



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



Crop Progress & Condition

New
England



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Week ending April 5, 2015

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

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Very poor week for field work: New England averaged 0.5 days suitable for field work last week.

Temperatures in New England have been colder than normal, and snow and ice were still covering the ground in most locations. Average weekly temperatures in the region ranged from ten degrees below normal to four degrees above normal. Weekly precipitation ranged from 0.02 to 0.89 inches in the region. Maple syrup season was off to a later than normal start this year due to the colder weather and snowpack accumulation from this winter. The melting of snow and freezing and thawing of fields has delayed most field work in the region, except for some frost seeding. In New Hampshire, some spring greens were coming out of high tunnels and being seeded. Orchardists and other fruit growers were behind in pruning due to the weather. Farmers were focused on repairing equipment, performing maintenance on buildings and roofs covered with snow, and purchasing supplies for the upcoming growing season.

Soil Moisture for Week Ending April 5, 2015

(in percent)

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
TOPSOIL	3	4	43	50
SUBSOIL	0	3	48	49

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

April 5, 2015 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	65	21	35	-4	0.29	4	0.26	-0.34	3	0	0	10
	Bangor_Intl_Air	62	12	33	-5	0.41	4	0.37	-0.20	3	0	0	7
	Bethel	64	14	33	-5	0.18	2	0.18	-0.47	2	1	+1	11
	Bridgton	65	15	33	-4	0.14	2	0.14	-0.56	2	0	0	10
	Caribou_Municip	56	4	28	-5	0.47	4	0.41	+0.00	3	0	0	0
	Dover-Foxcroft	65	7	29	-4	0.32	3	0.29	-0.31	2	0	0	8
	Durham	65	18	34	-6	0.18	3	0.18	-0.57	3	1	+1	11
	East_Surry	61	16	33	-5	0.44	4	0.32	-0.41	3	0	0	7
	Eustis	56	7	27	-4	0.38	2	0.38	-0.12	2	0	0	4
