



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



New
England



Crop Progress & Condition

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Week ending August 30, 2015

Issued weekly on the internet, April - November
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.

Scattered rain showers with hot, muggy temperatures characterized much of the New England region's weather last week, although some areas received no rainfall. Average weekly temperatures in the region ranged from one degree below normal to eight degrees above normal. Weekly precipitation ranged from 0.00 to 3.86 inches in the region. In areas that received little to no rainfall last week, some farmers continued irrigating their crops. Dry hay cuttings were made between showers, with quality reported as poor in some areas and good in others. In Maine, grain harvest progressed with yields looking better than average. Field corn continued to mature nicely throughout the region. Potato crops have been looking good, with the exception of one early variety in Vermont that was showing signs of disease. Early wine grape varieties were being harvested along with plums, peaches, nectarines, fall raspberries, blackberries, late blueberry varieties, cut flowers, and an array of vegetables and herbs. The harvesting of early apple varieties continued, with crops looking good throughout the region. Orchardists remained busy pruning and mowing orchard floors. Some phytophthora and viruses have been found affecting vine crops, but overall have been manageable. Downy mildew was found on some cucumbers and squashes. Farmers were busy cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures and spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed.

Soil Moisture for Week Ending August 30, 2015

(in percent)

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
TOPSOIL	4	18	69	9
SUBSOIL	6	16	63	15

Crop Conditions as of August 30, 2015

(in percent)

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
APPLES	0	0	8	61	31
BARLEY (ME)	0	0	0	34	66
CORN	0	4	42	48	6
CRANBERRIES (MA)	0	5	10	70	15
DRY HAY	1	3	28	52	16
OATS (ME)	0	0	0	33	67
PASTURE AND RANGE	4	6	29	50	11
PEACHES	1	3	7	74	15
PEARS	0	0	16	83	1
POTATOES	0	0	5	31	64
QUALITY OF DRY HAY MADE	1	5	24	55	15
TOBACCO, CIGAR BINDER (MA)	0	0	30	70	0

Crop Progress as of August 30, 2015

(in percent)

Item	This Week
APPLES: HARVESTED	14
BARLEY (ME): HARVESTED	40
BLUEBERRIES, TAME: HARVESTED	85
BLUEBERRIES, WILD (ME): HARVESTED	69
DRY HAY: 2nd CUTTING	91
DRY HAY: 3rd CUTTING	33
OATS (ME): HARVESTED	18
PEACHES: HARVESTED	57
PEARS: HARVESTED	9
POTATOES: HARVESTED	16
SWEET CORN: HARVESTED	67
TOBACCO, CIGAR BINDER (MA): HARVESTED	75

For a complete nationwide weekly weather and crop bulletin, please visit www.usda.gov/oc/weather and click on "Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin."

