

Crop Progress & Condition



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For week ending 5/19/13

Frost

GENERAL CONDITIONS: There were 5.9 days available for fieldwork across New England for the week ending May 19, 2013. Pasture condition ratings improved slightly from last week with 3% rated poor, 34% fair, 41% good, and 22% excellent. A predominantly cool weather system dominated the week with temperatures dipping below freezing in all six states. Crop specialists report it is still too soon to tell the extent of damage (if any) from frost. Average temperatures for the week ranged from 48 to 55 degrees, from 2 to 6 degrees below normal. Late week showers brought much-needed precipitation to the region, but conditions remain dry and more moisture is needed.

FRUIT: Fruit growers were on high alert early to mid-week to protect from frost, with many trees at the critical full bloom stage. Temperatures dipped into the 20's on at least two mornings, and orchardists sprayed and had wind machines running to protect the crops. The extent of damage is unknown at this time. Orchardists were also active pruning, monitoring for pests, fertilizing and applying protective fungicide sprays. Strawberry growers irrigated to protect from frost and ease short moisture levels. Cranberry growers applied fertilizers and herbicides, as well as protected from frost. In Maine, wild blueberry growers moved bees into the fields for pollination. Fruit set was average and condition good to fair for all fruit crops at week's end, with more moisture needed to improve crop outlook.

VEGETABLES: Vegetable producers were also watching thermometers early in the week and irrigated to protect from frost. Lack of rainfall provided another week of excellent planting conditions, but crops need rain. Sweet corn planting advanced to past the half-way mark, ahead of last year and normal. Farmers planted broccoli, lettuce, cabbage, spinach, peas, greens and onions. Harvest of greens, rhubarb and asparagus continued.

FIELD CROPS: Planting moved into high gear across New England as growers took advantage of excellent spring weather. Crop conditions ranged from good to excellent by week's end, but most crops are in need of a good soaking rain. Field corn planting ranged from 35 percent north to 80 percent south. Small grain seeding neared completion in Aroostook County, Maine. Potatoes went in the ground at a fast pace during the week, with 80 percent planted in Aroostook county, the highest percentage planted by that date since at least 1994 when records were kept. First cutting of hay is just getting underway in some areas. Tobacco growers have begun to set out transplants. Other field activities included field tillage, spreading manure, tilling corn fields, applying fertilizers and herbicides.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	1	2	1
Short	28	25	8
Adequate	68	71	76
Surplus	3	2	15
Subsoil			
Very Short	2	1	1
Short	30	24	7
Adequate	65	71	76
Surplus	3	4	16

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Stage of Development	Fruit Set	Condition
Apples	FB/PF	Avg	Good/Fair
Peaches	PF	Avg	Good/Fair
Pears	FB/PF	Avg	Good
Blueberries			
Highbush	EB/FB	Avg	Good/Fair
Wild	BS/FB	---	Good
Cranberries, MA	BS	---	Good
Strawberries	EB/FB	Avg	Fair/Good

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

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2013	2012	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				
Barley, ME	90	70	60	
Oats, ME	90	75	55	
Potatoes				
Maine	80	50	40	
Mass	100	99	90	
Rhode Island	95	99	90	
Silage Corn	65	35	35	
Sweet Corn	55	40	35	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	10	0	<5	Fair
Shade	10	0	15	Fair
-- Percent Emerged --				
Barley	40	30	25	Good
Oats	30	30	20	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	0	<5	Good
Mass	35	35	30	Good
Rhode Island	60	75	40	Good/Exc
Silage Corn	25	10	5	Good
Sweet Corn	25	20	20	Good/Fair
-- Percent Harvested --				
Dry Hay				
First Cut	<5	5	<5	Good/Fair

