



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



New
England



Crop Progress & Condition

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Week ending May 17, 2015

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by the Northeastern Regional Field Office of NASS

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Excellent week for field work: New England averaged 6.5 days suitable for field work last week.

New England continued to experience mostly sunny, warm and dry weather last week. However, some areas experienced frosts of varying severity during the colder evening and early morning temperatures. Average weekly temperatures ranged from two degrees below normal to twelve degrees above normal. Weekly precipitation ranged from 0.0 to 2.58 inches in the region. The warm and dry weather has helped field work to progress, but has left some areas in need of rain. Farmers continued planting field corn in all six states, with some early-planted corn beginning to emerge. In Maine, apples were about ready to come into bloom, with blueberries right behind. Blueberry fields were being pruned and protective fungicides were applied to fruit trees. In Massachusetts, the warm weather helped cranberry bud elongation progress. Cranberry growers irrigated for frost protection as well as the persistent dry conditions throughout the week. Some vegetable growers in the region were laying plastic mulch and drip irrigation tape. Asparagus, rhubarb, herbs, lettuce, spinach, and other greens were being harvested. Some sod farms were already running irrigation pumps due to the dry conditions. Grazing had begun in some locations, while others were waiting for the ground to get a little firmer and for grass growth to progress. Farmers in the region continued spreading manure, harrowing, plowing, disking, and applying herbicides to fields. Farm stands remained busy selling greenhouse and nursery products.

Soil Moisture for Week Ending May 17, 2015

(in percent)

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
TOPSOIL	7	36	50	7
SUBSOIL	11	24	56	9

Crop Conditions as of May 17, 2015

(in percent)

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
DRY HAY	2	13	38	38	9
PASTURE AND RANGE	1	11	47	37	4

Crop Progress as of May 17, 2015

(in percent)

Item	This Week
APPLES: PINK	76
APPLES: FULL BLOOM	36
BLUEBERRIES, TAME: GREEN TIP	95
BLUEBERRIES, TAME: PINK	52
BLUEBERRIES, WILD (ME): GREEN TIP	88
BLUEBERRIES, WILD (ME): PINK	10
CORN: PLANTED	36
CRANBERRIES (MA): GREEN TIP	50
PEACHES: PINK	83
PEACHES: FULL BLOOM	54
PEARS: PINK	77
PEARS: FULL BLOOM	42
POTATOES: PLANTED	24
SPRING TILLAGE: SINGLE	64
STRAWBERRIES: GREEN TIP	68
STRAWBERRIES: PINK	17
SWEET CORN: PLANTED	28

