

Crop Progress & Condition



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

Gary Keough, State Statistician

53 Pleasant St. 2nd Floor, Concord, NH 03301

Phone: 603-224-9639

Fax: 603-225-1434

www.nass.usda.gov/nh

Week ending May 4, 2014

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by the Northeastern Regional Field Office of NASS*

nassrfooner@nass.usda.gov

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

Wet weather last week led to unfavorable pasture conditions across the region. 10% of pasture land was in very poor condition while 20% was poor, 40% was fair, 30% was good, and none was rated as excellent. Crop fields were also soggy and difficult to get into. By this time last year 20% of field corn acres had been planted. This year corn planting was just now beginning last week. Fruit trees and potatoes were also well behind schedule for mid-spring. Traces of subsoil frost and even snow were still present in parts of New Hampshire and Maine.

New England Soil Moisture for Week Ending May 3rd, 2014

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil	0%	0%	38%	62%
Subsoil	0%	0%	44%	56%

Crop Progress as of May 3rd

Apples	Green Tip	Pink
	75%	18%
Blueberries, tame	Green Tip	
	41%	
Peaches	Green Tip	Pink
	92%	31%
Pears	Green Tip	Pink
	87%	26%
Strawberries	Planted	Green Tip
	35%	20%
Sweet Corn	Planted	
	8%	

May 4, 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	37	48	-3	0.84	4	3.32	-0.98	14	32	+11	185
	Bangor_Intl_Air	64	34	47	-2	0.68	4	3.04	-0.71	15	22	+7	164
	Bethel	62	35	46	-3	0.88	6	4.39	+0.09	14	16	+1	142
	Bridgton	66	35	47	-2	1.32	4	4.19	-0.29	13	12	+2	136
	Caribou_Municip	59	28	44	-2	0.55	4	4.91	+1.87	16	3	+1	70
	Dover-Foxcroft	62	33	45	-1	1.12	5	4.45	+0.32	15	4	+3	98
	Durham	67	37	48	-2	1.00	4	3.81	-1.22	14	21	+9	159
	East_Surry	62	34	46	-3	1.39	4	5.81	+1.09	16	5	-5	117
	Eustis	58	31	43	0	0.99	5	3.47	-0.11	12	0	0	56
	Frenchville	55	28	41	-3	0.25	3	2.97	-0.15	15	0	0	39
	Harmony	66	30	45	-3	1.03	5	3.82	-0.38	15	6	-3	119
	Houlton	61	27	44	-2	0.61	5	4.08	+0.84	16	8	+6	88
	Livermore_Falls	65	30	46	-2	0.65	4	3.69	-0.93	13	10	+7	126
	Machias	63	24	42	-5	1.10	5	7.32	+2.16	15	1	-2	61
	Millinocket_Wtr	59	30	43	-4	0.87	5	3.89	-0.13	15	2	-4	64
	Moosehead	59	30	42	0	0.98	6	3.47	-0.42	18	0	0	59
	Portland_ME	66	39	49	0	1.16	4	3.91	-0.87	12	30	+18	188
	Sanford	65	36	48	-4	1.24	3	3.33	-1.73	8	37	+10	184
	Topsfield_2	64	27	44	-3	0.83	4	5.18	+1.19	15	6	+3	85
	Turner	64	36	47	-5	0.80	5	4.24	-0.39	14	18	-8	146
New Hampshire	Berlin_AG	64	35	46	-2	1.26	6	3.76	+0.10	16	20	+10	130
	Bradford_2	69	36	47	-5	1.32	4	4.58	+0.12	14	29	-5	156
	Colebrook	61	31	44	-3	1.33	5	3.86	+0.80	18	6	0	74
	Concord	68	30	48	-3	1.45	5	3.90	+0.42	13	58	+29	218
	East_Milford	66	38	48	-4	1.44	4	3.91	-0.49	12	51	+13	235
	Epping	67	37	49	-3	1.16	5	3.72	-1.00	15	60	+30	231
	Fitzwilliam	68	29	45	-5	1.46	4	4.91	+0.70	12	23	+5	135
	Greenville	66	35	46	-3	1.74	3	4.70	+0.49	13	41	+23	191
	Jefferson	62	35	48	-2	1.36	5	3.61	+0.31	14	21	+2	138
	Keene_AG	70	32	48	-3	1.50	4	4.56	+0.78	14	34	+9	191
	Lakeport_2	66	38	49	-2	1.06	4	3.37	-0.53	13	33	+8	187
	Lebanon	68	31	49	-2	0.84	5	3.25	-0.04	15	55	+33	216
	North_Conway	63	34	46	-3	1.08	7	4.42	-0.22	15	14	-3	139
	Tamworth_4	65	30	45	-3	1.19	6	4.32	-0.48	14	15	+10	110
Vermont	Bennington_AP	72	33	50	+3	0.80	5	2.62	-1.49	15	87	+69	273
	Burlington_Intl	68	34	51	+1	0.89	6	3.99	+0.71	19	73	+40	261
	Corinth	61	33	44	-5	0.88	5	3.46	+0.52	15	4	-15	78
	Island_Pond	61	33	45	-2	1.35	6	3.84	+0.60	19	13	+9	107
	Johnson_2N	63	32	46	-2	1.35	6	4.57	+0.87	20	22	+14	128
	Marlboro_Raws	68	33	45	-2	1.52	5	4.77	+1.67	16	20	+12	121
	Montpelier_AP	65	34	46	-3	0.94	5	3.79	+0.85	16	34	+15	155
	Newport_AG	63	33	47	-4	1.51	6	4.34	+0.97	18	24	-6	120
	Rochester	66	33	47	-2	1.23	6	3.99	-0.24	17	26	+10	154
	Rutland_AG	67	33	48	-4	0.65	4	2.58	-0.63	15	31	-11	167
	Springfield_VT	68	34	47	-2	1.14	5	4.08	-0.40	14	39	+22	187
	South_Lincoln	64	31	45	-1	0.94	6	4.37	-0.39	16	28	+24	131
	Sutton	60	33	45	-1	1.56	6	4.40	+1.16	18	16	+12	106
	Walden	62	30	40	-6	1.54	6	4.18	+0.94	18	10	+6	57