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday May 13, 2013
 To: Sunday May 19, 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	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
	---	---	---	---	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	---	---	INCHES	---	---
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	37	76	52	-3	115	+29	10	+7	0.31	-0.53	3	1.86	-1.69	8
Bangor_Intl_Arp	31	73	50	-4	89	+29	10	+10	0.38	-0.46	2	1.16	-2.08	8
Bethel	31	74	49	-5	103	+36	5	+4	0.13	-0.70	1	1.28	-2.03	5
Caribou_Municip	30	63	46	-5	136	+93	29	+29	0.76	+0.06	3	1.41	-1.23	8
Dover-Foxcroft	28	71	47	-5	99	+55	12	+12	0.38	-0.39	2	1.56	-1.71	7
Frenchville	31	61	44	-6	116	+88	25	+25	0.66	-0.04	3	1.56	-1.15	7
Houlton	27	63	47	-5	111	+68	12	+12	0.34	-0.43	4	0.81	-2.06	8
Livermore_Falls	28	74	49	-3	92	+48	8	+8	0.45	-0.39	2	1.70	-1.76	7
Moosehead	32	67	47	-3	74	+54	5	+5	0.62	-0.15	3	1.09	-1.97	6
Portland_ME	35	78	53	+0	88	+33	3	+3	0.22	-0.60	2	1.32	-2.18	8
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	28	74	49	-5	131	+44	9	+0	0.14	-0.63	1	1.01	-1.90	5
Berlin_AG	26	73	49	-4	178	+107	32	+27	0.21	-0.57	2	1.13	-2.03	5
Concord	29	80	54	-2	188	+88	28	+20	0.09	-0.61	1	0.68	-2.12	6
First_Conn_Lake	28	69	47	-2	107	+81	8	+8	0.35	-0.54	4	2.22	-1.07	9
Keene_AG	28	78	50	-8	144	+0	13	-6	0.05	-0.79	1	0.84	-2.43	5
North_Conway	30	77	52	-3	146	+63	12	+6	0.11	-0.79	2	1.85	-1.86	9
Rochester	32	77	52	-5	133	+15	13	+2	0.10	-0.78	1	1.03	-2.70	6
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	28	76	50	-5	195	+105	22	+11	0.06	-0.99	1	0.67	-3.47	7
Burlington_Intl	32	77	54	-3	277	+147	72	+55	0.07	-0.63	2	0.58	-2.19	6
Island_Pond	25	69	48	-4	141	+92	13	+13	0.20	-0.64	3	1.34	-1.67	8
Montpelier	27	72	48	-6	155	+72	11	+3	0.07	-0.67	2	0.29	-2.39	7
Rochester	28	75	48	-6	125	+51	3	-2	0.08	-0.90	1	1.43	-2.42	5
Rutland_AG	28	76	49	-9	156	-1	14	-12	0.10	-0.67	1	1.39	-1.54	5
Springfield_VT	28	77	51	-5	168	+74	15	+5	0.12	-0.79	1	1.11	-2.53	4
Sutton	29	71	48	-4	145	+99	19	+19	0.29	-0.52	4	0.83	-2.18	9
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	44	82	59	+1	218	+56	24	+17	0.03	-0.69	1	1.26	-1.86	7
Fitchburg	35	81	56	+2	248	+171	37	+36	0.09	-0.68	1	1.19	-1.97	6
Greenfield	32	80	52	-6	197	+34	23	+6	0.06	-0.81	2	2.04	-1.44	6
New_Bedford	34	79	54	-5	170	+5	19	+11	0.02	-0.80	2	1.58	-1.87	9
Otis_AFB	36	73	53	-2	129	+49	13	+13	0.05	-0.79	3	2.77	-0.72	7
Plymouth	34	81	55	+0	181	+91	27	+27	0.06	-0.85	2	1.56	-2.22	10
Walpole	34	75	55	-2	205	+84	19	+12	0.07	-0.70	2	1.12	-2.26	8
Chicopee/Westov	28	83	53	-8	217	-12	28	-3	0.05	-0.86	1	0.86	-2.78	6
Worthington	28	77	49	-6	98	+13	4	-2	0.12	-0.93	1	1.91	-2.23	6
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	38	82	57	-1	221	+82	27	+22	0.02	-0.82	1	0.85	-2.68	8
Woonsocket	34	82	54	-3	216	+99	32	+28	0.04	-0.87	2	0.86	-2.92	8
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	40	76	58	-1	215	+41	23	+2	0.05	-0.86	3	1.05	-2.59	8
Hartford/Bradle	32	85	55	-5	250	+46	34	+5	0.03	-0.95	1	0.92	-2.79	6
Norfolk	33	76	51	-4	129	+48	13	+9	0.04	-0.98	2	0.76	-3.38	6
Thomaston_Dam	30	82	53	-4	156	+21	16	+4	0.05	-0.93	3	0.92	-3.18	8
Willimantic	31	82	54	-4	224	+91	26	+15	0.10	-0.86	2	1.41	-2.49	7

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, May 19, 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	26	79	48	-4	0.00	1.09	0.41	-0.39	2
NH	14	81	50	-4	0.00	0.49	0.13	-0.73	2
VT	22	78	49	-6	0.02	0.31	0.13	-0.75	2
MA	28	84	53	-3	0.02	0.25	0.09	-0.77	2
RI	34	82	55	-2	0.01	0.04	0.02	-0.82	1
CT	30	85	54	-4	0.49	0.18	0.06	-0.92	2