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

May 17, 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	85	41	58	+4	0.26	4	4.62	-1.37	21	143	+63	445
	Bangor_Intl_Air	82	34	56	+3	0.48	4	2.87	-2.31	24	109	+43	378
	Bethel	83	32	56	+3	0.44	3	4.32	-1.57	15	105	+38	358
	Bridgton	87	36	57	+5	0.54	2	3.96	-2.08	14	120	+66	392
	Caribou_Municip	75	38	54	+4	0.70	4	3.11	-1.27	22	77	+39	291
	Dover-Foxcroft	82	31	54	+4	0.69	4	3.28	-2.41	23	80	+52	307
	Durham	86	35	57	+5	0.35	4	3.78	-3.00	22	99	+47	376
	East_Surry	69	34	52	-2	0.36	3	3.93	-2.44	22	50	+1	284
	Eustis	80	32	52	+4	0.75	4	2.87	-2.08	19	55	+40	233
	Frenchville	71	34	53	+4	0.99	4	3.47	-1.00	22	54	+32	246
	Harmony	87	29	55	+3	0.74	5	4.05	-1.71	23	108	+57	355
	Houlton	75	29	53	+3	0.78	4	3.61	-0.93	20	80	+42	289
	Livermore_Falls	86	33	57	+6	0.58	4	4.06	-2.14	18	100	+67	350
	Machias	73	29	51	+2	0.87	2	3.92	-3.19	16	41	+19	212
	Millinocket_Wtr	80	29	53	+2	1.81	3	4.71	-0.87	19	59	+12	252
	Moosehead	73	31	53	+5	1.07	4	3.63	-1.82	21	79	+65	288
	Portland_ME	83	40	59	+7	0.77	3	5.75	-0.68	15	164	+113	494
	Rangeley_2NW	76	30	51	+3	1.50	4	4.13	-0.82	21	50	+29	203
	Sanford	88	36	59	+3	0.39	2	3.70	-3.04	9	143	+48	431
	Topsfield_2	83	38	56	+5	0.84	4	4.23	-1.45	20	85	+47	309
	Turner	85	39	59	+4	0.42	4	4.50	-1.71	20	141	+46	426
	Wesley_2W	88	30	55	+4	0.75	4	6.17	+0.43	16	81	+47	324
	West_Rockport	82	35	57	+6	0.49	3	4.50	-2.69	19	105	+67	355
New Hampshire	Berlin_AG	81	32	55	+3	0.35	4	3.15	-1.93	20	105	+51	344
	Bradford_2	87	29	57	+2	0.09	2	2.68	-3.60	12	119	+9	384
	Colebrook	78	31	53	+3	1.78	4	5.11	+0.50	23	64	+21	242
	Concord	90	32	61	+7	0.03	1	2.29	-2.62	12	231	+135	557
	East_Milford	89	37	62	+6	0.02	1	2.84	-3.06	10	207	+92	535
	Epping	89	36	60	+6	0.09	1	3.21	-3.05	13	174	+77	481
	Errol_AP	81	29	55	+7	0.91	4	3.96	-0.62	22	90	+69	285
	Fitzwilliam	87	35	62	+8	0.29	3	2.79	-2.98	14	190	+118	506
	Greenville	87	35	60	+6	0.04	2	2.49	-3.28	8	159	+87	455
	Hancock	85	30	61	+7	0.48	2	3.24	-2.89	17	159	+80	439
	Jefferson	80	34	56	+2	0.83	4	4.39	-0.28	24	119	+43	358
	Keene_AG	90	31	61	+7	0.23	3	2.00	-3.40	13	173	+83	467
	Lakeport_2	87	34	59	+4	0.18	1	2.91	-2.45	9	164	+74	465
	Lebanon	89	30	61	+6	0.64	4	2.38	-2.37	14	210	+128	521
	North_Conway	87	32	57	+3	0.21	3	4.03	-2.24	16	120	+48	381
	Tamworth_4	86	29	56	+5	0.18	2	3.49	-3.19	15	99	+57	342
	Wolfeburro	84	39	59	+4	0.24	3	3.18	-2.18	14	168	+78	472
Vermont	Bennington_AP	87	31	63	+11	0.07	3	2.11	-4.00	15	254	+184	585
	Burlington_Intl	84	36	61	+5	1.30	4	3.94	-0.72	17	256	+148	587
	Corinth	78	30	56	+2	0.87	4	3.23	-1.06	20	117	+39	332
	Island_Pond	80	28	55	+5	1.12	6	4.70	-0.03	24	109	+67	309
	Johnson_2N	77	33	56	+4	1.29	4	3.60	-1.54	21	133	+77	384
	Marlboro_Raws	87	34	62	+10	0.51	4	3.44	-1.02	12	193	+143	483
	Montpelier_AP	81	32	58	+5	1.78	5	3.85	-0.44	22	160	+82	412
	Newport_AG	77	33	55	0	1.18	5	4.54	-0.33	20	131	+28	365