August 30, 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	79	56	69	+3	0.65	4	19.53	+1.70	63	1857	+46	3200
	Bangor_Intl_Air	82	52	70	+5	0.07	3	13.83	-2.43	68	1735	+24	3045
	Bethel	81	51	67	+3	2.03	3	19.79	-0.35	62	1644	+8	2937
	Bridgton	78	52	66	+4	0.93	3	20.95	+1.26	56	1623	+124	2934
	Caribou_Municip	82	52	68	+8	0.92	5	16.58	-0.57	73	1519	+189	2770
	Dover-Foxcroft	79	50	67	+6	3.86	5	23.36	+4.94	77	1577	+241	2839
	Durham	79	51	67	+2	0.29	3	16.07	-2.43	67	1668	+5	2989
	East_Surry	81	53	68	+4	0.53	4	15.52	-2.48	65	1445	-132	2708
	Eustis	81	47	63	+5	0.11	2	17.51	-0.16	62	1226	+189	2399
	Frenchville	79	51	66	+7	1.77	5	16.52	-0.97	69	1278	+51	2490
	Harmony	80	48	66	+4	1.94	4	22.12	+3.92	73	1650	+116	2938
	Houlton	81	47	67	+7	1.40	3	16.05	-0.71	64	1503	+146	2740
	Livermore_Falls	81	48	66	+5	1.18	2	19.73	-0.30	61	1609	+258	2893
	Machias	80	52	68	+6	1.79	4	18.79	-0.69	69	1458	+214	2658
	Millinocket_Wtr	80	53	67	+5	1.76	3	21.58	+2.69	66	1442	-101	2660
	Moosehead	78	50	66	+7	1.77	4	21.21	+2.06	72	1442	+278	2676
	Portland_ME	80	55	69	+5	0.35	1	17.39	-0.24	53	1946	+319	3323
	Rangeley_2NW	81	48	63	+4	0.20	3	19.43	+1.04	75	1160	+5	2300
	Sanford	83	53	69	+3	0.38	1	16.27	-3.10	38	1906	+38	3227
	Topsfield_2	83	55	69	+6	1.51	2	20.51	+1.70	67	1561	+93	2810
	Turner	82	55	68	+1	0.46	4	19.74	+1.42	61	1790	-160	3116
	Wesley_2W	81	52	68	+5	3.05	3	22.05	+5.02	54	1674	+203	2946
	West_Rockport	77	52	68	+4	0.57	4	16.81	-2.08	70	1664	+154	2958
New Hampshire	Berlin_AG	81	48	64	+3	0.14	3	18.93	+0.71	67	1498	+47	2766
	Bradford_2	84	45	65	+1	1.08	3	15.36	-4.10	51	1667	-80	2967
	Colebrook	82	48	63	+3	1.36	4	26.34	+7.28	83	1295	-38	2479
	Concord	84	50	70	+5	1.60	1	15.89	-0.09	54	2213	+381	3586
	East_Milford	83	51	68	+2	0.52	2	15.10	-3.75	46	2098	+155	3471
	Epping	82	52	69	+3	0.14	1	14.47	-3.74	53	2050	+209	3405
	Errol_AP	83	45	64	+4	1.14	2	22.27	+4.68	74	1388	+181	2582
	Fitzwilliam	83	51	68	+6	0.94	3	18.09	-1.11	66	2041	+485	3402
	Greenville	81	52	67	+5	2.75	2	20.58	+1.38	43	1845	+289	3178
	Hancock	83	47	67	+3	3.07	2	24.05	+4.75	67	1829	+133	3145
	Jefferson	81	49	65	+4	0.98	4	25.32	+6.55	81	1585	+73	2855
	Keene_AG	86	52	69	+5	2.40	2	18.55	+0.14	56	1970	+203	3308
	Lakeport_2	81	51	69	+2	1.55	2	19.43	+1.20	50	1972	+78	3317
	Lebanon	85	49	69	+5	0.82	1	14.70	-1.30	56	2103	+380	3457
	North_Conway	81	50	66	+2	0.95	4	17.94	-2.23	64	1658	-58	2956
	Tamworth_4	81	46	64	+4	0.45	3	18.57	-3.56	61	1511	+124	2788
	Wolfeburro	79	51	68	+2	0.69	1	15.93	-2.30	55	1967	+73	3317
Vermont	Bennington_AP	84	46	67	+6	0.34	2	9.80	12.27	54	2041	+592	3417
	Burlington_Intl	86	56	71	+5	0.02	1	20.87	+3.39	68	2313	+413	3694
	Corinth	80	47	64	+1	1.79	1	24.12	+7.63	65	1459	-95	2696
	Island_Pond	80	49	63	+3	1.47	5	24.31	+4.54	84	1469	+160	2687
	Johnson_2N	80	50	64	+3	0.49	2	22.15	+2.73	72	1472	+22	2742
	Marlboro_Raws	79	51	65	+4	1.59	3	18.38	+0.12	59	1831	+417	3157
	Montpelier_AP	82	48	66	+4	0.22	3	22.23	+5.74	78	1709	+155	2989
	Newport_AG	83	51	66	+2	1.23	4	25.74	+6.97	77	1616	-146	2880

