

# Crop Progress & Condition



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For week ending 6/27/10

## Summer is Here

### GENERAL CONDITIONS:

For the week ending June 27, 2010, there were 5.3 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 1% very poor, 7% poor, 16% fair, 63% good, and 13% excellent. The week began dry and warm with above average daytime temperatures ranging from the upper 70s to upper 80s. Wet weather and seasonal temperatures continued with New England reporting 0.12 to 0.59 inches of rain on Tuesday and Wednesday. A storm system moved into the region on Thursday with many areas reporting severe weather. Areas hit the hardest experienced torrential rain, hail, lightning, and wind gusts exceeding 70 mph. Most areas experienced cloudy skies with localized light rain showers. Nighttime temperature averages ranged from low 50s to upper 60s. Total precipitation for the week ranged from 0.14 to 1.30 inches.

### FRUIT:

Strawberry season began to wind down last week ahead of normal due to the early start of harvest. Berry size was reportedly smaller than usual in some areas due to May frosts but crop quality was good. Sweet cherries continued to be harvested in New Hampshire while grapes continued to develop in Connecticut. Highbush blueberry and raspberry harvesting began in some areas last week, while wild blueberries continued to change color. Cranberries were in full bloom to petal fall stage by week's end and mostly in good condition despite the strong presence of dodder in most areas. Fruit growers were busy monitoring pest and crop development, applying cover sprays, setting out fly traps for fruit flies, and mowing orchard floors last week.

### VEGETABLES:

Sweet corn was reported to be about two weeks ahead of schedule in development throughout the region with some harvesting reported in the southernmost States. Farmers were occupied harvesting other early season vegetables including: cucumbers, green and yellow beans, greens, herbs, lettuce, peas, radishes, rhubarb, scallions, spinach, summer squash, tomatoes, and zucchini. Farmers were also busy last week applying fertilizers, cultivating weeds, irrigating fields as needed, and scouting for pests. Late blight on tomatoes was reported to be problematic in Connecticut.

### FIELD CROPS:

Field corn did well last week; many crop weather specialists reported it to be about two weeks ahead of schedule in development and reaching between 18 inches high in Vermont to five feet high in Connecticut. Difficulty baling and harvesting hay between scattered rain showers was a common problem last week. Grasses were doing well throughout the region, as the second cut was almost ready by week's end. Potatoes were about two weeks ahead of schedule in some areas and reported to be of good size. Farmers applied weed sprays, spread manure, assessed soil nitrogen demand, and looked for pests such as potato leaf cutter, cutworms, and slugs last week.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	2	1	0
Short	21	16	1
Adequate	69	76	39
Surplus	8	7	60
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	1	1	0
Short	16	10	3
Adequate	77	83	39
Surplus	6	6	58

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2010	2009	5 yr Avg			
Apples	-	-	-	Avg/Below	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	-	-	-	Avg/Below	Average	Fair/Good
Pears	-	-	-	Avg/Below	Avg/Below	Fair
Blueberries						
Highbush	<5	0	0	Average	Average	Good
Wild	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good/Exc
Cranberries						
Mass	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	Good
Strawberries	65	45	40	Average	Average	Good/Fair