		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	84	32	59	+6	2.07	3	5.00	-0.97	15	157	+89	427
	Rutland_AG	87	31	60	+4	1.16	3	3.42	-1.22	18	167	+45	439
	Springfield_VT	87	32	61	+7	0.54	3	2.78	-3.41	12	199	+127	506
	South_Lincoln	79	29	56	+5	2.58	3	3.83	-2.70	12	135	+91	354
	Sutton	79	31	55	+5	1.17	6	5.04	+0.31	27	112	+70	331
	Walden	76	32	54	+4	1.35	5	4.73	+0.00	23	99	+57	267
	Woodstock	87	31	59	+5	1.18	5	4.13	-1.48	17	163	+90	438
Massachusetts	Amherst	90	34	64	+8	0.03	1	2.28	-3.84	11	231	+113	570
	Barre_Falls_Dam	88	31	61	+8	0.05	2	1.99	-4.02	16	172	+110	469
	Bedford_Hanscom	88	35	63	+7	0.00	0	1.84	-4.23	10	243	+115	595
	Beverly_Ag	89	40	60	+4	0.00	0	1.90	-4.26	12	198	+72	559
	Birch_Hill_Dam	87	32	61	+8	0.07	2	1.86	-3.89	12	181	+119	482
	Boston_Logan_In	89	48	64	+7	0.02	1	2.31	-3.10	12	266	+120	634
	Chatham_AP	70	45	60	+8	0.04	2	1.56	-4.44	15	128	+74	446
	Chicopee_Westov	91	31	66	+10	0.00	0	2.77	-3.35	11	280	+162	632
	Edgartown	77	41	61	+7	0.06	1	1.41	-4.82	14	144	+58	516
	East_Brimfield_	89	35	62	+8	0.00	0	3.55	-2.68	14	198	+107	528
	Fitchburg	91	39	65	+9	0.13	1	2.43	-4.12	12	315	+191	683
	Greenfield	89	35	63	+7	0.08	3	2.20	-3.92	15	215	+97	537
	Hyannis_AP	78	39	61	+8	0.07	1	1.26	-4.30	12	151	+81	499
	Maynard	92	37	65	+8	0.02	1	2.54	-3.53	13	260	+132	606
	New_Bedford	81	36	63	+6	0.02	1	1.96	-4.44	14	207	+81	577
	Newburyport	89	37	62	+6	0.13	2	3.33	-3.18	14	183	+69	501
	North_Adams_Har	87	30	63	+10	0.05	2	2.06	-4.92	14	245	+181	572
	Norwood	89	33	63	+6	0.09	2	1.56	-4.51	12	265	+121	624
	Pittsfield	84	33	62	+7	0.13	2	3.03	-3.53	15	228	+140	548
	Plymouth	86	36	63	+7	0.07	1	2.00	-4.70	14	205	+98	545
	Taunton_4NW	88	41	64	+8	0.22	1	2.83	-3.29	17	240	+116	600
	Westfield_Barne	92	34	66	+12	0.00	0	3.23	-3.46	12	325	+238	692
	West_Otis	86	36	63	+9	0.39	5	3.02	-4.17	15	222	+148	559
	Worcester	85	44	64	+8	0.02	1	3.01	-3.29	16	264	+166	619
	Worthington	85	34	60	+7	0.04	2	2.55	-4.09	17	168	+96	457
Rhode Island	Newport_AP	72	45	60	+6	0.01	1	1.61	-4.66	14	166	+71	516
	Providence	86	45	65	+7	0.22	1	2.73	-3.49	16	276	+121	658
	Westerly-Wester	76	41	61	+5	0.03	2	1.45	-4.89	13	160	+44	504
	Woonsocket	88	40	65	+8	0.26	2	3.76	-2.67	13	252	+126	614
Connecticut	Bridgeport_Siko	82	48	65	+7	0.45	3	2.62	-3.58	15	278	+117	666
	Danbury_AP	83	38	64	+7	0.92	2	2.10	-4.75	11	275	+115	639
	Hartford_Bradle	91	40	67	+8	0.02	1	3.43	-2.84	14	364	+176	740
	Meriden-Meriden	87	37	65	+9	0.09	2	1.86	-5.37	11	286	+157	650
	Norfolk	84	36	61	+8	0.16	2	3.68	-3.51	16	194	+120	488
	Norwich	84	42	64	+7	0.15	2	1.55	-5.34	14	260	+93	631
	Staffordville	84	36	61	+6	0.03	1	3.27	-3.40	13	165	+57	468
	Thomaston_Dam	88	36	65	+9	0.13	2	3.41	-3.33	17	238	+131	582
	West_Thompson_L	87	37	63	+7	0.04	2	3.44	-3.18	17	202	+98	538
	Willimantic	87	37	65	+10	0.01	1	3.52	-3.15	14	294	+186	659

