



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



New
England



Crop Progress & Condition

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Week ending October 11, 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.

The region experienced a nice weather recovery from the prior week's heavy rains. Weather was described as being "perfect" with only minimal showers in some parts. Average weekly temperatures in the region ranged from six degrees below normal to five degrees above normal. Weekly precipitation ranged from 0.07 to 1.24 inches. Some light frosts settled in with cooler night temperatures in areas. Late cuttings of hay were made for bales and haylage, while corn silage harvest continued at a steady pace. Potato crop harvests were still underway and being stored. Apple crops were large and the quality was reported as better than normal, keeping the Pick-Your-Own operations and farm stands busy over the Columbus Day weekend. Winter market crops were being planted such as lettuce, kale, cabbage, Brussel sprouts, and other greens, while pumpkins and winter squashes were abundant. At the same time, summer crops such as tomatoes and peppers were also in great supply at the markets. Cranberry harvest in Massachusetts was at its peak. Field work this week included spreading manure, cleaning fields, disking, and winterizing equipment.

Soil Moisture for Week Ending October 11, 2015

(in percent)

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
TOPSOIL	0	19	71	10
SUBSOIL	3	27	63	7

Crop Conditions as of October 11, 2015

(in percent)

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
CORN	2	4	11	78	5
CRANBERRIES (MA)	0	5	10	65	20
DRY HAY	2	3	20	61	14
PASTURE AND RANGE	5	14	41	39	1
QUALITY OF DRY HAY MADE	4	10	22	33	31

Crop Progress as of October 11, 2015

(in percent)

Item	This Week
APPLES: HARVESTED	76
CORN FOR SILAGE: HARVESTED	73
CRANBERRIES (MA): HARVESTED	40
DRY HAY: 3rd CUTTING	92
DRY HAY: 4th CUTTING	37
FALL TILLAGE: SINGLE	32
PEARS: HARVESTED	64
POTATOES: HARVESTED	86

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

October 12, 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	66	35	49	-3	0.69	1	27.27	+4.30	75	2371	+211	4116
	Bangor_Intl_Air	67	32	48	-3	0.24	1	19.42	-1.54	79	2233	+212	3931
	Bethel	66	30	47	-4	0.64	1	27.20	+1.97	72	2067	+148	3741
	Bridgton	66	32	47	-2	0.69	1	29.45	+4.40	67	2038	+309	3733
	Caribou_Municip	65	31	46	0	0.38	2	20.79	-0.83	86	1934	+452	3548
	Dover-Foxcroft	64	30	45	-2	0.70	1	31.62	+7.59	90	1985	+478	3615
	Durham	67	34	49	-3	0.51	1	25.16	+1.41	79	2152	+171	3877
	East_Surry	66	34	48	-3	0.51	1	23.00	-0.62	73	1874	-3	3534
	Eustis	59	27	43	-2	1.24	2	23.00	+0.43	75	1545	+395	3042
	Frenchville	61	29	43	-2	0.33	2	20.49	-1.62	83	1655	+295	3208
	Harmony	69	32	47	-2	0.71	1	28.75	+5.25	87	2072	+305	3745
	Houlton	65	29	45	-2	0.34	1	26.60	+5.13	78	1900	+384	3497
	Livermore_Falls	66	28	45	-3	0.78	1	28.40	+3.10	74	2002	+468	3656
	Machias	65	33	48	-2	0.65	1	26.52	+1.38	77	1893	+416	3480
	Millinocket_Wtr	66	28	45	-3	0.58	1	29.93	+5.95	78	1830	+66	3407
	Moosehead	62	30	45	0	0.52	1	26.71	+2.25	85	1807	+499	3399
	Portland_ME	69	35	51	+1	0.43	1	24.88	+2.32	62	2487	+555	4278
	Rangeley_2NW	60	28	42	-4	0.67	1	24.95	+1.56	86	1472	+170	2933
	Sanford	69	37	50	-3	0.58	1	22.51	-2.16	45	2423	+190	4149
	Topsfield_2	63	34	47	-1	0.79	1	29.13	+4.73	78	1976	+281	3604
	Turner	65	34	48	-6	0.88	1	27.74	+4.43	72	2278	-57	3994
	Wesley_2W	63	29	45	-4	0.70	1	31.00	+8.72	61	2042	+329	3681
	West_Rockport	65	37	49	-2	0.78	1	26.62	+1.65	77	2204	+389	3901
New Hampshire	Berlin_AG	62	29	45	-3	0.47	1	24.63	+1.26	80	1872	+210	3506
	Bradford_2	65	28	47	-5	0.87	1	23.40	-1.24	59	2061	+3	3741
	Colebrook	64	26	44	-3	0.70	2	31.14	+7.01	105	1593	+78	3134
	Concord	72	30	50	-2	0.73	1	21.99	+1.54	62	2763	+599	4543
	East_Milford	70	37	51	-2	0.38	1	22.17	-1.75	55	2596	+277	4379
	Epping	71	35	51	-2	0.46	1	19.49	-4.04	61	2571	+372	4334
	Errol_AP	62	26	43	-3	0.49	1	27.44	+5.08	85	1724	+360	3265
	Fitzwilliam	68	37	51	+3	0.47	1	24.67	+0.64	79	2566	+747	4339
	Greenville	66	34	49	0	0.46	1	27.67	+3.64	51	2288	+469	4020
	Hancock	67	27	48	-3	0.51	1	31.67	+6.73	79	2263	+266	3976
	Jefferson	64	32	45	-4	0.47	2	30.91	+7.28	97	1951	+221	3588
	Keene_AG	70	31	51	+1	0.88	1	27.95	+4.76	64	2475	+391	4224
	Lakeport_2	67	38	51	-1	0.60	1	23.79	+0.82	62	2472	+206	4226
	Lebanon	69	33	50	0	0.70	2	21.76	+1.07	66	2622	+603	4384
	North_Conway	68	33	48	-2	0.81	1	26.54	+1.16	77	2078	+81	3765
	Tamworth_4	66	28	45	-2	1.02	2	29.82	+2.07	74	1860	+297	3499
	Wolfeburro	64	39	50	-3	0.75	1	23.57	+0.60	65	2503	+237	4263
Vermont	Bennington_AP	66	32	50	+2	0.48	2	17.70	-10.46	65	2533	+870	4321
	Burlington_Intl	69	35	52	+2	0.73	2	26.46	+3.88	80	2919	+685	4706
	Corinth	63	28	45	-5	0.98	2	30.90	+9.86	78	1786	-9	3376
	Island_Pond	61	29	44	-2	0.43	2	29.58	+4.46	99	1844	+379	3416
	Johnson_2N	62	32	46	-2	0.69	2	28.85	+4.17	85	1838	+184	3477
	Marlboro_Raws	66	36	50	+3	0.86	1	25.93	+2.94	68	2274	+661	4002
	Montpelier_AP	63	29	47	-2	0.57	2	27.95	+6.91	90	2129	+334	3787
	Newport_AG	61	30	45	-5	0.65	2	30.20	+6.30	90	2025	-31	3648