		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
Massachusetts	Woodstock	68	31	46	-4	1.13	6	3.60	-0.34	16	27	+9	149
	Amherst	67	37	50	-2	2.36	4	6.07	+1.72	16	65	+27	255
	Barre_Falls_Dam	66	32	47	-3	1.87	4	5.75	+1.36	16	44	+29	177
	Bedford_Hanscom	68	37	49	-4	1.08	4	4.14	-0.37	15	81	+36	273
	Beverly_Ag	68	38	48	-6	1.07	5	3.69	-0.99	15	35	-10	196
	Birch_Hill_Dam	68	31	47	-3	1.54	4	4.87	+0.66	15	40	+25	189
	Boston_Logan_In	69	41	51	-3	0.99	4	3.98	-0.06	15	96	+39	329
	Chatham_AP	65	40	49	0	1.06	5	4.06	-0.38	14	31	+15	226
	Chicopee_Westov	69	32	51	-2	2.82	5	6.77	+2.42	17	92	+54	301
	Edgartown	66	38	50	-1	1.04	2	2.98	-1.76	11	39	+10	257
	East_Brimfield_	68	37	48	-3	2.35	5	6.40	+1.73	16	51	+24	226
	Fitchburg	69	35	50	-3	1.47	5	4.23	-0.66	17	95	+54	309
	Greenfield	67	33	49	-4	1.83	5	4.91	+0.56	16	49	+11	232
	Hyannis_AP	68	38	50	+1	1.24	4	3.95	-0.25	13	39	+19	244
	Maynard	66	38	49	-4	1.54	4	5.07	+0.56	16	72	+27	273
	New_Bedford	68	39	51	-2	1.83	4	5.61	+0.74	14	57	+14	281
	Newburyport	69	38	50	-3	1.06	4	3.77	-1.09	13	60	+21	245
	North_Adams_Har	74	38	49	+1	1.06	5	3.09	-1.86	16	74	+60	262
	Norwood	69	38	51	-3	0.80	2	3.60	-1.02	12	92	+37	309
	Pittsfield	69	33	48	-3	1.52	5	3.90	-0.55	15	58	+32	220
Plymouth	68	37	50	-2	1.14	4	5.24	+0.13	14	65	+28	264	
Taunton_4NW	71	36	51	-2	1.39	4	5.60	+0.94	14	74	+30	296	
Westfield_Barne	69	34	51	+2	2.91	3	6.51	+1.73	14	96	+69	327	
West_Otis	70	32	46	-4	1.77	3	5.16	+0.03	13	42	+23	171	
Worcester	66	36	48	-4	1.95	4	5.52	+1.04	16	65	+35	247	
Worthington	72	34	47	-3	2.25	4	5.37	+0.80	15	34	+16	174	
Rhode Island	Newport_AP	64	41	50	-2	1.97	4	5.60	+0.82	13	29	-4	249
	Providence	70	41	52	-2	2.09	3	6.54	+1.88	13	80	+18	333
	Westerly-Wester	63	39	51	-2	2.46	3	5.97	+1.22	12	33	-7	247
	Woonsocket	69	35	51	-2	1.53	4	5.48	+0.55	15	87	+42	317
Connecticut	Bridgeport_Siko	69	42	54	0	4.01	4	7.31	+2.80	14	89	+26	334
	Danbury_AP	75	33	51	-3	2.96	4	5.93	+1.06	14	80	+17	297
	Hartford_Bradle	71	38	52	-3	2.97	3	6.66	+2.24	14	103	+26	355
	Meriden-Meriden	69	38	52	-2	2.71	3	5.93	+0.66	13	72	+25	299
	Norfolk	69	34	47	-3	2.22	5	5.12	-0.01	16	49	+30	205
	Norwich	69	41	52	-2	2.87	4	6.43	+1.29	13	74	+8	325
	Staffordville	67	33	47	-5	2.12	3	6.51	+1.56	14	33	-3	183
	Thomaston_Dam	75	34	51	-1	3.52	4	7.62	+2.77	14	64	+30	264
	West_Thompson_L	69	35	49	-3	2.22	4	6.43	+1.50	16	52	+18	229
	Willimantic	71	35	52	+2	2.31	3	5.80	+0.85	14	86	+50	318

