



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



New
England



Crop Progress & Condition

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Week ending May 1, 2016

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by the Northeastern Regional Field Office of NASS

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Good week for field work: New England averaged 5.0 days suitable for field work last week.

Cooler, drier temperatures settled in throughout much of the New England region this past week, slowing field activity in some locations. Average weekly temperatures ranged from thirteen degrees below normal to one degree above normal in the region. Weekly precipitation ranged from 0.00 to 0.66 inches. Some producers seeded fields while others concentrated on activities such as spreading manure, disking, tilling, preparing seed beds, and prepping fields. The planting of early season crops such as peas, greens, Cole crops, and lettuce continued. In Massachusetts, the cooler temperatures had some cranberry growers running irrigation lines for bud protection. Orchardists continued to evaluate the extent of damage to fruit caused by recent, sporadic cold weather as well as apply fungicides and nutrients. In addition, fruit trees, grapes, raspberries, blueberries, and strawberries were being planted in some locations. Vermont reported the first apple scab infection of the season. Farmers' markets were busy preparing for the season.

Soil Moisture for Week Ending May 1, 2016

(in percent)

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
TOPSOIL	2	33	57	8
SUBSOIL	1	28	64	7

Crop Conditions as of May 1, 2016

(in percent)

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
PASTURE AND RANGE	10	37	19	34	0

Crop Progress as of May 1, 2016

(in percent)

Item	This Week
APPLES: GREEN TIP	66
APPLES: PINK	20
BLUEBERRIES, TAME: GREEN TIP	37
BLUEBERRIES, TAME: PINK	5
BLUEBERRIES, WILD (ME): GREEN TIP	72
BLUEBERRIES, WILD (ME): PINK	20
CRANBERRIES (MA): GREEN TIP	15
PEACHES: GREEN TIP	65
PEACHES: PINK	10
SPRING TILLAGE: SINGLE	24
STRAWBERRIES: GREEN TIP	6
SWEET CORN: PLANTED	14

May 1, 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	62	27	41	-9	0.09	1	2.72	-1.20	9	36	+21	168
	Bangor_Intl_Air	67	21	40	-9	0.03	1	2.58	-0.84	10	28	+17	144
	Bethel	61	24	40	-9	0.18	1	2.27	-1.66	10	28	+17	118
	Bridgton	64	25	40	-7	0.38	1	2.88	-1.22	9	27	+21	126
	Caribou_Municip	58	18	34	-11	0.00	0	3.15	+0.40	8	13	+13	69
	Dover-Foxcroft	62	19	37	-8	0.00	0	2.50	-1.27	9	12	+12	91
	Durham	64	25	41	-8	0.53	1	2.76	-1.84	9	27	+19	151
	East_Surry	57	23	39	-10	0.02	1	3.29	-1.02	12	6	0	96
	Eustis	59	17	35	-8	0.00	0	2.29	-0.99	10	4	+4	56
	Frenchville	55	15	32	-11	0.00	0	1.60	-1.24	9	7	+7	47
	Harmony	63	21	40	-8	0.00	0	2.75	-1.08	8	16	+11	114
	Houlton	59	15	34	-11	0.00	0	2.78	-0.17	8	12	+12	84
	Livermore_Falls	64	21	39	-7	0.09	1	2.67	-1.55	8	20	+19	105
	Millinocket_Wtr	61	17	36	-11	0.00	0	2.76	-0.91	7	5	+3	65
	Moosehead	60	20	37	-6	0.00	0	2.17	-1.37	7	0	0	59
	Portland_ME	62	27	42	-7	0.40	1	1.56	-2.82	10	35	+27	176
	Rangeley_2NW	59	17	35	-8	0.01	1	2.62	-0.65	12	1	+1	46
	Sanford	62	26	42	-9	0.28	1	1.86	-2.77	8	48	+27	179
	Topsfield_2	61	23	39	-8	0.00	0	2.98	-0.64	7	20	+19	100
	Turner	63	28	41	-9	0.22	1	3.40	-0.82	9	28	+8	138
	Wesley_2W	67	18	39	-7	0.00	0	2.93	-0.95	5	12	+11	103
	West_Rockport	57	24	40	-8	0.23	1	2.70	-2.18	9	15	+11	118
	Whiting	64	20	42	-5	0.10	1	2.75	-1.95	9	15	+14	129
New Hampshire	Berlin_AG	64	22	39	-8	0.19	1	2.60	-0.74	10	19	+13	102
	Bradford_2	67	24	41	-10	0.35	2	1.75	-2.31	8	28	+2	128
	Colebrook	58	17	34	-12	0.12	1	2.80	+0.05	10	9	+7	59
	Concord	69	25	45	-5	0.35	2	1.65	-1.52	10	78	+55	237
	East_Milford	66	29	47	-5	0.31	1	1.84	-2.18	9	65	+35	231
	Epping	62	27	44	-7	0.37	2	2.55	-1.77	12	53	+29	203
	Errol_AP	61	19	36	-7	0.16	1	3.08	+0.17	11	6	+6	68
	Greenville	65	28	45	-4	0.33	1	1.87	-1.98	9	47	+35	188
	Hancock	65	24	44	-6	0.30	1	2.04	-2.01	10	41	+25	165
	Jaffrey_Silver_	67	29	47	-2	0.32	1	2.21	-1.64	10	47	+35	193
	Jefferson	61	23	39	-9	0.31	1	2.80	-0.21	12	20	+7	107
	Keene_AG	68	25	45	-5	0.34	1	1.81	-1.62	9	45	+26	184
	Lakeport_2	69	30	44	-6	0.48	2	1.91	-1.64	9	51	+32	194
	Lebanon	70	22	44	-5	0.34	2	1.50	-1.48	10	65	+49	201
	North_Conway	67	25	41	-8	0.46	2	2.67	-1.57	9	40	+28	147
	Tamworth_4	65	22	39	-7	0.66	2	3.19	-1.18	11	25	+23	110
	Wolfeburro	65	31	45	-5	0.51	2	1.93	-1.62	10	41	+22	184
Vermont	Averill	52	14	33	-9	0.00	0	3.02	-0.24	9	0	0	40
	Bennington_AP	65	27	47	-2	0.43	2	2.08	-1.63	11	74	+62	230
	Burlington_Intl	61	27	42	-8	0.42	2	1.80	-1.19	13	46	+21	166
	Corinth	60	21	37	-11	0.61	2	2.36	-0.30	10	12	-1	89
	Johnson_2N	58	21	38	-9	0.24	1	3.33	-0.05	9	14	+10	94
	Marlboro_Raws	64	25	44	-2	0.49	2	3.48	+0.66	12	44	+40	177
	Montpelier_AP	61	22	39	-10	0.58	2	2.27	-0.39	11	34	+21	127
	Newport_AG	58	23	37	-13	0.11	1	2.52	-0.53	11	7	-15	75