		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	69	29	48	-1	1.18	2	27.49	+0.51	73	2209	+463	3915
	Rutland_AG	66	31	49	-3	1.07	2	23.38	-0.67	79	2219	+86	3928
	Springfield_VT	68	30	50	+2	0.67	2	21.04	-4.47	69	2494	+605	4246
	South_Lincoln	63	29	45	-1	0.66	2	28.59	+0.06	73	1790	+357	3382
	Sutton	61	30	45	0	0.67	3	30.50	+5.38	101	1861	+396	3468
	Walden	58	27	43	-3	0.81	3	29.86	+4.74	97	1499	+34	2993
	Woodstock	69	30	48	0	0.70	2	26.62	+3.42	65	2334	+422	4042
Massachusetts	Amherst	70	35	53	+2	0.34	1	9.11	-2.38	18	1240	-1119	2097
	Barre_Falls_Dam	67	33	50	+2	0.39	1	8.53	-1.89	22	899	-914	1681
	Bedford_Hanscom	70	36	52	-2	0.13	1	5.07	-4.92	17	1148	-1277	1934
	Beverly_Ag	68	38	52	-5	0.14	1	4.60	-5.44	14	742	-1884	1268
	Birch_Hill_Dam	69	37	51	+3	0.43	1	8.12	-1.57	17	969	-871	1758
	Boston_Logan_In	72	48	57	0	0.34	1	4.94	-3.97	17	1283	-1510	2075
	Chatham_AP	65	43	55	-1	0.90	1	8.58	-1.59	17	1056	-1020	1839
	Chicopee_Westov	71	33	52	0	0.33	1	4.70	-6.01	17	1170	-1189	1962
	Edgartown	68	41	56	-1	0.40	1	9.92	+0.51	13	834	-1549	1324
	East_Brimfield_	67	37	52	+1	0.36	2	7.02	-3.37	18	1067	-1090	1881
	Fitchburg	72	38	54	+2	0.19	1	5.82	-4.85	18	1283	-1175	2077
	Greenfield	70	38	53	+1	0.26	1	10.60	-1.80	25	1358	-1001	2285
	Hyannis_AP	66	39	55	0	0.39	1	7.43	-1.38	14	1111	-1192	1898
	Maynard	75	37	54	+2	0.23	1	8.43	-0.80	19	783	-1642	1289
	New_Bedford	70	39	55	-3	0.19	1	9.39	-0.71	14	1132	-1702	1928
	Newburyport	69	38	51	-3	0.43	1	4.78	-5.51	13	1022	-1432	1807
	North_Adams_Har	66	34	51	+3	0.56	1	8.09	-3.64	19	1030	-741	1809
	Norwood	72	32	52	-3	0.18	1	3.52	-6.03	17	1098	-1444	1885
	Pittsfield	64	32	50	+2	0.21	1	6.95	-4.72	17	976	-1010	1749
	Plymouth	70	40	54	-2	0.66	1	6.71	-4.36	14	1127	-1415	1918
	Taunton_4NW	71	41	55	+2	0.07	1	5.60	-5.66	15	1052	-1445	1632
	Westfield_Barne	72	33	54	+5	0.37	1	6.21	-4.67	15	1278	-747	2076
	West_Otis	68	36	53	+4	0.39	1	7.08	-0.13	15	690	-1241	1176
	Worcester	66	40	53	+2	0.32	1	5.02	-6.35	17	1139	-1062	1924
	Worthington	68	34	50	+1	0.27	1	7.85	-3.61	21	871	-987	1638
Rhode Island	Newport_AP	69	46	58	+1	0.29	1	19.64	-2.80	56	2849	+371	4667
	Providence	72	43	57	+2	0.39	1	20.86	-2.35	52	3240	+506	5091
	Westerly-Wester	69	38	56	0	0.48	1	19.55	-5.32	50	2808	+279	4622
	Woonsocket	71	40	55	+2	0.18	1	18.94	-6.30	50	3042	+529	4872
Connecticut	Bridgeport_Siko	73	46	60	+3	0.40	1	16.76	-7.17	58	3458	+574	5316
	Danbury_AP	73	35	55	+3	0.11	1	21.44	-7.42	54	2977	+383	4808
	Hartford_Bradle	72	37	55	+1	0.12	1	21.16	-4.14	64	3326	+541	5172
	Meriden-Meriden	74	37	57	+4	0.31	1	12.94	-15.92	49	3264	+719	5098
	Norfolk	65	36	49	-2	0.31	1	23.85	-5.63	69	2385	+454	4114
	Norwich	72	40	56	+2	0.25	1	17.44	-9.30	46	3139	+426	4980
	Staffordville	67	37	52	+1	0.22	1	25.36	-1.34	49	2448	+226	4204
	Thomaston_Dam	73	32	53	+2	0.16	1	19.70	-8.18	68	2853	+585	4659
	West_Thompson_L	68	36	52	+1	0.16	1	19.47	-7.41	53	2648	+397	4445
	Willimantic	72	37	55	+4	0.21	1	19.50	-7.20	55	3148	+926	4982

