend of wet weather the first of June seems to be holding on. Corn has perked up with good growth this week. Hopefully we do not get extended rains which will start to show up as yellowing corn. Gardens are doing great with most planting completed. Strawberries should be coming up soon, which will kick off the harvest season. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Last week was too dry and now after about 2-3 inches of rain we are all set for awhile! Folks still are working on making first cut hay. Corn has emerged in most places. Some reports of uneven emergence due to dry soil. Corn in some places is at 3 to 4 leaf stage. First generation corn borer larvae have been spotted. Looks like a decent week ahead to finish up the hay. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Our short lived "hot" spell came to an end with some stormy weather over the weekend. A tornado was reported in the area with minimal agricultural damage. Corn crop could use some more hot dry weather which would also be beneficial to wrapping up the first cut of grass. Pastures that have been overgrazed are now dominated by buttercups. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** We had several days of rain this week. Some periods the rain were very heavy. There was not a lot of field work due to the bad weather but the rain was needed. Both field and sweet corn has been planted and emergence looks very good. With this rain the seedlings look very good. A lot of first cut grass has been harvested. The yields are a bit low but so far the quality is good. The rains have helped push the second crop growth. Pastures are looking much better with the recent rain. I few local strawberries are finding their way onto the market. Fruit look good and has nice flavor. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Strawberries are nearly ready to pick. Fruit set for apple crop now seem to be a larger loss than anticipated at some orchards due to frost that occurred a couple of weeks ago but not all. Hay crop is reported as lighter than normal, but producers are glad to have the weather to get it completed. Corn looks good despite the continuing need for rainfall.

**MAY 2010 CROP WEATHER SUMMARY:** New England experienced mostly dry conditions and generally above average temperatures during the month of May, with average high temperatures ranging from the mid-60s to the mid-70s. Low temperature averages ranged from the lower 40s to the mid-50s. The month began with record-breaking temperatures reaching as high as 90 degrees during the first weekend of May. The second week was wet with the region reporting 0.35 to 1.90 inches of precipitation. The second week began warm while the weekend saw temperatures mostly drop to the 40s and 50s. Snow showers, lightning, and heavy winds were present at the end of the week. Cold weather persisted until the middle of the third week, causing at least one instance of frost in all States. Temperatures reached the low 20s in some areas. New England warmed to seasonal levels by the end of the third week, however, cooler conditions returned during May 18-19 and rain showers kept the soils from becoming drier. Summer-like conditions arrived on May 20<sup>th</sup> with temperatures in the 70s and 80s and by May 25-26 most of New England experienced record-breaking temperatures in the 90s. A cold front clashed with the warm air on the night of May 26<sup>th</sup> resulting in lightning, 1 inch hail, and winds gusting up to 70 miles per hour. The severe weather event brought only minimal precipitation. The month ended with dry soils in need of rain. Total rainfall for May ranged from 0.36 to 2.74 inches below normal. Fruit trees were mostly in full bloom stage at the beginning of May, two to three weeks ahead of normal due to the unusually warm weather during March and April. Fruit development continued ahead of schedule by month's end. The heavy frosts in mid-May damaged or destroyed a substantial portion of New England's apples, pears, and peaches. Berries that were irrigated were less prone to frost damage. Fruit growers were busy monitoring for pests and applying fungicides, pesticides, and insecticides. Mummyberry disease and insect damage were observed in blueberry fields. Many farmers began planting early season vegetables several days ahead of schedule, however, sweet corn planting and emergence was on par with by month's end. Fall vegetables, such as winter squashes and pumpkins, were being planted during late May. Vegetable growers were also harvesting asparagus, fiddleheads, greens, spinach, scallions, radishes, cucumbers, tomatoes, and rhubarb. Field preparations were generally two weeks ahead of schedule, allowing early planting of field corn, potatoes, oats, and barley. This resulted in early emergence for the time of year. By the end of May, potatoes in Massachusetts and Rhode Island finished emerging. Emergence of oats and barley in Maine was mostly complete. Shade tobacco transplanting was complete at the end of the month while broadleaf transplanting was ahead of last year and normal. The first cutting of grass for dry hay and haylage began in the middle of May and was active during the rest of the month.

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