



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



New
England



Crop Progress & Condition

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Week ending April 17, 2016

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by the Northeastern Regional Field Office of NASS*

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Fair week for field work: New England averaged 3.5 days suitable for field work last week.

Last week, most of New England experienced some precipitation at the beginning of the week, with drier, sunnier weather towards the end of the week. The warmer weather helped to dry out some fields in the region that were previously too wet for field work. A few areas in New Hampshire had a fire brush warning due to dry conditions. Average weekly temperatures ranged from seven degrees below normal to three degrees above normal. Weekly precipitation ranged from 0.13 to 1.35 inches. Some maple syrup producers were still making syrup in parts of New Hampshire and Vermont. Fruit crops were a main focus as a result of the cold weather spells in prior weeks. In particular, apples were being monitored for growth damage in addition to peaches and cherries. Some fruit growers were pruning blueberry bushes, grape vines, and raspberry patches and chopping brush in orchards. In Southern Massachusetts, many cranberry growers were running irrigation for frost protection as cranberry buds have lost dormant color and in some locations have expanded slightly. Greenhouse plantings of vegetables and ornamentals had begun. Field work last week included spreading manure, plowing, disking, laying mulch, and applying fertilizers, lime, and black plastic.

Soil Moisture for Week Ending April 17, 2016 (in percent)

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
TOPSOIL	1	14	56	29
SUBSOIL	0	7	71	22

Crop Progress as of April 17, 2016 (in percent)

Item	This Week
APPLES: GREEN TIP	6

April 17, 2016 New England Weekly Weather Summary

		Last Week Weather Summary						Accumulation Since April 1, 2016					
		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	59	30	42	-2	0.54	2	2.03	-0.07	6	9	+9	60
	Bangor_Intl_Air	59	22	41	-3	0.63	2	2.42	+0.54	7	5	+5	52
	Bethel	63	21	39	-3	0.33	2	1.51	-0.70	7	10	+10	39
	Bridgton	61	23	40	-2	0.83	2	1.83	-0.48	7	10	+10	40
	Caribou_Municip	55	18	37	-2	1.01	2	3.15	+1.70	8	0	0	18
	Dover-Foxcroft	58	20	38	0	0.86	2	2.41	+0.33	7	0	0	23
	Durham	63	25	42	-3	0.36	2	1.45	-1.10	6	11	+11	57
	East_Surry	64	25	42	-2	0.85	2	3.06	+0.66	9	1	+1	41
	Eustis	56	15	34	-3	0.41	2	1.57	-0.19	8	0	0	18
	Frenchville	51	16	34	-3	0.44	2	1.57	+0.08	8	0	0	6
	Harmony	60	23	39	-2	0.88	2	2.53	+0.38	7	1	+1	32
	Houlton	56	16	37	-2	1.05	2	2.78	+1.23	8	0	0	33
	Livermore_Falls	60	23	38	-3	0.50	2	1.73	-0.65	6	7	+7	34
	Millinocket_Wtr	57	18	36	-4	0.85	2	2.76	+0.77	7	0	0	14
	Moosehead	55	14	34	-2	0.58	2	2.17	+0.30	7	0	0	21
	Portland_ME	60	28	44	+1	0.26	2	0.96	-1.48	7	17	+17	77
	Rangeley_2NW	56	15	34	-3	0.42	2	1.73	-0.14	9	0	0	14
	Sanford	60	27	42	-4	0.31	2	1.62	-0.97	8	19	+19	63
	Topsfield_2	56	17	38	-2	1.35	2	2.98	+1.07	7	0	0	22
	Turner	58	22	40	-5	0.75	2	2.28	-0.12	6	9	+9	45
	Wesley_2W	57	19	40	0	0.93	2	2.83	+0.63	4	0	0	28
	West_Rockport	59	24	40	-2	0.57	2	1.99	-0.73	7	1	+1	37
	Whiting	63	21	41	+1	0.66	2	2.53	-0.07	6	0	0	41
New Hampshire	Berlin_AG	62	18	37	-3	0.57	2	1.43	-0.37	6	7	+7	32
	Bradford_2	62	22	39	-6	0.33	2	1.37	-0.84	5	10	+10	35
	Colebrook	60	16	36	-4	0.88	3	1.89	+0.48	6	5	+5	27
	Concord	65	24	43	-2	0.30	2	1.27	-0.43	7	28	+28	82
	East_Milford	62	27	43	-3	0.27	2	1.37	-0.90	6	22	+22	76
	Epping	61	27	44	-2	0.23	2	2.12	-0.28	7	21	+21	79
	Errol_AP	61	15	35	-2	0.88	2	2.03	+0.50	8	0	0	22
	Greenville	61	26	41	-2	0.13	2	1.49	-0.62	6	15	+15	53
	Hancock	62	24	41	-3	0.46	2	1.61	-0.62	7	15	+15	53
	Jaffrey_Silver_	59	26	41	-2	0.49	3	1.70	-0.41	7	15	+15	55
	Jefferson	61	18	38	-4	0.89	3	1.50	-0.11	8	6	+6	39
	Keene_AG	65	24	42	-2	0.60	2	1.44	-0.42	6	13	+13	55
	Lakeport_2	62	29	43	-2	0.48	2	1.43	-0.46	7	12	+12	57
	Lebanon	66	24	42	-1	0.37	2	1.11	-0.44	7	18	+18	66
	North_Conway	63	25	40	-2	0.60	2	1.90	-0.48	6	11	+11	45
	Tamworth_4	61	22	38	-3	0.82	2	2.38	-0.01	8	9	+9	33
	Wolfeburro	62	27	42	-3	0.50	2	1.41	-0.48	7	15	+15	57
Vermont	Averill	59	16	33	-3	0.76	2	1.98	+0.28	7	0	0	12
	Bennington_AP	67	26	42	+1	0.32	3	1.62	-0.30	8	21	+21	75
	Burlington_Intl	61	27	42	-2	0.21	3	1.04	-0.55	8	16	+16	62
	Corinth	62	22	38	-4	0.38	2	1.59	+0.21	7	0	0	26
	Johnson_2N	63	16	37	-4	1.11	2	2.61	+0.77	6	6	+6	36
	Marlboro_Raws	63	23	41	+3	1.07	3	2.92	+1.42	8	10	+10	46
	Montpelier_AP	63	21	38	-4	0.47	2	1.31	-0.07	6	12	+12	46
	Newport_AG	60	17	36	-7	0.68	3	1.76	+0.13	8	2	+2	29