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

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

**Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics**  
Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday June 21, 2010  
To: Sunday June 27, 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 INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_State_A	58	83	70	+4	775	+230	230	+106	0.59	-0.18	3	2.57	-0.55	12
Bangor_Intl_Arp	50	83	68	+4	723	+249	208	+116	1.18	+0.41	5	3.31	+0.19	15
Bethel	50	83	67	+3	638	+148	163	+65	1.90	+0.99	3	6.02	+2.32	16
Caribou_Municip	46	80	64	+2	575	+197	163	+110	3.38	+2.67	5	6.52	+3.84	13
Dover-Foxcroft	47	85	65	+3	546	+157	139	+83	1.47	+0.63	3	5.33	+1.88	15
Frenchville	40	79	62	+0	484	+147	126	+87	2.29	+1.52	4	4.32	+1.43	11
Houlton	44	81	63	+1	516	+129	135	+77	0.63	-0.14	4	4.08	+1.00	17
Livermore_Falls	47	87	67	+5	604	+209	160	+101	0.59	-0.35	3	3.41	-0.44	14
Moosehead	42	80	61	+0	411	+113	72	+44	0.49	-0.44	6	4.36	+0.75	17
Portland_ME	56	86	71	+7	752	+299	221	+142	0.43	-0.34	3	2.92	-0.30	15
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	47	80	65	+2	575	+93	154	+66	1.58	+0.73	5	4.32	+0.79	20
Berlin_AG	47	82	66	+2	587	+119	150	+62	0.65	-0.30	4	4.49	+0.67	15
Concord	50	90	71	+6	880	+304	329	+186	0.36	-0.37	2	2.76	-0.20	12
Diamond_Pond	42	77	60	+0	306	+40	54	+39	1.27	+0.18	5	6.46	+2.17	16
Keene_AG	51	89	70	+3	813	+123	281	+75	0.77	-0.07	2	3.23	-0.14	12
North_Conway	52	89	68	+4	689	+161	193	+73	0.79	-0.12	5	3.80	+0.09	19
Rochester	54	89	73	+6	863	+232	302	+129	0.78	+0.00	2	3.68	+0.38	10
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Bennington_AP	53	84	68	+5	816	+318	288	+186	0.73	-0.32	3	5.12	+0.85	18
Burlington_Intl	52	85	70	+3	877	+231	328	+143	1.29	+0.45	5	5.18	+1.95	18
Island_Pond	44	79	64	+3	538	+176	132	+77	0.71	-0.27	6	4.39	+0.41	19
Montpelier	47	79	66	+3	684	+206	215	+119	1.31	+0.54	4	4.51	+1.23	21
Rochester	47	83	66	+4	623	+165	178	+90	1.10	+0.26	3	4.57	+1.04	14
Rutland_AG	50	83	69	+2	754	+56	250	+39	0.83	-0.01	4	2.97	-0.36	14
Springfield_VT	50	86	70	+6	832	+304	290	+175	0.45	-0.45	4	2.70	-0.94	21
Sutton	47	78	64	+3	528	+168	125	+70	1.00	+0.01	5	5.73	+1.77	22
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	66	94	77	+8	1132	+368	470	+235	0.26	-0.44	3	3.18	+0.28	14
Fitchburg	57	91	74	+10	1113	+608	466	+360	0.86	+0.02	2	3.01	-0.32	11
Greenfield	57	87	71	+3	858	+109	315	+81	0.89	+0.04	3	3.99	+0.41	12
New_Bedford	61	88	74	+5	966	+217	357	+137	0.32	-0.49	1	3.29	-0.08	9
Otis_AFB	63	82	72	+6	802	+261	251	+129	0.40	-0.32	3	2.77	-0.27	14
Plymouth	63	93	76	+10	1045	+462	424	+276	0.09	-0.68	1	1.48	-1.76	10
Walpole	59	92	75	+8	1049	+412	435	+263	0.97	+0.11	3	2.86	-0.61	16
Chicopee/Westov	56	92	73	+3	1024	+137	414	+104	0.19	-0.72	2	2.94	-0.88	12
Worthington	53	86	69	+5	751	+248	240	+137	0.20	-0.71	1	3.69	+0.05	10
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	65	90	77	+8	1146	+440	460	+252	0.59	-0.18	1	3.53	+0.41	11
Woonsocket	59	91	75	+8	1042	+415	412	+256	0.34	-0.57	2	3.04	-0.72	10
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	66	91	77	+8	1099	+324	443	+191	1.02	+0.20	2	2.69	-0.53	9
Hartford/Bradle	62	91	76	+6	1205	+361	514	+221	0.66	-0.18	2	4.02	+0.48	10
Norfolk	57	86	70	+6	820	+321	279	+178	0.72	-0.33	4	3.63	-0.68	14
Thomaston_Dam	60	89	74	+8	992	+351	386	+217	0.68	-0.23	3	3.65	-0.18	14
Willimantic	60	89	74	+7	1048	+397	422	+249	1.01	+0.10	3	2.79	-0.72	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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**State Weather Summary**

