

Crop Progress & Condition



A field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

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Week ending April 27, 2014

*Issued weekly on the internet, April - November
by the Northeastern Regional Field Office of NASS*

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Released April 28, 2014

Fair week for field work: New England averaged 3.5 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

The weather was unseasonably cool and wet across the region last week. Soils in many areas were still saturated from winter snowmelt and rain only added surplus moisture. Field crops were well behind schedule. Potato planting just began in southern New England and sweet corn was also off to a slow start. Tree fruits have been progressing slowly, but steadily. The lack of sun increased the potential for fungus damage in fruit crops and growers applied protective sprays throughout the week.

New England Soil Moisture for Week Ending April 20, 2014

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil	0%	2%	39%	59%
Subsoil	0%	2%	50%	48%

Crop Progress as of April 20th

Apples	Green Tip	Pink
	45%	10%
Peaches	Green Tip	Pink
	62%	19%
Pears	Green Tip	Pink
	44%	13%
Sweet Corn	Planted	
	5%	

April 27, 2014 New England Weekly Weather Summary

		Last Week Weather Summary						Accumulation Since April 1, 2014					
		Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
State	Station	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Maine	Augusta_State_A	66	35	48	+1	0.48	2	2.48	-0.91	10	22	+17	128
	Bangor_Intl_Air	66	30	46	0	0.62	4	2.36	-0.63	11	19	+16	112
	Bethel	72	35	47	+2	0.54	2	3.51	+0.05	8	12	+10	95
	Bridgton	72	31	47	+3	0.49	2	2.87	-0.75	9	10	+10	89
	Caribou_Municip	61	28	41	-2	1.91	3	4.36	+2.01	12	3	+3	38
	Dover-Foxcroft	63	30	44	+3	0.76	4	3.23	-0.06	10	3	+3	64
	Durham	65	31	47	+1	0.38	3	2.81	-1.24	10	14	+11	103
	East_Surry	59	31	44	-2	0.96	4	4.45	+0.64	12	3	+2	76
	Eustis	60	31	42	+3	0.50	2	2.48	-0.37	7	0	0	33
	Frenchville	60	28	38	-3	1.04	3	2.72	+0.30	12	0	0	21
	Harmony	67	30	46	+3	0.90	4	2.79	-0.57	10	5	+5	80
	Houlton	56	25	42	-1	1.18	4	3.47	+0.93	11	8	+8	56
	Livermore_Falls	68	27	47	+4	0.65	2	3.04	-0.67	9	10	+10	85
	Machias	55	24	40	-5	1.48	4	6.22	+2.11	10	0	0	39
	Millinocket_Wtr	61	30	40	-4	1.12	5	3.02	-0.16	10	2	+2	40
	Moosehead	64	28	42	+3	0.54	3	2.49	-0.56	12	0	0	39
	Portland_ME	60	34	47	+1	0.26	2	2.75	-1.09	8	21	+18	127
	Sanford	71	29	48	-1	0.35	2	2.27	-1.81	6	27	+18	127
	Topsfield_2	60	30	43	-2	1.46	4	4.35	+1.25	11	3	+3	54
	Turner	67	31	47	-1	0.63	2	3.44	-0.28	9	12	+4	99
New Hampshire	Berlin_AG	72	29	46	+2	0.30	3	2.41	-0.48	10	17	+17	88
	Bradford_2	73	24	47	-2	0.78	3	3.26	-0.25	10	20	+8	103
	Colebrook	68	19	43	+1	0.55	3	2.55	+0.22	12	5	+5	46
	Concord	77	28	49	+2	0.54	2	2.45	-0.29	8	49	+39	162
	East_Milford	77	28	50	+2	0.48	3	2.47	-1.09	8	41	+27	175
	Epping	76	31	50	+3	0.49	3	2.56	-1.24	10	48	+37	168
	Fitzwilliam	71	26	45	-2	1.10	3	3.45	+0.10	8	19	+17	94
	Greenville	76	31	49	+3	0.62	3	2.96	-0.39	10	34	+32	142
	Jefferson	70	26	44	-2	0.12	3	2.25	-0.35	9	18	+16	83
	Keene_AG	74	28	48	+2	0.95	4	3.06	+0.10	10	24	+17	136
	Lakeport_2	74	29	48	+2	0.25	3	2.31	-0.77	9	25	+18	122
	Lebanon	76	28	49	+3	0.74	3	2.41	-0.13	10	46	+41	155
	North_Conway	72	29	47	+1	0.49	2	3.34	-0.39	8	12	+10	92
	Tamworth_4	71	25	46	+2	0.44	2	3.13	-0.67	8	12	+12	71
Vermont	Bennington_AP	73	26	49	+4	0.83	4	1.82	-1.33	10	71	+69	200
	Burlington_Intl	72	29	49	+3	0.54	3	3.10	+0.52	13	52	+42	183
	Corinth	68	23	42	-4	0.58	4	2.58	+0.31	10	4	+2	45
	Island_Pond	67	27	43	+1	0.40	3	2.49	-0.02	13	13	+13	72
	Johnson_2N	70	30	45	+2	0.69	4	3.22	+0.29	14	19	+19	82
	Marlboro_Raws	71	28	44	+2	0.89	4	3.25	+0.85	11	19	+19	85
	Montpelier_AP	72	28	46	+2	0.50	3	2.85	+0.58	11	31	+29	109
	Newport_AG	70	23	44	-3	0.51	4	2.83	+0.20	12	21	+13	73
	Rochester	72	28	47	+2	0.60	3	2.76	-0.56	11	21	+21	103
	Rutland_AG	73	25	46	-3	0.66	4	1.93	-0.57	11	23	+6	111
	Springfield_VT	75	28	48	+4	1.00	2	2.94	-0.60	9	36	+35	136
	South_Lincoln	69	24	43	+1	0.66	4	3.43	-0.35	10	25	+25	88
	Sutton	69	27	44	+3	0.42	3	2.84	+0.33	12	16	+16	70
	Walden	66	23	41	-3	0.50	2	2.64	+0.13	12	10	+10	40