	Frenchville	53	5	26	-5	0.19	4	0.18	-0.22	3	0	0	0
	Harmony	65	10	30	-6	0.16	3	0.12	-0.53	2	0	0	9
	Houlton	57	-7	29	-4	0.41	4	0.39	-0.06	3	0	0	1
	Livermore_Falls	64	13	31	-4	0.17	2	0.17	-0.53	2	0	0	9
	Machias	45	10	32	-5	0.09	3	0.07	-0.73	2	0	0	0
	Millinocket_Wtr	63	0	28	-6	0.51	3	0.51	-0.04	3	0	0	7
	Moosehead	60	3	27	-4	0.24	2	0.24	-0.31	2	0	0	7
	Portland_ME	66	23	40	0	0.19	3	0.17	-0.54	2	4	+4	18
	Rangeley_2NW	54	6	24	-6	0.46	3	0.41	-0.14	2	0	0	3
	Sanford	62	20	35	-6	0.20	2	0.20	-0.57	2	0	0	10
	Topsfield_2	57	7	31	-4	0.89	3	0.82	+0.27	2	0	0	5
	Turner	65	20	34	-6	0.15	2	0.15	-0.59	2	0	0	10
	Wesley_2W	63	5	32	-3	0.70	2	0.70	+0.05	2	0	0	7
	West_Rockport	61	17	34	-4	0.33	4	0.21	-0.59	3	0	0	9
New Hampshire	Berlin_AG	63	10	31	-5	0.47	4	0.45	-0.05	3	0	0	9
	Bradford_2	62	17	35	-5	0.08	1	0.08	-0.57	1	0	0	8
	Colebrook	60	2	24	-10	0.36	2	0.36	-0.06	2	0	0	6
	Concord	65	19	39	-1	0.06	2	0.06	-0.44	2	3	+3	23
	East_Milford	63	19	38	-3	0.12	1	0.12	-0.58	1	2	+2	12
	Epping	63	18	37	-5	0.13	1	0.13	-0.57	1	1	+1	11
	Errol_AP	60	5	26	-5	0.34	3	0.29	-0.16	2	0	0	7
	Fitzwilliam	61	18	37	-1	0.23	1	0.23	-0.37	1	1	+1	13
	Greenville	59	11	36	-2	0.10	1	0.10	-0.50	1	0	0	10
	Hancock	62	17	37	-3	0.28	2	0.19	-0.46	1	1	+1	12
	Jefferson	59	10	30	-7	0.50	4	0.47	+0.02	3	0	0	8
	Keene_AG	62	13	36	-2	0.08	2	0.08	-0.47	2	0	0	11
	Lakeport_2	65	14	35	-4	0.06	1	0.06	-0.49	1	1	+1	11
	Lebanon	68	18	38	+1	0.08	2	0.08	-0.37	2	1	+1	21
	North_Conway	64	14	32	-5	0.08	2	0.08	-0.62	2	0	0	9
	Tamworth_4	65	13	33	-3	0.05	3	0.04	-0.68	2	0	0	9
	Wolfeburro	60	19	35	-4	0.13	2	0.11	-0.44	1	0	0	8
Vermont	Bennington_AP	63	20	39	+2	0.39	4	0.36	-0.21	3	4	+4	23
	Burlington_Intl	69	20	39	+1	0.43	1	0.43	-0.02	1	5	+5	24
	Corinth	57	11	29	-7	0.31	4	0.17	-0.23	3	0	0	6
	Island_Pond	59	4	28	-5	0.36	3	0.26	-0.19	2	0	0	1
	Johnson_2N	61	9	30	-4	0.19	3	0.14	-0.37	2	0	0	6
	Marlboro_Raws	61	21	37	+4	0.23	1	0.23	-0.18	1	0	0	12
	Montpelier_AP	60	12	32	-4	0.56	4	0.39	-0.01	3	0	0	10
	Newport_AG	60	6	29	-8	0.30	4	0.22	-0.28	3	0	0	7

