

Crop Progress & Condition



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

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Week ending May 18, 2014

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by the Northeastern Regional Field Office of NASS

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

Above average temperatures and sunny days helped to speed along field work and crop progress this past week. Three percent of pasture was in poor condition while 37 percent was fair, 50 percent was good, and ten percent was rated excellent. Some localized thunderstorms were the only significant weather events last week. Crop experts noted that while tree fruits and field crops were still behind schedule, they have begun to catch up rapidly. Plantings of coarse grains and potatoes were progressing slowly in northern Maine, while in Rhode Island 32 percent of the potato crop was planted in one week. Silage corn planting was nearly 40 percent behind last year's progress last week.

New England Soil Moisture for Week Ending May 19th, 2014

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

Crop Progress as of May 19th

	Green Tip	Pink	Full Bloom	Petal Fall
Apples	Planted			
	88%	55%	27%	12%
Barley (ME)	Planted			
	5%			
Blueberries, tame	Green Tip	Pink	Full Bloom	
	88%	41%	27%	
Corn for grain or silage	Planted			
	16%			
Oats (ME)	Planted			
	6%			
Peaches	Green Tip	Pink	Full Bloom	Petal Fall
	95%	67%	41%	13%
Pears	Green Tip	Pink		
	93%	64%		
Strawberries	Green Tip	Pink		
	69%	28%		
Sweet Corn	Planted	Emerged		
	20%	8%		

For a complete nationwide weekly weather and crop bulletin, please visit www.usda.gov/oc/weather and click on "[Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin](#)."

May 18, 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	80	42	58	+4	1.06	2	4.59	-1.53	19	119	+33	410
	Bangor_Intl_Air	79	40	58	+5	0.56	2	4.00	-1.29	20	98	+26	376
	Bethel	77	43	59	+6	1.76	4	6.56	+0.54	21	99	+26	360
	Bridgton	82	45	60	+7	1.22	2	5.95	-0.21	18	100	+41	357
	Caribou_Municip	78	30	54	+3	0.39	4	5.68	+1.19	24	58	+16	240
	Dover-Foxcroft	75	33	57	+6	0.82	2	6.34	+0.53	21	65	+34	280
	Durham	83	41	58	+5	1.49	3	6.02	-0.89	20	92	+35	364
	East_Surry	66	35	52	-2	0.54	2	6.74	+0.25	21	39	-14	282
	Eustis	80	32	55	+7	0.90	2	4.98	-0.08	18	47	+29	202
	Frenchville	77	27	52	+3	0.72	4	4.77	+0.19	23	44	+19	178
	Harmony	78	32	56	+3	1.01	2	5.51	-0.37	21	61	+5	297
	Houlton	76	29	54	+4	0.23	3	4.93	+0.29	23	59	+17	251
	Livermore_Falls	76	38	57	+6	1.71	2	5.91	-0.42	17	76	+39	317
	Machias	75	28	50	-1	0.50	2	8.24	+0.98	20	22	-3	182
	Millinocket_Wtr	75	35	54	+2	0.86	3	5.55	-0.15	22	40	-12	220
	Moosehead	75	31	55	+7	0.83	4	5.21	-0.36	26	46	+29	210
	Portland_ME	81	43	58	+5	1.41	2	5.69	-0.86	18	120	+64	416
	Sanford	82	41	59	+3	1.26	2	5.03	-1.83	13	127	+25	409
	Topsfield_2	77	32	54	+3	0.37	3	6.29	+0.47	22	50	+8	259
	Turner	79	43	59	+3	2.35	2	7.08	+0.75	19	99	-3	365
New Hampshire	Berlin_AG	78	42	60	+8	0.79	3	5.17	-0.02	22	105	+46	339
	Bradford_2	81	42	58	+2	1.11	2	5.87	-0.55	18	110	-8	367
	Colebrook	75	38	57	+6	1.42	2	6.21	+1.47	24	70	+23	236
	Concord	86	39	62	+7	0.80	1	4.79	-0.23	16	176	+73	471
	East_Milford	86	44	62	+6	0.90	1	5.02	-1.00	17	172	+49	494
	Epping	86	44	61	+6	1.07	1	4.96	-1.41	18	168	+64	479
	Fitzwilliam	81	38	58	+4	1.70	2	6.75	+0.86	16	109	+31	345
	Greenville	83	41	59	+6	1.03	2	5.80	-0.09	16	131	+53	415
	Jefferson	78	41	60	+6	1.62	3	5.64	+0.86	21	109	+27	345
	Keene_AG	85	38	60	+5	1.34	3	6.07	+0.54	19	130	+33	416
	Lakeport_2	82	42	61	+6	0.95	2	4.52	-0.95	17	137	+40	430
	Lebanon	85	37	61	+7	1.21	2	4.63	-0.24	21	166	+78	458
	North_Conway	83	42	59	+6	1.29	5	6.00	-0.39	23	101	+23	364
	Tamworth_4	77	40	58	+6	0.95	2	5.54	-1.29	19	86	+40	308
Vermont	Bennington_AP	83	32	62	+8	1.03	1	3.98	-2.29	19	215	+140	527
	Burlington_Intl	81	40	64	+9	1.55	3	5.98	+1.21	26	217	+101	536
	Corinth	78	36	57	+4	1.68	2	5.86	+1.46	20	68	-16	254
	Island_Pond	75	35	58	+7	1.60	3	6.02	+1.17	25	85	+39	287
	Johnson_2N	77	39	58	+6	1.19	1	6.75	+1.49	24	100	+39	321
	Marlboro_Raws	80	36	57	+5	2.08	2	7.22	+2.65	22	91	+36	315
	Montpelier_AP	77	36	59	+5	1.01	2	5.16	+0.76	22	125	+41	362
	Newport_AG	78	37	59	+4	1.16	3	6.40	+1.41	25	105	-5	313
	Rochester	80	38	60	+7	1.23	2	5.72	-0.39	22	122	+49	375
	Rutland_AG	83	38	60	+4	0.67	2	3.70	-1.06	21	131	+1	386
	Springfield_VT	84	39	60	+7	1.33	3	5.54	-0.79	21	145	+67	422
	South_Lincoln	79	37	59	+8	0.68	2	6.18	-0.49	21	108	+60	322
	Sutton	75	39	59	+8	1.32	4	6.48	+1.63	26	88	+42	292
	Walden	73	39	55	+5	1.31	4	6.37	+1.52	26	57	+11	200

