

# Crop Progress & Condition



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

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Week ending April 20, 2014

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

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Released April 21, 2014

**Poor week for field work:** New England averaged 2.5 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

Fields gradually dried out in the Northeast as high temperatures finally rose into the upper 60s and 70s. Crops from blueberries to potatoes were behind schedule due to below normal temperatures in the north and sleet and freezing rain in the south. New England orchards were beginning to come alive as green buds appeared in Connecticut and Rhode Island. Crop experts expected that tree fruits will advance to the pink stage in the next week or two. A few growers have planted sweet corn in plastic. Manure spreading has become a common sight on upland fields. Growers are generally prepared to begin full scale field work next week if warm sunny weather prevails.

## **New England Soil Moisture for Week Ending April 20, 2014**

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil	0%	1%	50%	49%
Subsoil	0%	1%	61%	38%

## **Crop Progress**

Apples	Green Tip
	11%
Peaches	Green Tip
	19%
Pears	Green Tip
	32%

### April 20, 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	69	19	40	-5	0.87	3	2.00	-0.48	8	15	+15	71
	Bangor_Intl_Air	67	19	40	-4	1.05	2	1.74	-0.48	7	13	+13	64
	Bethel	70	19	37	-7	1.68	2	2.97	+0.37	6	3	+3	41
	Bridgton	73	19	38	-5	0.85	2	2.38	-0.33	7	3	+3	38
	Caribou_Municip	58	14	36	-3	1.35	3	2.45	+0.73	9	3	+3	20
	Dover-Foxcroft	69	14	37	-3	1.36	2	2.47	+0.02	6	2	+2	30
	Durham	67	21	40	-5	0.82	2	2.43	-0.57	7	10	+10	52
	East_Surry	58	19	41	-3	1.48	3	3.49	+0.66	8	3	+3	46
	Eustis	68	9	32	-5	1.31	2	1.98	-0.10	5	0	0	13
	Frenchville	53	12	33	-4	1.05	5	1.68	-0.07	9	0	0	13
	Harmony	69	14	37	-6	0.86	2	1.89	-0.63	6	2	+2	33
	Houlton	65	10	37	-2	1.25	2	2.29	+0.45	7	8	+8	34
	Livermore_Falls	70	16	37	-5	1.19	2	2.39	-0.41	7	3	+3	38
	Machias	61	19	38	-4	1.62	2	4.74	+1.68	6	0	0	28
	Millinocket_Wtr	67	12	37	-4	0.85	2	1.90	-0.44	5	2	+2	27
	Moosehead	65	9	34	-4	1.05	3	1.95	-0.26	9	0	0	19
	Portland_ME	65	22	40	-5	0.83	2	2.49	-0.37	6	19	+19	75
	Sanford	79	20	40	-6	0.85	2	1.87	-1.17	5	11	+11	66
	Topsfield_2	65	15	38	-3	1.18	2	2.89	+0.63	7	3	+3	31
	Turner	71	20	38	-7	1.07	2	2.81	+0.00	7	6	+6	49
New Hampshire	Berlin_AG	75	15	38	-3	1.33	2	2.11	-0.01	7	4	+4	42
	Bradford_2	75	19	39	-7	1.39	2	2.48	-0.12	7	8	+7	52
	Colebrook	74	10	35	-6	1.32	4	2.00	+0.32	9	0	0	16
	Concord	79	18	42	-4	0.97	2	1.91	-0.09	6	29	+29	97
	East_Milford	79	22	43	-4	0.75	1	1.99	-0.68	5	18	+16	105
	Epping	79	22	42	-4	0.71	2	2.07	-0.75	7	23	+22	94
	Fitzwilliam	72	17	40	-4	1.78	2	2.35	-0.14	5	11	+11	55
	Greenville	74	20	42	-3	1.13	2	2.34	-0.15	7	16	+16	79
	Jefferson	75	14	37	-6	1.15	2	2.13	+0.23	6	6	+6	47
	Keene_AG	76	20	43	-2	1.54	2	2.11	-0.08	6	15	+15	77
	Lakeport_2	74	22	41	-4	0.93	2	2.06	-0.18	6	8	+8	61
	Lebanon	79	19	43	-2	1.04	2	1.67	-0.17	7	26	+26	90
	North_Conway	71	18	38	-6	1.31	2	2.85	+0.05	6	2	+2	43
	Tamworth_4	73	17	38	-4	0.94	2	2.69	-0.13	6	3	+3	28
Vermont	Bennington_AP	76	22	47	+5	0.61	1	0.99	-1.29	6	52	+52	133
	Burlington_Intl	81	21	46	+3	1.97	5	2.56	+0.68	10	31	+31	116
	Corinth	69	15	35	-8	1.28	3	2.00	+0.36	6	1	+1	19
	Island_Pond	74	9	39	-1	1.13	4	2.09	+0.28	10	6	+6	39
	Johnson_2N	77	12	39	-3	1.77	5	2.53	+0.37	10	10	+10	41
	Marlboro_Raws	75	17	42	+2	1.22	3	2.36	+0.60	7	13	+13	55
	Montpelier_AP	77	14	40	-3	1.73	4	2.35	+0.71	8	17	+17	58
	Newport_AG	76	14	39	-5	1.44	4	2.32	+0.39	8	11	+11	38
	Rochester	77	18	41	-2	1.36	3	2.16	-0.25	8	11	+11	57
	Rutland_AG	79	20	42	-4	0.90	3	1.27	-0.53	7	14	+13	63
	Springfield_VT	79	19	43	+1	0.89	2	1.94	-0.66	7	18	+18	77
	South_Lincoln	75	15	41	+2	2.29	4	2.77	+0.00	6	19	+19	56
	Sutton	71	13	37	-3	1.40	4	2.42	+0.61	9	8	+8	31
	Walden	69	7	34	-6	1.24	5	2.14	+0.33	10	7	+7	17

