



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



New
England



Crop Progress & Condition

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Week ending May 24, 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 6.0 days suitable for field work last week.

The warm and dry weather continued in New England this past week, with some locations experiencing drought conditions. Average weekly temperatures ranged from five degrees below normal to four degrees above normal. Weekly precipitation ranged from 0.02 to 1.18 inches in the region. A few locations reported experiencing frosts from the cooler evening and early morning temperatures. First cuttings of hay began taking place throughout the region. Field corn continued to be planted, with early planted corn emerging. Potato planting also progressed in the region, with some locations close to being finished. Fruit growers were busy thinning some fruit trees. Some vegetable growers were already irrigating their crops due to the dry conditions. Farmers continued harvesting asparagus, rhubarb, spinach, and other greens. In Maine, bees were busy pollinating crops. Field work this week included plowing, disking, fertilizing, monitoring for pests, and applying herbicides and fungicides to crops.

Soil Moisture for Week Ending May 24, 2015

(in percent)

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
TOPSOIL	9	46	42	3
SUBSOIL	7	33	55	5

Crop Conditions as of May 24, 2015

(in percent)

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
DRY HAY	2	13	35	38	12
PASTURE AND RANGE	1	9	44	37	9

Crop Progress as of May 24, 2015

(in percent)

Item	This Week
APPLES: PINK	88
APPLES: FULL BLOOM	61
APPLES: PETAL FALL	31
BLUEBERRIES, TAME: PINK	93
BLUEBERRIES, TAME: FULL BLOOM	52
BLUEBERRIES, TAME: PETAL FALL	5
BLUEBERRIES, WILD (ME): GREEN TIP	98
BLUEBERRIES, WILD (ME): PINK	20
CORN: PLANTED	60
CORN: EMERGED	27
CRANBERRIES (MA): GREEN TIP	75
DRY HAY: 1st CUTTING	13
PEACHES: PINK	95
PEACHES: FULL BLOOM	67
PEACHES: PETAL FALL	40
PEARS: PINK	90
PEARS: FULL BLOOM	61
PEARS: PETAL FALL	32
POTATOES: PLANTED	74
SPRING TILLAGE: SINGLE	82
STRAWBERRIES: GREEN TIP	100
STRAWBERRIES: PINK	64
STRAWBERRIES: FULL BLOOM	31
STRAWBERRIES: PETAL FALL	8
SWEET CORN: PLANTED	45

May 25, 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	77	36	56	-2	0.99	3	5.61	-1.23	24	185	+55	557
	Bangor_Intl_Air	69	36	54	-3	0.55	3	3.42	-2.53	27	139	+28	477
	Bethel	77	35	55	-3	0.17	2	4.49	-2.31	17	141	+29	462
	Bridgton	78	34	55	-2	0.08	1	4.04	-2.84	15	156	+63	496
	Caribou_Municip	68	33	52	-2	0.48	5	3.59	-1.56	27	100	+29	378
	Dover-Foxcroft	70	33	54	0	0.35	4	3.63	-2.91	27	112	+56	403
	Durham	79	35	55	-2	0.11	2	3.89	-3.80	24	133	+42	480
	East_Surry	77	35	51	-5	0.33	3	4.26	-2.95	25	66	-19	362
	Eustis	73	29	52	+2	0.39	2	3.19	-2.53	21	89	+53	312
	Frenchville	65	33	50	-3	0.24	3	3.71	-1.53	25	67	+19	314
	Harmony	75	30	55	-1	0.42	3	4.47	-2.13	26	147	+58	462
	Houlton	69	30	52	-2	0.88	4	4.49	-0.80	24	104	+34	377
	Livermore_Falls	78	32	54	+1	0.41	2	4.47	-2.64	20	139	+76	452
	Machias	69	30	49	-5	0.30	2	4.22	-3.90	18	44	-1	274
	Millinocket_Wtr	69	35	51	-5	0.90	4	5.61	-0.81	23	75	-10	330
	Moosehead	72	29	53	+3	0.41	2	3.69	-2.61	23	115	+78	385
	Portland_ME	74	39	57	+3	0.18	2	5.93	-1.34	17	216	+127	616
	Rangeley_2NW	73	28	50	-3	0.82	3	4.95	-0.78	24	75	+30	274
	Sanford	78	36	56	-4	0.22	2	3.92	-3.66	11	186	+35	543
	Topsfield_2	72	33	51	-4	1.18	4	5.41	-1.23	24	101	+31	385
	Turner	79	34	55	-4	0.62	2	5.12	-1.93	22	177	+26	531
	Wesley_2W	75	32	52	-3	0.70	3	6.85	+0.34	19	105	+40	406
	West_Rockport	75	35	54	-2	0.41	3	5.25	-2.92	25	135	+66	462
New Hampshire	Berlin_AG	77	32	53	-3	0.54	3	3.69	-2.16	23	143	+51	439
	Bradford_2	82	35	56	-4	0.03	1	2.71	-4.55	13	166	-3	496
	Colebrook	76	21	49	-5	0.20	2	5.31	-0.21	27	89	+13	313
	Concord	86	36	59	+2	0.04	2	2.33	-3.35	14	295	+145	690
	East_Milford	85	36	58	-1	0.14	2	2.98	-3.76	12	268	+92	665
	Epping	79	36	57	-1	0.04	2	3.26	-3.77	16	226	+75	606
	Errol_AP	76	30	52	+1	0.69	4	4.65	-0.73	26	126	+80	373
	Fitzwilliam	83	36	57	+1	0.22	2	3.01	-3.60	16	242	+125	627
	Greenville	82	34	55	-2	0.12	2	2.63	-3.98	10	200	+83	563
	Hancock	83	34	55	-3	0.21	5	3.45	-3.57	22	200	+73	545
	Jefferson	76	32	55	-3	0.45	2	4.84	-0.63	26	165	+43	462
	Keene_AG	86	33	58	0	0.08	2	2.08	-4.23	15	232	+89	593
	Lakeport_2	83	38	58	+1	0.17	2	3.08	-3.05	11	223	+79	594
	Lebanon	84	31	58	+1	0.05	1	2.43	-3.11	15	270	+138	646
	North_Conway	80	34	56	-2	0.25	3	4.28	-2.88	19	165	+45	493
	Tamworth_4	81	32	54	-1	0.18	2	3.67	-4.06	17	137	+61	443
	Wolfeburro	79	40	58	0	0.12	2	3.30	-2.83	16	223	+79	597
Vermont	Bennington_AP	81	34	57	+2	0.20	1	2.31	-4.92	16	309	+196	705
	Burlington_Intl	85	39	60	+2	0.02	2	3.96	-1.47	19	328	+161	729
	Corinth	76	27	53	-4	0.85	2	4.08	-0.98	22	155	+30	423
	Island_Pond	75	29	52	-2	0.30	3	5.00	-0.60	27	144	+68	395
	Johnson_2N	78	32	53	-3	0.12	3	3.72	-2.26	24	169	+72	474
	Marlboro_Raws	82	32	57	+3	0.15	2	3.59	-1.67	14	246	+158	602
	Montpelier_AP	78	33	55	-2	0.22	1	4.07	-0.99	23	210	+85	520
	Newport_AG	79	32	54	-5	0.15	1	4.69	-1.02	21	176	+15	466

