



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



New  
England



# Crop Progress & Condition

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Week ending August 23, 2015

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

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Released August 24, 2015

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

New England experienced primarily hot, muggy weather with some drier areas in between. Sporadic showers were reported off and on along the coast, providing some relief in those areas. Average weekly temperatures in the region ranged from five to thirteen degrees above normal. Weekly precipitation ranged from 0.00 to 2.81 inches in the region. Farmers were wrapping up their second cutting of hay and making progress on third cuttings. Hay quality continued to vary by location. Grain harvest was in full swing and late planted sweet corn was looking better than what was planted earlier. Early potato varieties were dying back and some top kill was being applied to seed plots. In Massachusetts, early cranberry varieties were starting to color on exposed surfaces. The harvesting of table grapes, pears, early apple varieties, blueberries, fall raspberries, peaches, nectarines, peppers, eggplants, herbs, and a variety of vegetables continued. Orchardists remained busy pruning and mowing orchard floors. The monitoring of pests continued last week. In particular, the Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) fruit fly was seen to be increasing, along with corn earworm, fall armyworm, and cabbage root maggots on various crops. Powdery mildew has been found on pumpkins and squash in some areas and late blight has been found among tomatoes and potatoes.

## Soil Moisture for Week Ending August 23, 2015

(in percent)

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
TOPSOIL	5	14	69	12
SUBSOIL	6	11	65	18

## Crop Conditions as of August 23, 2015

(in percent)

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
APPLES	0	0	8	66	26
BARLEY (ME)	0	0	0	25	75
BLUEBERRIES, WILD (ME)	8	6	18	30	38
CORN	0	3	47	45	5
CRANBERRIES (MA)	0	5	10	70	15
DRY HAY	1	2	31	50	16
OATS (ME)	0	0	0	25	75
PASTURE AND RANGE	1	6	30	50	13
PEACHES	1	2	7	78	12
PEARS	0	0	16	83	1
POTATOES	0	0	0	28	72
QUALITY OF DRY HAY MADE	1	2	26	54	17
SWEET CORN	0	3	15	68	14
TOBACCO, CIGAR BINDER (MA)	0	0	30	70	0

## Crop Progress as of August 23, 2015

(in percent)

Item	This Week
APPLES: HARVESTED	10
BARLEY (ME): HARVESTED	15
BLUEBERRIES, TAME: HARVESTED	76
BLUEBERRIES, WILD (ME): HARVESTED	56
DRY HAY: 2nd CUTTING	87
DRY HAY: 3rd CUTTING	25
OATS (ME): HARVESTED	5
PEACHES: HARVESTED	49
POTATOES: HARVESTED	14
SWEET CORN: HARVESTED	58
TOBACCO, CIGAR BINDER: HARVESTED (MA)	20

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 23, 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	89	63	74	+6	1.56	2	18.88	+1.82	59	1724	+27	2997
	Bangor_Intl_Air	90	62	74	+8	0.66	1	13.76	-1.80	65	1595	-9	2835
	Bethel	90	55	73	+7	1.15	3	17.76	-1.43	59	1523	-13	2746
	Bridgton	86	58	72	+8	1.86	2	21.02	+2.19	53	1512	+102	2753
	Caribou_Municip	88	55	75	+13	1.26	2	15.66	-0.59	68	1391	+136	2572
	Dover-Foxcroft	90	57	73	+10	1.25	2	19.50	+1.94	72	1460	+205	2652
	Durham	86	61	72	+5	0.92	2	15.78	-1.98	64	1549	-5	2800
	East_Surry	87	60	71	+5	0.16	4	14.99	-2.28	61	1317	-156	2510
	Eustis	86	48	69	+9	0.12	1	17.40	+0.57	60	1131	+153	2234
	Frenchville	86	52	73	+11	1.08	1	14.75	-1.83	64	1161	+4	2303
	Harmony	89	59	73	+9	2.38	1	20.18	+2.82	69	1534	+91	2752
	Houlton	90	53	74	+12	0.70	1	14.65	-1.27	61	1380	+100	2547
	Livermore_Falls	89	58	72	+9	0.47	2	18.55	-0.57	59	1491	+222	2705
	Machias	87	61	73	+10	0.55	3	17.00	-1.73	65	1328	+171	2458
	Millinocket_Wtr	89	55	73	+8	1.90	2	19.82	+1.84	63	1321	-131	2469
	Moosehead	85	56	71	+10	0.72	2	19.44	+1.15	68	1329	+235	2493
	Portland_ME	89	64	74	+8	0.60	2	17.04	+0.11	52	1812	+290	3119
	Rangeley_2NW	86	48	68	+7	0.11	3	19.23	+1.75	72	1068	-19	2138
	Sanford	90	60	74	+7	0.66	3	16.13	-2.40	38	1767	+14	3018
	Topsfield_2	87	62	73	+9	0.12	2	19.00	+1.04	65	1429	+54	2608
	Turner	89	59	74	+5	0.53	2	19.28	+1.66	57	1664	-165	2920
	Wesley_2W	89	57	72	+8	0.66	3	19.05	+2.77	52	1549	+171	2751
	West_Rockport	88	61	73	+8	0.59	2	16.24	-1.91	66	1538	+130	2762
New Hampshire	Berlin_AG	85	52	70	+7	0.61	2	18.79	+1.48	64	1397	+30	2595
	Bradford_2	88	54	71	+5	0.18	1	14.28	-4.35	48	1559	-87	2789
	Colebrook	87	54	70	+7	0.32	2	24.98	+6.90	79	1202	-55	2316
	Concord	94	61	76	+9	2.81	3	14.29	-0.99	53	2074	+353	3377
	East_Milford	92	56	76	+8	0.03	1	14.58	-3.41	44	1970	+144	3273
	Epping	92	62	76	+9	1.44	3	14.33	-3.10	52	1914	+186	3199
	Errol_AP	87	47	69	+7	1.05	2	21.13	+4.40	72	1291	+156	2415
	Fitzwilliam	90	59	74	+11	0.60	3	17.15	-1.17	63	1911	+446	3202
	Greenville	87	59	73	+9	0.15	1	17.83	-0.49	41	1727	+262	2990
	Hancock	89	50	72	+7	0.44	3	20.98	+2.59	65	1707	+112	2953
	Jefferson	87	55	71	+8	0.54	4	24.34	+6.48	77	1477	+50	2677
	Keene_AG	91	56	74	+8	0.63	2	16.15	-1.41	54	1836	+174	3104
	Lakeport_2	89	62	75	+7	0.20	2	17.88	+0.42	48	1841	+65	3116
	Lebanon	91	55	75	+9	0.28	2	13.88	-1.28	55	1967	+347	3251
	North_Conway	88	56	72	+6	0.17	2	16.99	-2.27	60	1545	-69	2773
	Tamworth_4	86	51	70	+7	0.07	2	18.12	-3.02	58	1408	+100	2615
	Wolfeburro	87	63	75	+7	0.92	3	15.24	-2.22	54	1839	+63	3119
Vermont	Bennington_AP	90	49	72	+9	0.21	1	9.46	11.56	52	1923	+556	3229
	Burlington_Intl	91	60	77	+10	0.60	1	20.85	+4.28	67	2166	+376	3477
	Corinth	87	52	70	+6	0.30	2	22.33	+6.75	64	1362	-104	2529
	Island_Pond	87	52	71	+9	0.47	2	22.84	+4.12	79	1374	+139	2522
	Johnson_2N	86	55	70	+8	0.44	1	21.66	+3.29	70	1371	+2	2571
	Marlboro_Raws	84	57	72	+9	0.47	2	16.79	-0.49	56	1725	+393	2981
	Montpelier_AP	87	53	72	+8	0.19	2	22.01	+6.43	75	1593	+127	2803
	Newport_AG	89	55	72	+7	0.46	2	24.51	+6.65	73	1505	-157	2699