		Last Week Weather Summary						Accumulation Since April 1, 2014					
		Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
State	Station	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
	Woodstock	75	27	47	+2	0.73	2	2.47	-0.63	10	22	+20	106
Massachusetts	Amherst	70	30	49	+1	1.35	4	3.71	+0.27	12	45	+31	182
	Barre_Falls_Dam	75	28	48	+2	1.05	4	3.68	+0.20	12	34	+31	134
	Bedford_Hanscom	77	29	50	+1	0.96	3	3.06	-0.54	11	65	+45	209
	Beverly_Ag	66	29	46	-5	0.52	3	2.62	-1.18	10	24	+3	141
	Birch_Hill_Dam	72	29	48	+3	0.83	4	3.15	-0.22	11	33	+30	144
	Boston_Logan_In	73	36	51	-1	0.62	3	2.99	-0.28	11	74	+46	251
	Chatham_AP	59	34	48	+1	0.94	3	3.00	-0.56	9	20	+14	162
	Chicopee_Westov	71	27	51	+2	1.17	4	3.95	+0.51	12	69	+55	224
	Edgartown	63	32	48	0	0.82	4	2.61	-1.25	10	24	+12	178
	East_Brimfield_	70	29	48	0	1.23	4	4.05	+0.26	11	38	+29	164
	Fitchburg	78	32	52	+3	0.82	4	2.76	-1.19	12	71	+55	233
	Greenfield	70	29	49	0	1.16	3	3.08	-0.36	11	36	+22	169
	Hyannis_AP	59	30	48	0	0.86	3	2.71	-0.71	9	25	+18	173
	Maynard	77	30	51	+2	1.05	4	3.53	-0.07	12	56	+36	206
	New_Bedford	65	29	49	-2	0.87	3	3.78	-0.20	10	39	+21	204
	Newburyport	75	30	49	0	0.48	3	2.71	-1.20	9	42	+26	177
	North_Adams_Har	73	26	50	+5	0.67	4	2.03	-1.87	11	61	+60	196
	Norwood	73	29	50	-1	0.54	3	2.80	-0.95	10	69	+43	229
	Pittsfield	70	30	48	+1	0.65	4	2.38	-1.03	10	47	+39	163
	Plymouth	67	26	48	-2	1.06	3	4.10	-0.07	10	47	+31	193
	Taunton_4NW	70	31	50	0	0.83	3	4.21	+0.42	10	51	+31	217
	Westfield_Barne	75	29	51	+5	1.19	4	3.60	-0.18	11	71	+62	247
	West_Otis	71	27	46	-1	0.78	4	3.39	-0.66	10	35	+32	127
	Worcester	71	34	48	+1	0.97	4	3.57	+0.04	12	51	+40	191
	Worthington	72	26	46	+1	0.87	4	3.12	-0.40	11	26	+24	123
Rhode Island	Newport_AP	59	32	48	-2	0.67	3	3.63	-0.27	9	18	+3	176
	Providence	70	34	50	-2	0.98	4	4.45	+0.68	10	56	+25	246
	Westerly-Wester	61	30	48	-2	0.44	3	3.51	-0.33	9	19	+2	170
	Woonsocket	74	30	51	+2	0.88	4	4.02	+0.01	11	57	+37	227
Connecticut	Bridgeport_Siko	65	35	51	-2	0.69	3	3.30	-0.30	10	54	+23	232
	Danbury_AP	69	28	50	-2	0.84	3	2.97	-0.85	10	59	+28	220
	Hartford_Bradle	73	30	52	-1	1.06	4	3.69	+0.22	11	75	+35	268
	Meriden-Meriden	67	29	49	-1	0.90	4	3.22	-0.96	10	48	+26	215
	Norfolk	72	30	47	+2	0.83	4	2.90	-1.15	11	40	+37	154
	Norwich	69	33	51	-2	0.45	3	3.56	-0.60	9	50	+18	236
	Staffordville	71	28	46	-3	1.05	4	4.39	+0.42	11	27	+13	133
	Thomaston_Dam	73	28	49	+1	1.21	3	4.10	+0.23	10	43	+31	188
	West_Thompson_L	71	31	48	0	1.16	4	4.21	+0.23	12	33	+20	162
	Willimantic	70	29	50	+2	0.70	4	3.49	-0.48	11	58	+44	230

