

Crop Progress & Condition



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

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Week ending May 25, 2014

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Good week for field work: New England averaged 4.5 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

Last week's weather was largely dry except for some localized thunderstorms and hail events. Two percent of pasture was in poor condition while 26 percent was fair, 57 percent was good, and 15 percent was rated excellent. Most cattle had been put out to graze by last week. The hay harvest has begun and was running seven percent behind last year's progress. Plantings of coarse grains jumped ahead in northern Maine, but potato planting has yet to begin in earnest. Meanwhile, Rhode Island's potato planting was nearly complete. Silage corn planting has been gradually catching up to last year's progress. Tobacco transplants were being set out in the Connecticut River Valley. Broadleaf is on schedule, but shade tobacco is well behind last year's progress. Tree fruits and berries were developing rapidly and crop experts predicted that the strawberry harvest will begin in mid-June.

New England Soil Moisture for Week Ending May 25th, 2014

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil	0%	1%	44%	55%
Subsoil	0%	1%	51%	48%

Crop Progress as of May 25th

	Green Tip	Pink	Full Bloom	Petal Fall
Apples	92%	76%	59%	34%
Barley (ME)	Planted 41%			
Blueberries, wild	Green Tip 56%	Pink 47%	Full Bloom 8%	
Blueberries, tame	Green Tip 94%	Pink 80%	Full Bloom 53%	Petal Fall 5%
Cranberries (MA)		Pink 70%		
Corn for grain or silage	Planted 37%	Emerged 11%		
Hay	First Cutting 3%			
Oats (ME)	Planted 46%			
Peaches		Pink 81%	Full Bloom 76%	Petal Fall 52%
Pears	Green Tip 93%	Pink 66%	Full Bloom 40%	Petal Fall 39%
Strawberries	Green Tip 80%	Pink 54%	Full Bloom 20%	
Sweet Corn	Planted 38%	Emerged 16%		
Tobacco, Cigar Binder	Planted 11%			
Tobacco, Cigar Wrapper	Planted 42%			