		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	81	38	60	+6	1.12	2	4.96	-0.78	22	129	+50	378
Massachusetts	Amherst	87	41	62	+5	1.33	2	7.53	+1.28	20	183	+57	510
	Barre_Falls_Dam	85	39	60	+6	1.96	2	8.27	+2.14	23	133	+66	398
	Bedford_Hanscom	85	42	62	+5	1.03	1	5.62	-0.57	17	213	+77	542
	Beverly_Ag	80	42	58	+2	0.88	1	5.17	-1.10	18	142	+8	439
	Birch_Hill_Dam	84	41	60	+7	2.01	1	6.97	+1.10	18	142	+75	424
	Boston_Logan_In	85	46	64	+6	0.71	2	5.03	-0.48	19	258	+103	630
	Chatham_AP	74	45	58	+5	0.27	2	4.62	-1.50	18	120	+62	453
	Chicopee_Westov	88	40	63	+6	1.76	2	9.50	+3.25	22	229	+103	576
	Edgartown	78	46	61	+7	0.74	2	3.90	-2.44	16	160	+68	518
	East_Brimfield_	84	45	62	+6	1.27	2	7.94	+1.59	22	166	+68	479
	Fitchburg	88	45	65	+8	0.71	1	5.06	-1.61	20	247	+115	601
	Greenfield	86	39	61	+4	1.74	3	6.88	+0.63	22	157	+31	478
	Hyannis_AP	78	43	61	+7	0.23	2	4.52	-1.14	17	160	+85	505
	Maynard	88	41	62	+6	0.75	1	6.13	-0.06	20	211	+75	551
	New_Bedford	79	44	62	+5	0.61	1	6.29	-0.22	17	189	+55	553
	Newburyport	86	42	62	+6	1.46	2	5.33	-1.30	17	184	+62	505
	North_Adams_Har	83	34	61	+8	1.06	2	4.35	-2.79	21	197	+128	512
	Norwood	85	41	63	+6	0.82	2	4.58	-1.59	16	243	+90	596
	Pittsfield	81	39	60	+6	1.20	1	5.33	-1.40	19	165	+71	460
	Plymouth	81	43	62	+6	0.73	3	6.04	-0.78	18	197	+83	534
	Taunton_4NW	84	43	64	+7	0.81	2	6.67	+0.44	18	226	+94	588
	Westfield_Barne	89	43	64	+10	1.67	2	8.57	+1.74	19	251	+158	621
	West_Otis	83	36	58	+4	1.16	2	6.54	-0.81	19	122	+42	380
	Worcester	83	43	61	+5	1.50	2	7.52	+1.08	22	176	+71	497
	Worthington	82	36	57	+4	1.79	3	7.60	+0.80	22	111	+33	382
Rhode Island	Newport_AP	75	44	60	+5	0.43	1	6.21	-0.17	17	143	+42	503
	Providence	82	45	63	+5	0.54	2	7.16	+0.82	18	228	+64	621
	Westerly-Wester	74	46	60	+4	0.56	2	6.79	+0.33	17	141	+17	495
	Woonsocket	87	43	63	+7	1.10	2	6.81	+0.27	20	227	+93	597
Connecticut	Bridgeport_Siko	81	50	63	+5	0.99	2	9.00	+2.67	20	244	+73	629
	Danbury_AP	83	39	61	+3	1.33	3	7.68	+0.67	21	207	+37	564
	Hartford_Bradle	90	44	64	+5	1.54	3	8.61	+2.19	20	264	+65	656
	Meriden-Meriden	84	45	62	+6	1.41	2	8.69	+1.31	17	208	+71	575
	Norfolk	82	41	59	+5	1.70	4	7.47	+0.12	24	137	+57	429
	Norwich	83	48	63	+5	0.97	1	7.77	+0.75	17	224	+47	615
	Staffordville	83	42	60	+4	1.54	2	8.57	+1.77	20	123	+8	408
	Thomaston_Dam	86	39	62	+6	1.98	3	10.73	+3.84	20	187	+72	527
	West_Thompson_L	86	41	62	+6	2.20	1	8.85	+2.11	20	163	+52	478
	Willimantic	86	44	63	+8	1.12	2	7.34	+0.54	19	232	+117	603