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

It is a race to get corn in before first cutting is ready. First cutting has won in some areas - the timothy and orchardgrass are blooming. Most of the manure has been spread. Surface soil is dry but the soil a couple of inches down, even in sandy soil, is surprisingly damp. Corn seems to be jumping out of the ground. Pre-Sidedress Nitrate Test (PSNT) will be early this year - some fields as early as this week!

WINDHAM, Dawn S. Pindell

Dry weather, good for getting in the fields with spreading, harrowing, planting conventional and no-till. Corn has started to come up. Warm days up to 80 degrees and down to 40 degrees at night.

MAINE

ANDROSCOGGIN/OXFORD/SAGADAHOC, Marcia L. Hall

We are in need of rain. Field work is going strong and crops are being planted. Grass is nice and green and orchards are being sprayed. Spreading of manure still taking place throughout the counties. Some rain over the weekend during a late night thunder/lightning storm Saturday night.

AROOSTOOK, Larry James

Dry weather all week saw most operations get started. A lot of grain has been planted. Potatoes will soon follow. Pastures have taken on a green appearance. The ground will soon be hard enough to let the animals out to graze.

CUMBERLAND/YORK, Sandy Truslow

Apples are in full bloom. Still very dry in some areas. Farmers have been working the fields. Irrigation pumps are already running on sod farms.

FRANKLIN, Gary J. Raymond

A little rain made the grass jump and the leaves suddenly appear. We need some more. Warm weather has pushed out apple blossoms. The conditions are perfect for tillage. With manure spreading, the smell of spring is in the air!

HANCOCK, PENOBSCOT, Valerie Porter

Field work is very heavy with tilling, spreading and field preparation. Blueberry fields are being pruned and it's too early to tell how the crop will be. Grass is growing and greening up pretty good. Really need rain in most of the county.

HANCOCK, David Yarborough

Non-cropping fields being mowed and burned and pre-emergence herbicides being applied. Migrant bee hives being moved in to cropping fields for pollination. Frost conditions were reported in some fields overnight from Wednesday, May 13th to Thursday, May 14th. In Hancock and Washington counties, mature cups producing spores and pinheads are still being reported. In some

fields, the cups and pinheads appear to have dried up in the mummy berry plots, but I suspect there are still cups present in other areas of the field, considering how widespread reports of cups still are. There is a chance of rain showers forecast for Saturday, May 16th through Sunday, May 17th. These rain showers may provide another infection period for the mummy berry fungus.

PISCATAQUIS, Donna Coffin

The county received spotty rains in the past week. Planting in full force now. Hayfields are greening up.

PISCATAQUIS/SOMERSET, Elaine S. Moeus

Field work continues, with manure spreading and the plowing of some fields. Planting in some areas should begin soon as field conditions continue to improve. Early morning rain showers in the beginning of the week were followed up with a couple of frosty mornings at the end of the week.

SOMERSET, Kathy Hopkins

Had scattered showers this week and still need more rain. Field work in progress this week.

WALDO, Rick Kersbergen

Field work continues without any weather delays. Very dry conditions. Apples about ready to come into bloom with blueberries right behind.

WASHINGTON, Audre Hayward

There was frost on May 14th.

WASHINGTON, Michael Look

Only 3 weeks behind. Finished pruning on May 16th. Missed whole first round of fungicide spraying. Bumble bees arriving Monday.