		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	68	24	41	-7	0.48	1	2.21	-1.64	8	27	+17	124
	Rutland_AG	64	26	42	-9	0.45	2	1.96	-0.95	12	29	-5	143
	Springfield_VT	68	25	44	-4	0.26	2	1.43	-2.66	9	54	+43	185
	South_Lincoln	60	19	38	-8	0.42	2	1.59	-2.76	8	15	+15	102
	Sutton	59	22	38	-7	0.22	1	3.73	+0.80	14	5	+5	87
	Walden	57	17	34	-12	0.21	1	3.48	+0.55	13	1	+1	54
	Woodstock	68	23	43	-6	0.48	2	2.32	-1.27	9	41	+29	155
Massachusetts	Amherst	66	30	49	-2	0.42	1	2.39	-1.58	9	70	+40	256
	Barre_Falls_Dam	65	28	46	-3	0.41	1	3.04	-0.97	12	42	+31	184
	Bedford_Hanscom	64	29	47	-6	0.27	1	2.81	-1.30	12	78	+41	259
	Beverly_Ag	62	26	43	-10	0.28	1	2.32	-1.98	9	41	+4	198
	Birch_Hill_Dam	64	28	46	-2	0.27	1	2.16	-1.68	11	42	+31	194
	Boston_Logan_In	62	37	47	-6	0.27	1	2.86	-0.83	11	76	+29	283
	Chatham_AP	56	33	44	-5	0.26	2	4.12	+0.05	11	31	+19	187
	Chicopee_Westov	67	29	49	-2	0.35	1	1.84	-2.13	10	93	+63	280
	Edgartown	59	34	46	-5	0.29	2	4.44	+0.09	12	39	+16	229
	East_Brimfield_	64	31	48	-3	0.32	2	3.52	-0.76	13	57	+36	224
	Fitchburg	69	30	49	-3	0.29	1	1.89	-2.59	9	94	+61	287
	Greenfield	69	31	50	-2	0.34	2	2.24	-1.73	12	56	+26	223
	Hyannis_AP	59	33	45	-5	0.25	2	4.23	+0.38	12	40	+24	203
	Maynard	65	31	47	-5	0.31	1	2.91	-1.20	10	73	+36	254
	New_Bedford	62	32	46	-6	0.26	2	3.39	-1.08	11	50	+15	232
	Newburyport	63	29	45	-7	0.31	1	2.31	-2.15	10	46	+15	201
	North_Adams_Har	65	27	47	-1	0.42	1	2.57	-1.94	12	71	+61	227
	Norwood	66	28	48	-5	0.20	1	2.16	-2.08	9	85	+40	271
	Pittsfield	61	29	46	-4	0.35	2	2.49	-1.54	11	59	+39	214
	Plymouth	62	33	46	-6	0.19	2	3.36	-1.33	12	52	+22	210
	Taunton_4NW	66	32	49	-4	0.17	2	3.97	-0.31	15	56	+20	246
	Westfield_Barne	67	30	50	+1	0.44	2	1.90	-2.45	10	101	+80	296
	West_Otis	64	31	48	0	0.44	3	2.62	-2.06	13	58	+45	235
	Worcester	61	31	46	-5	0.32	1	2.79	-1.27	12	69	+45	245
	Worthington	61	25	45	-4	0.38	2	2.77	-1.38	13	44	+32	183
Rhode Island	Newport_AP	58	34	47	-5	0.26	2	3.46	-0.93	10	41	+14	233
	Providence	63	35	49	-5	0.14	2	3.91	-0.36	13	85	+33	298
	Westerly-Wester	60	35	47	-6	0.39	3	4.13	-0.21	12	51	+19	247
	Woonsocket	67	33	49	-3	0.20	1	4.83	+0.30	10	59	+22	252
Connecticut	Bridgeport_Siko	65	41	52	-2	0.48	3	2.73	-1.38	12	105	+52	338
	Danbury_AP	67	36	51	-2	0.43	4	2.35	-2.07	12	97	+44	306
	Hartford_Bradle	67	33	51	-4	0.27	2	2.45	-1.56	11	107	+42	322
	Meriden-Meriden	67	33	52	-1	0.21	4	2.27	-2.52	11	103	+64	320
	Norfolk	59	31	46	-3	0.33	2	2.44	-2.24	8	47	+34	199
	Norwich	65	37	49	-5	0.27	3	3.90	-0.80	10	73	+18	280
	Staffordville	63	31	48	-4	0.26	1	5.06	+0.55	10	37	+9	196
	Thomaston_Dam	70	30	51	0	0.55	4	2.84	-1.58	14	62	+36	246
	West_Thompson_L	67	30	48	-3	0.18	1	4.14	-0.38	9	49	+22	217
	Willimantic	68	33	51	+1	0.13	2	3.05	-1.46	11	104	+76	319