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		Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
State	Station	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
	Rochester	89	55	73	+9	0.51	2	21.54	+1.50	62	1648	+249	2887
	Rutland_AG	88	54	72	+6	0.32	2	17.15	-0.73	67	1681	-29	2920
	Springfield_VT	89	53	73	+8	0.51	2	13.23	-6.08	55	1885	+348	3163
	South_Lincoln	85	53	69	+8	0.30	1	22.42	+1.23	59	1369	+165	2534
	Sutton	85	55	71	+9	0.53	2	23.23	+4.51	83	1376	+141	2543
	Walden	84	53	69	+7	0.26	2	23.53	+4.81	79	1103	-132	2197
	Woodstock	89	53	73	+8	0.14	2	18.37	+1.29	55	1752	+201	2994
Massachusetts	Amherst	91	58	75	+8	0.71	2	17.64	-1.05	47	2045	+192	3361
	Barre_Falls_Dam	90	59	73	+9	0.15	1	15.21	-3.90	53	1718	+253	2984
	Bedford_Hanscom	93	63	77	+9	0.92	3	12.52	-5.25	43	2130	+235	3459
	Beverly_Ag	90	64	75	+5	0.33	3	11.95	-4.19	43	1883	-97	3219
	Birch_Hill_Dam	91	58	74	+9	0.70	1	15.10	-3.44	49	1844	+358	3115
	Boston_Logan_In	91	67	77	+6	0.78	4	12.68	-2.93	44	2270	+161	3616
	Chatham_AP	84	65	75	+8	0.27	1	10.46	-6.43	40	1846	+361	3144
	Chicopee_Westov	92	57	75	+7	0.32	2	17.41	-1.28	49	2188	+335	3514
	Edgartown	86	68	77	+8	0.52	3	9.36	-7.97	44	2031	+288	3383
	East_Brimfield_	91	61	75	+8	0.16	2	15.35	-2.82	52	1931	+236	3234
	Fitchburg	94	61	78	+9	0.00	0	13.58	-5.59	45	2316	+388	3659
	Greenfield	95	56	76	+8	0.61	2	20.78	+2.09	63	1939	+86	3237
	Hyannis_AP	86	68	76	+8	0.42	2	10.29	-5.29	40	1973	+268	3300
	Maynard	96	63	77	+9	0.46	2	13.91	-3.86	53	2181	+286	3505
	New_Bedford	90	65	77	+5	1.20	2	12.97	-5.93	44	2090	-10	3439
	Newburyport	90	63	75	+7	0.40	1	16.02	-1.76	44	1948	+41	3241
	North_Adams_Har	90	53	73	+8	0.59	2	16.44	-4.90	59	1940	+511	3240
	Norwood	92	62	77	+8	0.70	4	10.75	-6.85	41	2097	+123	3432
	Pittsfield	88	53	71	+6	0.46	2	19.95	-0.67	61	1823	+227	3113
	Plymouth	90	65	77	+8	0.38	2	11.52	-6.65	44	2066	+148	3381
	Taunton_4NW	95	66	79	+10	0.42	2	13.95	-4.03	47	2243	+315	3579
	Westfield_Barne	93	57	76	+10	0.43	2	17.58	-1.77	48	2310	+693	3657
	West_Otis	90	58	75	+10	0.69	3	17.66	-4.61	65	2014	+485	3329
	Worcester	87	63	75	+8	0.42	3	15.98	-3.49	53	2114	+391	3441
	Worthington	87	53	71	+7	0.92	3	21.09	+0.20	65	1661	+176	2913
Rhode Island	Newport_AP	84	68	77	+7	0.07	1	13.04	-3.60	42	1985	+197	3313
	Providence	91	68	79	+8	0.03	1	15.99	-1.24	43	2364	+282	3725
	Westerly-Wester	86	66	77	+7	0.01	1	11.68	-6.58	40	2018	+123	3342
	Woonsocket	93	67	78	+9	0.24	3	14.29	-4.28	42	2229	+275	3570
Connecticut	Bridgeport_Siko	90	66	79	+6	0.25	2	12.47	-5.68	46	2493	+341	3861
	Danbury_AP	90	57	75	+6	0.24	1	17.09	-4.00	43	2195	+168	3539
	Hartford_Bradle	93	61	77	+7	0.29	3	15.73	-2.95	52	2485	+317	3841
	Meriden-Meriden	93	60	77	+8	0.38	2	9.26	12.09	38	2377	+416	3721
	Norfolk	88	57	72	+7	0.63	2	18.86	-3.41	57	1783	+254	3044
	Norwich	92	67	78	+8	0.00	0	12.38	-7.25	36	2296	+217	3647
	Staffordville	88	59	74	+6	0.20	1	17.19	-2.60	41	1806	+59	3080
	Thomaston_Dam	93	57	76	+9	0.15	2	15.43	-5.00	56	2162	+392	3486
	West_Thompson_L	90	63	76	+9	0.04	1	14.46	-5.78	43	1957	+195	3270
	Willimantic	92	64	78	+11	0.88	2	14.17	-5.62	45	2325	+578	3670