		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	76	19	41	-2	0.72	3	1.74	-0.52	8	12	+12	57
Massachusetts	Amherst	74	27	47	+1	1.32	2	2.36	-0.17	8	34	+31	114
	Barre_Falls_Dam	75	23	44	0	1.43	2	2.63	+0.06	8	23	+23	80
	Bedford_Hanscom	77	25	46	-2	1.17	3	2.10	-0.59	8	40	+34	136
	Beverly_Ag	75	26	43	-6	1.04	2	2.10	-0.74	7	18	+11	94
	Birch_Hill_Dam	73	23	44	+1	1.28	2	2.32	-0.21	7	21	+21	87
	Boston_Logan_In	75	31	49	-1	1.02	3	2.37	-0.08	8	53	+42	175
	Chatham_AP	62	33	46	+1	1.00	2	2.06	-0.59	6	15	+15	107
	Chicopee_Westov	75	22	48	+2	1.77	3	2.78	+0.25	8	48	+45	148
	Edgartown	64	32	46	0	0.85	2	1.79	-1.13	6	17	+14	111
	East_Brimfield_	71	26	46	+1	1.71	3	2.82	-0.03	7	29	+29	104
	Fitchburg	79	25	46	0	0.87	2	1.94	-1.03	8	42	+38	150
	Greenfield	74	25	45	-2	1.13	3	1.92	-0.61	8	25	+22	105
	Hyannis_AP	64	29	46	+1	1.02	2	1.85	-0.73	6	21	+21	117
	Maynard	74	25	48	+1	1.36	3	2.48	-0.21	8	32	+26	124
	New_Bedford	68	29	48	0	1.86	2	2.91	-0.09	7	31	+26	141
	Newburyport	80	26	43	-4	0.72	1	2.23	-0.70	6	26	+22	109
	North_Adams_Har	75	22	47	+6	0.86	2	1.36	-1.49	7	42	+42	128
	Norwood	75	26	48	0	1.32	3	2.26	-0.54	7	48	+39	158
	Pittsfield	74	22	46	+2	1.21	3	1.73	-0.73	6	37	+37	108
	Plymouth	72	31	47	0	1.95	2	3.04	-0.11	7	35	+30	133
	Taunton_4NW	73	28	47	-1	2.11	2	3.38	+0.52	7	35	+29	145
	Westfield_Barne	77	26	48	+5	1.49	3	2.41	-0.39	7	48	+48	166
	West_Otis	75	21	44	+1	1.81	2	2.61	-0.39	6	30	+30	85
	Worcester	71	24	46	+1	1.48	3	2.60	-0.02	8	35	+34	131
	Worthington	74	20	43	0	1.44	1	2.25	-0.29	7	20	+20	77
Rhode Island	Newport_AP	63	30	46	-2	1.91	2	2.96	+0.02	6	16	+11	118
	Providence	72	30	49	0	1.95	2	3.47	+0.62	6	42	+29	172
	Westerly-Wester	66	30	46	-2	1.70	2	3.07	+0.18	6	15	+10	112
	Woonsocket	71	28	48	+1	2.02	2	3.14	+0.14	7	36	+30	150
Connecticut	Bridgeport_Siko	67	31	48	-2	1.37	2	2.61	-0.08	7	38	+25	154
	Danbury_AP	74	26	48	-1	1.40	2	2.13	-0.71	7	45	+33	151
	Hartford_Bradle	75	26	49	0	1.48	2	2.63	+0.07	7	54	+38	185
	Meriden-Meriden	71	30	48	+2	1.25	2	2.32	-0.81	6	36	+30	149
	Norfolk	74	21	45	+2	1.40	3	2.07	-0.93	7	32	+32	101
	Norwich	71	31	48	-1	2.34	2	3.11	-0.01	6	39	+27	162
	Staffordville	72	25	44	-3	1.98	2	3.34	+0.35	7	21	+18	86
	Thomaston_Dam	75	23	46	+1	1.95	3	2.89	+0.00	7	32	+31	124
	West_Thompson_L	72	27	46	0	1.75	2	3.05	+0.05	8	24	+22	104
	Willimantic	72	28	49	+3	1.66	2	2.79	-0.20	7	43	+40	158

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

Planting early sweet corn and peas. Some forage seeding completed and fertilizing hay fields where not too wet. Spreading manure on corn fields. Still some frost most mornings.

