



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



New  
England



# Crop Progress & Condition

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[www.nass.usda.gov/nh](http://www.nass.usda.gov/nh)

Week ending August 9, 2015

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

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Released August 10, 2015

**Excellent week for field work:** New England averaged 6.0 days suitable for field work last week.

New England continued to experience scattered rain and thunderstorms last week, with several areas receiving hail that caused variable damage depending on location. Average weekly temperatures in the region ranged from six degrees below normal to five degrees above normal. Weekly precipitation ranged from 0.00 to 2.21 inches in the region. The wet conditions slowed cuttings of hay again this week. Most field corn in the region was tasseling, with some reported damage in a few locations due to the thunderstorms and hail. Potato crops as well as apples and peaches continued to look good. Growers remained busy harvesting an array of vegetables, including beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, greens, potatoes, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, pepper, zucchini, and other vegetables. There were several reports of pests affecting crops throughout the region, including downy mildew and Phytophthora on cucurbit crops, powdery mildew on tomatoes, mite damage to some vine crops, eggplants, and tomatoes, and reports of potato virus Y, fall armyworm, and corn earworm. Farmers kept busy irrigating, fertilizing, cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures and spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed.

## Soil Moisture for Week Ending August 9, 2015

(in percent)

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
TOPSOIL	2	13	69	16
SUBSOIL	4	10	66	20

## Crop Conditions as of August 9, 2015

(in percent)

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
APPLES	0	0	9	70	21
BARLEY (ME)	0	0	0	25	75
BLUEBERRIES, TAME	0	3	9	72	16
BLUEBERRIES, WILD (ME)	5	7	15	39	34
CORN	0	4	53	37	6
CRANBERRIES (MA)	0	5	10	73	12
DRY HAY	0	2	43	43	12
OATS (ME)	0	0	0	25	75
PASTURE AND RANGE	1	4	33	48	14
PEACHES	1	2	7	78	12
PEARS	0	0	16	83	1
POTATOES	0	0	3	25	72
QUALITY OF DRY HAY MADE	0	2	33	50	15
SWEET CORN	0	3	20	62	15
TOBACCO, CIGAR BINDER (MA)	0	0	19	81	0

## Crop Progress as of August 9, 2015

(in percent)

Item	This Week
BLUEBERRIES, TAME: HARVESTED	55
BLUEBERRIES, WILD (ME): HARVESTED	30
DRY HAY: 2nd CUTTING	77
DRY HAY: 3rd CUTTING	11
PEACHES: HARVESTED	28
SWEET CORN: HARVESTED	43
TOBACCO, CIGAR BINDER (MA)	5

