



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



New
England



Crop Progress & Condition

Gary Keough, State Statistician

53 Pleasant St. Room 3450, Concord, NH 03301

Phone: 603-224-9639

Fax: 603-225-1432

www.nass.usda.gov/nh

Week ending September 20, 2015

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

nassrfooner@nass.usda.gov

Released September 21, 2015

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

New England experienced predominantly hot and dry conditions, with very little rain. Average weekly temperatures in the region ranged from four to fifteen degrees above normal. Weekly precipitation ranged from 0.00 to 2.54 inches. The dry weather allowed for more third and fourth cuttings of hay to take place. The weather was also ideal for harvesting field corn for silage. The harvest of sweet corn was winding down in the region as well as the harvest of peaches and plums. Apple harvest was in full swing, keeping Pick-Your-Own (PYO) operations busy. In Massachusetts, cranberry harvest was off to a slow start as growers were waiting for fruit coloration to improve. Growers were harvesting tomatoes and peppers, cabbage, kale, Brussel sprouts, potatoes, pumpkins, acorn squash and winter squash. Farmers' markets were busy offering a variety of agricultural products including meats, dairy products, jams and jellies, pies, mums, and corn stalks.

Crop Conditions as of September 20, 2015

(in percent)

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
APPLES	1	0	11	56	32
CORN	2	4	26	62	6
CRANBERRIES (MA)	0	5	10	70	15
DRY HAY	2	7	25	57	9
PASTURE AND RANGE	5	16	37	39	3
PEARS	0	0	16	83	1
POTATOES	0	0	2	36	62
QUALITY OF DRY HAY MADE	2	5	25	53	13

Soil Moisture for Week Ending September 20, 2015

(in percent)

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
TOPSOIL	5	23	69	3
SUBSOIL	8	21	67	4

Crop Progress as of September 20, 2015

(in percent)

Item	This Week
APPLES: HARVESTED	41
BARLEY (ME): HARVESTED	82
CORN FOR SILAGE: HARVESTED	14
DRY HAY: 3rd CUTTING	62
DRY HAY: 4th CUTTING	10
FALL TILLAGE: SINGLE	9
OATS (ME): HARVESTED	70
PEACHES: HARVESTED	83
PEARS: HARVESTED	33
POTATOES: HARVESTED	49
SWEET CORN: HARVESTED	91