		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	79	32	55	0	0.47	2	5.47	-1.48	17	204	+93	537
	Rutland_AG	81	32	56	-4	0.16	1	3.58	-1.90	19	218	+35	552
	Springfield_VT	82	34	57	+1	0.06	2	2.84	-4.33	14	253	+135	625
	South_Lincoln	79	24	52	-3	0.19	1	4.02	-3.49	13	170	+91	440
	Sutton	75	31	52	-2	0.37	3	5.41	-0.19	30	147	+71	418
	Walden	74	26	49	-5	0.51	4	5.24	-0.36	27	128	+52	335
	Woodstock	82	30	56	-1	0.12	1	4.25	-2.24	18	214	+95	551
Massachusetts	Amherst	87	36	59	-1	0.14	2	2.42	-4.61	13	296	+115	704
	Barre_Falls_Dam	84	35	55	-2	0.40	2	2.39	-4.48	18	213	+110	577
	Bedford_Hanscom	81	35	58	-3	0.11	1	1.95	-4.96	11	297	+105	719
	Beverly_Ag	75	39	56	-4	0.39	1	2.29	-4.60	13	239	+50	670
	Birch_Hill_Dam	86	34	57	+1	0.08	2	1.94	-4.65	14	230	+127	598
	Boston_Logan_In	76	44	58	-3	0.27	2	2.58	-3.53	14	323	+107	761
	Chatham_AP	75	44	56	+2	0.96	2	2.52	-4.32	17	173	+85	561
	Chicopee_Westov	87	35	59	0	0.20	2	2.97	-4.06	13	346	+165	767
	Edgartown	81	45	58	+2	0.62	2	1.93	-5.07	16	208	+74	650
	East_Brimfield_	84	39	57	-2	0.22	2	3.77	-3.26	16	249	+105	649
	Fitchburg	87	39	60	+1	0.09	2	2.52	-4.87	14	388	+199	826
	Greenfield	85	35	57	-3	0.15	2	2.35	-4.68	17	269	+88	659
	Hyannis_AP	76	45	58	+2	0.82	2	2.08	-4.18	14	209	+95	627
	Maynard	88	38	60	+1	0.13	2	2.67	-4.24	15	329	+137	745
	New_Bedford	81	42	59	-2	0.65	2	2.61	-4.61	16	268	+77	708
	Newburyport	76	39	56	-3	0.09	1	3.38	-3.97	14	227	+53	615
	North_Adams_Har	82	34	57	+1	0.42	2	2.48	-5.62	16	299	+193	689
	Norwood	81	34	57	-3	0.28	2	1.84	-4.93	14	319	+107	748
	Pittsfield	80	33	55	-3	0.12	2	3.15	-4.58	17	274	+135	657
	Plymouth	77	39	58	-2	0.24	2	2.24	-5.27	16	260	+95	670
	Taunton_4NW	83	42	59	0	0.24	2	3.07	-3.82	19	306	+119	736
	Westfield_Barne	89	37	60	+4	0.41	2	3.64	-4.03	14	400	+263	837
	West_Otis	83	38	58	+2	0.34	2	3.36	-4.93	17	278	+158	684
	Worcester	83	37	57	-2	0.10	2	3.11	-4.18	18	317	+164	742
	Worthington	82	29	55	-3	0.22	3	2.77	-4.99	20	210	+93	561
Rhode Island	Newport_AP	80	45	58	+1	0.33	2	1.94	-5.10	16	224	+78	644
	Providence	85	45	60	0	0.29	2	3.02	-4.01	18	349	+124	801
	Westerly-Wester	78	44	58	-2	0.62	2	2.07	-5.11	15	218	+42	632
	Woonsocket	85	41	60	+1	0.43	2	4.19	-3.01	15	322	+132	754
Connecticut	Bridgeport_Siko	79	47	60	-2	0.04	1	2.66	-4.45	16	350	+114	808
	Danbury_AP	83	39	58	-3	0.09	2	2.19	-5.72	13	333	+100	767
	Hartford_Bradle	88	43	62	+1	0.58	2	4.01	-3.26	16	452	+183	898
	Meriden-Meriden	86	40	60	+2	0.20	1	2.06	-6.22	12	359	+167	793
	Norfolk	79	36	56	-2	0.88	2	4.56	-3.73	18	240	+120	599
	Norwich	87	45	60	-1	0.18	2	1.73	-6.07	16	334	+92	775
	Staffordville	83	36	56	-3	0.20	1	3.47	-4.11	14	209	+44	580
	Thomaston_Dam	86	37	60	+2	1.10	2	4.51	-3.28	19	309	+143	723
	West_Thompson_L	84	38	58	-1	0.19	2	3.63	-3.83	19	260	+99	666
	Willimantic	87	40	60	+3	0.28	2	3.80	-3.78	16	365	+200	800

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

ALL CT COUNTIES, Jude Boucher
First cutting mostly in.