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 27, 2010

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	34	89	66	+3	0.24	3.38
NH	37	92	68	+4	0.25	2.49
VT	44	88	68	+3	0.41	1.97
MA	53	94	73	+7	0.02	1.30
RI	59	91	75	+8	0.19	0.59
CT	56	95	75	+7	0.30	1.02

**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:** Week of unsettled weather, some heavy downpours and even a report of a tornado. Crops are growing well. Strawberry season is nearly over. Raspberries and blueberries are coming along. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Scattered showers in some areas over the week helped crops, but was generally dry and very hot. Crops like tobacco and corn are growing very well. Broadleaf growers that still have acres to plant are finding it hard locate started plants to transplant. Sweet corn started to show up at farmers markets and farm stands in our area. Late blight has been identified in Connecticut on tomatoes. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Late blight is back in Connecticut. Several samples have come into the extension offices with late blight on tomatoes. Field corn is doing well, some growers are reporting that their corn is already larger right now than they harvested last year! One grower said his corn is chest high! Maybe this will be the record breaking crop to make up for last year. Strawberries are winding down but some blueberries are being picked. Everything seems in a hurry to ripen this season. **Patricia Smith (FSA), New London:** All crops are doing extremely well. Weather is cooperating and everything seems to be about two weeks ahead of schedule. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Hot weather with scattered showers. Corn looks great with some 5 feet tall. Hard to get hay baled with scattered showers, about half done with first cutting. Chopping hay, a lot of farmers are onto second cutting. Vegetables are doing well, strawberries on the small side, netting blueberries. Grapes are doing well. Crops are about two weeks ahead of normal. Farmers markets are doing well.

**MAINE – Casey Cote (St John Valley Soil & Water Conservation Dist), Northern Aroostook:** Crops are growing well with adequate sunshine. Much of the region received 0.5 - 1.5 inches of rain on Thursday. **Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Showers on and off last week slowed field work. Hay fields and pastures are looking excellent. Potato crops are 10 to 14 days ahead. One grower has two inch potatoes already. **Erin Hoffses (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Fertilizer and fungicide applications are being done. Hilling potatoes, crop is growing rapidly and looks excellent. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Farmers are on a five day spray program at this time. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** A microburst hit some areas in York County on June 24th. Some mixed vegetables were damaged. The heat really pushed along the crops this week. Everything is growing well that hasn't suffered damages from the earlier freeze. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Good week for farmers to cultivate and do necessary spraying. Strawberries are being picked and crop is down due to frost in May. Early vegetables being harvested include peas, greens and a few others. The over all crop looks great. Spotty showers have helped with much needed sun and heat. Blueberry crop is down; much needed rain is forecasted for Monday downeast. Fly traps are being put out to monitor for fruit flies. Corn crop looks great so far and let's hope it continues. Farmers are about 2 weeks ahead of schedule and it is nice. **Megan McDonough (FSA), Kennebec:** The Monmouth area reported a storm last week which brought pea to marble size hail. Showers throughout the week amounted to a couple inches of rain. Corn looks great and folks are finishing first cut hay. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** All types of fruits and vegetables are being harvested, i.e. strawberries, cherry tomatoes, summer squash, peas, lettuce, etc. Farmers are ecstatic with this growing season thus far with plenty of sunshine, heat, and moisture. Perfect growing conditions!!!! Fly traps are being placed in blueberry fields scheduled to be cropped this year. The blueberry harvest could start earlier than normal in this area. The second crop of grass is looking great and is nearly ready to be chopped. There is not too much dry hay being harvested right now, but this should pick up by week's end as a glorious weather forecast is predicted for the upcoming holiday weekend. Let's hope that Mother Nature keeps smiling down upon us. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Rain has fallen