		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
	Rochester	63	12	34	-3	0.15	2	0.15	-0.45	2	0	0	9
	Rutland_AG	63	8	35	-5	0.17	2	0.17	-0.28	2	0	0	12
	Springfield_VT	63	19	37	+2	0.08	2	0.08	-0.57	2	0	0	19
	South_Lincoln	61	4	30	-4	0.40	2	0.33	-0.32	1	0	0	7
	Sutton	61	5	29	-5	0.62	4	0.44	-0.01	3	0	0	7
	Walden	56	4	26	-7	0.75	3	0.50	+0.05	2	0	0	4
	Woodstock	66	11	35	-2	0.21	4	0.17	-0.38	3	1	+1	11
Massachusetts	Amherst	63	19	40	-2	0.31	1	0.31	-0.29	1	3	+3	18
	Barre_Falls_Dam	60	14	36	-3	0.26	1	0.26	-0.36	1	1	+1	11
	Bedford_Hanscom	62	20	41	-2	0.34	1	0.34	-0.36	1	9	+9	29
	Beverly_Ag	62	25	41	-3	0.34	2	0.32	-0.38	1	3	+3	20
	Birch_Hill_Dam	60	11	36	-3	0.08	1	0.08	-0.57	1	0	0	9
	Boston_Logan_In	61	30	43	-1	0.42	1	0.42	-0.23	1	7	+7	29
	Chatham_AP	54	25	39	-3	0.39	3	0.39	-0.26	3	0	0	10
	Chicopee_Westov	63	20	41	+1	0.64	1	0.64	+0.04	1	8	+8	28
	Edgartown	54	22	41	-2	0.25	1	0.25	-0.50	1	0	0	22
	East_Brimfield_	59	21	40	-1	0.55	2	0.55	-0.20	2	1	+1	14
	Fitchburg	64	21	41	0	0.25	2	0.25	-0.50	2	7	+7	28
	Greenfield	63	18	38	-3	0.16	2	0.16	-0.44	2	1	+1	15
	Hyannis_AP	56	20	40	-2	0.23	3	0.23	-0.42	3	0	0	19
	Maynard	63	20	40	-3	0.45	1	0.45	-0.25	1	4	+4	17
	New_Bedford	56	22	41	-2	0.34	2	0.34	-0.42	2	0	0	22
	Newburyport	64	21	39	-4	0.24	4	0.21	-0.50	3	4	+4	14
	North_Adams_Har	62	20	39	+3	0.28	2	0.28	-0.42	2	2	+2	21
	Norwood	60	22	42	-2	0.21	1	0.21	-0.49	1	7	+7	28
	Pittsfield	60	20	38	-2	0.28	3	0.27	-0.33	2	3	+3	22
	Plymouth	55	20	41	-3	0.24	2	0.24	-0.56	2	1	+1	20
	Taunton_4NW	58	22	41	-3	0.17	2	0.17	-0.57	2	2	+2	17
	Westfield_Barne	66	22	42	+4	0.65	1	0.65	-0.05	1	12	+12	32
	West_Otis	61	18	38	+1	0.31	1	0.31	-0.44	1	1	+1	15
	Worcester	57	27	40	0	0.42	2	0.42	-0.25	2	1	+1	21
	Worthington	59	15	36	-2	0.34	3	0.33	-0.27	2	0	0	10
Rhode Island	Newport_AP	52	25	41	-3	0.34	3	0.34	-0.41	3	0	0	15
	Providence	60	25	43	-2	0.40	2	0.40	-0.35	2	6	+6	28
	Westerly-Wester	54	24	39	-5	0.23	3	0.23	-0.52	3	0	0	9
	Woonsocket	61	23	41	-2	0.23	2	0.23	-0.52	2	2	+2	20
Connecticut	Bridgeport_Siko	55	29	43	-2	0.21	4	0.20	-0.50	3	0	0	22
	Danbury_AP	64	23	43	-2	0.02	2	0.02	-0.72	2	13	+13	33
	Hartford_Bradle	65	26	44	-1	0.54	1	0.54	-0.11	1	11	+11	31
	Meriden-Meriden	60	23	40	-3	0.39	2	0.39	-0.41	2	2	+2	16
	Norfolk	57	15	35	-3	0.66	3	0.59	-0.16	1	0	0	7
	Norwich	60	25	42	-3	0.45	3	0.45	-0.35	3	3	+3	20
	Staffordville	57	18	36	-6	0.45	1	0.45	-0.31	1	0	0	7
	Thomaston_Dam	61	21	39	-2	0.33	1	0.33	-0.42	1	2	+2	14
	West_Thompson_L	59	18	38	-4	0.31	2	0.31	-0.44	2	0	0	11
	Willimantic	60	22	41	-1	0.32	3	0.32	-0.44	3	7	+7	27

