

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 11, 2014

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by the Northeastern Regional Field Office of NASS*

nassrfo@nass.usda.gov

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Good week for field work: New England averaged 5 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

Warm temperatures and little rainfall improved pasture conditions across the region. 7% of pasture land was in poor condition while 37% was fair, 48% was good, and 8% was rated as excellent. Fruit crops were improving rapidly last week and may catch up to normal development with continued warm weather. Field crops were still lagging due to remaining surplus soil moisture and cool soil temperatures. Corn planting continued to progress at a snail's pace and was 15% behind the five-year average. In northern Maine, planting of potatoes and coarse grains just began last week.

New England Soil Moisture for Week Ending May 11rd, 2014

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil	0%	0%	44%	56%
Subsoil	0%	0%	49%	51%

Crop Progress as of May 11rd

Apples	Green Tip	Pink	
	85%	29%	
Blueberries, tame	Green Tip	Pink	
	84%	24%	
Cranberries, MA	Green Tip		
	100%		
Corn for grain or silage	Planted		
	5%		
Peaches	Green Tip	Pink	Full Bloom
	93%	60%	33%
Pears	Green Tip	Pink	
	87%	40%	
Strawberries	Planted	Green Tip	Pink
	97%	65%	14%
Sweet Corn	Planted		
	12%		

May 11, 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	72	40	54	+2	0.21	3	3.53	-1.68	17	63	+15	284
	Bangor_Intl_Air	69	32	52	-1	0.40	3	3.44	-1.08	18	39	+1	247
	Bethel	80	33	52	0	0.41	3	4.80	-0.34	17	33	-6	224
	Bridgton	75	33	51	+1	0.54	3	4.73	-0.59	16	29	0	216
	Caribou_Municip	69	29	50	+2	0.38	4	5.29	+1.55	20	17	-1	140
	Dover-Foxcroft	72	29	49	+1	1.09	4	5.52	+0.55	19	16	+4	161
	Durham	75	32	51	0	0.72	3	4.53	-1.47	17	37	+8	239
	East_Surry	74	35	51	+1	0.39	3	6.20	+0.57	19	18	-9	197
	Eustis	73	27	45	-1	0.61	4	4.08	-0.21	16	11	+8	96
	Frenchville	66	29	47	0	1.08	4	4.05	+0.23	19	9	+2	89
	Harmony	71	28	49	-2	0.68	4	4.50	-0.54	19	18	-9	184
	Houlton	66	26	48	0	0.62	4	4.70	+0.76	20	18	0	148
	Livermore_Falls	74	29	50	+1	0.43	3	4.12	-1.35	16	23	+7	196
	Machias	68	28	47	-2	0.69	4	8.01	+1.80	19	6	-4	114
	Millinocket_Wtr	67	28	48	-2	0.83	4	4.72	-0.14	19	10	-14	122
	Moosehead	71	28	46	+1	1.00	4	4.47	-0.26	22	9	+7	105
	Portland_ME	74	37	54	+4	0.37	4	4.28	-1.41	16	61	+32	289
	Sanford	77	35	53	0	0.44	3	3.77	-2.20	11	64	+6	279
	Topsfield_2	69	36	50	+2	0.74	4	5.92	+1.02	19	17	-1	160
	Turner	76	41	52	-2	0.49	3	4.73	-0.76	17	38	-19	234
New Hampshire	Berlin_AG	79	30	50	-1	0.62	3	4.38	-0.04	19	35	+6	199
	Bradford_2	77	30	51	-4	0.18	2	4.76	-0.68	16	46	-24	236
	Colebrook	75	26	47	-3	0.73	4	4.60	+0.73	22	20	-2	126
	Concord	79	31	54	+2	0.09	2	3.99	-0.26	15	92	+32	317
	East_Milford	80	37	55	+1	0.21	4	4.12	-1.12	16	86	+12	340
	Epping	78	34	54	+1	0.17	2	3.89	-1.67	17	90	+29	331
	Fitzwilliam	76	29	51	-2	0.14	2	5.05	+0.00	14	47	+4	216
	Greenville	77	36	52	+1	0.07	1	4.77	-0.28	14	61	+18	279
	Jefferson	75	32	49	-4	0.41	4	4.02	+0.01	18	36	-9	202
	Keene_AG	81	28	52	-2	0.17	2	4.73	+0.11	16	61	+6	277
	Lakeport_2	73	38	54	+1	0.20	2	3.57	-1.13	15	62	+8	285
	Lebanon	83	28	53	0	0.17	4	3.42	-0.64	19	86	+37	308
	North_Conway	79	33	52	+1	0.29	3	4.71	-0.84	18	33	-9	226
	Tamworth_4	75	28	50	+1	0.27	3	4.59	-1.19	17	29	+8	181
Vermont	Bennington_AP	77	30	54	+4	0.33	3	2.95	-2.20	18	128	+86	374
	Burlington_Intl	80	33	55	+2	0.44	4	4.43	+0.43	23	115	+47	364
	Corinth	75	29	47	-5	0.72	3	4.18	+0.54	18	14	-32	132
	Island_Pond	74	26	47	-2	0.58	3	4.42	+0.41	22	27	+6	159
	Johnson_2N	74	30	49	-2	0.99	3	5.56	+1.09	23	40	+10	191
	Marlboro_Raws	79	31	51	+1	0.37	4	5.14	+1.34	20	44	+17	198
	Montpelier_AP	76	29	50	-2	0.36	4	4.15	+0.51	20	59	+13	227
	Newport_AG	76	31	48	-6	0.90	3	5.24	+1.09	21	39	-25	178
	Rochester	79	30	51	0	0.50	3	4.49	-0.65	20	51	+11	234
	Rutland_AG	80	28	51	-5	0.45	4	3.03	-0.95	19	57	-23	242
	Springfield_VT	80	30	53	+2	0.13	4	4.21	-1.18	18	72	+30	279
	South_Lincoln	74	27	48	-2	0.78	3	5.50	-0.23	19	41	+19	185
	Sutton	75	31	48	-2	0.76	4	5.16	+1.15	22	27	+6	161
	Walden	71	27	44	-6	0.88	4	5.06	+1.05	22	19	-2	92