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: Some warmer weather but still dry. Crop progress is normal as far as field corn and vegetable crops. Some producers are irrigating before setting out vegetable transplants. Still intermittent frosts - temperatures dropped to 25 degrees on the May 15th. It's too soon to tell if any damage from frost. Tobacco producers still waiting to transplant until danger of frost is over. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Corn planting is winding down after some needed rain delays. Grass is being mown for haylage. Grass is extremely short. Most fields are heading out at less than knee high - with a lot less than 1 foot tall. No reports of frost damage to fruits and vegetables even after 2 nights in the upper 20's. **Ann McCard (FSA), New London:** Early week brought cooler than normal temperatures, light frost on Tuesday evening in some parts of the county. Warmer weather finished out the week. Corn planting continues, early corn is up. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Heavy frost affected fruit crops. Still dry, planting corn and chopping haylage. Asparagus harvesting, vegetable and bedding plant sales good.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: Most potato operations are done or near done. It has been an excellent spring so far. This week will be spent cleaning equipment, picking rocks, and applying herbicide. Hay fields and pastures are coming slow because of the cold weather. Broccoli planting will continue until mid July. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Crops going in quite fast. Need a little more moisture. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** Most of the farmers are done planting their grain. If the weather is good should be finishing up planting their potato crop this week. Had some rain last week and the forecast is to get more this week, which will help the crop grow. Pastures are nice and green. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Dry, windy weather for most of the week allowed a lot of corn to be planted. Soils are starting to dry out again. Garden center customers were busy buying plants over the weekend. Much needed rain is forecast for next week. Expected rainfall is over 4" lower than expected. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Much needed rain today!! Cows are out to pasture on dry green fields. Corn and potatoes just about all planted in the county. Most farmers got field work completed and planting is heavily under way. Blueberries and strawberries are looking good as well. Apple trees are in full bloom. **Caragh Fitzgerald (Ext), Kennebec:** Did get some rain. Frost in some places, Wednesday morning May 15. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Periodic rains were good for all the perennial crops and crops that were already seeded. The rain gave farmers a short break from all the field work. Sunny days were filled with spreading manure, tilling and planting. Animals are out on pasture and are being rotated quickly through paddocks to take advantage of fast grass growth. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Welcome rain this week will help developing crops. **Elaine S. Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** The week started out cooler than the previous week with light frost in some areas. Field work continues with manure spreading, plowing as well as continued planting. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Another pretty good week for getting field work done. Lots of corn is being planted. Apples in bloom, high bush blueberries are starting to flower. Spotty light frost last week. Looks like rain this coming week. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Bees being moved into the field for pollination. Cool temperatures have delayed the

progression of bloom so it is at about 5 to 10 percent. There were two infections periods last week and fungicide applications were made to protect the plants but the cups have dried up on most sites so there is no threat of infection after this week.

MASSACHUSETTS – Debra Senger (FSA), Berkshire: Had a good amount of rain but still below the average. We had a frost on May 14th but none of the producers called with any losses. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The week started off with frosts on Monday and Wednesday and many small fruit and orchardist were irrigating their crops for frost control. By the end of the week producers were irrigating their crops due to dry soil conditions. Harvesting hay, fiddleheads, asparagus, greens, and spinach. Planting field corn, sweet corn, cabbage, lettuce, greens, and new fields of strawberries and asparagus. **Carolyn DeMornanville (Ext), Plymouth:** A warmer week with only two early morning frost conditions. Growers are starting to apply fertilizers, herbicide applications continue. Insects are active, especially cranberry weevil and winter moth.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack: About 0.4 inches of much needed rain fell on Saturday, May 11 with additional light rain showers on Sunday, May 12 and Wednesday, May 15. Overall precipitation is still well below normal. Producers have reported that fruit trees and bushes have been budding/blooming well this spring, however, temperatures dropped below freezing the mornings of Tuesday, May 14 and Wednesday, May 15 resulting in a frost. This may negatively impact some fruit production. Some local producers were out planting their field corn this week; and others are prepping fields for late May or June planting. Local nursery operations report good early sales this spring. **Olivia Saunders (Ext), Carroll:** Dry weather continues, the small amount of rain has helped moisten only the top few inches of top soil. Pastures are very slow to grow, making rotational grazing difficult for many. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Generally sunny weather, with a little more rain midweek and on Sunday. Grass is doing well, and some looks ready for 1st cutting. Planting of field corn continues, and earliest planted fields have begun to emerge. Planting also continues on veggie operations. Fruit crops look good, with little apparent injury from frosts early in the week. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Wide range of temperatures punctuated by two hard freezes in the beginning of the week. Manure, fertilizer, lime continues to be spread as farmers prepare more ground for corn planting, which is also ongoing. Pastures, haylands greened up fairly well - should benefit from soaking rain on Sunday (19th) night. Some small grains also being seeded. More animals to pasture. Has been rather dry; weather forecast seems promising. Bumble bees working high bush blueberries as black flies start on those of us in the field. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Rain was very much needed. Field work continues. Soil conditions are still favorable for planting and tilling activities. Sixty percent or more corn is planted. Vegetable operations are gearing up. Freeze/frost on Tuesday/Wednesday nights. Temps in some areas dropped down to low 20s. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Watching cold temperatures at night and hoping frost/freeze does not occur. Irrigating strawberries for frost control and running wind machines in orchards three nights in a row. Temperatures dipped to 25 to 28 degrees F at some sites! Some young grape vine shoots were damaged and strawberry