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

Spreading manure, planting corn, fertilizing hay fields. Planting sweet corn, spinach, spraying orchards. Frost damage on blueberries, strawberries, apples, and peaches. Getting ready for Farmers' Markets.

MAINE

AROOSTOOK (Central), Larry James

Night time temperatures in the teens last week kept most out of the fields. The rain predicted for the coming week should pull the remaining frost out of the ground. A few producers are planning on seeding grain this week, but I suspect most potato growers will hold off until the middle of the month.

CUMBERLAND/YORK, Sandy Truslow

The weather continued to be cooler than normal and very dry. Cold morning temperatures delayed transplanting of lettuce. Early planted peas and beets are starting to come up. Peach trees took a hit from the weather last February and no fruit is expected this year. Apple trees are 10 to 14 days away from bloom.

FRANKLIN, Gary J. Raymond

We could use some rain. The grass is just starting to grow here. Good conditions continue for field work. The trees are budded and the black flies have hatched.

PENOBSCOT/PISCATAQUIS, Donna Coffin

A tiny sprinkle of rain Sunday night didn't do much for soil moisture. But the drier soil makes it possible for tillage operations and some planting to commence. Greenhouses are full with seedlings and flowers for Mother's Day.

SOMERSET, Kathy Hopkins

Sun and light snow last week. Manure being spread. A cool week.

WASHINGTON, Audre Hayward

Weather is two weeks ahead.

WASHINGTON, Michael Look

This is one of the very driest springs I have ever seen. Fire danger is extreme.

MASSACHUSETTS

ALL MA COUNTIES, Tom Smiarowski

Lack of rain and low temperatures have slowed crop growth. Full range of field activities continued. Asparagus harvest began midweek.

PLYMOUTH, Carolyn DeMoranville

Another mostly dry week with very cool conditions. The cool spring has slowed cranberry bud development somewhat. Frost danger in the region led to several nights where cranberry growers needed to run irrigation to protect the developing buds. As a result, while the soil conditions in the area are generally dry, cranberry bogs are somewhat saturated.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

BELKNAP/HILLSBOROUGH/MERRIMACK, Donna Juneau

Weather was colder than average this week, dipping down below freezing every night Sunday through Thursday, April 24 – 28. We received some much needed rainfall on Tuesday, April 26 and Sunday, May 1 but only just over 1/2 inch in total for the two days.

BELKNAP, Kelly McAdam

Very little rain this week.

CHESHIRE, Carl Majewski

Getting some welcome rain after a couple dry weeks. Pastures and hayfields are all green and putting on some good growth. Farmers continuing to spread manure and till fields, and first corn should be planted soon. Field prep also continues on vegetable operations, with some planting of early crops. