

# Crop Progress & Condition



**NEW ENGLAND**  
Agricultural  
Statistics



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Volume 30, Number 25

(Issued weekly on the Internet, May – October)

October 18, 2010 – 4 pm

For week ending 10/17/10

## Good Weather for Pumpkins and Squash

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending October 17, 2010, there were 4.4 days available for field work across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 3% very poor, 29% poor, 42% fair, and 26% good. The week began with temperatures in the mid 60s to low 70s in southern States, and mid 50s to low 60s in northern States. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday were cloudy throughout the region, with seasonal temperatures. On Friday, heavy rains and wind passed through Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont dropping up to 2.0 inches of rain. Nighttime temperatures for the week ranged from the mid 20s to low 50s. The weekend was drier, with daytime temperatures ranging from the mid 50s to low 60s and nighttime temperatures ranging from the low 30s to mid 40s. The week's total precipitation ranged from 0.18 to over 3.0 inches.

**FRUIT:** The apple harvest continued to near an end throughout New England last week while farm stands remained busy with apple and apple cider sales. Varieties being harvested included Fuji, Golden Delicious, and Rome. Fruit producers in New Hampshire were also harvesting fall raspberries. Grape harvesting in Rhode Island did well last week, and continued to approach completion. In Massachusetts, cranberry harvesting progressed, with decreased yields in some areas due to fruit rot and scald. Orchardists were also busy picking up apple drops and cleaning orchards.

**VEGETABLES:** Pumpkin harvesting continued throughout much of New England last week, with some insect damage reported to unharvested crops in fields in New Hampshire. Other vegetables being harvested included Brussel sprouts, cabbage, kale, and winter squash. Vegetable growers were also planting cover crops and removing plastic mulch and tomato stakes from fields.

**FIELD CROPS:** As the fall harvest continues to wind down, producers were finishing their third cut of hay, spreading manure, plowing, disking, liming, and seeding cover crops. Tobacco producers in Connecticut were continuing to take down and bundle their crop.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	1	1	0
Short	7	9	3
Adequate	59	68	84
Surplus	33	22	13
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	3	3	0
Short	8	14	2
Adequate	66	69	85
Surplus	23	14	13

### FRUIT CROP PROGRESS ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2010	2009	5-yr Avg
-- Percent Harvested --			
Apples	90	90	90
Pears	95	99	95
Cranberries, MA	85	70	70

### FIELD CROP PROGRESS ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2010	2009	5-yr Avg
-- Percent Harvested --			
Potatoes			
Maine	95	90	95
Mass	95	99	90
Rhode Island	80	95	99
Silage Corn	95	90	90
Sweet Corn	99	100	100
Dry Hay			
Second Cut	99	100	99
Third Cut	95	90	90

Weather Summary for New England Agricultural Statistics

For the Period: Monday October 11, 2010  
 To: Sunday October 17, 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	37	61	49	+0	2606	+522	1109	+363	2.36	+1.51	2	4.70	+1.51	9
Bangor_Intl_Arp	31	62	48	+0	2556	+661	1091	+469	1.92	+1.19	3	4.55	+1.58	11
Bethel	31	62	48	+0	2216	+356	837	+241	1.93	+1.09	2	6.26	+3.08	12
Caribou_Municip	28	56	45	+2	2055	+607	800	+422	0.56	-0.12	2	5.27	+2.40	12
Dover-Foxcroft	26	60	43	-3	1983	+388	735	+283	2.79	+1.99	3	6.15	+2.72	12
Frenchville	30	55	43	+0	1770	+427	648	+325	0.60	-0.10	2	5.58	+2.50	12
Houlton	25	57	45	+0	1969	+455	753	+329	1.46	+0.76	3	4.19	+1.22	14
Livermore_Falls	29	63	46	+0	2164	+599	838	+409	2.33	+1.49	2	5.21	+1.95	11
Moosehead	27	58	42	-2	1629	+312	523	+213	1.36	+0.62	3	6.72	+3.57	14
Portland_ME	34	63	50	+1	2631	+702	1117	+480	3.51	+2.67	2	6.43	+3.29	9
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
BenTon	29	60	43	-5	1941	+241	715	+239	3.30	+2.58	3	10.23	+7.41	12
Berlin_AG	28	58	44	-3	1996	+298	720	+223	1.62	+0.83	2	5.82	+2.82	10
Concord	28	67	47	-2	2849	+768	1335	+596	2.59	+1.89	2	5.70	+3.02	7
Diamond_Pond	29	54	39	-4	1063	-55	230	+25	1.93	+1.09	3	8.98	+5.58	13
Keene_AG	28	68	46	-6	2606	+253	1129	+213	2.91	+2.21	3	9.11	+6.39	8
North_Conway	33	62	47	-1	2310	+400	899	+266	1.56	+0.65	2	6.21	+2.84	10
Rochester	31	67	48	-3	2921	+663	1391	+539	2.62	+1.68	2	5.51	+2.13	11
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Bennington_AP	28	65	46	-2	2571	+748	1119	+567	2.02	+1.18	3	7.22	+3.88	12
Burlington_Intl	33	64	47	-2	2798	+584	1304	+463	2.54	+1.91	3	7.20	+4.54	12
Island_Pond	28	59	43	-3	1892	+498	675	+350	1.22	+0.52	4	7.26	+4.46	20
Montpelier	29	61	44	-3	2259	+528	908	+396	1.93	+1.30	3	8.43	+5.91	12
Rochester	29	65	44	-4	2127	+403	810	+306	1.72	+0.88	3	8.43	+5.07	10
Rutland_AG	28	63	43	-8	2394	+64	994	+94	2.56	+1.93	3	8.24	+5.44	9
Springfield_VT	29	65	46	-2	2662	+784	1181	+585	4.12	+3.35	2	11.22	+8.14	10
Sutton	30	59	42	-2	1847	+451	642	+305	1.42	+0.65	3	8.13	+5.18	14
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	44	69	55	-1	3541	+742	1820	+592	1.49	+0.79	3	4.45	+1.65	11
Fitchburg	34	70	51	+4	3376	+1495	1717	+1119	1.42	+0.70	3	5.24	+2.48	12
Greenfield	31	69	48	-5	2737	+177	1229	+178	1.48	+0.71	3	8.34	+5.26	13
New_Bedford	35	72	54	-3	3227	+371	1577	+307	1.78	+1.01	3	4.52	+1.55	10
Otis_AFB	36	68	51	-3	2827	+541	1262	+397	1.53	+0.69	3	5.07	+1.75	12
Plymouth	37	71	53	+1	3423	+1092	1761	+858	1.69	+0.80	3	5.60	+2.00	11
Walpole	33	70	50	-1	3200	+882	1588	+694	1.96	+1.11	2	5.32	+1.95	11
Chicopee/Westov	29	72	51	-4	3201	+243	1596	+246	1.48	+0.70	2	7.40	+4.27	12
Worthington	31	66	47	-3	2368	+491	952	+377	2.12	+1.28	3	11.12	+7.83	13
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	42	70	55	+2	3551	+892	1798	+664	1.59	+0.76	2	4.33	+1.19	11
Woonsocket	35	71	50	+0	3195	+918	1564	+718	1.50	+0.59	3	5.95	+2.49	12
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	44	72	56	+1	3617	+716	1883	+555	1.39	+0.70	2	4.43	+1.68	12
Hartford/Bradle	35	72	53	+1	3566	+764	1849	+607	1.27	+0.50	2	6.90	+3.65	13
Norfolk	34	65	47	-1	2535	+672	1077	+504	1.35	+0.50	2	10.91	+7.38	12
Thomaston_Dam	35	70	51	-1	3091	+806	1483	+637	1.59	+0.73	3	9.57	+6.03	14
Willimantic	33	70	52	+0	3196	+865	1558	+682	1.23	+0.32	2	3.94	+0.29	13

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 17, 2010

Summary based on NWS data.  
 DFN = Departure from Normal (Using 1971-2000 Normals Period).  
 Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.  
 Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.  
 Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.  
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STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	25	64	45	-1	0.45	3.59
NH	20	68	45	-2	1.28	3.30
VT	24	66	44	-4	1.22	4.93
MA	28	73	50	-2	0.61	2.36
RI	35	71	54	+1	1.29	1.59
CT	31	72	52	+0	0.90	1.59

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

**CONNECTICUT – Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:**

Generally an ok week to put up grass silage, pick pumpkins, and combine grain corn. Tobacco continues to be taken down in sheds and bundled. Only a few acres of sweet corn to be picked along with cole crops. A raw day on Friday with rain totaling 1.6 inches. Another good weekend for leaf peepers and farm stand sales. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** The hills are awash in color. The first flakes of snow were seen fluttering around. The farm stands are rapidly running out of produce. The crop season is just about over. Farms are hurrying to gather in the last soil samples and to take out the final loads of manure before the ground freezes. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Nice week with some rain and wind at the end of the week. Seasonably cool weather at the end of the week, but beautiful weekend weather. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Cool, comfortable fall weather with 1.5 inches of rain. Apple and pumpkin picking are near finishing. Farmers markets are ending and another year of growing and harvest happenings is coming to a close.

**MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Most potatoes have been harvested. Despite rain off and on throughout the week, the bulk of the growers were able to finish. Quality is excellent with a smaller size range than normal. Pastures still look good. The last of the canola has been cut. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Producers were harvesting vegetables and some hay before the storm on Friday. Over 3 inches of rain and high winds on Friday. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** More rainfall was good for the water table. Still grain corn and soybeans left to be harvested; beautiful weather. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Harvest is completed and overall it was a good year. Farmers are finalizing spreading on fields and will be slowing down a bit in the upcoming weeks. **Megan McDonough (FSA), Kennebec:** This has been a great year for pumpkins and squash. Folks have finished putting up third cut hay. Last week brought much needed rain; Clinton reported 2.5 inches. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** We received torrential rains on Friday but with the harvest over in this area, this precipitation had little impact here other than postponing the spreading of manure on cropped fields. It was a great year for nearly all crops in midcoast Maine. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County received very strong winds and heavy rain last Thursday and Friday. The winds continued all thru the weekend. Some spots in Oxford County still have not had the big "FROST" as of yet. Hay is still being harvested and silage corn is being chopped. Pumpkins are filling the roadside stands along with squash and other cold weather vegetables. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Pumpkins squash and cornstalks dominate the farm stands. Some fall tillage in fields where erosion is not an issue.

**MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:**

Transitional weather this week, hard frost several nights, then we got hit with hard rain and wind. There was some flooding, no reports of field damage. Early in the week fields were tilled and green manure crops planted. Our growing season is over but orchards are still busy with apple and cider sales and farm stands are selling pumpkins and winter veggies. **Lori**

**Carver (FSA), Franklin:** More rain during the week continued to replenish the moisture that was lacking during the summer. Producers continued to harvest fall crops and prepare the land for the winter. Another good weekend at the farm stands. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Last week had very cool temperatures and additional rainfall that hampered the harvest of many fall crops. Soybean harvest began and high yields were reported. Harvesting apples, potatoes, pumpkins, collards, cabbage, and nursery stock continued. Farmers are busy seeding rye cover, liming and picking up irrigation pipe. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Harvest continues. Many growers are finished and cleaning up thereafter, getting ready for fall projects. The crop will probably be closer to 1.7 million barrels, and not the August prediction of 1.95 barrels. Rot and scald have accounted for much of that reduction.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE – Bill Lord (Ext), Belknap:** Several frosts have shut things down and field cleanup is underway. Winter cover crops are growing well, fueled by moderate temperatures and recent rains. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** A couple more frosts this week, with some heavy rain Friday. A little haylage/baylage harvested as conditions allowed. Farm stands full of fall crops, everything else is done for the season. Late season apples showing up, but PYO is pretty much done. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Rains this week made for difficulty in harvesting the remaining silage corn. A fair amount yet in the fields. Manure spreading and other end-of-year field work as possible. Pastures pretty wet; attempts at getting a bit of hay in. Morning frosts fairly common now as temperatures lower. Rivers and streams running high from the rain. End of season veggies, etc. are still available but generally winding down. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Farm stands and pick-your-own apple operations had a beautiful weekend! Apple harvest is winding down, harvesting Rome, Fuji, and Golden Delicious. Picking up drops and cleaning up orchards from harvest. Vegetables: Several localized frosts occurred during the week. Farmers kept busy working on: pulling plastic mulch and tomato stakes, planting cover crops, and putting equipment away. Good demand for all vegetables continues. Growers are harvesting a wide array of vegetables including: cabbage, kale, Brussel sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins. All warm season crops harvest is over. Insect damage to pumpkins that still are in fields. Field Crops: Silage corn chopping finished up with seeding cover crops on harvested fields. Some manure spreading and incorporating in soil is taking place. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** The latest apple varieties are being harvested. Farmers are cleaning up fields, spreading lime, and planting fall/winter high tunnel crops. Fall weather has been beautiful so far. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Harvesting apples, fall raspberries, greens and some warm season crops. Winter squashes, pumpkins, corn stalks, and mums available. Plowing, disking, liming, seeding cover crops on fields already harvested. Spreading manure on hay fields. Finishing up chopping corn. Torrential rain and gusty winds on Friday with about 2+ inches of rain.

**RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** The days are getting shorter and the nights are getting cooler. We had a couple of little frosts this week, but no killer frost as of

yet. Potatoes are still being put into winter storage. Small vegetables are starting to show the cool weather. Pumpkins, squash and mums are still selling real good this past weekend. Livestock looks real good for this time of the year. Not much pasture left now, most animals are being fed supplemental feeds. Grape harvest is doing very well, but not quite finished yet.

**VERMONT – Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Things are now getting very wet in Franklin County. It seemed to be a weekend thing based on last Friday and this past Friday. Surface and sub soils are now becoming very saturated making for more water sooner in streams. Still some corn out and hopefully we can get a little weather to get things finished up. Some corn will go for grain; however, weather has not helped in the dry down process here. A lot of fourth cut did get harvested last week along with some manure spreading.

Heard some fields were done as fifth cut with great yields. Good yields on corn silage. We have ample good quality feed this year for the dairy herd. Be sure that your nutritionist gives credit here as grain prices seem to be headed up, based on the futures market this week for corn. Gardens and apples are about done, as some areas of Franklin County had snow to contend with in our last rain storm. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** There was a lot of rain this past week with some flooding reported. Late last week the area saw its first snow in the mountains. The ski trails at Jay Peak were white with about 12 inches. The snow didn't accumulate on the valley floor. Almost all cropping is finished for the year. There is still a little corn left and field conditions are very wet for harvest. If the weather breaks some farms have a little fourth cut hay to harvest. The pasture season is also coming to a close. Most farmers will be spreading their fall manure in the next few weeks. Overall it was a very good season for crops.

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