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

WINDHAM, Dawn S. Pindell

Busy Columbus Day weekend at orchards with perfect weather for Pick-Your-Own (PYO) apples and pumpkins and other family activities. Wholesale apple prices are down due to an abundant crop. Farmers' markets are slowing down with winter squash, lots of tomatoes, and a variety of vegetables and mums. Most of the grape harvest is done. Good sugar levels and most varieties had decent production. Combining corn continues.

MAINE

AROOSTOOK (Northern), Donald Audibert

Had some rain and showers during the week, which slowed down the harvesting progress. Most producers are now done harvesting their potatoes. Had a few light frosts so far.

AROOSTOOK (Central), Larry James

Most operations have finished potatoes. Storages are stuffed full with a near record breaking crop. Soybeans should be ready by the end of the month. The next few weeks will be spent rock picking, plowing, and a well-deserved break at the hunting camp.

CUMBERLAND/YORK, Sandy Truslow

Nice weather over the weekend for picking apples. Farmers are finishing their field work. Last hay is being made. Corn is being chopped. Garlic is being planted.

PISCATAQUIS/SOMERSET, Elaine S. Moceus

Another great week for field work with the exception of one day late in the week. Cool, seasonable temperatures with a couple of light frosts throughout the week in some areas. Apple picking as well as silage corn harvest continues.

MASSACHUSETTS

ALL MA COUNTIES, Thomas Smiarowski

Fall harvest continues. "U -Pick" apple operations are enjoying great weather and large crowds on the weekends.

HAMPSHIRE/HAMPDEN, Heather Baylis

Producers have been busy chopping corn; yields and moisture levels are looking good! Apple picking is going well and pears are also looking good. These counties have not yet had a hard frost; although, night temperatures are dipping lower. Fall vegetables such as cabbage, pumpkins, Brussel sprouts, and all kinds of squash are being harvested. Tomatoes and peppers keep coming in due to the absence of a frost. Cover crops continue to go in on harvested fields and farmers continue to spread manure, disking fields and preparing machinery for the winter.