		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	79	29	52	+1	0.24	4	3.84	-0.99	20	57	+14	236
Massachusetts	Amherst	81	31	54	-1	0.13	2	6.20	+0.92	18	100	+25	357
	Barre_Falls_Dam	78	29	52	+1	0.58	4	6.31	+1.02	21	64	+28	259
	Bedford_Hanscom	79	34	56	+2	0.45	1	4.59	-0.76	16	125	+41	386
	Beverly_Ag	79	37	56	+2	0.60	2	4.29	-1.21	17	79	-4	310
	Birch_Hill_Dam	79	30	53	+2	0.24	2	5.11	+0.06	17	71	+35	284
	Boston_Logan_In	80	47	59	+4	0.34	2	4.32	-0.49	17	161	+62	464
	Chatham_AP	63	40	55	+4	0.29	2	4.35	-0.93	16	64	+31	329
	Chicopee_Westov	83	30	56	+2	0.97	3	7.74	+2.46	20	138	+63	415
	Edgartown	70	40	56	+4	0.20	3	3.18	-2.39	14	86	+32	374
	East_Brimfield_	79	35	54	+1	0.31	4	6.71	+1.20	20	84	+27	327
	Fitchburg	82	37	57	+3	0.12	2	4.35	-1.45	19	144	+65	428
	Greenfield	81	32	54	-1	0.23	3	5.14	-0.14	19	82	+7	333
	Hyannis_AP	66	39	56	+4	0.34	2	4.29	-0.67	15	84	+41	359
	Maynard	78	36	57	+2	0.31	3	5.38	+0.03	19	122	+38	393
	New_Bedford	76	36	57	+2	0.07	2	5.68	-0.03	16	105	+24	399
	Newburyport	80	37	55	+2	0.10	2	3.87	-1.90	15	97	+23	352
	North_Adams_Har	79	29	54	+4	0.20	3	3.29	-2.73	19	116	+79	363
	Norwood	80	31	57	+2	0.16	2	3.76	-1.65	14	147	+50	432
	Pittsfield	76	32	54	+2	0.23	3	4.13	-1.44	18	92	+37	317
	Plymouth	78	35	57	+3	0.07	1	5.31	-0.67	15	112	+43	381
	Taunton_4NW	82	38	58	+4	0.26	2	5.86	+0.40	16	128	+47	420
	Westfield_Barne	85	33	58	+6	0.39	3	6.90	+1.07	17	151	+97	451
	West_Otis	78	30	51	-2	0.22	4	5.38	-0.85	17	63	+19	251
	Worcester	76	40	54	+2	0.50	4	6.02	+0.56	20	98	+37	349
	Worthington	77	31	52	0	0.44	4	5.81	+0.13	19	58	+15	259
Rhode Island	Newport_AP	70	41	56	+3	0.18	3	5.78	+0.17	16	70	+8	360
	Providence	79	43	58	+2	0.08	3	6.62	+1.12	16	136	+30	459
	Westerly-Wester	70	38	55	0	0.26	3	6.23	+0.61	15	70	-6	354
	Woonsocket	77	37	57	+3	0.23	3	5.71	-0.06	18	136	+53	436
Connecticut	Bridgeport_Siko	79	47	59	+3	0.70	4	8.01	+2.59	18	153	+43	468
	Danbury_AP	79	36	56	+1	0.42	4	6.35	+0.43	18	126	+17	413
	Hartford_Bradle	83	37	58	+2	0.41	3	7.07	+1.67	17	162	+31	484
	Meriden-Meriden	83	34	57	+2	1.35	2	7.28	+0.95	15	119	+34	416
	Norfolk	78	34	53	+1	0.65	4	5.77	-0.46	20	74	+30	296
	Norwich	82	39	58	+2	0.37	3	6.80	+0.69	16	129	+15	450
	Staffordville	79	32	52	-3	0.52	4	7.03	+1.14	18	54	-15	269
	Thomaston_Dam	82	34	56	+2	1.13	3	8.75	+2.91	17	104	+36	374
	West_Thompson_L	81	32	55	+2	0.22	3	6.65	+0.81	19	87	+21	332
	Willimantic	83	33	57	+4	0.42	3	6.22	+0.33	17	137	+68	438