May 26, 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	67	48	56	-2	0.38	6	4.97	-1.99	25	163	+25	524
	Bangor_Intl_Air	71	45	55	-2	1.35	4	5.35	-0.71	24	137	+19	485
	Bethel	69	44	55	-2	1.02	4	7.50	+0.57	25	139	+19	470
	Bridgton	70	42	56	0	1.34	4	7.29	+0.29	22	144	+44	471
	Caribou_Municip	65	45	54	-1	1.25	4	6.93	+1.67	28	88	+11	340
	Dover-Foxcroft	71	41	54	+1	0.38	4	6.72	+0.05	25	98	+37	383
	Durham	70	46	57	+2	0.36	5	6.38	-1.44	25	140	+42	482
	East_Surry	68	41	54	-3	0.67	4	7.41	+0.08	25	67	-24	380
	Eustis	68	37	51	0	1.18	4	6.16	+0.32	22	61	+21	281
	Frenchville	63	43	52	-1	1.39	5	6.16	+0.81	28	63	+10	264
	Harmony	71	42	55	-1	0.37	5	5.88	-0.84	26	98	+2	404
	Houlton	70	43	54	0	1.30	5	6.23	+0.83	28	91	+15	353
	Livermore_Falls	68	43	55	+2	0.43	3	6.34	-0.90	20	112	+44	423
	Machias	68	41	53	+1	1.28	5	9.52	+1.26	25	45	-4	275
	Millinocket_Wtr	69	37	52	-4	0.73	4	6.28	-0.26	26	66	-25	308
	Moosehead	67	40	53	+2	0.50	5	5.71	-0.72	31	69	+28	302
	Portland_ME	69	45	56	+1	0.23	4	5.92	-1.47	22	165	+70	531
	Sanford	71	45	56	-3	0.65	3	5.93	-1.77	17	174	+14	528
	Topsfield_2	74	42	54	0	1.76	5	8.05	+1.28	27	84	+8	363
	Turner	67	45	56	-3	1.16	5	8.24	+1.07	24	141	-19	477
New Hampshire	Berlin_AG	69	40	54	-2	1.05	4	6.22	+0.26	26	136	+37	438
	Bradford_2	75	41	55	-5	1.55	3	7.42	+0.02	21	147	-31	474
	Colebrook	70	37	53	-2	0.98	5	7.57	+1.92	29	94	+12	327
	Concord	78	38	57	-2	1.46	4	6.25	+0.46	20	224	+65	589
	East_Milford	75	43	57	-3	0.74	3	5.76	-1.10	20	222	+36	614
	Epping	71	44	57	-2	0.78	4	5.74	-1.40	22	216	+56	597
	Fitzwilliam	74	39	55	-3	0.94	3	7.69	+0.96	19	144	+20	450
	Greenville	74	41	55	-3	0.79	2	6.23	-0.38	16	173	+49	530
	Jefferson	72	36	54	-3	0.69	3	6.33	+0.74	24	145	+15	445
	Keene_AG	78	35	55	-4	0.89	3	6.86	+0.43	22	168	+16	524
	Lakeport_2	75	42	58	-1	0.73	4	5.25	-0.99	21	193	+40	556
	Lebanon	78	35	57	-1	1.37	3	6.00	+0.35	24	215	+75	577
	North_Conway	70	40	55	-3	1.06	5	7.06	-0.23	28	137	+9	470
	Tamworth_4	71	36	54	-2	1.07	3	6.67	-1.21	22	113	+31	405
Vermont	Bennington_AP	77	34	56	0	0.28	2	4.26	-3.13	21	259	+139	640
	Burlington_Intl	78	41	59	+1	0.95	3	6.93	+1.39	29	282	+105	671
	Corinth	72	35	53	-4	1.56	3	7.42	+2.25	23	95	-38	348
	Island_Pond	72	31	53	-2	1.29	4	7.31	+1.58	29	113	+31	379
	Johnson_2N	72	36	54	-2	0.67	3	7.42	+1.32	27	133	+29	422
	Marlboro_Raws	75	36	55	-1	1.16	3	8.38	+3.00	25	127	+33	421
	Montpelier_AP	72	37	54	-3	1.24	3	6.40	+1.23	25	157	+24	462
	Newport_AG	72	39	55	-4	1.50	3	7.90	+2.07	28	139	-31	417
	Rochester	75	36	55	-1	1.11	5	6.83	-0.26	27	159	+41	482
	Rutland_AG	77	32	55	-4	1.32	2	5.02	-0.58	23	171	-22	494
	Springfield_VT	77	37	56	-2	1.15	3	6.69	-0.62	24	187	+61	534
	South_Lincoln	72	31	52	-3	1.60	3	7.78	+0.13	24	131	+46	410
	Sutton	72	34	54	+1	0.57	4	7.05	+1.32	30	122	+40	393
	Walden	69	36	51	-3	0.40	3	6.59	+0.86	28	73	-9	275