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

**August 9, 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	83	55	69	-2	0.64	3	16.04	+0.42	55	1420	-13	2553
	Bangor_Intl_Air	84	52	69	-1	0.44	4	11.81	-2.42	62	1295	-59	2395
	Bethel	87	49	66	-3	0.24	2	14.80	-2.43	53	1248	-52	2331
	Bridgton	86	52	66	-1	0.15	2	17.51	+0.50	49	1245	+49	2346
	Caribou_Municip	86	51	66	+1	1.34	3	14.11	-0.24	65	1097	+33	2138
	Dover-Foxcroft	86	50	66	0	0.47	4	17.29	+1.32	68	1182	+130	2234
	Durham	81	52	66	-4	0.12	3	13.41	-2.95	60	1276	-24	2387
	East_Surry	81	51	66	-3	0.00	0	13.32	-2.67	55	1046	-186	2099
	Eustis	85	46	62	-1	0.70	4	16.62	+1.34	56	917	+93	1880
	Frenchville	82	52	65	0	0.80	3	13.37	-1.30	62	899	-79	1901
	Harmony	85	48	65	-3	0.97	3	16.29	+0.59	66	1263	+42	2341
	Houlton	86	47	66	+1	0.40	3	12.70	-1.54	58	1097	+14	2124
	Livermore_Falls	85	47	66	-1	0.07	1	16.51	-0.79	55	1227	+160	2301
	Machias	81	52	67	+2	0.48	5	15.19	-2.18	59	1048	+94	2038
	Millinocket_Wtr	84	52	67	-2	0.79	3	17.15	+0.99	59	1059	-168	2067
	Moosehead	84	47	64	0	2.21	4	17.82	+1.21	65	1068	+149	2092
	Portland_ME	82	53	69	0	0.20	2	15.15	-0.43	48	1508	+231	2675
	Rangeley_2NW	82	44	61	-3	0.52	4	18.31	+2.65	66	857	-59	1787
	Sanford	89	51	68	-3	0.00	0	13.93	-3.01	34	1484	-6	2605
	Topsfield_2	84	54	67	0	0.42	3	16.67	+0.31	60	1145	-7	2184
	Turner	85	54	68	-5	0.03	1	16.77	+0.51	52	1372	-178	2488
	Wesley_2W	85	48	67	-2	0.65	2	17.04	+2.12	46	1274	+122	2336
	West_Rockport	83	52	67	-2	0.53	3	14.44	-2.44	61	1254	+82	2338
New Hampshire	Berlin_AG	86	46	63	-4	1.06	3	17.32	+1.83	59	1148	-14	2206
	Bradford_2	86	45	64	-4	0.27	2	12.57	-4.38	44	1298	-113	2388
	Colebrook	84	48	62	-3	0.18	2	23.75	+7.74	72	963	-106	1937
	Concord	92	49	70	0	0.42	2	10.69	-3.17	48	1742	+278	2905
	East_Milford	89	51	69	-2	0.05	1	13.92	-2.35	42	1652	+93	2815
	Epping	90	49	69	-2	0.16	2	12.36	-3.53	48	1589	+119	2734
	Errol_AP	85	41	62	-4	0.45	3	18.70	+3.79	67	1054	+100	2038
	Fitzwilliam	88	52	69	+3	0.40	2	15.20	-1.26	57	1600	+350	2751
	Greenville	85	50	67	-1	0.11	2	16.57	+0.11	38	1430	+180	2553
	Hancock	86	48	67	-2	0.02	2	18.81	+2.21	59	1427	+68	2533
	Jefferson	85	46	64	-3	0.59	4	22.18	+6.24	68	1207	-12	2267
	Keene_AG	90	48	67	-3	0.12	2	12.38	-3.36	50	1528	+110	2656
	Lakeport_2	87	52	68	-4	0.50	2	13.97	-1.86	44	1521	+16	2656
	Lebanon	90	48	68	-2	0.47	2	11.93	-1.68	49	1646	+268	2790
	North_Conway	87	50	66	-3	0.13	3	15.27	-2.09	56	1273	-98	2361
	Tamworth_4	85	46	64	-2	0.74	3	16.97	-2.07	55	1159	+49	2226
	Wolfeburro	85	54	69	-2	0.07	1	13.79	-2.04	49	1521	+16	2661
Vermont	Bennington_AP	88	48	67	+2	0.39	1	8.46	10.46	45	1631	+464	2797
	Burlington_Intl	87	53	71	+1	0.05	2	18.96	+4.19	61	1817	+285	2988
	Corinth	83	45	63	-4	0.28	2	20.00	+6.26	59	1120	-132	2147
	Island_Pond	82	44	63	-3	1.18	4	21.30	+4.77	73	1105	+57	2113
	Johnson_2N	80	46	63	-4	0.32	3	20.00	+3.84	65	1124	-48	2184
	Marlboro_Raws	84	51	67	+2	0.01	1	14.89	-0.39	50	1460	+329	2576
	Montpelier_AP	84	47	64	-3	0.18	2	20.74	+7.00	69	1317	+65	2387
	Newport_AG	85	48	64	-6	0.61	4	22.93	+6.95	66	1228	-195	2282