Summary based on NWS data. DFN = Departure From Normal.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County

Reporters are from Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Conservation District, farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

CONNECTICUT

HARTFORD/TOLLAND, Ross Eddy

Some animals out to pasture. Spreading manure and fertilizer. Some tillage taking place.

LITCHFIELD, Richard Meinart

Planting grass and alfalfa, and spreading manure were the main farm tasks this week.

WINDHAM, Dawn S. Pindell

Cooler weather. Getting ready to plant. Pruning done. Grass is starting to green up. Spreading natural fertilizers and harrowing fields.

MAINE

CUMBERLAND/YORK, Sandy Truslow

Temperatures remain on the cool side. Some sweet corn is being planted under cover. Peas, beets and early vegetables are being planted. Winter damage is reported on peaches and on some high bush blueberries.

FRANKLIN, Gary J. Raymond

There still is some snow around the edges, lots of frost in the ground and lots of mud! But spring is in sight.

HANCOCK/PENOBSCOT/WASHINGTON, Valerie Porter

Due to all the rain the fields are still too wet for any type of work. It's going to be a long spring. Farmers are getting very concerned about crops being planted later than normal.

HANCOCK/KNOX/LINCOLN/WASHINGTON,

David Yarborough

Cool temperatures delaying bud break; we are seeing some bud swelling in the Union area, but overall plants are about 2 weeks behind normal development. Frost is not completely out of the ground in the heavier soils and Downeast delaying burning and mowing on many fields.

OXFORD, Marcia Hall

Oxford, Androscoggin and Sagadahoc County producers are trying to get some manure spread and harrowing done in-between rainy days. Need warm sunny days! Greenhouses are still being heated due to the cold temperatures at night.

SOMERSET, Elaine S. Moceus

Pastures and hay fields are starting to green up - manure is being spread on high spots in fields. Lower areas of some fields are still very wet. Temperatures are cool, with rain showers throughout the week.

WASHINGTON, Michael L. Look

Still no real spring weather.