MASSACHUSETTS

PLYMOUTH, Carolyn DeMoranville

Warm days have pushed continued cranberry bud elongation. Some cool nights this week meant the need to irrigate for frost protection, but growers would have needed to irrigate even if there had not been frost due to persistent dry conditions.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

BELKNAP/MERRIMACK/HILLSBOROUGH, Donna Juneau

Temperatures have been around average for the time of year, but precipitation has been very low with only a trace of rainfall reported this week. Soil conditions are dry. Hay growth has been slow due to lack of rainfall. Producers were in the fields spreading manure or planting corn. Farm stands are doing brisk business in greenhouse and nursery products.

CHESHIRE, Carl Majewski

A few very brief showers over the week, but it's still very dry out there. Nonetheless, it's enabled farms to get field work done, and

there's been a lot of field prep and a lot of corn planting going on. Early planted fields are starting to emerge. Hayfields and pastures are all green, but grass growth is a little slow and farms are hesitating to put out animals to graze. Planting is going well on vegetable operations, but lack of moisture beginning to have an effect.

GRAFTON, Heather Bryant

We had two frosts over parts of the county, with variable severity. Most farms reported light frosts or even only one frost, but one farm in the northern part of the county reported 26 degrees, causing some damage to asparagus and crabapples.

GRAFTON, Steven Schmidt

The area received up to 1 inch of rain during the first 3 days this week. This warm rain took out what was left of the deep frost from last winter. As the week progressed, soils warmed nicely and field work surged ahead. Manure applications, harrowing, plowing and spring planting are in high gear. A few farms have already completed their corn planting. Pasture and hayland is recovering nicely in most locations. The rain that was received early in the week helped the grass along. Apple trees are in full bloom.

HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton

Fruits: Peaches were at full bloom at the beginning of the week to petal fall at the end of the week. Apples: McIntosh trees were at king bloom to full bloom during the week. Later blooming varieties were at pink to king bloom. Blueberry was at pink to blooming. Strawberries were at green bud stage. 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 were fertilizing hayfields, spreading manure, plowing, disking, fertilizing, planting corn, and applying herbicides.

ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad

Warm week allowed field work. Much needed rain. Harvesting greens from high tunnels and tomatoes and cukes from heated greenhouses. Also harvesting several types of lettuces, herbs, radishes, rhubarb and asparagus. Middle of week saw some near frost evenings. Planting in high tunnels and in the fields. Fertilizing, irrigating, and spreading lime and manure. Garden centers and farmers' markets busy over the weekend. Fruit trees in full bloom.

RHODE ISLAND

ALL RI COUNTIES, Paul E. Brule

It's been a hot week. Soils getting dry on top; we need some rain to get the seed to germinate. Potatoes are more than 90% planted and should be finished in a few more days. Strawberries: early strawberries are in full bloom this week and they figure they will be picking about the 10th of June. A lot of sweet corn is being planted, and this week just about everything should be going into the ground, including peppers, tomatoes, eggplant, etc. The top of the ground is dry and the first few inches is dry; we haven't had any measureable rain in the last two weeks. It has been windy, hot and dry.

ALL RI COUNTIES, Heather Faubert

We need rain!

VERMONT

ADDISON, Jeffrey Carter

Planting corn; no hay mowed yet. Many fields not harrowed yet. Some no-till corn planted on lighter soils. Manure spreading and fertilizer on hayland. Most new seeded hay fields complete. Winter rye harvest for forage. Pasture growth slow; many dandelions. Lilacs in full bloom.

FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley

Another fantastic week in Franklin County is moving spring's work and growth along very nicely. Corn is going in and progressing well, with some emerged. Soil conditions are very good, with some moisture and warming up. Grasses are growing fantastic, with some early varieties starting to head out. Gardens are being worked and planted well ahead of the traditional Memorial Day planting. Flowering fruits and trees are in full bloom and progressing nicely. What a spring so far!!!! Hopefully, we will escape that late May frost.

ORLEANS, David Blodgett

The high temperature this past week was 77 degrees; the low 31 degrees, with the average being 54 degrees. The area received 1.5 inches of rain over the past week. Field activities included chisel plowing and manure spreading. Grazing is just beginning on most farms. First cut hay has not begun nor has any seeding. Soil temperature is still a little cool for planting.