		Last Week Weather Summary						Accumulation Since April 1, 2016					
		Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
State	Station	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
	Rochester	66	21	39	-3	0.72	2	1.63	-0.41	6	10	+10	42
	Rutland_AG	64	22	40	-5	0.54	2	1.42	-0.11	8	16	+16	58
	Springfield_VT	64	25	42	+1	0.25	3	1.16	-1.05	6	10	+10	53
	South_Lincoln	60	18	38	-1	0.40	1	1.69	-0.65	5	7	+7	40
	Sutton	62	15	37	-2	0.75	3	2.86	+1.33	10	0	0	29
	Walden	60	16	34	-5	0.71	3	2.73	+1.20	8	0	0	15
	Woodstock	65	24	40	-3	0.45	2	1.75	-0.16	5	11	+11	49
Massachusetts	Amherst	66	26	44	-2	0.39	3	1.60	-0.55	7	19	+18	82
	Barre_Falls_Dam	60	25	42	-2	0.50	3	2.31	+0.12	9	16	+16	59
	Bedford_Hanscom	63	26	45	-3	0.17	2	2.31	+0.02	9	31	+27	94
	Beverly_Ag	61	30	45	-3	0.25	2	1.90	-0.52	7	22	+17	95
	Birch_Hill_Dam	61	26	42	-2	0.51	3	1.68	-0.48	8	12	+12	57
	Boston_Logan_In	60	38	48	-1	0.23	2	2.53	+0.45	8	32	+25	122
	Chatham_AP	56	36	45	+2	0.20	1	3.49	+1.23	6	12	+12	82
	Chicopee_Westov	65	25	45	-1	0.37	2	1.37	-0.78	8	26	+25	94
	Edgartown	56	35	46	+1	0.19	1	3.88	+1.39	7	14	+13	93
	East_Brimfield_	61	28	43	-2	0.38	3	2.98	+0.56	10	14	+14	68
	Fitchburg	63	27	46	-1	0.23	2	1.44	-1.10	7	32	+30	101
	Greenfield	64	25	42	-4	0.43	3	1.63	-0.52	9	16	+15	62
	Hyannis_AP	55	30	45	0	0.21	1	3.68	+1.47	7	14	+14	87
	Maynard	65	25	45	-3	0.23	2	2.38	+0.09	8	22	+18	86
	New_Bedford	58	29	46	-2	0.31	1	2.94	+0.39	7	19	+16	92
	Newburyport	59	29	43	-4	0.36	2	1.94	-0.57	6	22	+20	78
	North_Adams_Har	66	24	42	0	0.60	3	2.08	-0.33	9	23	+23	74
	Norwood	61	27	45	-3	0.17	1	1.87	-0.51	6	35	+29	102
	Pittsfield	65	27	43	-2	0.71	3	2.14	+0.06	9	18	+18	66
	Plymouth	59	30	45	-3	0.33	1	2.87	+0.18	7	24	+21	89
	Taunton_4NW	59	29	45	-3	0.32	2	3.52	+1.08	10	17	+13	82
	Westfield_Barne	66	27	46	+2	0.27	2	1.31	-1.07	7	27	+27	99
	West_Otis	64	28	44	+1	0.45	3	2.01	-0.54	9	15	+15	72
	Worcester	57	30	45	0	0.28	2	2.30	+0.08	9	17	+17	79
	Worthington	63	23	41	-2	0.48	3	2.24	+0.08	9	14	+14	55
Rhode Island	Newport_AP	57	35	46	-1	0.30	1	3.05	+0.54	7	8	+5	83
	Providence	60	33	48	-2	0.26	2	3.58	+1.16	10	26	+17	112
	Westerly-Wester	61	31	46	-2	0.41	1	3.66	+1.20	7	14	+11	93
	Woonsocket	60	28	45	-2	0.39	1	4.42	+1.87	8	20	+16	87
Connecticut	Bridgeport_Siko	67	31	49	0	0.29	2	2.02	-0.27	7	22	+13	120
	Danbury_AP	65	28	46	-3	0.35	2	1.70	-0.71	7	26	+18	102
	Hartford_Bradle	65	31	47	-2	0.30	2	1.61	-0.56	8	27	+15	113
	Meriden-Meriden	66	30	47	0	0.14	2	1.92	-0.75	6	22	+18	108
	Norfolk	62	25	42	-1	0.57	2	2.11	-0.44	6	14	+14	61
	Norwich	63	32	46	-2	0.31	1	3.37	+0.71	6	16	+8	95
	Staffordville	59	26	42	-4	0.46	2	4.42	+1.87	8	12	+11	56
	Thomaston_Dam	64	28	44	-1	0.42	3	1.68	-0.78	9	16	+16	77
	West_Thompson_L	59	27	43	-3	0.26	1	3.56	+1.01	7	11	+11	61
	Willimantic	64	28	47	+2	0.26	1	2.75	+0.20	7	25	+24	110