over the past week, which was very badly needed in most areas. Hay producers are reporting the rain showers have slowed harvesting of hay. Strawberry season is in full swing and the berries look good. Peas, greens, summer squash and other spring veggies are being picked and sold around the county. Cultivation and spraying is being done between the rain showers. Potato crop is looking good thus far. Dry beans have been planted and are also looking good. Early Sweet corn that was planted has been reported by most to be in great shape. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Early vegetable crops are ripening, strawberries are being harvested and the corn is growing well. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Rain and clouds slowed hay harvest, but corn is doing well. Strawberry harvest will be ending soon. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Fruit set appears to be good on many fields, berries mostly green but beginning to see more blue berries. Some fields affected by the early frost will have significant losses. Fly traps are being put out to monitor for fruit fly. Soil moisture conditions are improving with the recent rain.

**MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** Crops are coming along well; growers agree we are a week or 2 ahead in terms of maturity. Silage, grain and sweet corn are all growing nicely. Summer squash, cucumbers, radishes, herbs, greens, peas, green and yellow beans, strawberries, and cherries are being harvested. 1st cut hay is done, low yield, good quality with 2nd cut beginning. While dodging the worst storms, varying amounts of much needed rain fell throughout the county. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Excellent weekend for P-Y-O strawberries. Producers are finishing up planting tobacco and harvesting the first crop of hay. The first sweet corn has been picked as well as the first cabbage. Producers are irrigating, we could use some rain! **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The week was hot, humid and dry, with only a few scattered showers. Harvesting of raspberries, blueberries, strawberries, greens, cabbage, spinach, cucumbers, sweet corn and many other summer vegetables continues. Vegetable and fruit producers were busy hoeing, top-dressing and scouting for insects and diseases. The tobacco crop was being top-dressed and the crop looks promising. Many vegetable growers started irrigating this week due to the dry conditions. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Weather has been ideal for pollination of cranberry blossoms, and fruit is setting up well so far. Rainfall has been sparse, and we could use some rain in all areas. Dodder has really exploded during the past week and can easily be seen in most beds. Growers are finishing up their fungicide applications for fruit rot, and in the middle of insecticide applications for fruit worm. Phytophthora root rot continues to make a comeback in many beds, due to water logged beds in March and April. All in all, things look pretty good at this point.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE – William Lord (Ext), Belknap:** Most first crop hay harvested and put away, quality good. Second crop growth responding to recent rains including today's. Corn is up and growing well. Early summer squash, cucumbers, greens etc. selling well at farmers' markets. Strawberry season is winding down after a good harvest with strong demand. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Warm weather all week, with just a couple quick showers mid-week. Field corn is growing by leaps and bounds with some of it better than waist-high. Decent weather for haying and farms are still getting first cutting, with some starting on second cutting for baleage/haylage. Re-growth on fields is still good. Vegetable crops continue to do well, with a greater variety of crops making their way into farmers' markets and farm stands. P-Y-O strawberries are winding down. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending June 26th, we had 4 days with either rain or showers. Precipitation totaled 1.25 inches for the week, soil moisture is adequate. Grass for second cut is growing nicely. The corn crop looks good. There are a few scattered fields with excessive moisture problems, but these issues are few. Some scattered reports of heavy cut worm damage have

