



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



# Crop Progress & Condition

New  
England



Gary Keough, State Statistician

53 Pleasant St. 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Concord, NH 03301

Phone: 603-224-9639

Fax: 603-225-1432

[www.nass.usda.gov/nh](http://www.nass.usda.gov/nh)  
Week ending April 12, 2015

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

[nassrfoener@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nassrfoener@nass.usda.gov)  
Released April 13, 2015

**Very poor week for field work:** New England averaged 1.0 days suitable for field work last week.

Slightly warmer temperatures last week allowed snow to continue to melt throughout the region. Northern parts of New England received some additional snowfall early to mid-week and rain later in the week, while southern parts of New England only received some rainfall throughout the week. Average weekly temperatures in the region ranged from nine degrees below normal to one degree above normal. Weekly precipitation ranged from 0.12 to 1.40 inches in the region. Maple syrup production continued with some big sap runs due to warmer temperatures during the day and below freezing temperatures at night. In Massachusetts, ice and snow have melted out of most cranberry bogs and some of the earliest varieties were beginning to green. In Connecticut and New Hampshire, some farmers were plowing and harrowing in drier soils as well as spreading manure. However, most fields throughout the rest of the region were either frozen or too wet and muddy to be worked. Some farmers were transplanting tomatoes into high tunnels. The warmer temperatures and few sunny days helped seeds germinating in high tunnels. In Rhode Island, some growers were uncovering their strawberries. Orchardists were able to start pruning fruit crops, including apples, blueberry bushes and raspberry patches. Farmers continued to work on repairing fences and equipment in anticipation of the upcoming growing season.

**Soil Moisture for Week Ending April 12, 2015**  
(in percent)

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
TOPSOIL	0	7	42	51
SUBSOIL	0	2	50	48

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

### April 12, 2015 New England Weekly Weather Summary

		Last Week Weather Summary						Accumulation Since April 1, 2015					
		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	47	21	35	-7	0.75	4	1.01	-0.43	7	0	0	11
	Bangor_Intl_Air	47	15	34	-7	0.64	5	1.01	-0.33	8	0	0	8
	Bethel	49	20	32	-8	0.73	4	0.91	-0.65	6	1	+1	11
	Bridgton	49	19	33	-6	0.42	4	0.56	-1.11	6	0	0	10
	Caribou_Municip	43	-4	28	-7	0.58	3	0.99	-0.01	6	0	0	0
	Dover-Foxcroft	46	6	30	-7	0.69	4	0.98	-0.46	6	0	0	8
	Durham	49	20	35	-7	0.70	5	0.88	-0.92	8	1	+1	11
	East_Surry	62	19	36	-6	0.73	4	1.05	-0.66	7	0	0	12
	Eustis	41	0	25	-8	0.69	5	1.07	-0.13	7	0	0	4
	Frenchville	40	-1	27	-8	0.41	3	0.59	-0.44	6	0	0	0
	Harmony	47	8	31	-7	1.10	5	1.22	-0.34	7	0	0	9
	Houlton	44	-13	30	-7	0.51	2	0.90	-0.18	5	0	0	1
	Livermore_Falls	48	16	33	-5	0.80	4	0.97	-0.71	6	0	0	9
	Machias	47	14	31	-8	0.12	4	0.39	-1.47	6	0	0	0
	Millinocket_Wtr	45	-3	28	-9	0.49	2	1.00	-0.38	5	0	0	7
	Moosehead	45	-3	26	-8	0.83	4	1.07	-0.25	6	0	0	7
	Portland_ME	54	27	38	-4	0.80	3	0.97	-0.77	5	4	+4	22
	Rangeley_2NW	44	5	26	-8	1.11	5	1.52	+0.20	7	0	0	3
	Sanford	50	24	36	-8	0.81	3	1.01	-0.83	5	0	0	11
	Topsfield_2	48	8	31	-7	0.62	3	1.44	+0.12	5	0	0	5
	Turner	49	22	34	-8	0.88	6	1.03	-0.69	8	0	0	10
	Wesley_2W	55	4	32	-6	0.52	2	1.22	-0.34	4	0	0	7
	West_Rockport	47	21	34	-6	0.76	5	0.97	-0.95	8	0	0	9
New Hampshire	Berlin_AG	45	19	32	-7	1.03	4	1.48	+0.24	7	0	0	9
	Bradford_2	49	21	35	-8	0.92	3	1.00	-0.56	4	0	0	9
	Colebrook	46	7	29	-8	1.13	5	1.49	+0.51	7	0	0	7
	Concord	52	23	38	-5	0.80	3	0.86	-0.34	5	3	+3	25
	East_Milford	55	26	38	-6	0.60	3	0.72	-0.91	4	2	+2	18
	Epping	52	24	37	-7	0.89	3	1.02	-0.66	4	1	+1	13
	Errol_AP	48	5	28	-6	1.10	5	1.39	+0.31	7	0	0	7
	Fitzwilliam	52	27	38	-3	0.75	4	0.98	-0.47	5	1	+1	17
	Greenville	51	26	36	-5	0.46	2	0.56	-0.89	3	0	0	12
	Hancock	59	24	38	-4	0.80	4	0.99	-0.59	5	1	+1	17
	Jefferson	52	22	35	-5	1.20	5	1.67	+0.57	8	0	0	12
	Keene_AG	56	25	37	-5	0.55	3	0.63	-0.68	5	0	0	14
	Lakeport_2	50	25	37	-5	1.05	3	1.11	-0.21	4	1	+1	13
	Lebanon	50	20	37	-4	0.78	4	0.86	-0.22	6	1	+1	26
	North_Conway	46	21	32	-8	1.00	5	1.08	-0.60	7	0	0	9
	Tamworth_4	48	19	32	-6	1.12	4	1.16	-0.54	6	0	0	9
	Wolfeburro	50	23	37	-5	1.06	4	1.17	-0.15	5	0	0	10
Vermont	Bennington_AP	59	24	40	+1	0.40	4	0.76	-0.58	7	4	+4	41
	Burlington_Intl	54	23	39	-3	0.49	4	0.92	-0.16	5	5	+5	33
	Corinth	42	17	31	-8	0.84	5	1.01	+0.05	8	0	0	6
	Island_Pond	56	7	31	-5	0.97	5	1.23	+0.15	7	0	0	1
	Johnson_2N	49	20	33	-5	0.82	5	0.96	-0.32	7	0	0	8
	Marlboro_Raws	51	27	36	0	0.88	3	1.11	+0.07	4	0	0	14
	Montpelier_AP	52	17	34	-5	0.53	4	0.92	-0.04	7	0	0	15
	Newport_AG	46	15	31	-9	1.07	4	1.30	+0.16	7	0	0	8