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

Early April seemed like the coldest weather of the winter, with the exception of Valentine's Day weekend. However, the weather has finally turned beautiful and vegetable growers are in full field prep and planting mode

NEW LONDON, Sarah Woodward

A wet start to the week with periods of heavy rain; warm and sunny towards the end of the week with temperatures in the low 70s by the weekend.

WINDHAM, Dawn S. Pindell

Peaches may be a complete loss this year. Wet conditions are keeping farm equipment out of most fields. Wet, windy conditions have also restricted spraying apple orchards to control scab. Greenhouse work planting of vegetables and ornamentals is taking place.

MAINE

AROOSTOOK (Central), Larry James

Mid 60's and sunshine Sunday went a long way toward drying out fields. If the rain holds off we may see some high ground worked by early next week.

FRANKLIN, Gary J. Raymond

Wow, what a nice weekend. Some greening has started. Some peas are planted. Lots of manure being spread. Time to mend the fences before the black flies come out!

SOMERSET, Kathy Hopkins

Wind and sun are starting to dry out the soil. Some rain will be welcome.

WASHINGTON, Audre Hayward

Unusually dry.

MASSACHUSETTS

ALL MA COUNTIES, Tom Smiarowski

Field activities underway full-scale. Plowing, disking and soil preparation activities really took off during the week. Planting of potatoes, sweet corn, peas and beans taking place.

BERKSHIRE, Debra J. Senger

The producers were able to get onto their fields to start spreading. Will start planting this week.

HAMPSHIRE/HAMPDEN, Heather Baylis

Spring is finally here with night time temperatures rising an average of 10 degrees and day time temperature averaged 12 degrees more than the previous week. Greenhouses are full with plants ready to head out. Apple trees are showing the first few leaves.