MASSACHUSETTS

BARNSTABLE, Russel Norton

Conditions for the week started off well with highs near 60 and lows in mid 40s and ended in cool wet conditions with highs in mid to low 40s. Just under an inch of rain fell in two precipitation events: one on Tuesday the other on Saturday. Winter moth hatched this past week and growers are applying insecticides for control. Fungicides are also being applied for apple scab.

BERKSHIRE, Debra Senger

Some of the producers are getting into the fields to plant corn, but some are still too wet.

FRANKLIN, Heather Baylis

Spring is creeping along slowly, lower temperature last week but overall the greening continues. Potato planting is underway and some direct seeded early crops are just starting to emerge in the southern parts of the county. Some of the earliest corn was planted. Many farmers are out subsoiling, plowing and spreading manure.

HAMPDEN/HAMPSHIRE, Ted Smiarowski

A cold and wet week. Farmers are plowing, subsoiling and spreading manure. Planting sweet corn, onions, peas, carrots, beets, collards, cabbage, and potatoes. Growers with high tunnels are harvesting mixed greens.

NANTUCKET/PLYMOUTH, Deb Cannon

Cranberry buds have broken dormancy but little bud expansion is yet apparent. Growers are protecting for frost as needed.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

BELKNAP/STRAFFORD, Kelly McAdam

Some Belknap growers were planting sweet corn and peas last week. Growers reported that they were planting in the driest fields they have right now. Those apples at green tip are MacIntosh in Strafford County.

CARROLL, Olivia Sauders

Spring is slow to come this year. Some have started to transplant hardy vegetables in the field, and hot crops into their greenhouses.

CHESHIRE, Carl Majewski

Cooler for most of the week, with a little rain Tuesday night and a drizzly day on Saturday. Grass is continuing to green up nicely, and farms spreading manure and beginning some soil prep, but still a little too cool for much planting.

COOS, Steve Turaj

Cold wet week. Rhubarb just starting to peek out of the ground.

GRAFTON, Steven Schmidt

The frost is almost all out on the river bottom. Upland fields still have frost coming out of the ground. The sandy river bottom fields are drying down enough to allow manure spreading. Upland fields are not as far along. Flooding over the last couple of weeks has left some farmers with repairs and cleanup to do on some fields.

HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton

Field Crops: Liming and fertilizing hay fields and pastures. Spreading manure, plowing, disking, fertilizing and getting ready to plant corn. Fixing pasture fences. Also, getting ready to make new pasture and hay field seedings. Vegetables: Early season vegetables (peas, lettuce, greens) are being planted. Liming, fertilizing, plowing, disking (fields that are not too wet to work) and getting ready to plant fields. Fruits: Apples are at half-inch green stage. Pruning last blueberry bushes and raspberry patches. Orchardists are chopping brush in orchard or push pruning out of the orchards. Fertilizing orchards. Protective fungicide sprays applied on fruit trees over weekend of April 26-27.

ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad

Few sunny days with some cold nights. Two days of drizzle rain. Grassland and pastures greening up. Fruit growers spraying protective fungicides. Vegetable growers busy preparing fields by plowing disking, liming and fertilizing beds. Plastic was also laid. Planting some early crop vegetables such as onions, peas and cole crops. Winter farmers markets are getting ready to transition to the spring/summer season. Some traffic at the garden center.

RHODE ISLAND

NEWPORT, Heather Faubert

Cold and damp for this time of the year. Season is lagging by at least a week.

VERMONT

ADDISON, Jeffrey Carter

Limited manure spreading on corn fields on light soil and some hay fields. Limited soil tillage. Fertilizing of grass hay fields is starting. Cover crop winter rye growth is good.

CHITTENDEN, Terence Bradshaw

Cool, damp weather means apple scab risk. This is also good weather for planting trees, and many growers are doing so. Grape pruning is wrapping up, and a lot of winter bud injury has been observed.

FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley

Franklin County grass is greening up. Still cool and rainy keeping buds at bay on all trees. Some manure being spread, however, reports say that frost is still looming in certain shaded areas. Mother Nature is going to be a big player in spring field work and may end up like this year's sugar season with a late start and a big rush ending up on track when all said and done.

ORLEANS, David Blodgett

Most areas still too wet for field work. A little manure spreading has been done. Most all of the snow has melted now.

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