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 Meinert

The only field work happening on most farms is sugaring. Sap is being boiled. Everyone else is still waiting for the snow to disappear.

MAINE

AROOSTOOK, Larry James

Still several inches of snow on the ground at this point. The temperature this morning was -10° F, a new record.

PISCATAQUIS, Donna Coffin

Ten degrees this morning with snow still on the ground. Maple sap is still flowing.

WASHINGTON, Michael Look

The fields are just now beginning to peek out of the snow. It will be at least 3 weeks before anything can be done in the fields, except for frost seed.

MASSACHUSETTS

BARNSTABLE, Russell Norton

Snow is still receding. Average temperature was 41° F, with a high of 54° F and a low of 24° F; 0.25 inches of rain.

BERKSHIRE, Debra Senger

Fields are still covered in snow; hoping for warm weather in the next couple of weeks.

FRANKLIN, James Newland

It has been a late start to spring so far in 2015, with colder weather holding on throughout Franklin County. Maple sugar producers have seen a late start to their season that has set back expected yields by as much as 50%, but the warmer days and cold nights this week have made for ideal harvest conditions that will hopefully give the low yields a boost. Elsewhere, vegetable producers are busy inside greenhouses with their pre-season starts. Outside, the snow continues its retreat in most places.

HAMPSHIRE/HAMPDEN, Heather Baylis

March ended with temperatures on average ten degrees lower than normal and almost seven and a half inches of snow. Fields in the valley have lost their snow and are very wet, but fields in the hills are still snow-covered in places. Until fields firm up, not much field work will be accomplished.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

BELKNAP/MERRIMACK/HILLSBOROUGH, Donna Juneau
Winter is still hanging on. Temperatures have generally been below average and the snowpack is melting slowly. There is still a way to go before fields are ready for planting this year.

CARROLL, Olivia Saunders

Still lots of snow on the ground; some patches starting to clear, but it will be a while until we can get out on the fields. Spring greens coming out of high tunnels and being seeded now. Sugaring season is well underway; some think it will be a low-yielding year. New applications for farmers' markets are all in, with decisions on who will be at the summer markets being made within the month.

CHESHIRE, Carl Majewski

Melting and thawing continues, with a couple days in the 50s, but still plenty of snow and ice around. Too wet to do much of anything in the field.

GRAFTON, Heather Bryant

We had both rain and snow this past week, with temperatures about 60° F on Friday and then snow on Saturday. The ground is still mostly frozen and by the end of the week approximately 40-50% of the ground was still snow-covered, with significant depth still in the forests.

GRAFTON, Steven Schmidt

Temperatures remained cooler than normal. Many north and east facing slopes still have a substantial blanket of snow. Many fields are still frozen, with a substantial frost depth. South and west facing fields have bare spots, but nights in the single digits and teens have slowed the snow melt and runoff. Maple producers are still waiting for the sap to run. A number of them have expressed the concern that the season could be a short one.

HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton

Still snow cover and frost in the ground. Orchardists are behind in pruning, along with blueberry growers. Some failures in heating greenhouse structures resulted in loss of plants. Growers were getting equipment repaired and purchasing supplies for spring work and the new growing season.

ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad

Fields are either too wet or still covered with snow. In the last two days it has been very windy. Fruit and small fruit pruning schedule is running late by about three weeks to a month. Some growers have re-scheduled and delayed the delivery dates of young strawberry plants and other small fruits while waiting for fields to dry. Growers were repairing fences that were covered with snow and other buildings and roofs. It has been a very cold and long winter/spring.

SULLIVAN, Kelly Webb

Maple season was off to a slow start due to the snowpack and cold weather. Warmer temperatures Thursday into the weekend helped

the sap run. Many are reporting that they are at half crop or just beyond. The snow continues to melt, with some ponding in fields.

RHODE ISLAND

NEWPORT, Heather Faubert

Fruit growers are getting trees and bushes pruned now that snow is mostly gone and plants are still dormant.

VERMONT

ADDISON, Jeffrey Carter

Snow mostly gone. Ground is frozen. Frost seeding clover in pasture and hay fields. Sugaring on about half the crop is done.

CALEDONIA, Daniel Hudson

Given the amount of snow left and the forecast, I am expecting that field activities will be delayed this year.

FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley

The focus at this time is on maple, which is anybody's guess at this point. Weather is ideal, however, the small windows for good runs of sap are making the sugar-makers very impatient. With much snow and frozen ground, very little manure is being spread, which is a good thing due to the huge focus on water quality.

ORLEANS, David Blodgett

Most of the fields in Orleans County are still snow-covered. It actually snowed off and on through the past weekend. The Vermont winter manure spreading ban was lifted on April 1st, but due to the snowpack, producers in this area were not able to do so. Snowfall and rain have been a little less than normal but once the snow melts and the ground thaws, moisture levels should be adequate. Maple syrup production is in full swing but so far the yields are very low. The sap runs that producers got last week seem to have a high sugar concentration so the gallons of sap needed for each gallon of syrup is lower. However, reports are that the syrup is a bit darker than usual. The season started very late with most producers just starting to boil last week. I am hearing reports that feed is short for some livestock producers, especially organic feed. Those producers are hoping for an early spring so they can begin grazing. It has been a long and cold winter.