		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	50	67	+5	0.27	2	21.81	+0.70	64	1767	+280	3076
	Rutland_AG	83	48	66	+1	0.22	2	17.37	-1.42	69	1794	-20	3103
	Springfield_VT	84	49	68	+5	0.69	3	13.92	-6.32	58	2014	+382	3362
	South_Lincoln	79	47	63	+3	0.22	2	22.64	+0.26	61	1463	+187	2698
	Sutton	80	50	65	+5	1.14	3	24.38	+4.61	87	1476	+167	2713
	Walden	78	47	62	+2	0.75	3	24.28	+4.51	82	1185	-124	2349
	Woodstock	84	48	68	+5	1.24	1	19.61	+1.71	56	1877	+230	3189
Massachusetts	Amherst	85	51	69	+2	1.62	2	1.62	+0.65	2	131	1839	201
	Barre_Falls_Dam	83	46	65	+3	0.02	2	0.02	-0.96	2	109	1449	179
	Bedford_Hanscom	85	52	70	+3	0.01	1	0.01	-0.83	1	143	1875	213
	Beverly_Ag	81	54	69	-1	0.05	1	0.05	-0.79	1	134	1982	204
	Birch_Hill_Dam	83	48	67	+4	0.55	2	0.55	-0.33	2	118	1463	188
	Boston_Logan_In	85	63	72	+3	0.02	2	0.02	-0.75	2	157	2095	227
	Chatham_AP	82	59	71	+6	0.03	1	0.03	-0.77	1	153	1450	223
	Chicopee_Westov	86	48	69	+3	0.02	2	0.02	-0.95	2	135	1835	205
	Edgartown	83	57	72	+4	0.27	2	0.27	-0.64	2	158	1716	228
	East_Brimfield_	82	52	68	+3	0.07	2	0.07	-0.84	2	127	1678	197
	Fitchburg	88	55	71	+4	0.08	1	0.08	-0.90	1	150	1902	220
	Greenfield	85	54	69	+3	2.01	3	2.01	+1.04	3	131	1839	201
	Hyannis_AP	84	56	73	+5	0.13	2	0.13	-0.69	2	159	1673	229
	Maynard	89	53	70	+3	0.71	3	0.71	-0.13	3	145	1873	215
	New_Bedford	85	54	72	+1	0.55	1	0.55	-0.50	1	153	2097	223
	Newburyport	81	57	70	+2	0.04	1	0.04	-0.80	1	138	1894	208
	North_Adams_Har	83	47	67	+4	0.28	2	0.28	-0.75	2	118	1402	188
	Norwood	87	49	69	+2	0.02	1	0.02	-0.89	1	137	1964	207
	Pittsfield	81	48	66	+3	0.63	1	0.63	-0.42	1	115	1580	185
	Plymouth	86	52	71	+3	0.27	2	0.27	-0.71	2	148	1902	218
	Taunton_4NW	89	55	73	+5	0.19	1	0.19	-0.79	1	163	1893	233
	Westfield_Barne	86	50	70	+6	0.40	1	0.40	-0.57	1	142	1578	212
	West_Otis	83	51	68	+5	0.59	2	0.59	-0.46	2	130	1499	200
	Worcester	80	57	68	+3	0.01	1	0.01	-0.95	1	127	1709	197
	Worthington	82	47	65	+2	1.13	2	1.13	+0.08	2	109	1470	179
Rhode Island	Newport_AP	83	59	73	+5	0.58	3	13.62	-3.91	45	2150	+226	3548
	Providence	88	58	74	+5	0.68	1	16.67	-1.47	44	2533	+312	3964
	Westerly-Wester	83	54	72	+3	0.09	2	11.77	-7.54	42	2171	+142	3565
	Woonsocket	88	55	72	+4	0.00	0	14.29	-5.26	42	2383	+301	3794
Connecticut	Bridgeport_Siko	87	60	75	+4	0.13	1	12.60	-6.39	47	2666	+364	4104
	Danbury_AP	85	51	70	+2	0.25	1	17.34	-4.82	44	2333	+179	3747
	Hartford_Bradle	88	53	72	+3	0.16	1	15.89	-3.72	53	2639	+335	4065
	Meriden-Meriden	86	53	72	+4	0.04	2	9.30	13.10	40	2531	+441	3945
	Norfolk	81	50	66	+3	0.07	1	18.93	-4.39	58	1899	+270	3230
	Norwich	87	56	72	+4	0.27	2	12.65	-8.10	38	2454	+239	3875
	Staffordville	81	51	68	+2	0.08	1	17.27	-3.50	42	1931	+70	3275
	Thomaston_Dam	90	48	68	+3	0.19	1	15.62	-5.86	57	2293	+409	3687
	West_Thompson_L	85	50	69	+3	0.10	2	14.56	-6.66	45	2090	+212	3473
	Willimantic	84	53	71	+5	0.12	1	14.29	-6.48	46	2475	+614	3890