		Last Week Weather Summary						Accumulation Since April 1, 2015					
		Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
State	Station	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
	Rochester	49	23	35	-4	1.28	4	1.43	-0.01	6	0	0	11
	Rutland_AG	46	22	35	-8	0.55	4	0.72	-0.36	6	0	0	14
	Springfield_VT	51	22	37	-3	0.81	3	0.89	-0.67	5	0	0	26
	South_Lincoln	49	19	34	-2	0.87	4	1.20	-0.43	5	0	0	9
	Sutton	43	17	31	-5	1.18	5	1.62	+0.54	8	0	0	7
	Walden	43	13	28	-9	0.85	5	1.35	+0.27	7	0	0	4
	Woodstock	49	21	35	-5	1.00	4	1.17	-0.15	7	1	+1	13
Massachusetts	Amherst	59	26	40	-4	0.68	4	0.99	-0.50	5	3	+3	28
	Barre_Falls_Dam	56	28	38	-4	0.46	4	0.72	-0.81	5	1	+1	19
	Bedford_Hanscom	57	27	40	-5	0.39	2	0.73	-0.92	3	9	+9	43
	Beverly_Ag	58	31	41	-5	0.45	3	0.77	-0.95	4	3	+3	38
	Birch_Hill_Dam	55	27	37	-4	0.52	3	0.60	-0.96	4	0	0	14
	Boston_Logan_In	57	33	42	-5	0.46	3	0.88	-0.61	4	9	+8	52
	Chatham_AP	59	31	43	0	0.53	5	0.92	-0.69	8	0	0	31
	Chicopee_Westov	62	25	41	-4	0.92	4	1.56	+0.07	5	9	+9	44
	Edgartown	58	32	43	-2	0.70	5	0.95	-0.85	6	0	0	43
	East_Brimfield_	57	27	39	-5	1.21	5	1.76	+0.03	7	1	+1	24
	Fitchburg	57	29	41	-3	0.45	3	0.70	-1.10	5	9	+9	52
	Greenfield	57	27	38	-6	0.69	4	0.85	-0.64	6	1	+1	20
	Hyannis_AP	61	32	43	+1	0.44	5	0.67	-0.89	8	0	0	43
	Maynard	57	25	40	-5	0.71	4	1.16	-0.49	5	4	+4	29
	New_Bedford	59	32	43	-2	0.58	4	0.92	-0.89	6	0	0	47
	Newburyport	55	27	38	-7	0.82	3	1.03	-0.73	6	4	+4	24
	North_Adams_Har	61	26	40	+1	0.47	3	0.75	-0.93	5	2	+2	39
	Norwood	57	31	42	-4	0.27	3	0.48	-1.20	4	9	+9	48
	Pittsfield	57	30	39	-3	0.84	4	1.11	-0.33	6	3	+3	36
	Plymouth	59	29	42	-3	0.60	5	0.84	-1.08	7	2	+2	43
	Taunton_4NW	59	31	42	-4	1.15	5	1.32	-0.42	7	2	+2	35
	Westfield_Barne	61	27	42	0	1.11	4	1.76	+0.08	5	13	+13	53
	West_Otis	58	29	40	-2	0.86	4	1.17	-0.63	5	1	+1	25
	Worcester	55	29	39	-4	0.69	4	1.11	-0.47	6	1	+1	36
	Worthington	55	28	36	-4	1.02	5	1.35	-0.15	7	0	0	14
Rhode Island	Newport_AP	57	32	42	-3	0.44	4	0.78	-1.02	7	0	0	34
	Providence	59	31	44	-3	0.72	5	1.12	-0.61	7	7	+4	56
	Westerly-Wester	59	29	43	-3	0.24	3	0.47	-1.30	6	0	0	30
	Woonsocket	56	30	41	-4	0.87	5	1.10	-0.70	7	2	+2	35
Connecticut	Bridgeport_Siko	60	34	44	-3	0.27	3	0.47	-1.18	6	0	-2	53
	Danbury_AP	61	27	43	-4	0.24	3	0.26	-1.46	5	15	+14	56
	Hartford_Bradle	62	30	43	-4	1.13	5	1.67	+0.15	6	13	+10	57
	Meriden-Meriden	59	28	43	-3	0.31	3	0.70	-1.22	5	2	+2	36
	Norfolk	56	25	37	-4	1.40	5	1.99	+0.19	6	0	0	13
	Norwich	58	32	43	-4	0.44	4	0.89	-1.03	7	3	+2	42
	Staffordville	57	23	38	-7	1.17	5	1.62	-0.19	6	0	0	12
	Thomaston_Dam	63	25	42	-1	0.97	5	1.30	-0.47	6	2	+2	38
	West_Thompson_L	58	26	39	-5	1.02	5	1.33	-0.47	7	0	0	20
	Willimantic	58	28	42	-3	0.83	4	1.15	-0.66	7	7	+7	45