LITCHFIELD, Richard Meinert
Grass and legumes are quickly passing peak. Grasses are in full bloom with legumes close behind. Haylage is being harvested and some farms are putting in dry hay. Corn is still being planted on farms where manure is still being spread.

WINDHAM, Dawn S. Pindell
Chopping first cutting hay, topdressing fields, planting corn. Finishing pruning in vineyards. Irrigating vegetable crops due to dry weather. Many fields are powder dry just below the surface.

MAINE

AROOSTOOK, Larry James
High winds most of the week made planting miserable. A few operations have finished; most are within a day or two. Grain has started to emerge. Pastures and hay fields are starting to look green again.

CUMBERLAND/YORK, Sandy Truslow
Lack of rain continues in Cumberland and York County; we are now classified as being in a moderate drought. First cut hay will be low and pastures are taking a hit. Good weather for apple pollination though.

FRANKLIN, Gary J. Raymond
The growing season is slightly ahead of normal. Grazing and hay conditions improved a lot with a little rain. We could use a little more. Cultivation, land preparation and planting are in high gear. It looks like a good year for apple blossom pollination. The bees seem to be very busy.

HANCOCK/PENOBSCOT, Valerie Porter
A good week for planting and finishing up field preparations. Hay fields and crop fields in much need of some rain. Heavy winds are destroying apple blossoms in areas. Bees are out in full swing to help pollinate. Blueberries and strawberries look pretty good right now; let's hope this keeps up. Potato crop is almost complete in Penobscot County.

PISCATAQUIS, Donna Coffin
Spotty rain helped clear the air of some pollen. Planting is continuing.

PISCATAQUIS/SOMERSET, Elaine S. Moceus
Corn planting has begun as field preparation work continues. Field conditions are dry in some areas, with less than half the average amount of rainfall received for May. Dry weather during the reporting week was great for field work, but we could use some rain.

SOMERSET, Kathy Hopkins
Scattered showers barely settled the dust. We still need more rain.

WALDO, Rick Kersbergen
Dry weather continues. Cold night on Friday night, but no frost damage seen. First cutting should start as dry weather should allow a quick but small harvest. Strawberries and blueberries are flowering.

WASHINGTON, Audre Hayward
There was frost that may have caused damage to blueberries.

MASSACHUSETTS

HAMPSHIRE/HAMPDEN, Heather Baylis
Dry conditions with temperatures all over the chart is making for an interesting spring. Frost freeze warning for the weekend. Farmers are able to get into fields that are normally too wet, but smaller operations without irrigation are suffering. Hoping that rain predictions for next week hold true.

PLYMOUTH, Carolyn DeMoranville
Half an inch of rain this week did not do much to relieve drought conditions. Cranberry beds have received irrigation for frost protection, but water supplies are showing the impact of the dry conditions.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

BELKNAP/MERRIMACK/HILLSBOROUGH, Donna Juneau
Temperatures around average for this time of year, but precipitation is still low, with only about 2/10 and an inch of rainfall reported this week. Soil conditions are still dry. Hay growth has been slow due to lack of rainfall. Producers are in the fields planting corn.

BELKNAP/STAFFORD, Kelly McAdam
Poor bloom on peaches in Strafford County. First cutting has been started in Strafford County. We are now in a drought.

CHESHIRE, Carl Majewski
Very dry conditions continue – only one brief period of light rain all week. Farms have begun first cutting, and they've noticed yields appear to be about half of normal. Corn planting is just about done, and earlier planted fields are emerging. Fruit and vegetable crops are progressing, although some vegetable growers are already irrigating.

COOS, Steve Turaj
Corn planting behind schedule, but now proceeding with most fields now worked up and ready. A couple of frosts this past week; soils still cool at night. Seems like we have had more moisture than many parts of the state. Probably the nicest bloom of apples we have seen for a number of years; lilacs also looking great.