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 silage harvest got underway this week. Corn is drying down fast this year.

WINDHAM, Dawn S. Pindell

Irrigating continues. Picking blueberries, raspberries, peaches and apples. Pick-your-own (PYO) cut flowers look great and are also irrigated. Starting to open up corn fields; stalks are "paper bag brown" from mid-point to the ground on gravelly soils. Ear size is smaller, with no kernels at the tip. Field Days are starting to showcase varieties of corn grown and how well they did or did not do this crop year.

ALL CT COUNTIES, Jude Boucher

Scattered showers here and there, but most of the state is still very dry. Late blight has not moved from the single farm that had it over a month ago.

MAINE

AROOSTOOK (Northern), Donald M. Audibert

A lot of early variety potatoes had some top kill applied and will be harvested in two to three weeks. Russets for McCain are still nice and green. Grain harvest has stayed and yields look good.

AROOSTOOK (Central), Larry James

Grain harvest is ongoing with better than average yields. Potato crop looks good and top kill is being applied to the earlier varieties. Some reports of the russets being rough and misshapen. Dry hay harvest can be considered a disaster this year. Most first cut was not baled until August and is of poor quality.

CUMBERLAND/YORK, Sandy Truslow

The humid, muggy weather finally broke on Friday. Vegetable farmers are picking tomatoes, cukes, and summer and winter squash. Hay is at a premium due to low production in first and second cuttings. Early apples are being picked and look great.

FRANKLIN, Gary J. Raymond

All vegetation is very green for this time of the year in this area. The corn crop is coming along nicely. It looks like we will have an above average yield for harvest. Apples and potatoes look to be a bumper crop.

PISCATAQUIS, Donna Coffin

Fields are starting to dry out enough for some fall tillage after the past week's rain. Vegetable harvest is still in high gear.

PISCATAQUIS/SOMERSET, Elaine S. Moceus

Rain showers during the beginning of the week gave way to warm, less humid temperatures throughout the week. Silage corn seems to be maturing well and in some areas where the soil is light, silage may be ready to start chopping within in the next week or two. Reports from media indicate apple harvest is expected to be slightly above average this year.

WASHINGTON, Audre Hayward

Heavy downpours with flooding.

WASHINGTON, Michael Look

Next time I do a rain dance, don't send 8 inches of rain; 1-2 will do.

MASSACHUSETTS

ALL MA COUNTIES, Thomas Smiarowski

Parts of Massachusetts received much welcomed rain showers during the week, though the showers were scattered throughout Massachusetts. Harvest of crops continues with reports of very good apple crops. Pears, onions, and some winter squashes being harvested for the first time. The harvest of cigar binder tobacco was winding down. Cover crops were being planted on harvested vegetable ground.

HAMPSHIRE/HAMPDEN, Heather Baylis

Nice, warm, but not hot week continues to be favorable for farms. Although there have been a few farmers reporting losses, there have been very few notice of losses. We expect that next week's weather predictions of hot, humid weather will have farmers watching carefully for signs of diseases. Tomatoes are looking great, with good size and density. Some Phytophthora and virus in vine crops, but overall most are doing well.

PLYMOUTH, Carolyn DeMoranville

It continues to be quite warm with humidity building as the week ends.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

CHESHIRE, Carl Majewski

Warm and muggy most of the week, with showers Tuesday and drier air showing up later in the week. Field corn continues to mature nicely. Farms finishing up third cutting, mostly for dry hay as weather allows. Vegetable crops continuing to do well, and more apples showing up in farm stands, etc.