		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	86	46	65	-3	0.50	3	19.80	+1.99	57	1366	+177	2465
	Rutland_AG	85	50	66	-4	0.01	1	15.75	-0.26	61	1401	-65	2500
	Springfield_VT	93	48	68	0	0.92	3	11.32	-6.08	49	1579	+270	2717
	South_Lincoln	80	46	62	-3	0.84	2	21.25	+2.46	53	1117	+94	2142
	Sutton	84	48	63	-3	0.44	3	21.73	+5.20	77	1119	+71	2146
	Walden	80	44	60	-6	0.35	3	22.29	+5.76	73	881	-167	1835
	Woodstock	88	48	67	-2	0.12	1	17.05	+1.51	49	1452	+131	2554
Massachusetts	Amherst	88	53	70	-1	0.47	2	15.53	-1.34	43	1723	+137	2899
	Barre_Falls_Dam	86	49	66	-2	0.68	2	13.98	-3.03	50	1432	+189	2558
	Bedford_Hanscom	90	50	71	-1	0.78	2	11.04	-5.19	38	1787	+172	2976
	Beverly_Ag	86	55	70	-4	0.80	1	10.90	-3.68	39	1582	-98	2778
	Birch_Hill_Dam	87	50	68	0	0.18	1	13.19	-3.53	45	1548	+287	2679
	Boston_Logan_In	90	61	74	0	0.49	2	10.99	-3.08	38	1916	+120	3122
	Chatham_AP	86	63	73	+5	0.17	1	7.84	-7.55	38	1525	+293	2683
	Chicopee_Westov	90	51	70	-1	0.33	1	15.47	-1.40	44	1864	+278	3050
	Edgartown	88	60	73	+3	0.29	2	7.19	-8.32	40	1691	+232	2903
	East_Brimfield_	85	53	69	-1	0.47	2	13.85	-2.52	47	1624	+182	2787
	Fitchburg	90	54	71	0	0.83	2	12.63	-4.58	43	1963	+318	3166
	Greenfield	88	54	71	-1	0.12	2	18.34	+1.47	57	1623	+37	2781
	Hyannis_AP	87	60	74	+4	0.40	2	7.92	-6.04	36	1639	+212	2826
	Maynard	92	52	71	-2	1.10	2	12.76	-3.47	49	1839	+224	3023
	New_Bedford	87	55	72	-4	0.50	2	9.89	-6.91	40	1753	-20	2962
	Newburyport	88	55	71	-2	0.46	2	14.79	-1.44	41	1629	+8	2782
	North_Adams_Har	87	50	67	+1	0.36	2	13.64	-5.69	52	1641	+429	2801
	Norwood	90	49	70	-3	0.27	2	8.40	-7.34	35	1767	+81	2962
	Pittsfield	85	50	67	-2	0.32	2	18.18	-0.34	56	1537	+173	2687
	Plymouth	90	58	73	+1	0.63	1	9.90	-6.49	40	1730	+106	2905
	Taunton_4NW	90	57	73	+2	0.42	1	12.78	-3.24	43	1890	+251	3086
	Westfield_Barne	90	54	72	+4	0.09	1	15.96	-1.43	43	1970	+596	3177
	West_Otis	87	53	70	+2	0.35	2	15.44	-4.73	58	1697	+400	2872
	Worcester	84	58	70	+1	0.32	2	13.13	-4.52	47	1802	+337	2989
	Worthington	85	51	66	-2	0.97	2	18.72	-0.07	59	1402	+139	2514
Rhode Island	Newport_AP	82	61	72	0	0.70	1	10.85	-4.10	39	1651	+155	2839
	Providence	90	59	74	0	1.08	1	14.97	-0.46	41	2002	+228	3223
	Westerly-Wester	84	59	72	-1	0.31	1	10.23	-5.96	38	1680	+80	2864
	Woonsocket	89	56	72	-1	0.34	2	13.05	-3.60	37	1881	+217	3082
Connecticut	Bridgeport_Siko	89	62	75	+2	0.00	0	10.71	-5.76	42	2110	+283	3338
	Danbury_AP	86	53	70	-2	0.51	1	15.91	-3.18	40	1866	+125	3070
	Hartford_Bradle	90	57	73	0	0.01	1	14.04	-2.82	46	2130	+266	3346
	Meriden-Meriden	91	54	74	+2	0.07	1	7.92	11.39	33	2021	+349	3225
	Norfolk	85	53	67	-1	0.04	2	17.03	-3.14	52	1496	+199	2617
	Norwich	89	59	73	0	0.18	1	11.13	-6.26	35	1943	+165	3154
	Staffordville	85	55	69	-2	0.03	1	15.66	-2.30	38	1515	+29	2649
	Thomaston_Dam	88	54	70	0	0.05	1	14.03	-4.42	51	1831	+319	3015
	West_Thompson_L	87	53	70	-2	0.09	2	13.64	-4.60	41	1644	+147	2817
	Willimantic	90	55	73	+3	0.21	2	12.17	-5.79	40	1973	+487	3178

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

Things are getting very dry. Corn is starting to curl. Irrigation is going full time. Downy mildew is hitting cucurbit crops that are unprotected. Corn earworms arrived last week and fall armyworm almost disappeared.