blossoms were damaged. We are waiting to see how much more damage will be seen. Very dry weather and soil conditions! Fruit: Orchardists made sure bees were in apple orchards. Apples-McIntosh trees are at full bloom at beginning of week to petal fall at end of week. Later blooming varieties were at full bloom at week's end. Peaches are at petal fall. Blueberries are at early pink to bloom. Pruning last peach trees, blueberry bushes and raspberry patches, and fertilizing orchards. Protective fungicide sprays applied on fruit trees. Irrigating! Field Crops: Farmers are fertilizing hayfields; spreading manure, plowing, disking, fertilizing, planting corn, and applying herbicides. Farmers are starting to make haylage and baled hay. Corn has emerged and new seedlings up and growing. Vegetables: Laying plastic mulch and drip irrigation tape. Making successive planting vegetable crops. Harvesting spinach, asparagus, rhubarb and all kinds of greens. Irrigating growing crops and newly seeded sweet corn. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** A couple of cold "frosty" nights in mid week with Wednesday evening reaching about 29 degree F. and possibly lower. Providing frost protections to strawberry by overhead irrigation, or pulling back straw or row covers. Harvesting greens, asparagus, and rhubarb. Fruit growers running wind machines, also spraying protective fungicides. Planting potatoes, sweet corn, leafy greens, asparagus and successive vegetable planting. Preparing more fields for planting and laying black plastic. Flea beetles are active. Pasture growing. Some hayfields about ready to be cut.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: In Providence County last Wednesday morning, we had a 28 degree morning. The apple orchards had some spraying going on during the night. It looked like a winter wonderland the next morning with the sun shining on the ice on the trees (and the blueberries and strawberries). We have not assessed the damage yet. Potatoes are almost done planting. The early potatoes are breaking ground and looking good. Another week

and all the potatoes should be breaking ground. Silage corn, a lot was planted this week. Sweet corn is still being planted. That will go on in weekly plantings until June. They should start planting tomatoes and peppers and other small crops outside this week. Rye is starting to be mowed now; it probably won't get baled with this wet weather this week. No one has started cutting hay as of yet. Most of the heifers and cows are on the pastures now.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Continued good weather, corn planting, and spraying weed control. New seeding of hay complete, starting to come up. First cut grass hay started. Rain at week's end welcome for planted corn and pasture growth. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Another dry week in Franklin County. Got some rain yesterday, very welcome. Bulk of the corn is planted, however, very slow emergence and growth do to cooler temps this week. Some first cut haylage going in. Crop looks fair on volume and have not heard of any quality analysis. Apples are looking good and do not believe that two mornings of frost did much damage. Gardens are looking good with many potatoes in the ground. **Terence Bradshaw, (UVM):** Rains over the weekend and this coming week will provide needed moisture, but will trigger a major apple scab infection period. Bloom has been heavy in most orchards, with good pollinating weather for earlier blooming sites and moderate conditions for pollination elsewhere. Growers should plan on thinning all blocks, possibly aggressively, as petal fall and fruit set occur. **Jennifer Zaleski (FSA), Windham:** Farmers kept busy in their fields between scattered showers on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons. Producers were harvesting hay for silage and planting more field corn. Fields planted a couple weeks ago have emerged and look good. More vegetables were put in the ground as well. Morning temperatures were on the cooler side Monday through Wednesday with the coldest being in the upper 20s on Wednesday.

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