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

Corn ears are smaller than normal and many are not filled out completely. Weights taken for field days this week showed ear weights about half of normal.

WINDHAM, Dawn S. Pindell

With 90 degree days and 80 degree nights, a heat wave for most of the week. VERY dry. Pastures being supplemented with hay. Corn leaves starting to curl up. Baling hay and cutting grass. Spreading manure on hay fields. More red tomatoes at market. Tomatoes are doing well with dry weather; not many blight issues.

### MAINE

AROOSTOOK (Northern), Donald M. Audibert

Four straight days of high 80s and no rain. Early variety potatoes are drooping. We finally got an inch of much needed rain on Friday. Some farmers started vine killing.

AROOSTOOK (Central), Larry James

The rest of the first cut hay was finished last week. The quality is very poor. Early potato varieties are dying back and some top kill is being applied to seed plots. Grain harvest is in full swing with some high yields being reported.

CUMBERLAND/YORK, Sandy Truslow

Muggy weather at the end of the week along with frequent showers halted hay production. Powdery mildew is rampant on cucurbit crops. Apples are looking good. Late planted sweet corn looks better than the early planted corn.

FRANKLIN, Gary J. Raymond

We had a run of good weather to finish up most of the second cut hay. With timely rain, the pastures look good. Most crops have done well with the rainfall.

HANCOCK, David Yarborough

Wild blueberry size is small but quality is excellent; expect crop harvest to be finished this week. Scattered showers were beneficial to the fields that have received them.

PISCATAQUIS/SOMERSET, Elaine S. Moceus

Very hot and humid week! Spotty rain showers midweek foiled attempts to bale dry hay. Steady rain on Friday and continued predictions of rain over the next 3 or 4 days will halt field work. Rain for all crops is needed in most areas of the county. Some producers have reported that 2<sup>nd</sup> crop hay quality is down.

WASHINGTON, Michael Look

Worst blueberry crop in my 30 years of raising them.

### MASSACHUSETTS

ALL MA COUNTIES, Thomas Smiarowski

Harvest on all crops continued. Overall quality of crops remains good.

HAMPSHIRE/HAMPDEN, Heather Baylis

This summer continues with slightly cooler temperatures, but farmers are battling more diseases and pests with late blight showing up in tomatoes and potatoes. Brassicas have been hit with cabbage aphids, onion thrips on kale crops, also downy and powdery mildew are both on the rise, squash bug numbers have increased, and cabbage root maggot has been reported on root crops. Producers are looking to the fall and looking back at the success and challenges from this summer as they start to plan for the next year.

PLYMOUTH, Carolyn DeMoranville

A rainy weekend and very humid conditions this week. Early cranberry varieties are starting to color on exposed surfaces.

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

CHESHIRE, Carl Majewski

Warm and muggy all week, with rain on Friday. Field corn continuing to mature well; early-planted fields and early hybrids probably ready to chop in a week or two. Last of third cutting being harvested, but less than ideal drying conditions for hay. Vegetable and fruit crops continuing to do well.