Summary based on NWS data. DFN = Departure From Normal.  
Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.  
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.  
Copyright 2015: Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc. All rights reserved.

## 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

Some plowing and harrowing in drier soils. Mostly farmers are spreading manure and repairing damage caused by snow removal operations.

### MAINE

AROOSTOOK, Larry James

Temperatures in the high 50s and 60s the last couple of days has made the snow disappear. Many of the fields are now showing. If this trend continues, we probably can get started timely.

CUMBERLAND/YORK, Sandy Truslow

Maple sap was flowing last week due to the freezing night temps and days in the 30s or 40s. Spring weather finally arrived over the weekend.

FRANKLIN, Gary J. Raymond

After a very long winter, we are now having a nice spring with a slow snowmelt. There has been no flooding so far. The maple sap has flowed well. We are now in mud season with still a lot of snow to melt.

PISCATAQUIS, Donna Coffin

Snow is just barely leaving the fields. Farm yards are a sea of mud. Maple syrup season will be over soon with the warm weather.

SOMERSET, Kathy Hopkins

Maple syrup production continuing and hopefully the nice week upcoming will not be so warm that it shuts the season down.

SOMERSET, Elaine S. Moceus

Snow cover on fields in most areas; most rivers and streams are iced with some open water. Maple sap started running later than normal this year and is still running at this time due to cooler temperatures; however, producers are concerned that warmer temperatures forecast for next week may cause the season to close soon. Normally, producers would have some production in late January or mid-February, and that did not happen this year due to excessive cold temperatures.

WASHINGTON, Audre Hayward

Snow two days; sleet and freezing rain on Friday.

WASHINGTON, Michael Look

We have had some nice weather, but until all of the snow on the fields melts we can do nothing.

### MASSACHUSETTS

FRANKLIN, James Newland

Franklin County received precipitation on four days last week, totaling 0.58 inches. The week saw average high temperatures around 45 degrees. Maple sugar producers continued production operations.

HAMPSHIRE/HAMPDEN, Heather Baylis

The warmth is gradually seeping in. Last week brought some additional rain and a very windy Saturday, followed by a stellar Sunday. A positive forecast for the coming week should finally dispel the last of the snow from the hills. Farmers are anxiously waiting until they can head out.

PLYMOUTH, Carolyn DeMoranville

The ice and snow have melted out of most cranberry bogs and growers have been able to install sprinkler heads and begin to test systems in preparation for spring frost protection season. Earliest varieties are beginning to green, losing red dormant color in the leaves, but buds remain red and tight.