PLYMOUTH, Carolyn DeMoranville

Temperatures remained cool this week in Southeastern Massachusetts, with many growers running irrigation for frost protection as cranberry buds have lost dormant color and in some locations have expanded slightly.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

BELKNAP/HILLSBOROUGH/MERRIMACK, Donna Juneau

This week's weather has been warming to closer to normal for this time of year. Producers are reporting problems with cherry and peach crops due to cold weather events in mid-February and/or early April. Very low peach crop is expected and a reduced cherry crop is expected.

CARROLL, Olivia Saunders

Growers are getting into their drier fields for cultivation, bed making and mulch laying. Grass hasn't yet greened up, and fire danger is high.

CHESHIRE, Carl Majewski

Pretty warm and sunny most of the week, with frosts at night. Many fields dry enough for field operations, some farms starting to spread manure and put in spring seedings.

GRAFTON, Heather Bryant

The end of the week was warm, allowing a number of farms to start spreading manure and a few even started tilling.

GRAFTON, Steven Schmidt

Rain showers on Monday and Tuesday of last week delivered less than a half inch of precipitation. Cold temperatures in the early morning hours generally gave way to warm conditions from mid-morning until sundown. A few maple sugar operations were still making syrup. Some upland fields still have frost a few inches below the surface in spots. The River bottom soils are generally further along. Farmers have been spreading manure and harrowing it in. They often have to work around some of the wetter low areas. Hay fields are beginning to show more green. Evidence of winter kill has not been obvious at this time. We will have to wait a little longer to make that determination.

HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton

Cold weather on April 4, 5 and 6 damaged apple flower buds, raspberry buds and blueberry buds, depending on the stage of bud development. Need to wait to determine percent damage. Peach buds were damaged earlier – February 14 and 15 – with temperatures below minus 10° F. Apples are at green tip bud stage and 1/2 inch green. Peaches are beginning to swell; not seeing any flower bud alive. Pruning blueberry bushes, grape vines and raspberry patches. Orchardists are pruning, chopping brush in orchards or push pruning out of the orchards. Starting to spray orchards. Greenhouses are filling up with plants and need to run the furnace with cold weather. Hauling manure to fields and starting to spread manure and tilling in manure.

ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad

Fire brush warning as conditions are dry. After the last few weeks with cold snap this week it was a little warmer, however, we saw some frosty nights. The beginning of the week received some rain and ended with sunny days, warm in the 70s on the weekend. The weather forecast late Monday evening promises some rain showers. Pruning the last of the blueberry bushes, raspberries, and apples. Year-round farm stands still have apples from Empire, Mac's, Red Delicious, Mutsu and Cortland in their cold storage. Preparing vegetable fields by plowing and disking; applying fertilizers, lime, and black plastic. There are about two weeks of winter farmers' markets before the open air markets begin. Bedding plants and annuals growing well and brisk sales with pansies.

SULLIVAN, Jennifer Z. Gehly

The week was marked by average high temperatures in the 50s. Overnight lows remained cool in the upper 20s to low 30s even through the weekend. By Friday, high temperatures were above average in the mid-60s to mid-70s. Despite the unseasonable weather, it's still a bit too early for serious field work. I have seen some fields turned over and have heard that some vegetable growers have put some early crops in such as peas and potatoes. Dairy farmers were busy last week spreading manure. The maple season is over and yields vary by area. Where some producers reported a subpar crop (2/3 of average) others reported their best season on record. There is early concern of possible apple losses due to temperatures falling to the teens the week of April 4th.

RHODE ISLAND

ALL RI COUNTIES, George Goulart

It is still a little early for planting outside. Some farmers are starting to prepare fields. Plants are being started in greenhouses.

VERMONT

FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley

Great spring weather is here in Franklin County, Vermont. Not a lot of buds yet, with temperatures still freezing overnight. It seems that the maple sap will never stop running. The hope now is that we will get some moisture to kick growth off and not get another cold snap that would be a big setback. Manure applications are starting into full swing, however, not a lot of tillage in progress yet.

ORLEANS, David Blodgett

Fields are drying out, but still too wet to work. So far I haven't observed any field activity. If the drying trend continues, spring manure spreading will probably get started. There is still a little snow and frost in the protected areas that do not receive a lot of sun.