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 (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

CONNECTICUT

LITCHFIELD, Richard Meinart

Spreading manure, planting corn on drier fields, spreading fertilizer. Way too much driving around as farmers try to work the dry fields and skip the wetter ones.

WINDHAM, Dawn S. Pindell

With wet conditions and cool soil temperatures, very little was planted. The northern part of the county is about a week later than usual. Peaches and pears just started flowering, apple blossoms not ready as usual for Mothers Day Weekend. Farms are progressing on spreading manure, harrowing, and some are starting no-till planting of corn. Mowing grass. Plant sales improving with sun and warmth; after cool weather and past rainy weekends.

MAINE

CUMBERLAND/YORK, Sandy Truslow

Beautiful weather on Mother's Day, close to 80 degrees inland. Leaves appeared on some trees overnight it seems. It's a very busy time for farmers planting crops.

FRANKLIN, Gary J. Raymond

Lots of land prep for planting going on, tilling and manure spreading. The current warm temperatures should help heat up the soil a bit. The season start was late but is now catching up.

OXFORD, Marcia Hall

Androscoggin, Sagadahoc and Oxford county producers have been busy the past week getting field work done on high ground. The low ground is still too wet for equipment. Some grain corn has been planted. Some much needed sun and warm temperatures arrived last week which brought out the bugs! Fence repairs are underway in all three counties.

PISCATAQUIS, Donna Coffin

The snow is gone, the fields are drying. Some tillage in the dry areas of the fields, some tractors stuck in the mud.

SOMERSET, Elaine S. Moceus

Field activities include spreading manure, plowing and some planting has begun. Many fields are still too wet in low areas. The area has had at least one frosty morning last week. Blueberries and strawberries have reportedly wintered well.

MASSACHUSETTS

BARNSTABLE, Russel Norton

The weather has been a little drier, just less than .2 inches of rain for the week. Growers are tilling and planting. Asparagus is being harvested.

BERKSHIRE, Debra Senger

Farmers are getting to the fields planting corn, beets, peas, radishes, greens, cabbage, and sweet corn.