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

Corn planting is progressing. Some growers still waiting for soil to dry and warm. Orchardgrass is starting to head out even though it is only about 18" tall. It will be a challenge getting first cutting off as a lot of the grass fields are still too wet to drive through.

WINDHAM, Dawn S. Pindell

Another 1.5" of rain in one day; about half the field corn is planted. Hay ready to mow. Blueberries in bloom, pollinators are out doing their job.

MAINE

AROOSTOOK, Larry James

Several operations started with grain and broccoli last week. A few potatoes were planted, but because of the cold soil temperature many people were tentative. Rain over the weekend and continuing today will keep producers out of the field until the end of the week.

FRANKLIN, Gary J. Raymond

Blossoms are slightly behind normal on blooming crops. The rain is making the grass grow but slowing down all field activity. There was some flooding on Saturday into Sunday. Vegetable planting is behind schedule and the continuing wet conditions will not help.

PISCATAQUIS, Donna Coffin

Manure is being spread, fields are being plowed and some crops are being planted. Pastures and hayfields are finally greening up. Farmers' Markets are opening with early greenhouse crops and value added products.

SOMERSET, Kathy Hopkins

Manure is being spread and some planting is occurring. Spring crops are available at Farmers Markets.

SOMERSET, Elaine S. Moceus

Drier conditions and warmer weather throughout the week has helped dry out some fields. Corn is being planted where accessible. Plum trees are in full bloom.

MASSACHUSETTS

BARNSTABLE, Russel Norton

Week started off cool with temps right around 50F, ending the week with temps over 70F and evenings above 60F. Soil temperatures are right around 57F. Not much rain at 0.1 inches.

Breezy conditions are drying soils fast. Newly transplanted or sown crops will need irrigation.

FRANKLIN, Heather Baylis

Warmer weather has spurred planting; nights are still cooler than normal. Asparagus crop has come in and rhubarb soon. Fruit trees continue to progress. Peaches and blueberries are pink. Apple and pear trees have tight buds and peach trees are pink. Vegetables: Continuing planting many vegetables along with the sweet corn and potatoes. Most farmers have gotten livestock out on nice lush pastures which are still wet in some areas.

HAMPDEN/HAMPSHIRE, Ted Smiarowski

Heavy, heavy rains of two plus inches have saturated all fields. Harvesting fiddleheads, asparagus, rhubarb, spinach, and high tunnel greens. Potatoes popping up out of the ground and some sweet corn 8 inches tall under plastic. Preparing land to start planting tobacco. Planting peas, beets, radishes, greens, cabbage, lettuce. Growers are scouting for diseases and insects due to all the past rains.

NANTUCKET/PLYMOUTH, Deb Cannon

Cranberry buds have broken and have grown out about 1/8 inch. Growers continue to protect buds from frost with cool nights persisting. IPM scouts are finding winter moth, gypsy moth, and sparganothis fruitworm larvae as well as cranberry weevil in their sweep nets.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

BELKNAP, Melinda Marston,

Overall a good spring week with daytime temperatures ranging from a low of 55 degrees Fahrenheit on Tuesday, May 13 to a high of 80 degrees Fahrenheit on Thursday, May 15. Concord received almost an inch of rainfall from late Friday through Saturday (May 16 to May 17). Producers are continuing to prepare fields for spring planting. Field corn planting is anticipated to be conducted later this week and/or during the last week of May, depending upon field conditions with the recent rain.

CARROLL, Olivia Sauders

The weather has finally turned, and the season is here! Along with the sunny weather, the bugs have arrived. Farmers should be scouting their fields and greenhouses regularly now.