LITCHFIELD, Richard Meinart

70 degrees a couple of days, 3 inches of sleet, freezing rain, snow, and 2-3 inches of rain all in one week. Makes it difficult to get any field work done!

WINDHAM, Dawn S. Pindell

Weather continues to vary from warm to cold, heavy rain, snow, ice, hard freeze this week. Grape vines seem to be in good shape. Bees lost over the harsh winter. Farmers are starting field work with manure spreading.

### MAINE

HANCOCK/PENOBSCOT/WASHINGTON, Valerie Porter

Fields are drying nicely for the most part. Some manure was actually spread on higher ground over the weekend. Blueberry fields look pretty good for the most part. Producers haven't seen much winter damage to date, but could be early in some places. Burning of fields shall be starting this week in some areas. Still too early to tile ground in most areas.

OXFORD, Marcia Hall

Crop fields are still very wet and some have standing water from all the rain last week. Flooding in low areas was reported along with several road closures due to high water levels. Some parts of the counties received snow on 4/16/2014 in the morning. By the afternoon it had all changed over to rain, which brought on flood warnings all across Maine.

SOMERSET, Elaine S. Moceus

The fields are mostly clear of snow with many wet areas in low spots in fields. Maple sap producers are reporting between half and three-quarters of their normal production for the current year.

WASHINGTON, Michael L. Look

Blueberries are 10 days to 2 weeks behind at this point. They will catch up to some degree.

### MASSACHUSETTS

BERKSHIRE, Debra Senger

The fields are drying out nicely, but some of the fields in Northern Berkshire are still wet. Should be getting into the fields in the coming day.

HAMPDEN/HAMPSHIRE, Ted Smiarowski

Crop fields are drying out and farmers are subsoiling , plowing , and spreading manure. Planting sweet corn under plastic, potatoes, onions, peas, carrots, collards and cabbage. Growers with high tunnels are harvesting a mix of greens. Nursery stock growers are also harvesting and selling their stock.

NANTUCKET/PLYMOUTH, Deb Cannon

Cranberry growers began protecting flower buds from frost as the plants have begun to break dormancy. Spring herbicides are being applied.

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

BELKNAP/STRAFFORD, Kelly McAdam

Fields are still too damp to work in.

CARROLL, Olivia Sauders

Buds just beginning to swell. Snow just now melted everywhere except for the north facing slopes and shaded areas.

CHESHIRE, Carl Majewski

Mostly dry and reasonably sunny for most of the week. Fields are drying out. Just starting to plant some of the earliest vegetable crops, and some dairy and livestock farms spreading manure on their driest ground.

COOS, Steve Turaj

Better weather after rains and several inches of snow early in the week. Flood plains serving well and filled up probably higher than had been seen in last 10 years or so. Some roads and bridges along river areas closed. Seems to have receded somewhat as of Friday, but there is still a fair amount of snow in the hills yet to melt. Fields too cold and wet to do much with at this time. Mark Twain's observation of changeable New England weather verified this week.

HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton

Field Crops: Liming and fertilizing hayfields. Hauling manure to fields, spreading manure and getting equipment ready for the spring rush. Vegetables: Transplanting tomatoes into high tunnels. 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 silver bud stage and few at green tip. Peach are beginning to swell. Pruning last blueberry bushes and raspberry patches. Orchardists are finishing pruning, chopping brush in orchards or pushing pruning out of the orchards. Fertilizing is also occurring in the orchards.

ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad

Seeing some very cold nights. Heavy icing and rain and some snow on Monday evening into Tuesday morning. Windy and blistery cold on Wednesday. Pruning apple, pears and cherry trees. As well as pruning blueberries, raspberries. Harvesting spinach. In the greenhouse, growers are seeding in trays onions, peppers, eggplant, parsley, microgreens and other veggies. Spreading manure on hay fields.

## RHODE ISLAND

NEWPORT, Heather Faubert

Very little crop farming activity yet due to cold conditions.

NEWPORT, Paul E. Brule

This past week, we started to have some warmer weather. Two days were in the high 50's, but the nights are still in the low 30's. There has been no corn planted yet. No potatoes have been planted either. Some farmers are going to try to plant some early potatoes later this week. Normally, we would be planting some corn under plastic and potatoes at this time, but it has been just too cold. The fields are also wet.

## VERMONT

ADDISON, Jeffrey Carter

Light tillage with aeration tillage and limited manure spreading on light soil. No primary tillage. Some broadcast seeding and late frost seeding on pastures and hay fields. Limited no-till seeding of grass, clover and alfalfa hay.

CHITTENDEN, Terence Bradshaw

Apples are in silver tip in South Burlington with green tip expected by mid-week. Growers are catching up on late pruning, pushing brush, and calibrating sprayers. First sprays of copper and oil will likely be going on this week.

FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley

Frost is leaving us quickly in Franklin County. Heavy rains early in the week caused some major flooding and road closures. Grass is starting to green up in places which is a welcome sight. Manure spreading is being delayed. However, the frost working out of the ground will get us out on the fields soon.

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