HAMPDEN/HAMPSHIRE, Ted Smiarowski

Rainy and cold week delayed the planting of many crops. Harvesting fiddleheads and asparagus. Farm stands had an excellent day of sales on Mother's Day selling flowers. Dairy farmers spreading manure and preparing land for field corn.

NANTUCKET/PLYMOUTH, Deb Cannon

Cranberry plants have reached bud break. Growers have begun active IPM scouting. Scouts report emerged dodder seedlings. Winter moth larvae are being found in sweeps on the bog.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

BELKNAP/STRAFFORD, Kelly McAdam

Some apple growers in Belknap County have poor fruit bud development. We anticipate a lighter crop this year for some.

CHESHIRE, Carl Majewski

Generally a bit warmer for most of the week, with warm temperatures and sun by the weekend. Grass in pastures and hayfields looking great, and farms starting to turn animals out to graze. The big push has begun for corn planting, especially on better-drained sites. Planting is also in full swing on vegetable operations for early crops. Farmers markets are offering a variety of high-tunnel crops and some greens. Tree fruit and berries are a little behind compared to the last couple years, but seem to be coming along well.

COOS, Steve Turaj

Warmer this week, grasslands starting to wake up. A few fields on lighter soils worked up for corn planting.

GRAFTON, Steven Schmidt

For the week ending May 11th, weather conditions were mixed. Conditions remained a little cooler than normal. Soil temperatures have started to warm and field work is progressing in the Ct. River valley. Many upland hay fields are still too wet to spread manure on, however fields along the river bottom are dry enough to work. Manure spreading and harrowing is progressing nicely along the river. Trees started to break bud toward the end of the week. The grass has begun to grow and spring has finally arrived.

HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton

Fruits: Plum trees were blooming. Apple and pear are at tight cluster in the Hollis area. Peach trees are in pink. Orchardists are fertilizing orchards and are applying protective fungicide sprays on fruit trees. Blueberries are at pink bud stage and mummy-berry spray is being applied. Planting fruit trees, grapes, raspberries, blueberries and strawberries. Finishing up pruning blueberries and pruning peach trees. Field Crops: Farmers are fertilizing hayfields; spreading manure, plowing, discing fertilizing, planting corn, and applying herbicides. Vegetables: Continuing vegetable planting, along with sweet corn and potatoes. Liming, fertilizing, plowing, discing and getting ready to plant fields. Harvesting asparagus and rhubarb.

ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad

A drier week; sunnier and warmer on the weekend. Harvesting lettuce (romaine, curly green, butterhead, & red oak leaf), Kale (green & red), spinach, chives, cilantro, swiss chard, parsley (curly & flat), garlic scallions, radishes. Preparing vegetables fields: plowing. Discing, liming and fertilizing. Planting small fruits and fruit trees. Deer are feeding on and destroying strawberry fields. Spraying protective fungicides in orchards and blueberry fields. Pastures look good. Preparing field corn and fertilizing hay fields. Some farmers markets are open for the season.

RHODE ISLAND

NEWPORT, Heather Faubert

Hope this gorgeous weather continues!

NEWPORT, Paul E. Brule

Well, all the early apples are in full bloom this weekend for Mother's Day. Late apples are still in the pink stage not full bloom. Potatoes are going into the ground, and better than 50% have been planted already. More sweet corn went into the ground with the nice weather this past week. The only vegetables I know of that are being planted are lettuce and peas. This coming week looks like all rain after today. We had a great Friday, Saturday and Sunday. High 70's all of those days. The heat is bringing the pastures right along and looking good.

VERMONT

ADDISON, Jeffrey Carter

Spreading fertilizer on hay fields. Plants starting active growth. Spreading manure on corn fields, primary and secondary tillage for incorporation on lighter soils. Started planting corn at the end of the week on lighter soils. Clay soils too wet to work. Rye cover crops elongating at 6 to 10 in. ht. Pasture in good condition, just starting to graze early sites.

FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley

Things are moving in Franklin County. Much manure spreading and tillage, grass is growing great, trees and fruit buds are swelling like crazy. Very little corn seed in the ground with soils still on the wet side. Average temperatures are on the rise; however, soils have some catching up to do for good germination. Grasses are doing a flip flop with better growth in the high country verses the low lands. Might be related to a very cold and frozen Lake Champlain this winter.

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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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