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

September 20, 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	84	57	69	+10	0.51	3	20.87	+0.59	72	2275	+219	3828
	Bangor_Intl_Air	86	55	69	+11	0.79	3	15.22	-3.39	75	2143	+210	3663
	Bethel	85	52	65	+8	0.97	3	21.64	-1.07	69	2008	+167	3511
	Bridgton	80	54	65	+9	0.97	2	23.92	+1.71	64	1977	+306	3498
	Caribou_Municip	84	55	67	+15	1.15	3	18.70	-0.84	82	1871	+417	3332
	Dover-Foxcroft	86	52	67	+14	0.84	3	26.08	+4.80	86	1939	+464	3411
	Durham	86	54	67	+9	0.65	3	18.24	-2.78	76	2056	+165	3587
	East_Surry	83	49	66	+9	0.80	1	17.43	-3.33	69	1795	+3	3268
	Eustis	81	48	64	+12	1.21	3	19.32	-0.90	71	1522	+389	2905
	Frenchville	82	51	66	+14	0.81	3	18.24	-1.70	78	1596	+257	3018
	Harmony	85	54	67	+11	0.69	3	24.33	+3.46	82	2010	+300	3508
	Houlton	84	54	67	+14	0.86	3	19.06	-0.16	73	1844	+357	3291
	Livermore_Falls	83	51	66	+12	0.83	3	22.23	-0.43	70	1959	+466	3453
	Machias	83	56	67	+12	0.92	2	20.71	-1.55	73	1820	+403	3230
	Millinocket_Wtr	85	54	67	+12	0.94	2	24.35	+2.87	74	1793	+79	3221
	Moosehead	82	54	66	+13	1.03	3	22.91	+1.03	81	1777	+495	3221
	Portland_ME	85	57	68	+11	0.56	2	18.55	-1.34	59	2367	+521	3954
	Rangeley_2NW	79	50	62	+10	1.28	3	21.29	+0.31	82	1448	+173	2798
	Sanford	84	54	66	+7	0.79	3	17.65	-4.29	44	2309	+189	3840
	Topsfield_2	82	53	66	+11	0.77	2	22.73	+1.07	74	1905	+263	3364
	Turner	85	56	68	+8	0.85	3	21.62	+0.93	69	2193	-23	3729
	Wesley_2W	84	51	64	+8	1.50	2	24.90	+5.23	58	1995	+342	3477
	West_Rockport	85	55	67	+10	0.64	3	18.16	-3.65	77	2089	+362	3593
New Hampshire	Berlin_AG	81	52	64	+9	0.83	3	20.94	+0.20	76	1835	+227	3313
	Bradford_2	83	49	64	+6	1.00	2	18.24	-3.73	56	2003	+41	3513
	Colebrook	82	50	63	+9	1.21	7	28.02	+6.26	99	1570	+96	2964
	Concord	87	50	67	+9	0.46	1	17.43	-0.71	59	2640	+575	4223
	East_Milford	87	52	66	+7	0.60	1	17.93	-3.47	51	2496	+295	4079
	Epping	87	53	67	+8	0.17	1	15.34	-5.51	57	2457	+370	4022
	Errol_AP	82	49	63	+10	1.35	3	23.80	+3.75	81	1693	+359	3097
	Fitzwilliam	85	51	66	+9	0.73	2	20.65	-0.92	74	2453	+709	4024
	Greenville	85	50	66	+9	0.67	2	23.12	+1.55	49	2217	+473	3760
	Hancock	84	48	65	+7	1.12	3	27.25	+5.22	75	2187	+279	3713
	Jefferson	82	52	65	+9	1.29	3	27.87	+6.52	91	1935	+261	3415
	Keene_AG	85	47	65	+7	1.54	2	21.96	+1.08	61	2371	+379	3919
	Lakeport_2	84	57	67	+8	0.66	2	21.65	+1.11	58	2374	+223	3929
	Lebanon	85	49	66	+9	1.51	2	18.29	-0.17	61	2524	+590	4088
	North_Conway	83	53	65	+8	0.94	3	20.14	-2.56	72	2020	+101	3528
	Tamworth_4	81	50	63	+9	0.67	2	22.18	-2.76	69	1824	+298	3311
	Wolfeburro	80	59	67	+8	0.65	2	18.14	-2.40	61	2387	+236	3947
Vermont	Bennington_AP	83	45	64	+10	0.28	2	13.38	11.88	60	2435	+831	4021
	Burlington_Intl	86	56	70	+12	0.97	3	22.37	+2.16	75	2789	+656	4380
	Corinth	78	48	61	+5	1.43	3	26.43	+7.52	73	1753	+26	3200
	Island_Pond	81	49	64	+11	1.39	4	26.26	+3.65	94	1800	+365	3228
	Johnson_2N	81	49	63	+9	1.16	3	24.28	+2.12	80	1800	+196	3280
	Marlboro_Raws	81	51	63	+9	0.83	3	21.16	+0.38	65	2194	+627	3730
	Montpelier_AP	82	51	64	+8	1.03	3	24.83	+5.92	85	2067	+340	3557
	Newport_AG	82	50	65	+8	1.10	2	27.99	+6.53	85	1975	+7	3449

