

# Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND

Agricultural  
Statistics

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For week ending 5/5/13

## Excellent Fieldwork Conditions But Crops Need Rain

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending May 5, 2013 there were 7.0 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition ratings improved from last week to 11% poor, 57% fair, 31% good, and 1% excellent. Clear, sunny skies prevailed all week long in all six New England States, with zero precipitation. Average temperatures for the week ranged from 51 to 57 degrees, with mostly warm days and cool nights and some scattered frosts. Lack of precipitation allowed planting to move into high gear, but soils were getting too dry and crops in need of rain by week's end.

**FRUIT:** The warm, dry week pushed tree fruits into early or full bloom in all states except Maine, and orchardists made sure the bees were out to pollinate. Orchardists were active pruning, monitoring for pests, fertilizing and applying protective fungicide sprays. Mature mummy berry cups have been spotted in most Maine wild blueberry fields. Strawberry growers planted new beds for next year's harvest. Cranberry growers were active protecting from frost; many producers took advantage of the clear skies to work on bog drainage.

**VEGETABLES:** Ideal planting conditions had vegetable growers out in full force. Growers planted sweet corn and an array of vegetable crops including beets, lettuce, cabbage, spinach, peas, greens and onions. Harvest of greens, rhubarb, fiddleheads, parsnips and asparagus was underway in southern states by week's end. Broccoli planting was in full swing in Aroostook County, Maine. Although the dry weather provided excellent planting conditions, most vegetable crops were in need of moisture. Growers irrigated newly seeded fields to encourage germination if equipment was available.

**FIELD CROPS:** Dry conditions pushed planting progress ahead of the 5-year normal for all major New England field crops. Field corn seeding ranged from 10 percent north to close to 50 percent south. Cool temperatures have kept emergence to less than 5 percent, on schedule with last year and normal. Lack of moisture has slowed hay growth, and all areas report rain needed to green up fields. Grain planting was just getting underway in Aroostook County, Maine. Potato planting in the County was also in its early stages; most growers are delaying until the frost is out of the ground. Massachusetts and Rhode Island potato growers pushed planting into high gear, with seeding past the halfway mark by the end of the week. Other field activities included plowing, spreading manure, tilling corn fields, applying fertilizers and herbicides and hoping for rain.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	11	1	0
Short	47	32	9
Adequate	40	63	73
Surplus	2	4	18
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	5	0	1
Short	27	17	10
Adequate	65	76	76
Surplus	3	7	13

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Stage of Development	Condition
Apples	Bud/Early Bloom	Good/Fair
Peaches	Early Bloom/Full Bloom	Good/Fair
Pears	Bud Stage/Early Bloom	Good
Blueberries		
Highbush	Bud Stage/Early Bloom	Good/Fair
Wild	Dormant/Bud Stage	Good
Cranberries, MA	Bud Stage	Good
Strawberries	Bud Stage	Good/Fair

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2013	2012	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				
Barley, ME	15	15	10	N/A
Oats, ME	15	15	10	N/A
Potatoes				
Maine	10	15	5	N/A
Mass	70	95	50	N/A
Rhode Island	65	90	45	N/A
Silage Corn	20	10	5	
Sweet Corn	25	20	15	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	0	0	0	
Shade	0	0	0	
-- Percent Emerged --				
Potatoes				
Mass	0	5	<5	
Rhode Island	0	35	10	
Silage Corn	<5	<5	<5	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	5	10	5	Good/Fair
-- Percent Harvested --				
Dry Hay				
First Cut	0	0	0	Fair/Good

**Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics**

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday April 29, 2013  
 To: Sunday May 5, 2013

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	34	74	53	+4	32	+9	0	+0	0.00	-0.91	0	1.20	-2.35	10
Bangor_Intl_Arp	31	76	51	+4	16	+2	0	+0	0.00	-0.79	0	1.38	-1.72	10
Bethel	31	76	52	+5	32	+17	0	+0	0.00	-0.84	0	1.42	-1.94	7
Caribou_Municip	35	78	56	+11	48	+39	4	+4	0.00	-0.65	0	1.13	-1.23	11
Dover-Foxcroft	30	77	51	+6	19	+10	0	+0	0.00	-0.84	0	1.69	-1.66	10
Frenchville	35	76	55	+12	39	+35	0	+0	0.00	-0.68	0	0.90	-1.58	8
Houlton	27	75	52	+8	28	+19	0	+0	0.00	-0.70	0	0.98	-1.56	11
Livermore_Falls	29	76	50	+5	18	+9	0	+0	0.00	-0.87	0	1.21	-2.39	7
Moosehead	29	76	50	+8	11	+10	0	+0	0.00	-0.75	0	1.21	-1.72	7
Portland_ME	32	64	49	+0	16	+4	0	+0	0.00	-0.90	0	1.48	-2.32	10
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	35	78	55	+7	46	+18	0	+0	0.00	-0.70	0	1.98	-0.68	9
Berlin_AG	29	80	57	+10	69	+48	3	+3	0.00	-0.78	0	1.28	-1.93	9
Concord	29	82	54	+4	72	+42	2	+2	0.00	-0.70	0	1.65	-1.13	8
First_Conn_Lake	33	73	53	+11	32	+27	0	+0	0.00	-0.79	0	1.82	-1.14	8
Keene_AG	31	81	54	+3	53	+5	0	-2	0.00	-0.82	0	2.34	-0.71	9
North_Conway	32	78	55	+7	50	+28	0	+0	0.00	-0.92	0	1.46	-2.39	11
Rochester	33	76	53	+2	39	+2	0	+0	0.00	-0.96	0	1.79	-2.17	9
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Bennington_AP	38	80	58	+10	97	+67	4	+4	0.05	-1.00	1	3.23	-0.88	11
Burlington_Intl	46	83	62	+12	122	+78	21	+19	0.00	-0.68	0	1.95	-0.68	11
Island_Pond	35	79	56	+12	51	+38	0	+0	0.00	-0.72	0	2.13	-0.51	9
Montpelier	38	79	57	+10	68	+42	0	+0	0.00	-0.64	0	1.79	-0.57	11
Rochester	29	82	55	+8	50	+29	0	+0	0.00	-0.98	0	2.65	-0.97	9
Rutland_AG	37	81	57	+5	66	+7	3	-3	0.00	-0.71	0	2.37	-0.24	8
Springfield_VT	34	82	56	+8	74	+46	0	+0	0.00	-0.91	0	1.67	-1.93	8
Sutton	36	79	56	+12	50	+41	0	+0	0.00	-0.73	0	2.38	-0.41	12
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	40	70	53	-1	92	+30	2	+2	0.00	-0.79	0	1.25	-2.06	9
Fitchburg	33	82	57	+8	114	+93	5	+5	0.00	-0.78	0	1.34	-1.83	7
Greenfield	35	83	57	+5	88	+29	2	+2	0.00	-0.88	0	2.09	-1.36	10
New_Bedford	32	72	50	-4	65	+0	2	+2	0.00	-0.87	0	1.85	-1.90	10
Otis_AFB	32	70	49	-2	34	+11	0	+0	0.00	-0.90	0	3.24	-0.39	9
Plymouth	34	72	50	+0	63	+37	1	+1	0.01	-0.97	1	1.75	-2.20	11
Walpole	32	79	54	+3	97	+56	3	+3	0.00	-0.87	0	1.32	-2.53	9
Chicopee/Westov	32	81	56	+0	100	+0	2	-4	0.00	-0.91	0	2.07	-1.57	9
Worthington	29	79	53	+5	31	+4	0	+0	0.00	-1.05	0	1.96	-1.94	9
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	38	72	53	+1	89	+39	2	+2	0.00	-0.91	0	1.60	-2.19	10
Woonsocket	34	78	54	+3	91	+54	1	+1	0.00	-0.97	0	1.30	-2.61	7
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	42	68	55	+1	99	+31	4	+2	0.01	-0.90	1	1.07	-2.49	4
Hartford/Bradle	34	80	57	+2	117	+35	3	-3	0.00	-0.91	0	1.85	-1.79	7
Norfolk	34	76	53	+5	42	+19	0	+0	0.00	-1.05	0	1.54	-2.66	7
Thomaston_Dam	32	77	53	+2	58	+10	0	+0	0.00	-1.05	0	1.49	-2.54	8
Willimantic	33	79	55	+3	101	+56	3	+3	0.00	-0.98	0	1.49	-2.43	7

**State Weather Summary**  
 For the Week Ending Sunday, May 5, 2013

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	AIR TEMPERATURES				P R E C I P I T A T I O N				
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	DAYS
ME	25	79	51	+5	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.81	0
NH	27	84	54	+6	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.84	0
VT	29	83	57	+9	0.00	0.05	0.00	-0.82	0
MA	29	83	53	+2	0.00	0.01	0.00	-0.88	0
RI	34	78	52	+1	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.91	0
CT	31	80	54	+1	0.00	0.01	0.00	-0.99	0

**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:** Another week with zero precipitation. Scattered frost on Sunday morning. Dust was flying as harrows and corn planters were in fields as some are now 80% planted while overall 30% is planted. Looking forward to showers later this week. **Ann McCard (FSA), New London:** Another dry week with warm days and cool nights. A bit more field corn planted this week, and plenty of good weather for field work to prepare for more planting. First crop of strawberries in bloom this week. Asparagus is 'popping up.' **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Three weeks with no rain. Vegetable growers who can are irrigating their early crops. Very unusual for this time of year. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Dry conditions continue. Spreading manure, harrowing, and planting corn. Fertilizing hay fields. Apples, peaches and pears are all blossoming. Getting vegetable beds ready. Still cool at night.

**MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Many potato operations are up and running. Some operations are doing grain, but will hold off on potatoes until the frost is entirely out of the ground. Broccoli operations are in full swing, but are having to irrigate to encourage germination because of dry conditions. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Farmers are beginning to harrow fields and are applying fertilizer to fields. Some farmers have also been planting grains. Broccoli fields in the area are being planted. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Need some rain, conditions are very dry. Some farmers started planting their grain last week and should be starting planting their potato crop this week. It's been a nice week to work on the farm with temperatures ranging from 75 to 80 degrees last week in the St. John Valley. Everybody is praying for some rain! **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Great weather, however, we need rain badly. Farmers have been busy spreading manure and fertilizer, tilling, and planting early crops. Early corn has been planted along with the early vegetables. Frosts are still occurring in the mornings. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Ideal planting conditions, so there are a lot of tractors on the move. There are lots of fence posts being driven and wire being tightened. We can use some rain at any time. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Manure is being spread and fence posts being driven. Hay fields/pastures are starting to green up. Fields are drying up nicely. We really could use a little rain which is predicted at the end of the week. Farmers are planting early crops-peas, greens, onions. Blueberry fields are being mowed and burned and appear to have done good over the winter. Trees are budding out and nice warm days are helping. **Caragh Fitzgerald (Ext), Kennebec:** Warm days, but still cool nights. Some areas are getting dry--we could use some rain soon. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** We need rain! Producers are working weekly to prepare crop fields for spring plantings. Manure is being spread all over the counties. Livestock are being let out into some fields. Temps have been warm this past week and very sunny. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Clear, dry weather has given farmers an opportunity to spread manure, till the fields and plant crops. No one likes to complain with such good field work weather, but it is getting a little dry out there and the crops that have been planted do need some moisture to germinate. Some animals have been put out on the drier pastures, but the grass hasn't really got growing yet. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** The maple syrup season ended last week with the few remaining producers up north ending production. It has been a good season for most producers everywhere with both good quantity and quality. It is getting dry and the rain predicted at the end of the week should help. **Elaine S. Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Excellent week for field work, despite dry conditions. Looking forward to rain showers that are predicted for later this week. Field work includes re-seeding, plowing, spreading manure. Corn planting has begun a week early for some producers. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Unbelievable weather has allowed for a lot of field work. Manure

spreading, new seedings, and corn planting are all on-going. Lots of dust flying! Some winter injury reported on alfalfa as well as last year's fall seedings. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Most fields have been pruned and growers are now applying pre-emergence herbicides and fertilizers on non cropping fields. Mature mummy berry cups have been found in most blueberry areas. Some fields have their first batches of mummy berry cups starting to dry up. New pinheads are also coming along so the season is still on-going. No infection periods have occurred as we have not had any rainfall to induce infection. **Amanda May (FSA), Washington:** We've had a nice long stretch of beautiful weather. We are a little over due for a good soaking rain.

**MASSACHUSETTS – Russell Norton (Ext), Barnstable:** The week started with 4 days with highs in the lower 60s, lows in the high 30s, last 3 days had temperatures highs in the mid 50s, lows in the mid 40s. No rain occurred last week, giving growers plenty of opportunities to work in the fields tilling, planting, and fertilizing. Asparagus and many greens are being harvested. **Debra Senger (FSA), Berkshire:** Producers were out in the field planting sweet corn and silage. Days have been nice and sunny, nights have been cool. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** A warm and very dry week. Dairy farmers were spreading manure and preparing corn fields to plant. Vegetable growers were subsoiling, plowing and spreading lime. Some growers are irrigating because of the dry conditions. They are also planting beets, peas, sweet corn potatoes, lettuce, cabbage and spinach. They are harvesting asparagus, fiddleheads and parsnips. Fruit growers are applying a protective fungicide spray on their apples. Small fruit growers are planting new beds of strawberries for next year's harvest. Flower growers have opened up their farm stands. **Carolyn DeMoranville (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Another week with many nights of frost. Most work is on drainage maintenance and hand weeding. Planting is happening on renovations.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack:** The month of April was dry in Merrimack County with just 1.88 inches of precipitation recorded (about 1.53 inches below normal according to the NWS). Temperatures have been hovering around normal. Some fields are dry. Producers are preparing fields for spring planting including plowing and spreading manure. Retail farm stand and nursery operations have opened for spring business. **Olivia Saunders (Ext), Carroll:** Conditions are very dry; some growers are delaying transplanting and laying plastic until we receive rain. Some concerned with stunted growth due to lack of water. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Warm sunny weather all week, but it's a little dry out there. Field prep continued and a little planting for field corn. First cutting coming along nicely, especially on alfalfa/grass. Grass pastures looking OK, but could use rain. Planting is starting in earnest on vegetable operations. Fruit crops look great so far. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Dry weather conditions helped farmers with spring planting activities. Manure, lime and fertilizer spreading this week as corn fields are disced and harrowed up for seeding. Hay and pasture lands greening up and can use some rain. Haven't observed any or reports on winter-kill of perennial forages. Apple pruning, also highbush blueberry completed, beginning to break bud. Rivers well contained below banks, seem low for this time of year. Rhubarb up and growing. Maples providing ample pollen. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending May 4th, a few areas of the county reported light scattered showers. Most areas received little or no rain. Warm, sunny conditions prevailed during the daytime hours. Soil conditions along the Connecticut River remain ideal for field work. Field activities include manure spreading, plowing and harrowing and seeding of alfalfa and grasses. Last week, the frost went out on the higher elevation soils. There are some heavier upland soils