COOS, Steve Turaj

Fairly hot and humid week. Good regrowth on harvested pastures and hayfields. Field corn looking better.

GRAFTON, Heather Bryant

A quiet week. Blueberry and raspberry seasons are almost finished.

GRAFTON, Steven Schmidt

Conditions were generally favorable for haying and other field activities. Foggy conditions often hung in until later in the morning, slowing the drying process for those farms trying to produce dry hay. Scattered showers early on Friday brought only light rain to the area. Total precipitation for the week was only about 0.2 inches. Many farms are now able to get haying equipment onto areas of hay ground that they were unable to hay earlier in the season due to wet soils. The corn crop is looking good on most of the river bottom fields. Corn that was planted later in the spring has now tasseled. Corn in some of these late fields is shorter and not as well developed.

HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton

Fruit: Orchardists harvesting peaches, plums, and picking Paula Red apples. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, summer pruning of trees, mowing orchard floors, fixing up orchard roads and moving bins into the orchard. Highbush blueberry harvest over

except for those few growers who have late-maturing varieties, and fall raspberry harvest continued. Continue monitoring for Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) fruit fly; trap numbers for SWD are increasing. Vegetables: Growers are irrigating and are harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, greens, peas, potatoes, pumpkins, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, winter squash, zucchini, and other vegetables. Powdery mildew can be found on pumpkins and winter squash. Corn earworm and fall armyworm trap numbers went up at many farms. Field Crops: Hay cutting continued during the week with the second and third cuttings being made. Some spreading of manure on hay fields. Farmers are getting ready to make new forage seedings. Corn looks good to excellent with good development!

**ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad**

Harvesting table grapes, Red Clapp's pear, different apple varieties (Jersey Mac, Tydeman, Gravenstein, Paula Red, Sansa and Zestar), blueberries, fall raspberries, peaches, nectarines and apricots, an array of vegetables including greens, sweet corn, peppers, eggplants, and herbs. Cut flowers and sunflowers demand remains strong. Haying between showers. It was a hot and humid week and the county saw some localized rain as well some localized severe thundershowers. The rain was timely in the middle of the week as some fields were getting very dry. Farms taking Winter Community Supported Agriculture subscriptions. Planting crops for winter markets, irrigating, weeding and monitoring pests and controlling pests as needed. Reports of downy mildew on cucurbit plants.

**SULLIVAN, Jennifer Z. Gehly**

Hazy, hot, and humid weather started the week, with temperatures reaching into the low 90s. Farmers were very busy making dry hay. Hay producers estimate the total crop is down 30 - 50% due to the persistent dry conditions. Quality may be affected as well. Up to a quarter of an inch of rain fell on Friday bringing in cooler temperatures. Saturday was a more seasonable day, with scattered showers falling again on Sunday. Field corn looks good, however, it's starting to show the signs of drought stress.

## **RHODE ISLAND**

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

We've had some high 80s and 90 degree weather during this past week. Since Friday, we've had showers and heavy rains which were hit or miss throughout the state. Potatoes are being harvested this week. Trailer loads are leaving the farms. The potato crops look decent, but early potatoes are not heavy picking. Sweet corn is still in big demand seeing as it came out late. Prices are still up; roughly about \$6/dozen. Wholesale is about \$20/bag. Peppers, tomatoes, eggplants, cucumbers, beans, etc. are all plentiful and the prices are good. Pastures and livestock are doing well. It's amazing that in most of the state, pastures are green; this is unheard of in August. Apples are doing well and we should be picking very shortly.

**ALL RI COUNTIES, Heather Faubert**

Showers were predicted all week, but didn't occur.

## **VERMONT**

**FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley**

Great week of weather has caught Franklin County up in good order this week. Much grass harvested and put up in the form of hay and haylage. This will make way for third and fourth cuts with some good September weather. If we escape an early frost this year, we will have a very good corn crop. We continue to fill in those bare spots with good finishing weather. Gardens are doing well, however, there are reports of flowering squash plants with no squash. Cucumbers are in great form and sweet corn is in freezing stage to have on your plate this winter.