		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	35	56	-2	0.87	3	5.83	-0.78	25	169	+42	488
Massachusetts	Amherst	78	38	58	-3	0.93	3	8.46	+1.30	23	240	+49	638
	Barre_Falls_Dam	76	36	56	-1	0.72	3	8.99	+1.99	26	176	+66	511
	Bedford_Hanscom	73	43	57	-3	0.33	4	5.95	-1.08	21	263	+61	662
	Beverly_Ag	73	45	57	-4	0.35	3	5.52	-1.47	21	190	-9	557
	Birch_Hill_Dam	77	34	56	-1	0.62	3	7.59	+0.88	21	186	+76	538
	Boston_Logan_In	69	51	58	-4	0.50	3	5.53	-0.68	22	313	+86	755
	Chatham_AP	67	47	55	0	0.32	2	4.94	-2.02	20	160	+66	563
	Chicopee_Westov	79	36	58	-2	2.07	2	11.57	+4.41	24	290	+99	707
	Edgartown	70	44	58	+1	0.33	3	3.61	-3.50	18	217	+75	645
	East_Brimfield_	76	42	58	-1	0.67	4	8.61	+1.46	26	222	+69	605
	Fitchburg	77	43	59	-2	0.38	3	5.44	-2.08	23	312	+112	736
	Greenfield	77	39	57	-3	0.95	3	7.83	+0.67	25	210	+19	601
	Hyannis_AP	69	44	57	+1	0.19	2	4.71	-1.65	19	214	+92	629
	Maynard	78	43	58	-2	0.78	4	6.91	-0.12	24	270	+68	680
	New_Bedford	72	41	58	-3	0.30	2	6.59	-0.75	19	248	+46	682
	Newburyport	72	45	57	-3	0.49	4	5.42	-2.05	21	234	+50	625
	North_Adams_Har	77	34	56	+1	0.13	2	4.48	-3.78	23	244	+131	628
	Norwood	74	40	58	-4	0.31	2	4.89	-1.98	18	298	+75	721
	Pittsfield	75	38	56	-3	0.23	2	5.56	-2.33	21	205	+58	570
	Plymouth	68	43	57	-3	0.24	2	6.28	-1.35	20	248	+73	655
	Taunton_4NW	75	44	59	-2	0.31	3	6.98	-0.02	21	288	+91	720
	Westfield_Barne	79	43	60	+3	0.84	2	9.41	+1.60	21	324	+179	764
	West_Otis	75	34	55	-3	0.34	3	6.88	-1.56	22	159	+31	485
	Worcester	75	44	57	-2	0.46	4	7.98	+0.55	26	230	+68	621
	Worthington	76	41	56	-2	0.25	3	7.74	-0.18	24	154	+30	495
Rhode Island	Newport_AP	74	46	58	+1	0.26	2	6.47	-0.68	19	203	+49	633
	Providence	77	46	60	-1	0.18	3	7.34	+0.20	21	299	+63	762
	Westerly-Wester	78	44	60	+1	0.34	1	7.13	-0.17	18	210	+24	634
	Woonsocket	77	45	60	0	0.36	2	7.17	-0.14	22	296	+96	736
Connecticut	Bridgeport_Siko	79	50	62	+2	0.77	3	9.77	+2.53	23	328	+80	783
	Danbury_AP	75	37	59	-3	0.94	4	8.62	+0.56	25	268	+23	695
	Hartford_Bradle	78	45	61	-2	1.11	2	9.72	+2.31	22	341	+59	803
	Meriden-Meriden	77	45	60	0	0.36	3	9.05	+0.62	20	279	+77	716
	Norfolk	75	39	56	-1	0.90	4	8.37	-0.07	28	183	+55	545
	Norwich	75	47	60	-2	0.28	3	8.05	+0.12	20	298	+44	759
	Staffordville	76	39	56	-3	0.93	2	9.50	+1.79	22	166	-8	521
	Thomaston_Dam	79	37	58	-2	1.97	4	12.70	+4.76	24	246	+71	656
	West_Thompson_L	76	42	57	-2	0.34	2	9.19	+1.61	22	217	+47	602
	Willimantic	77	42	60	+2	0.85	3	8.19	+0.48	22	302	+128	743

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

HARTFORD, Ross Eddy

Sweet corn and vegetable planting and transplanting continues. Some hay chopped but no dry hay made. Field corn planted is over 50% complete now. Small amount of tobacco planted so far.

LITCHFIELD, Richard Meinart

Planting corn and soybeans. Haylage harvest is underway. Tonnage is light; grass is short. Some fields still too wet to get into.

WINDHAM, Dawn S. Pindell

The eastern side of the county had pea sized to marble and golf ball sized hail on Sunday. Apples, peaches, and blueberries were defoliated with cracked branches at one orchard. Vegetables were chopped off. More rain and wet fields are delaying the planting of corn and the mowing of grass. Corn is up 2" to 6". Strawberry plants were winter killed from cold temperatures and high winds. Other parts of the county are doing better this week with vegetables all planted and looking good. First cutting haylage chopped and in the bunker silo and corn all planted.

MAINE

AROOSTOOK, Larry James

Hay fields and pastures look excellent. Slow planting progress planting due to rain. Early grain has emerged and looks very good.

CUMBERLAND, Sandy Truslow

Chance of showers throughout most of the past week, with more showers forecasted this week. Vegetable producers say crops are 1 to 1.5 weeks behind. Much of the vegetable crops are undercover now with the cool weather forecasted this week. It is good weather for transplanting.