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

BELKNAP/MERRIMACK/HILLSBOROUGH, Donna Juneau

Winter was still hanging on last week with temperatures still several degrees below normal and two inches of snowfall reported in the Concord area on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. Snow did turn to rain on Wednesday, with more rainfall reported on Thursday and Friday. There is still accumulated snowfall on the edges of fields near the wood line. Farmers are reporting that the topsoil is supersaturated due to slow snowmelt and recent rains. Hillsborough County farmers are reporting that the frost is mostly out of the ground, but Merrimack and Belknap County farmers indicate that the frost persists up to four feet into the ground. Farmers report that it will likely be at least a couple more weeks before conditions are right to work their fields. The weather has reportedly severely impacted maple sap production this year. The gravity fed operations (as opposed to vacuum systems) have been hit the hardest. The sap just has not been running, so production is down.

BELKNAP/STRAFFORD, Kelly McAdam

Belknap County received about 3 inches of new snow on Wednesday, but saw a lot of snow melt over the weekend. Fields are still saturated.

GRAFTON, Heather Bryant

Still some snow on the ground.

GRAFTON, Steven Schmidt

We finally saw some warming weather. Snow cover remained on the ground through mid-week. Light, warm showers and above freezing conditions in the later part of the week finally melted most of the snow cover. Soils remained frozen below the six inch level on many river bottom fields. Several dig sites reported that the frost

is still present at about six inches and extends down as much as 3 feet. With temperatures in the 50s on Saturday and expected to be higher this coming week, we should see some major thawing of the frost layer. There has been no field work to date. Some farms are field stacking manure, in expectation of spreading very soon. Soils were generally too sloppy for heavy equipment to operate on them. There is no green grass for pastures yet. Maple sugar producers are concerned about the rapid warming that is predicted; it could result in a very short sugaring season.

**HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton**

Field Crops: Liming and fertilizing hayfields. Spreading manure and getting equipment ready for the spring rush. Vegetables: Transplanting tomatoes into high tunnels. Early season vegetables (peas, lettuce, greens) are being planted in selected dry fields. Liming, fertilizing, plowing, disking (fields that are not too wet to work) and getting ready to plant fields. Fruits: Pruning blueberry bushes and raspberry patches. Orchardists are pruning and getting orchard sprayers ready to apply protective sprays.

**ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad**

Looks like we went back into winter, as Wednesday late afternoon into evening snow/sleet/freezing rain covered the area with a white snow blanket of 2.5- 3 inches thick. Some fields are still very wet. The warmer weather and relatively sunnier few days helped seeds germinating in high tunnels. Harvesting pea shoots and other greens. Pruning apples and blueberries. Repairing fences and equipment. Several farm stands getting ready to open their stores on Mother's Day weekend.

**SULLIVAN, Kelly Webb**

Maple producers were busy with warmer days and below freezing nights most of the week, allowing for big sap runs. Many producers reported that sugar content is holding up and they are making a high-quality syrup. With warm temperatures on the way, the maple season will come to a close soon. Much of the snow in open areas is melted after rain Friday into Saturday. Decent snowpack remains in the woods. Greenhouse vegetables are making progress.

## **RHODE ISLAND**

**NEWPORT, Paul E. Brule**

Field Work: Not a thing being done due to very cold and wet weather all last week. The orchardists are just getting in now to do some pruning. Seed potatoes have not even been delivered yet. Farmers are saying it's due to a trucking problem. Hope to see seed potatoes this week. Probably not even thinking about plowing ground until the end of next week. This week is the first week showing 60 degree weather every day, but we have to wait for it to dry up a bit. Pastures are not green, cows are not out of the barn - it's been very cold and wet.

**NEWPORT, Heather Faubert**

Another cold week. Growers are uncovering their strawberries. Expecting warmer conditions soon.

## **VERMONT**

**ADDISON, Jeffrey Carter**

Cover crop winter rye starting to green up; soil still saturated and frozen in most fields. Patchy snow persists. Rain this week and warmer conditions; no field activity. Continue to hold stored manure even though it's after April 1<sup>st</sup>. Machinery maintenance and preparation for anticipated field work when spring gets here. Maple sugaring continues strongly.

**FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley**

Snow is quickly melting down on fields; however, still much frost in the ground. It has been a great year for frost seeding and still time for some late seeding in this arena.

**LAMOILLE, Heather Mateja**

Ground is still frozen and snow-covered in many locations.

**ORLEANS, David Blodgett**

Spring started to show itself this week. The early part of the week it was still cold and snowing, but the later part of the week the temperatures started to rise. Fortunately, we haven't had a lot of rain so the snow is melting slow enough to limit flooding. The warm day and freezing night temperatures have made for some big sap runs late this week. A lot of maple syrup has been made in the past few days. As for field activities, we are still waiting for the snow to melt away and the ground to dry a little. With the cold winter, the frost may be deep in some places. Once the ground can support the equipment, manure spreading will begin.