been received. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Strawberries were being picked during the week (90% harvest), and Strawberry Pick-Your-Own operations were open over the weekend. Blueberries are starting to turn color. First raspberries are being harvested. Sweet Cherry harvest continues. Fruit growers are monitoring pest and crop development and applying cover sprays for pest. Mowing orchard floors and weed spraying under trees. Field Crops: Most farmers are finishing up planting and weed spraying corn fields. Farmers are trying to make haylage and baled hay between showers. Soil nitrate tests for field corn to determine nitrogen fertilizer needs and side-dressing fields. Vegetables: Harvesting greens, spinach, scallions, radishes, cucumbers, greenhouse tomatoes, rhubarb, lettuce, zucchini, summer squash and first potatoes. Continue making successive planting of various vegetable crops. Growers busy side-dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating weeds, scouting for pests and spraying if needed. Striped cucumbers are very bad in many fields, potato leaf hopper is here and squash vine borer has been caught at very high numbers! **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** A few short bursts of rain brought a bit of relief to very dry conditions but more rain is needed. The strawberry harvest is big. Vegetables being picked include all sorts of greens, broccoli, radishes, peas, tomatoes and cucumbers grown in high tunnels and even some early garlic! Squash bugs and flea beetles are out. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Strawberry harvest going on. Blueberries and raspberries being picked this week. Harvesting a whole array of veggies including greenhouse tomatoes. Weeding and side-dressing vegetables fields with fertilizer. Fields are being irrigated. Vegetables successive planting going on. Strawberry fields renovation will start soon. Haying is being done. Need a good soaking rain.

**RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** It's the week before the 4th of July, and we had some rain this week in some parts of the state. 1st cut of hay got a good shot in the arm last week and we hope to see 1st cutting complete some time this week. Potatoes look real good. Early potatoes have a nice size to them. It's too early to harvest yet, but it looks like a good crop. Strawberry season is just about over. It started 3 weeks early, so it will be a couple of weeks short on the end. It was very good quality of berries this year. Still plenty of green and yellow squash. By the end of the week we will be picking sweet corn in RI. That will be a week to 2 weeks early. Livestock pastures are still good. This is an improvement over last year, and it is hoped that it keeps up.

**VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Some nice days this

week to make some baled hay. Ended week with rainfall to end field work. Corn crop looks excellent with good growth, and also weed pressure. Newly seeded hay fields vigorous as well. The re-growth of harvested hay fields is good. Some manure spreading on cut hay fields. Some fertilizer and side-dress on corn. Continued spraying for weed control in corn. Reports that Avipel crow repellent seed treatment worked very well with 100% control in corn where applied this spring. No major insect outbreaks reported yet. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Warm week, with showers. Plants responded by growing well. Some working on first cut hay, some are getting a start on a second cut of hay. Corn beginning to shade the rows now, should be knee high in a week. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Another wet week in Franklin County. Light rains making it difficult to get a good start on second cut haylage and dry hay. Corn is also at a stand still and many pale areas showing up in fields and little chance for Nitrogen applications. Strawberries are showing the symptoms of the late frost with smaller berries and yields down. Weather is not helping the pick-your-own operations. Growth is very good on pastures and the continued light rains are keeping things cool for cow comfort. Gardens continue to grow well and lettuce and greens are in full swing. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Wet weather was welcome but has slowed field work. Some second cut hay being harvested. Corn is ready to top-dress in some fields. Still seeing cutworm damage. Severe slug damage also seen in some corn fields. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Last week ended on a cloudy, humid, and wet note. Good week for growth but not so good for harvest, particularly attempts at finishing up the first cut of grass. The next stretch of nice weather will see the start of second cut. No major issues yet with any local crops but conditions are ripe for problems if we don't see more sunshine soon. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** This past week was a little wet but some hay harvest was possible between showers. Soil moisture is adequate and in some cases too wet. The corn is starting to look very good with an average height of 18-24", the stock color is very good as well. Farmers are working on second crop hay. Most are trying to dry bale and it is challenging due to the showers. The pastures are doing well with the moisture and warm temperatures but the laneways are a bit muddy. Strawberries are being harvested now; the size and flavor are average to above average. It should turn out to be a decent year for most strawberry growers. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Spotty rain showers leave crops needing moisture again. Corn mid-week was starting to show signs of stress; some received a rain shower to curb the stress. Lettuces, strawberries and blueberries are being harvested. Harvesting first cut hay still ongoing this week with good dry hay being put up.

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