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

LITCHFIELD, Richard Meinart

Spreading manure, tuning up corn planters and waiting for the ground to dry.

WINDHAM, Dawn S. Pindell

A cool very wet week; with 2" of rain on one day and showers throughout the week. Warmer temperatures but cool wind at the end of the week. Planting field corn delayed in most areas of the county. Peaches flowering, blueberries in swollen bud, starting planting sweet corn, lettuce, peas, and onions. Rain and windy conditions have hampered spraying apples to control scab. Farmers markets beginning a month earlier than usual with vegetables grown in high tunnels helping farmers get to market earlier. Bedding plant sales are beginning as well.

MAINE

AROOSTOOK, Larry James

Cold wet weather is delaying the planting season. Some operations may be able to get on the ground by the end of the week. North sides of line fences still have snow.

CUMBERLAND/YORK, Sandy Truslow

Some areas received hail on Sunday. The weather is gradually warming up. Greenhouses are still spending more than expected on heating. The grass has greened up. Still waiting to see 70 degrees!

FRANKLIN, Gary J. Raymond

It is time to repair fences here before the black flies come out. The smell of manure being spread is in the air! It is nice to see some green grass for a change.

SOMERSET, Elaine S. Moccus

Field activity is limited to manure spreading and only on higher ground at this time, since some fields are still very wet. Producers have reported that plowing in some early fields may be able to be done next week. Temperatures have remained cool with rain showers throughout the week.

SOMERSET, Kathy Hopkins

Fields are wet. Some manure is being spread.

WASHINGTON, Michael L. Look

Need sun desperately.

MASSACHUSETTS

BARNSTABLE, Russel Norton

Cool, cloudy conditions for much of the week, ending with some decent weather. Just over an inch of rain for the week. Apples have been in tight cluster for at least a week. First plantings of sweet corn are in. Some growers able to till pending soil moisture.

BERKSHIRE, Debra Senger

Farmers are now plowing, and spreading manure. Starting to plant corn in some areas in Berkshire County.

FRANKLIN, Heather Baylis

Another week of below normal temps continues to increase the lag of current conditions compared to normal seasons. We received another inch of rain spread out through three days. Crop work includes planting sweet corn, potatoes, peas, beets, greens, onions and cabbage. Field prep continues and hopefully warmer temps in the coming week will accelerate progress.

HAMPDEN/HAMPSHIRE, Ted Smiarowski

Fields are very wet from all the heavy rains this week. Harvesting fiddleheads and many different types of greens under high tunnels. Planting beets, peas, radishes, greens, cabbage, sweetcorn and potatoes. Sweet corn under plastic is 5 inches tall.

NANTUCKET/PLYMOUTH, Deb Cannon

Cranberry plants continue to advance towards bud break but have yet to reach that stage. Growers are scouting for winter moth larvae and dodder seedling emergence. Spring pre-emergence herbicide applications are near completion with the exception of dodder treatments.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

BELKNAP/STRAFFORD, Kelly McAdam

Some orchards in Belknap County are well into green stage, while others are still behind. We had small hail for a few minutes in Meredith on Saturday (Belknap County). Growers reporting that crops seeded two weeks ago are still not up yet (peas), but seed appears to be in the germination process.