that are still too soggy to operate on. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Very dry soil conditions! Fruit: Orchardists made sure bees were in apple orchards. Cherry, peach and plum were at full bloom to petal fall. Apple and pear were at pink to starting king bloom in the Hollis area. Blueberry was at pink bud stage. Orchardists were fertilizing orchards and applying protective fungicide sprays on fruit trees and blueberries. Planting fruit trees, grapes, raspberries, blueberries and strawberries. Finishing up pruning blueberries and pruning peach trees. Start to irrigate! Field Crops: Farmers were fertilizing hayfields; spreading manure, plowing, discing fertilizing, planting corn, and applying herbicides. Vegetables: Continued early season vegetables (peas, lettuce, greens, cole crops) planting, along with sweet corn and potatoes. Liming, fertilizing, plowing, discing and getting ready to plant fields. Harvesting asparagus. Irrigating growing crops and newly seeded sweet corn. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Sunny week, warmer days and some colder nights. Planting tomatoes in high tunnels. Planting peas, lettuce, and radishes. Harvesting lettuce (Romaine, Butterhead, Curly Green & Red Oak Leaf), green and red kale, spinach, rhubarb, cilantro, parsley and chive. Preparing vegetable fields for planting. Monitoring pests in orchards and spraying oil. Liming and fertilizing hay fields. Seeding new hayfields and pastures. Greenhouse and garden centers are getting ready to open on Mother's day week-end. **Kelly Greenbacker (FSA), Sullivan:** Farmers were busy spreading manure, plowing and preparing the fields for the growing season. Several producers reported that they were beginning to plant field corn or were prepared to start soon. Pastures and hay fields are greening up nicely with the recent stretch of warm, sunny weather. Conditions are looking quite dry and farmers would like to see some rain in the forecast this coming week.

**RHODE ISLAND – Heather Faubert (Univ of RI), All Counties:** So dry. Both no rain and low humidity. **Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** There were a lot of potatoes planted last week. I expect most farmers to be finished up planting this week. The ground is getting a little bit dry. We haven't had rain in about 10 days. The wind is drying out the topsoil. We expect rain this coming Tuesday

and Wednesday. The nights have been in the 40's and the days are in the 70's. A few of the farmers are putting dry cows out to pasture. A lot of the cold crops are being planted. Cabbage, kale and in some places beans and summer squash.

**VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Spreading manure, secondary tillage, and planted corn. Early planting corn this year, soil is very dry even on clay fields. Lime and fertilizer applications, sprayed herbicides on first planted corn on light soils. Grazing cows moving through pastures, need rain at this point for both pasture and hay fields. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Nice week for field work in Franklin County. Getting very dry on the surface, however, still have some moisture in the subsurface which warrants deep planting for corn seed. Much manure and incorporating along with prep for corn planting, which we have a lot of. Grass growth is slowing with the dry surface. With the heat we have had, a nice rain would really get grass growing, as the saying goes-no rain in May, no barn full of hay. We still have a lot of May left and hopefully it will bring some rain. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** There was no rain in the past week. Most all fields are dry enough to work on. Activities this past week included manure spreading, tilling corn fields and some limited early grazing. The warm temperatures have gotten the pastures off to a good start but they could use some rain. **Terence Bradshaw, (UVM):** Dry weather is a double-edged sword. To date, we have seen no significant infection periods for apple scab in orchards, which makes disease management easier. However, trees require water at this time of year, so irrigation should be applied if possible. Expected rain later this week could change the soil moisture situation, and will most likely result in a scan infection period, so fungicide application will be made early this week. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Windham:** Above average temperatures plus no rain equals great conditions for field work. Vegetable farmers were busy prepping their fields for planting. Manure was being spread. A few acres of field corn were planted as well as new alfalfa seedings. Hay fields are greening up nicely. Soils are very dry for this time of the year and rain is needed.

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