WINDHAM, Dawn S. Pindell

Dry conditions continue. Blueberries and pick-your-own (PYO) action is good; trying to limit birds in blueberries and sweet corn. Picking early apples; peach crop looks good. Green pruning and hedging grapes, picking leaves to open up bunches to the sun, removing the 3<sup>rd</sup> bunch of grapes, flowers and messy berries to encourage growth of the primary grapes. Focusing on also removing damaged vines and controlling weeds in the vineyard. With color starting to show, netting Dornfelder variety and putting up eyeballs, tapes and squawkers to discourage birds in the grapes.

### MAINE

AROOSTOOK (Northern), Donald M. Audibert

Lots of thunderstorms again this week. Some of the grain is laid down due to the strong winds passing through with the thunderstorms. Some areas got hit with some hail. Crops are looking good. Hard for making dry hay all week again. Some grain fields are turning color. Hay producers are hoping for some dry weather next week.

AROOSTOOK (Central), Larry James

Getting rain on 15 of the 31 days in July made getting hay near impossible. There is still a lot of first cut hay standing. Potatoes and grain look to be a bumper crop if the weather cooperates long enough to harvest.

AROOSTOOK (Southern), Doreen Conlogue

Spotty showers almost every day last week along with some very large hail in the Hammond/Littleton area Tuesday afternoon. Grain is ripening and potatoes are looking great!

CUMBERLAND/YORK, Sandy Truslow

Early apples are ready for U-pick. Some areas received hail last Tuesday night. Farmers are busy picking, irrigating, making hay and scouting for insects. Good summer weather most of the week.

FRANKLIN, Gary J. Raymond

You can almost see the corn and sunflowers growing. There has been a little too much rain in this area. Currently it has been difficult to find a window to bring in much hay because of pop up showers and thundershowers. There was some marble-sized hail last week, but most producers dodged the bullet!

PISCATAQUIS/SOMERSET, Elaine S. Moceus

Hail in some areas during the reporting week - slight damage to a greenhouse and some crops were damaged, but no definitive

reports of the extent of damage. Producers are reporting that rain is needed - conditions are dry at this time.

SOMERSET, Kathy Hopkins

Need more rain than the scattered showers we have received. A thunderstorm midweek dropped hail in a couple of towns, but luckily the damage was not too severe.

WASHINGTON, Michael Look

Almost too late for rain.

### MASSACHUSETTS

ALL MA COUNTIES, Thomas Smiarowski

Reports of thunderstorms with hail on Tuesday caused scattered damage to apple and corn crops in various locations across Massachusetts. Harvest of Broadleaf Tobacco has begun. Most crops continue to look very good, though most could use some rain – especially pumpkins and winter squash.

HAMPSHIRE/HAMPDEN, Heather Baylis

Some brief summer storms and isolated areas received heavy winds and hail, other than that a beautiful summer week. Potatoes are being harvested and producers' reports are positive. Peaches are looking and tasting good! A few early varieties of apples are coming in. Onions will be harvested shortly. Farmers are completing second cutting and working on third cutting of hay. Pastures are maintaining good condition for August. Some farmers are starting on putting down the first cover crops. Diseases include Phytophthora on the cucurbits, potato virus Y, powdery mildew in tomatoes, and mite damage is evident in vine crops, eggplant and tomatoes.

PLYMOUTH, Carolyn DeMoranville

It started out as another hot week, but some needed rain midweek brought cooler conditions. The cranberry crop continues to look good.

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

BELKNAP/MERRIMACK/HILLSBOROUGH, Donna Juneau

A good week for crop growth with temperatures in the 70s and 80s, with some rain on Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Farm stands have been busy with crop sales, including sweet corn, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, and squash. Some producers are reporting that if the good growing conditions continue, they anticipate a bumper crop of field corn which will help them supplement the reported poor hay crop and keep livestock fed this winter.