		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	85	50	65	+9	1.22	2	23.66	-0.47	69	2143	+474	3662
	Rutland_AG	83	47	65	+7	0.72	3	18.92	-2.68	76	2166	+132	3685
	Springfield_VT	84	49	65	+9	1.10	2	17.59	-5.38	65	2406	+586	3964
	South_Lincoln	79	47	62	+9	1.25	3	24.90	-0.69	68	1760	+358	3205
	Sutton	81	49	64	+11	2.54	3	27.31	+4.70	95	1817	+382	3264
	Walden	82	46	61	+8	2.08	3	26.96	+4.35	91	1473	+38	2847
	Woodstock	85	48	64	+8	1.62	2	22.97	+2.50	61	2262	+423	3784
Massachusetts	Amherst	85	49	67	+7	0.72	1	5.67	-3.09	13	1093	1144	1740
	Barre_Falls_Dam	84	46	64	+8	0.68	3	4.30	-3.30	17	801	-941	1378
	Bedford_Hanscom	87	50	68	+7	0.09	1	1.98	-5.28	11	1001	1290	1585
	Beverly_Ag	84	54	67	+4	0.18	1	1.61	-5.18	9	540	1903	820
	Birch_Hill_Dam	85	49	64	+8	0.68	2	3.67	-3.52	13	864	-907	1453
	Boston_Logan_In	89	57	71	+8	0.38	1	2.01	-4.38	12	1069	1529	1651
	Chatham_AP	79	58	69	+7	0.06	1	3.15	-4.13	10	868	1034	1441
	Chicopee_Westov	87	48	67	+7	0.59	1	2.39	-5.59	11	1021	1216	1608
	Edgartown	82	56	69	+6	0.18	1	4.38	-2.54	8	617	1580	897
	East_Brimfield_	84	51	66	+7	0.90	1	3.52	-3.88	11	919	1128	1509
	Fitchburg	88	55	69	+9	0.43	1	2.90	-4.96	12	1116	1215	1702
	Greenfield	85	53	67	+7	1.11	1	5.22	-3.02	18	975	1262	1582
	Hyannis_AP	81	58	70	+8	0.48	1	2.99	-3.37	8	926	1213	1504
	Maynard	91	50	68	+8	0.19	1	4.01	-2.49	13	637	1654	937
	New_Bedford	85	55	69	+4	0.17	1	4.39	-3.18	7	950	1670	1536
	Newburyport	87	56	68	+8	0.14	1	0.96	-6.43	8	910	1405	1491
	North_Adams_Har	83	46	64	+8	0.99	3	4.31	-4.55	16	915	-785	1491
	Norwood	88	48	67	+6	0.01	1	1.05	-5.95	11	961	1434	1545
	Pittsfield	80	48	63	+7	0.15	3	4.24	-4.73	14	865	1036	1441
	Plymouth	86	54	69	+6	0.08	1	2.10	-5.91	9	953	1414	1534
	Taunton_4NW	90	54	70	+8	0.06	1	2.71	-5.80	8	878	1472	1248
	Westfield_Barne	87	50	68	+10	0.39	1	2.81	-5.34	9	1098	-834	1688
	West_Otis	84	50	66	+9	0.53	2	3.15	-1.05	8	551	1288	831
	Worcester	82	51	67	+7	0.37	1	1.90	-6.35	11	979	1106	1565
	Worthington	81	50	62	+6	0.76	1	4.38	-4.35	15	783	-990	1357
Rhode Island	Newport_AP	82	59	69	+5	0.34	1	15.39	-4.66	49	2620	+352	4228
	Providence	87	56	70	+7	0.00	0	17.78	-2.99	47	3020	+467	4661
	Westerly-Wester	82	56	68	+5	0.00	0	14.68	-7.54	45	2611	+260	4215
	Woonsocket	89	54	69	+8	0.02	1	15.16	-7.33	45	2860	+487	4481
Connecticut	Bridgeport_Siko	86	56	71	+6	0.09	1	14.19	-7.32	51	3188	+519	4836
	Danbury_AP	85	49	67	+6	0.07	1	18.94	-6.75	48	2786	+340	4410
	Hartford_Bradle	88	53	69	+7	0.93	1	18.45	-4.10	58	3125	+505	4761
	Meriden-Meriden	89	49	70	+8	0.08	1	9.96	15.74	44	3029	+640	4653
	Norfolk	81	49	64	+6	0.44	1	20.67	-5.80	62	2277	+438	3818
	Norwich	88	54	70	+7	0.00	0	13.74	10.06	41	2934	+394	4565
	Staffordville	83	49	66	+7	0.00	0	20.57	-3.18	43	2320	+211	3874
	Thomaston_Dam	84	46	65	+6	0.46	1	17.06	-7.70	61	2704	+561	4308
	West_Thompson_L	88	48	66	+6	0.00	0	15.82	-8.22	47	2515	+381	4108
	Willimantic	87	49	68	+10	0.36	1	16.26	-7.49	50	2949	+840	4574