FRANKLIN, Gary J. Raymond

Smells a little ripe out there. Lots of chicken manure being spread here. Peas are up and the transplants look good. Apples are in full bloom.

HANCOCK, Valerie Porter

Damage to strawberries reported from winter kill. Apples and blueberries are blossoming. Manure being applied to fields. Potato planting is underway in the county. Progress is slow but things are looking better. Really need some warm days and nights.

HANCOCK, David Yarborough

Cool temperatures are delaying wild blueberry bloom by about one week. Bees are in the field and waiting for warmer temperatures to work. Mummy berry infection season is now over for 2014; there were few infections and growers were able to control the disease with one or two applications. Beginning to see emergence of plants on pruned fields; most pruning and pre-emergent herbicide applications have been applied.

SOMERSET, Kathy Hopkins

Field work continues and scattered showers have provided some needed rain.

SOMERSET, Elaine S. Moceus

Producers are reporting that crop planting progress seems to be 1 to 2 weeks behind schedule. Those on higher ground are able to plant, but heavier soils and lowlands are still too wet for planting. High bush blueberries are also behind schedule. Hay fields are looking good, thanks to the rain and cooler temperatures.

WASHINGTON, Michael L. Look

Blueberries should be in full bloom now. Crops will be delayed by at least one week if not two.

MASSACHUSETTS

BERKSHIRE, Debra Senger

Corn for silage and grain has been planted in the fields along with sweet corn, pumpkins, and other vegetables.

FRANKLIN, Heather Baylis

Pastures showed rapid growth this week but are still wet. Asparagus and rhubarb are being harvested. Early greens are progressing. Sweet corn under plastic is up about 6 inches. Planting continues on lettuce, other greens, radishes, beets and cabbage. Cabbage root maggots and flea beetles have been found throughout Franklin County.

HAMPDEN/HAMPSHIRE, Ted Smiarowski

Heavy rains of two plus inches have many fields saturated. Harvesting spinach, asparagus, rhubarb and greens. Planting summer crops cucumbers, summer squash, winter squash, watermelon, peppers, and tomatoes. Young stock are out on pasture and farmers are mowing hay.

NANTUCKET/PLYMOUTH, Deb Cannon

Most cranberry beds have reached roughneck (1/2 inch new growth) or jewel (flower buds protruding) stages. However, bog growers who held late water (a 30 day spring flood used for pest management) remain at the bud break stage. Spring insects are active - cranberry weevil, cut worms, gypsy moth, black headed fireworm and some remaining winter moth. Reports of isolated outbreaks of scale insects have come in.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

BELKNAP, Donna Juneau,

A mild week gave way to some rougher weather on Friday and through the weekend. A record rainfall event occurred in Concord on Friday. Another quarter inch of rain fell on Saturday. In addition, a significant storm event with extremely heavy rain and hail occurred on Sunday, May 25 at about 5:30 pm in north-central Hillsborough County and south-central Merrimack County. Producers have started planting field corn and sweet corn this past week; more planting is expected this week.

CHESHIRE, Carl Majewski

A couple of rainy days late in the week, but plenty of sun and warm temperatures for the remainder. Pastures and hayfields continue to look good and some farms starting to get ready for mowing first cut. Corn planting continues, and early-planted fields emerging. Planting also continues on veggie operations. Small fruits are doing well, but seem to be a week or two behind where they were the last couple of years.

COOS, Steve Turaj

Field activities are starting off well, but are hampered by heavy rains and muddy fields at mid week and on.

GRAFTON, Steven Schmidt

For the week ending May 25th, we had a mixed bag of weather. Conditions were rainy off and on during the later part of the week. Total rainfall was over one inch for the week. Farmers are making progress on planting, but conditions are generally two to three weeks behind. Warmer weather has improved soil conditions and some corn fields in the southern end of the county have come up. Hay fields along the river bottom are growing well now.

HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton

Weather: Hail occurred during evening storm on Sunday, May 25. Fruits: Assessing winter injury to fruit crops. Many apples had a weak bloom - damage to the king blossom at some clusters, damage to side blossoms at other clusters and both in other clusters. Peach bloom very weak in many orchards due to damage by winter temperatures. Grapes, brambles, and some blueberries are showing signs of winter injury. Apples are at petal fall and growers determining what they should use to thin apples. Blueberry is at full bloom. Strawberry is starting to reach full bloom. Orchardists are applying protective fungicide sprays on fruit trees and blueberries. Field Crops: Farmers are plowing, discing, fertilizing, planting corn, and applying herbicides to fields dry enough to get on. Pastures and hayfields starting to look good. Early planted corn has emerged and new seedlings are up and growing. Vegetables: Continued planting vegetables, along with successive planting of sweet corn in dried fields. Laying plastic mulch and drip irrigation tape. Harvesting spinach, asparagus, rhubarb and all kinds of greens.

ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad

Harvesting greens, asparagus, rhubarb, choy, and broccoli raab. Overwintered leeks are also ready to be harvested, along with carrots from storage and spring dug parsnips. Some field work slowed down because of rain and wet fields. Planting sweet corn, potatoes and an array of vegetables. Corn forage is planted. Forage crops such as grass and pasture are growing well. Mowing orchards. Monitoring pests in small fruits and vegetable fields as well as orchards. Possible localized hail on the weekend.

RHODE ISLAND

NEWPORT, Paul E. Brule

I would say 95% of the potatoes are all planted. 25% are already breaking ground. Strawberries are in full bloom. Talking to the farmers, they think they'll be picking by the middle of June. Sweet corn: a lot of the first planting of sweet corn was harrowed up this week and reseeded. Pastures look good. Farmers are putting cows and heifers out to pasture. Vegetable planting has started and is a little bit slow, but we'll be gaining speed this week. Apple orchards are doing fine and, as far as we know, have had no frost damage this spring.

NEWPORT, Heather Faubert

Cool week slowed things down a little.

VERMONT

ADDISON, Jeffrey Carter

Continued planting corn and new seeded hay fields on drier soils. Rain at end of week ended field activities. Manure spreading continues on corn fields and still some on hay and cover crop fields. New seedlings are coming up uniformly and look good. Corn emergence is good. Pasture and grass hay fields look thin. Dandelions have full seed heads. No soy planting yet. Most clay soils still too wet to work.

CHITTENDEN, Terence Bradshaw

Poor bloom being reported across most of the state this year. Trees put on a huge crop in 2013 with subsequently poor fruit bud development for this year. Bloom was variable by cultivar and location, with McIntosh almost consistently reported with few blossoms. Some cold damage from last winter has been observed in blossoms. Apple scab season is winding down; growers in the Champlain and Connecticut Valleys should still maintain fungicide coverage for another seven days and scout for scab lesions formed in any missed infections before laying off their scab programs for the year. Petal fall pests (European apple sawfly, plum curculio) require management now, and thinning sprays are being cautiously applied. Grapes are in 3-5 inch shoot growth in the warmer areas of the state and disease management should commence as soon as possible. Cold damage is showing up in grapes to variable degrees, especially on riskier cultivars.

FRANKLIN, Heather Darby

Some folks have started to harvest first cut and hold off on corn planting. Ground is still very wet in many locations keeping corn planting and manure spreading on hold. Winter grains are nearing the boot stage.

FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley

Grass is king for this spring in Franklin County. Growth is super and corn planting is lagging due to wet soil conditions. We are going to be in that good old decision of planting corn or cutting hay and the same rule of thumb remains: take the grass and plant the corn. Some grass haylage harvest happening and super regrowth. Yields are down a bit, however, grasses are starting to head out. A lot of petals are falling from the fruit bushes and trees. Looks like a banner year, however we have a long ways to harvest and a lot can happen.

ORLEANS, David Blodgett

There was a lot of rain this past week. Most fields are really wet, making corn planting a challenge. About 30% of the corn has been planted. I haven't seen any emergence yet but there should be some any day now. The grasses are growing with all of the moisture we have had. Most farms have begun grazing but I haven't seen any hay cut. I'm sure as soon as the weather clears haying will start. With the rain and cool temperatures, it has been a very late start to spring.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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