GRAFTON, Heather Bryant

There were two light frosts in parts of the county, but no reports of damage so far. It's still very dry, but the good weather has allowed farms to start to catch up with tillage and even hay a few early fields.

GRAFTON, Steven Schmidt

Severe thunderstorms arrived on the evening of Monday, May 18th. These storms were localized and delivered heavy, intense rain for up to 45 minutes. Towns affected were from Bradford, VT on east to Piermont and Pike. Soils in the affected area were saturated. Other areas of the county have received very little rain. Soils remain dry and some gentle rain would be welcomed. Farms are taking advantage of the ground conditions. More than half of the corn is now planted. Vegetable growers are also preparing the soil and planting. Some producers located in areas that were not inundated by heavy storms have expressed concern that the dry topsoil conditions may inhibit proper germination for new forage grass seedings.

HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton

Fruits: Assessing winter injury to fruit crops. Apples are at petal fall and growers are determining what they should use to thin apples and apply it. Blueberries are at full bloom. Strawberries are between starting to bloom to full bloom. Orchardists are applying protective fungicide sprays on fruit trees and blueberries. Growers are starting to hand-thin peaches. Field Crops: Farmers are plowing, disking, fertilizing, planting corn, and applying herbicides. Many fields are too dry for herbicides to work. Early planted corn has emerged and new seedings are up and growing. Many farmers are making hay or haylage. With the delay of spring warmth and new dry weather, first cutting is lacking in yield, but quality is good. Vegetables: Many growers are irrigating crops because of dry soil conditions. Some farmers are irrigating fields prior to planting and right after planting. Continued planting vegetables, along with successive planting of sweet corn. Laying plastic mulch and drip irrigation tape. Harvesting spinach, asparagus, rhubarb and all kinds of greens.

ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad

Some cloudy days and some sunny ones. Very little rain. The soil is dry. Field work continues: plowing, disking, fertilizing, planting in the fields and in high tunnels vegetables, also planting fruits, weeding, monitoring for pests and applying protective fungicides. Irrigating and moving irrigation pipes from field to field. Trapping and handpicking insects. Harvesting asparagus, greens, and radishes. Pasture still green, but growing slowly with the lack of rain.

RHODE ISLAND

ALL RI COUNTIES, Paul E. Brule

Topsoil is getting very, very dry; at least 6 inches deep. Farmers are already irrigating strawberries. If no rain this week, farmers will begin to irrigate other crops. Just about all the potatoes are planted. Strawberries should be harvested between June 10th and the 15th. Sweet corn continues to be planted weekly, however, crop is very slow to come up due to the current dry conditions. In Rhode Island, all vegetables are currently being planted. Some of the vegetable plants need to be watered due to the dry weather. This is the first year that I can remember where we needed to begin irrigation in May. Farmers are mowing rye and bailing it. No grass is being cut for hay production at this time. The first cutting will be short if Rhode Island does not get any rain.

ALL RI COUNTIES, Heather Faubert

Not enough rain fell this week.

VERMONT

ADDISON, Jeffrey Carter

Planting corn, new seeded hay mostly complete and emerged. Hay crop started chopping haylage. Spraying corn for weed control and terminate cover crops.

FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley

Field work has progressed very well in Franklin County this week. Corn planting is pretty much done and now starting on first cut hay. Hay crop is a little thin, however, good quality. Corn is popping up everywhere and manure spreading is done for spring. Corn planting is now waiting for the first cut to come off. A Saturday morning frost has slowed growth and the jury is still out on flowering fruit damage. Corn was not far enough along for damage except for some leaf burn.

ORLEANS, David Blodgett

There was a lot of farm activity this past week. All of the farmers with cropland were spreading manure, tilling and planting. In some cases no-till seeding. A few farmers have begun cutting their first crop of hay. The yield is low, but the quality is high. The week was warm and dry. So far we are about 3" shy of normal rainfall. The temperatures have been seasonal. There were a few cold nights with a light frost on Wednesday and Thursday.