Summary based on NWS data. DFN = Departure From Normal.
Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.
Copyright 2015: Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc. All rights reserved.

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

No rain this week, but the rain last week turned around some crops that looked like they might be lost. For other crops, it was too little too late. Some sweet corn ears were small and dry with unfilled kernels, beans were hollow and tough, and winter squash was sun-scalded. Wholesale prices have held, so all is not lost.

WINDHAM, Dawn S. Pindell

Sunny, 80 degree, very dry days. A farmer reported that just walking through his hayfields creates clouds of dust it is so dry. Some farmers are hauling water for the cows; ponds and wells are not keeping up with the demands of several milking herds. Apples have an abundant crop with apples cascading down the branches of most varieties. Even backyard apple growers are reporting a greater than normal apple harvest. Orchards are having busy weekends with Pick-Your-Own (PYO), corn mazes and pumpkin harvest have begun, and the weather has been ideal for these activities. Chopping corn; choppers, trucks, drivers, and pile packers all organized in an orchestra of fast paced activity to get the corn in and move onto the next farm and help them get the job done. Yields reported ranging from 15 to 24 tons/acre; ear size is smaller. Covering the piles. One farm reported yields down by 25% and fitting almost 100 acres more to fill the pile to where it usually is by this time of the year. Farmers' markets continue to have good variety of vegetables, mums, jellies, etc, with good public interest in buying local.

LITCHFIELD, Richard Meinert

Corn harvest moving quickly with great weather conditions. Drought is playing havoc with yields and quality as one would expect. Even in areas with adequate water, ears are smaller this year and not fully filled.

MAINE

CUMBERLAND/YORK, Sandy Truslow

Very warm weather sent people to the beach rather than apple picking last week. Great year for growing vegetables with irrigation. Potatoes, pumpkins, winter squash and other vegetables are being harvested with good quality and quantity reported. The last cut of hay is being made.

FRANKLIN, Gary J. Raymond

Great weather for silage corn harvest; looks like a bumper crop. Great weather for grain, corn, and soybeans to finish off. This area got the closest to a frost last night for this season so far.

PISCATAQUIS/SOMERSET, Elaine S. Moccus

A rainy beginning of the week turned hot and humid during the remainder - great for field work. Corn silage harvesting has begun and continues as weather permits. Lots of dry hay being harvested as well. Temperatures are above average for the month with below average precipitation.

SOMERSET, Kathy Hopkins

Beautiful, summery week. Some rain would be helpful.

MASSACHUSETTS

ALL MA COUNTIES, Thomas Smiarowski

An unusually warm week temperature wise. Harvesting of all crops continues. Cover crops are being applied.

HAMPSHIRE/HAMPDEN, Heather Baylis

Farms were harvesting many different apple varieties, pears, peaches, and late raspberries as well as a whole variety of vegetables including acorn and winter squash and pumpkins. Farmers have finished second cutting and are well into the third cutting of hay. Many farms are starting to chop corn silage. Pumpkins are coming in, but some farms are reporting less than ideal size due to insufficient water.