COOS, Steve Turaj

A rather wild week of weather with strong winds –microbursts types– and driving rains, hail part of the mix. Some blown-down corn and hail damage in scattered locations, but uncertain whether of any significant consequence at this point. Field and sweet corn now mostly tasselling; seems shorter and later than usual, however,

it's looking better than it had been. Soybeans now in flower with very lowest set forming pods. Any manured grasses responding well to moisture, cooling trend.

**GRAFTON, Heather Bryant**

Other than strong storms on Monday afternoon, which included hail in some locations, the weather was pretty good this past week. Farm stands have a good variety of products now, and many locations started sweet corn harvest.

**GRAFTON, Steve Schmidt**

With the exception of a light rain shower on Monday, weather conditions remained relatively rain-free. Soil conditions continued to improve on the less well-drained fields. Some wet spots in fields still persisted. Hay producers took advantage of the drier conditions and put up dry hay when and where it was possible. The corn crop is showing some improvement with additional heat (growing degree days). Most corn fields are now tasseling out.

**HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton**

Weather: Thunderstorms have been very spotted and some hail. With warm weather, soil is dry out keeping farmers busy irrigating. Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches, plums, blueberries, and raspberries. Also, started harvesting Jersey Mac and Gravenstein apples. Orchardists busy irrigating apples, blueberries, peaches, raspberry and strawberry beds. Monitoring for pests – spraying if needed, mowing orchard floors and starting to move bins into orchards. Field Crops: Hay cutting continued during the week with the second cut being made. Vegetables: Harvesting an array of vegetables, including: beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, greens, melons, potatoes, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, pepper, zucchini, and other vegetables. Farmers kept busy irrigating, fertilizing, cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures and spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed. Fall armyworm and corn earworm moth numbers are increasing.

**ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad**

Harvesting blueberries, red and black raspberries, peaches, nectarines, apricots, pears, a whole array of vegetables including sweet corn, herbs and cut flowers. Fall raspberries almost ripe. Tuesday afternoon hail reported in Portsmouth area and its vicinity. Dark clouds seen on Monday and Tuesday afternoons with lightning, winds and no rain. Localized less than a quarter-inch of rain at the end of the week. Overall, rainfall average has been low and in order to protect water for both fish and humans, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) requested that residents, homeowners, businesses and other water users in the Lamprey River Watershed voluntarily conserve water until higher flows return. PYO operations, farm stands and farmers' markets have been busy and continue seeing a local big produce demand as well as demand for meats. Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares are seeing a nice selection of produce. Cultivating, hand weeding, irrigating and monitoring pests. Second hay cutting is okay as well as pasture.

## **RHODE ISLAND**

**ALL RI COUNTIES, Paul E. Brule**

Last Tuesday morning about 6:00 am, parts of Rhode Island got hit by a bad thunderstorm. There were many problems in Kent County, with minor problems in Providence and Newport County. Here in Kent County, the USDA offices were without power from 6:30 Tuesday morning until 6:30 Wednesday morning. We had no working telephones until this morning (all week). We know we have had a few problems on farms where a few crops were wiped right out. A peach farm was wiped out by hail in Providence County. There are some areas in Rhode Island that are still dry. Sweet corn is doing well and farmers are selling all they can pick. Vegetables are going well, including beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, etc. Farmers last week started planting kale and cabbage for a fall crop. Pastures look good for August and not much second cut of hay made last week because of the Tuesday storm.

**ALL RI COUNTIES, Heather Faubert**

Violent thunderstorms knocked out electricity to ¼ of RI on August 4, 2015. I didn't hear of damage to any RI farms.

## **VERMONT**

**CALEDONIA, Daniel Hudson**

Most of the corn has tasseled for a few days or more.

**FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley**

Late week stable sunshine allowed for some great hay drying weather this week in Franklin County. Corn is approaching full reproductive stage. Pastures continue to excel with some sunshine to grow with. Sweet corn is in full swing, showing up at garden stands everywhere. Apples are beginning to show their red flare and early maturing varieties will soon be ready for picking.

**ORLEANS, David Blodgett**

This past week marked the longest stretch of dry weather this summer. From Thursday to Sunday night we did not have a shower. There wasn't a whole lot of sun, but at least it was dry. This has been a very dismal summer for dry hay and very little has been put up. Some of the corn is starting to tassel now. The stalks are a bit stunted so yield may be affected. The ground is still pretty saturated with all of the shower activity.