CHESHIRE, Carl Majewski

Warmer temperatures, especially early in the week, but most days were cloudy and a little unsettled. Grass continues to grow well, and animals are being turned out on pasture. Field conditions ideal for corn planting. Planting also continues on vegetable operations. Tree fruits are mostly in full bloom.

COOS, Steve Turaj

Better weather conditions for field work activities, although heavy rains at week's end has tributaries running hard. Manure spreading at a good pace, field corn going in. Meadows and pastures are starting to grow well.

GRAFTON, Steven Schmidt

For the week ending May 17th, weather was generally more suitable for field work. Farmers were spreading manure and fertilizer, preparing the ground for planting and planting corn on well drained soils. The grass has started to come on strong, and some grazing has begun. Heavy rain on Friday evening through Saturday morning put a short term stop to many field activities, but the sunny warm weather that followed will dry things out quickly.

HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton

Fruits: Orchardists made sure bees were in apple orchards. Apples-McIntosh trees are at king bloom to full bloom. Later blooming varieties were at pink to king bloom. Peaches are at full bloom. Blueberries are at early pink. Pruning peach trees, blueberry bushes and raspberry patches. Fertilizing orchards and other fruit plantings. Protective fungicide sprays applied on fruit trees. Vegetables: Laying plastic mulch and drip irrigation tape. Making successive planting vegetable crops. Harvesting spinach, asparagus, rhubarb and all kinds of greens. Field Crops: Farmers are fertilizing hayfields; spreading manure, plowing, disking, fertilizing, planting corn, and applying herbicides.

MERRIMACK, Dorothy Perkins

Growers report the weather has been too cold to plant corn. Field preparation continues.

ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad

Harvesting an array of greens, microgreens, asparagus, and chives. Preparing fields, plowing, disking, fertilizing. Planting onions, potatoes, sweet corn. Spreading manure. Pasture and hay fields looking nice. Mowing grass in orchard and fertilizing. Finishing pruning.

SULLIVAN, Kelly Greenbacker

Farmers were busy this week spreading manure and prepping fields for planting. Corn planting has begun in some spots as farmers took advantage of the good weather. Heavy rains moved through on Friday evening into Saturday morning. The weekend weather did turn out to be better than expected, but the ground was quite saturated.

RHODE ISLAND

NEWPORT, Paul E. Brule

We had a good week last week with a lot of warm days and nights! Some of the early potatoes are breaking ground. I think this week, if not next week, we should finish planting potatoes. They are a month late, but we got them into the ground. Strawberries are also late, but they look good despite the cold weather. With the warmer weather they should be coming right along. They are probably a couple of weeks late. I have not seen any silage corn planted yet. The fields are being plowed and

harrowed. They continue to plant some sweet corn, but they should be able to really get into it this week. I think it will be another week before tomatoes, peppers etc are planted. Pastures look good and farmers are thinking about putting the dry cows and heifers out to pasture.

NEWPORT, Heather Faubert

Expected a wet week, but it didn't happen. Had some rain Friday that ended with downpours Saturday morning.

VERMONT

ADDISON, Jeffrey Carter

Lilacs and dandelions in bloom this week. Spreading fertilizer on grass hay fields. Spreading manure on corn fields, planting corn on lighter soils. Planting new seeding hay fields. Terminating winter rye cover crops. Cows on pasture.

CHITTENDEN, Terence Bradshaw

Apples were generally in full bloom over the past weekend. Bloom density is variable across the state. In Chittenden County, bloom is rather light after a heavy crop last year and some likely cold damage over winter. In Grand Isle, I observed one of the densest blooms I've seen up there. GI county had a poor crop last year (and in 2012 too) because trees bloomed later there than elsewhere in the Champlain Valley during the beginning of the record rainfall events of May and June. Upland orchards in southern Vermont report strong bloom. Fire blight infection potential was very high over the weekend, and we will likely see infection in orchards that have inoculum from past infections. Apple scab continues to be a threat, and growers are maintaining fungicide coverage in orchards.

FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley

Things are on the move in Franklin County. Good weather this week has manure and tillage for Corn ground on the tail end with planting under way. Grass is doing great and will be on target for some harvest to start at the end of May to First of June with the right weather. Pastures are doing super with grazing livestock showing up more and more. Flowering fruits are in their prime, looking and smelling beautiful.

ORLEANS, David Blodgett

There was a lot of nice weather this past week. The sun and the wind have really helped dry the land out enough to work. The clay and clay silt fields are still saturated in places but the lighter soils are very workable. Farm activities this past week included spreading manure, chisel plowing and on some of the driest fields, corn planting. The first crop of hay is starting to take off and it won't be long before harvesting will start. Most farms started grazing this past week.

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