PLYMOUTH, Carolyn DeMoranville

After a good soaking rain last week, this week was back to warm and dry conditions. Cranberry harvest is off to a slow start as most growers are waiting for better fruit color. Warm weather this week didn't do anything to promote color. Predicted cooler conditions for the week ahead will be welcome.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

CARROLL, Olivia Saunders

Dry weather continues, as warm temperatures dip and fall weather takes hold. Hay supplies are short this year. Growers are looking to other regions to supplement their needs. Still have an abundance of summer produce available; most of the summer squash and cucumbers are over, while many tomato plants are still going strong. Many pumpkins and squash getting pulled off fields.

COOS, Steve Turaj

Rain at both ends of the week with warm, but not so humid weather the remainder. Morning fogs are hanging on till late in the day. Tedding and haying as conditions permit. Field corn continues to pack on quality; helped by adequate soil moisture and warm temperatures. Soybeans are also looking good. Sweet corn is about done. A short, "all at once" season for the crop this year. Pumpkins being harvested, mums at garden centers. No frosts yet, but possible last night as temperatures were into mid-30s in places.

HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton

Vegetables: Good demand for all fruit and vegetables continues. Harvesting wide array of vegetables, including warm season vegetables like tomatoes and peppers. Harvesting cabbage, kale, Brussel sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins. Farmers kept busy disking, cleaning up, and planting cover crops on harvested fields. Fruit: Apple harvest is in full swing, with most growers concentrating on picking McIntosh and Gala apples. Great weekend for PYO orchards. Fall raspberries and pear harvest

continued, with peach and plum harvest winding down. Field Crops: Silage corn harvest is in full swing along with second and third cuts of hay and haylage. New forage seedings are being made.

ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad

Sunny and warm week. Nights and dawn hours are getting cooler. Feels like fall. Harvesting pumpkins, different apple varieties, fall raspberries, pears, and blackberries as well as an array of vegetables including acorn, butternut, delicata, kabocha and other winter squash varieties, herbs, and cut flowers (annuals and perennials). Curing onions and winter squashes for fall and winter markets and soon sweet potatoes. Pressing cider. Great weekend weather for PYO apples. Peach season almost done. Chopping corn and cutting hay. Irrigating, cleaning fields, planting cover crops, spreading lime. The beginning of the week saw some rain but more soaking rain is needed. Community Supported Agriculture Programs are getting more people to sign up for the winter harvest shares. Farmers' markets customers continue enjoying and buying a diversity of agricultural products including meats, dairy products, jams and jellies, and pies. Mums, ornamental kales, cabbages and corn stalks are at farm stores.

RHODE ISLAND

ALL RI COUNTIES, Paul E. Brule

Rhode Island continues to be dry with no rain in the future forecast. Pastures continue to show their wear. Potatoes, vegetables, and apples continue to be harvested and look very good. Livestock continue to receive feed supplements.

ALL RI COUNTIES, Heather Faubert

Hot and dry again.

VERMONT

FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley

Super weather continues this week in Franklin County. Much third and fourth crop hay was harvested, with a lot dried to bale as dry hay. Rain has come at an ideal time to keep things from getting too dry; however, hearing of some wells that are running low due to low ground water supplies. Corn is responding to the nice weather and some harvesting has started. Still seeing some that is not dented down to ideal harvest conditions. Need to start picking our fields, so check them out!!!!!! Gardens are headed to the dormant stage with a few vine crops yet to be harvested. Get out and enjoy the great weather. Mother Nature always has a way of balancing out and giving us a great fall in trade for the wet spring and early summer.

ORLEANS, David Blodgett

Temperatures last week averaged in the mid-80s. Not bad for the last week of summer. This morning, however, we had our first frost. It was light and scattered, but a reminder of what is coming. Both third and fourth cutting hay harvest are ongoing. The yields look pretty good and the quality is very good. This will help offset the poor quality hay harvested earlier in the year. The corn is looking good despite the slow start. Yields will probably be a little bit lower than average but much better than expected at the end of July. The corn harvest is just getting under way.