PLYMOUTH, Carolyn DeMoranville

Cranberry harvest is at the peak period. Crops continue to meet expectations, but fruit quality is a bit below last year's and color is still below average.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

CHESHIRE, Carl Majewski

Cooler and sunny most of the week, with scattered light frost early on and a little rain on Friday. Farms are finishing up with corn chopping. A few are trying to get one last cutting of grass or alfalfa. Farm stands are offering mostly fall crops. Great weekend for PYO apples.

COOS, Steve Turaj

Corn silage harvest continues at a good pace, frost has dried down leaves on many. Apples are abundant and color is about peak in the Lancaster area. Nice color this fall.

GRAFTON, Steven Schmidt

Field conditions were ideal through Thursday. On Friday, the area received about an inch of rainfall, which shut down field activities for a couple of days. Most of the corn is now chopped and in the silo for most farms. A few farms are still hoping to put up a little more haylage if conditions will allow.

HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton

Fruit: Farm stands and PYO apple operations had a beautiful weekend! Apple crop is large at some orchards, where the orchardists are running out of bins. Vegetables: Farmers kept busy working on pulling plastic mulch and tomato stakes, planting cover crops, and putting equipment away. Good demand for all vegetables continues. Growers are harvesting wide array of vegetables including: cabbage, kale, Brussel sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins. Some warm season crops harvest continues in area where frost has not occurred. Field Crops: Silage corn chopping continues and seeding cover crops on harvested fields.

MERRIMACK, Dorothy Perkins

The apple crop is big, and despite a very dry summer and warm September, fruit size and quality are much better than the norm. Color is exceptional, defying expectations. Honeycrisp and other Golden Delicious derivatives in particular are colored better than I have ever seen. Fruit have exceptional type. As an example, Red Delicious in the East tends to be round, but this year the length to diameter ratio is more in tune with what is expected from the Pacific Northwest with a distinct "nose" sporting 5 points and uniform, full red color. Most varieties are maturing later than normal, with a few exceptions. Northern Spy was ready last week, but Macoun is just starting to flavor. McIntosh is still very firm and has colored very well. Bins are in short supply – growers are scrambling to both buy bins and sell fruit to free up bins. On-farm traffic is very strong. There is some pressure on storage space. Despite the drought, there is very little bitter pit – calcium chloride sprays and attention to boron levels really paid dividends. Seed

counts are high. This will likely mean a reduced bloom and fruit set next spring.

ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad

A great week for harvesting. Winter squash, peppers and onions all out from the fields and rushed in temporary storage because of the threat of frost on Saturday and Sunday. Digging sweet potatoes and curing them. Non-irrigated Brussel sprouts are small in size. Great weekend for PYO apple harvest and pumpkins. And it's one of the best Columbus Holiday weekends for the apple season. All apple varieties are abundant with exceptional color. Some growers are running out of harvest bins. Planting lettuce, kale, and greens in high tunnels for winter markets. Cleaning fields. Spreading manure in hay fields. Friday saw steady rain and heavy showers.

SULLIVAN, Jennifer Gehly

It was a seasonable week with highs in the 60s and overnight lows in the upper 30s to low 40s. Monday morning was the coolest with temperatures dropping down to the low 30s overnight. Rain moved through the area on Friday with rainfall totals ranging from 0.19 - 0.32 inches. Farmers were busy harvesting field corn for silage. Later cuts of hay were also taken off fields. The apple crop is abundant. Orchards were very busy during the long holiday weekend. Pumpkins and winter squash are plentiful. Summer vegetables are still in good supply.

RHODE ISLAND

ALL RI COUNTIES, Paul E. Brule

We had no rain last week and the weather was fairly decent. Potatoes are still being harvested and being stored. Silage corn is being chopped. We have not had a frost yet that I know of in RI. Conditions are not really dry, but the soils can use more moisture. It was a terrific weekend for mums, squash, pumpkins, and apple picking. Believe it or not, with no frost there are still vegetables around; tomatoes, peppers, and sweet corn. We have showers today and expect more on Friday. But no frost is being forecast yet.

VERMONT

FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley

Great week in Franklin County for corn harvest. Hearing reports of good yields and waiting on forage sample results; however, preliminary response is very positive based on grain to stalk ratios. Some fall tillage has happened mostly for incorporating cover crop seed and having a great fall for getting this crop germinated. Still some hay harvest going on mostly for round bales and haylage. Definitely moving to the "Great Pumpkin" time frame with many of the orange squashes showing up in garden stands and on house porches with the many assorted faces carefully imprinted.