CHESHIRE, Carl Majewski

Reasonably dry for most of the week, but still cool. Fields have dried out enough so that field prep and some planting has begun, but still not in full swing. Grass in pastures and hayfields looking good.

COOS, Steve Turaj

Another cool and wet week. Soils remain too wet for equipment although a few attempts to spread manure where possible. Meadows starting to green up. Tributaries running strong, ponding in many cornfields. Looks like corn will go in late this year.

GRAFTON, Steven Schmidt

For the week ending May 3rd, we had a mixed bag of weather conditions. There were periods of sun and rain showers. Temperatures generally were in the 40 or higher. The frost in the ground is all but gone. Some north facing slopes and higher elevation fields still have a frost layer 18 inches or so below the surface. Farms along the Connecticut River are spreading manure and harrowing it in. Soils are still too cold to begin corn planting.

HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton

Fruits: Orchardists made sure bees were in apple orchards. Plums were starting to bloom. Apples and pears are at half inch green to tight cluster in the Hollis area. Orchardists are fertilizing orchards and are 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. Field Crops: Farmers are fertilizing hay fields; spreading manure, plowing, disking and fertilizing corn fields to be planted. Vegetables: Continue early season vegetables (peas, lettuce, greens, cole crops) planting, along with sweet corn and potatoes. transplanting zucchini and summer squash into row tunnels and floating row cover. Liming, fertilizing, plowing, disking, laying plastic and getting ready plant fields. Harvesting first asparagus, but it is slow growing.

MERRIMACK, Dorothy Perkins

Hay and pasture are progressing well. Southern region of Merrimack County is almost ready to graze. Corn for silage is being planted.

ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad

Cloudy, wet and cold with more sun at the end of the week. Fruit growers are spraying protective fungicides as apple scab is of concern. Blueberries are also being sprayed. Field work delayed because of wet conditions and wet fields. Preparing some of the dry fields. Planting greens and tomatoes in high tunnels. Harvesting lettuce, spinach, rhubarb, cilantro, kale, arugula and Swiss chard.

SULLIVAN, Kelly Greenbacker

Periods of rain and wind, followed by periods of sun provided an interesting week of weather in Sullivan County. Field work has begun with manure spreading, fertilizing, and some farmers beginning to till fields. Scattered winter damage to alfalfa has been seen in southern, river bottom areas. Orchardists are noting some winter damage to peach buds as well, but unsure of extent. The damage is attributed to the extreme cold weather that affected Cheshire/Sullivan in March. Many maple producers are reporting 50-60% of normal production this year, while some areas in higher elevations have benefited from colder nights reported a normal crop.

NEWPORT, Heather Faubert

Fields are very wet. Hopefully we are entering a drying spell.

NEWPORT, Paul E. Brule

Mothers Day is next weekend and if the weather holds this week into the 60's, apples are normally in full bloom by Mothers Day. Potatoes are going into the ground slowly. 25% have been planted so far and with a good week they should keep moving along. No silage corn has been planted yet. Sweet corn is planted under plastic, but only a little bit as it has been too cold and wet. As far as vegetables, only a little lettuce has been planted. Farmers are waiting for warmer ground.

VERMONT

ADDISON, Jeffrey Carter

Limited manure spreading on corn and hay fields. Light tillage only. Too wet for primary tillage. Pasture and hay greener by the day, not much growth yet.

CHITTENDEN, Terence Bradshaw

Apple scab continues to be the main concern for growers at this time of the season. Infection periods occurred last week through Monday, May 5. Another infection period is expected to run from Friday, May 9th through the weekend which will necessitate fungicide coverage. Trees are being planted in orchards now. Grapes are at bud swell, no bud break has been observed yet. Insect activity is quiet given the cool temperatures. Fertilizers may be applied to orchards any time now, and to grapes after bud break.

FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley

We are in a stall pattern for Franklin County with wet weather being the road block. Cool season grass continues to be the only progress species so far. Tree Buds are starting to look puffy, however, still not much green at this point. We will need a good launch soon to begin our growth season.

ORLEANS, David Blodgett

Some field work has begun on the drier fields. Most farms with corn land are spreading manure now. A few grassland farms are spreading as well, but only on the drier fields. Some of the larger farms have begun disking their corn fields. I have also noticed some moldboard plowing. We have had a lot of rain over the weekend. The rivers are high but not at flood stage yet. Temperatures have remained cool delaying the grazing season.

RHODE ISLAND

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United States
Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Pennsylvania Field Office
4050 Crums Mill Road, Suite 203
Harrisburg PA 17112

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