COOS, Steve Turaj

Forage crops in general looking good; benefitting from adequate soil moisture conditions. Rainfall making for challenges in haying. All corn filling kernels well, soybeans finish flowering, filling pods. Japanese beetles look lighter in numbers this year. Corn earworms in unsprayed sweet corn.

GRAFTON, Steven Schmidt

Weather conditions were generally favorable for cropping. Heavy rain on Tuesday shut down all field work for 24 hours. Thunderstorms delivered over 2 inches of rain to the area. After a day of dry weather, farmers got back into haying and field activities. Vegetable stands are doing well. There is an abundant supply of high quality sweet corn for customers.

HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton

Fruit: Growers are harvesting peaches, plums, pears, blueberries, and fall raspberries. Finishing harvesting Paula Red apples. Monitoring for pests - spraying if needed, training young trees and mowing orchard floors. Hot weather is delaying color development of apples. Vegetables: Rain is NEEDED. Irrigating crops; however, many farm ponds have been pumped dry. Harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, potatoes, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, zucchini, and other vegetables. Some farmers are starting to clean up harvested fields and plant cover crops. Downy mildew has taken its toll on cucumbers and some squash plants. Farmers kept busy cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures, and spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed. Field Crops: Hay cutting along with making haylage continued at a rapid pace during the week with the second cut being made along with the third cutting. Silage corn put on rapid growth this past week.

ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad

Early wine grape varieties almost ready to be harvested this week. Harvesting plums, peaches, nectarines, fall raspberries, blackberries, late blueberry varieties, cut flowers, and an array of vegetables and herbs. Excellent weekend weather for PYO fruits and small fruits. Moving bins into the orchard for apple harvest. Crabgrass and other weeds have taken over some of the vegetable fields. Mowing grass in PYO operations. Irrigating. Fall crops look good. Some haying has been done. Sunny week with some localized passing showers. Nights are getting cooler.

SULLIVAN, Jennifer Z. Gehly

It was a warm start to the week in Sullivan County, with temperatures in the low to mid-80s. Scattered rain showers moved through the area on Tuesday bringing a trace to a half inch of rain to the county. Seasonably warm temperatures in the low to mid-70s with lows in the mid-50s were present for the remainder of the week. Soil conditions vary greatly across the county. While some areas remain on the dry side due to every passing shower missing them, other areas have received well-timed rain and report good pastures and an average hay crop. The corn crop remains in good condition. Early varieties of apples are available at orchards. All types of summer vegetables are available at farm stands and farmers' markets including sweet corn, peppers, cabbage, tomatoes, zucchini, and yellow squash. Blueberries are still available; however, we are at the tail end of the season.

RHODE ISLAND

ALL RI COUNTIES, Paul E. Brule

This was the first week in a long time that we had no rain; however, the ground is still good as far as moisture in most parts of the state. Apples will start to be harvested this week and it looks like a very good crop for this fall in terms of size and color. Vegetables are doing well. Farm prices are good. Pastures are showing some wear, but still green. With weather expected in the 90s this week, I expect to see some stress on them and we'll start to supplement some feed. Potato crops are harvesting. One variety of the early potatoes shows disease in them so we're watching that closely this week. There are black spots inside of the potatoes. It's supposed to be a good week so 2nd cutting hay should be completed. There will be some 3rd cutting shortly in parts of the state where there's been plenty of rain previously.

VERMONT

FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley

Another great weather week in Franklin County, allowing for some exceptional hay harvest. Hard to tell now if it's second or third cut; however, the weather is making for some super regrowth allowing for harvest whenever ready. Caution needs to be on fall harvest timing. Be sure there are the reserves in the root systems for the "sure to come" winter ahead. Corn is really progressing into final reproductive stages. Hope the frost can hold off a little longer than 2014. Pumpkins are starting to show their colors in the gardens and apples are starting to fall to the ground. Be sure to get out and take advantage of the fine fall bounty.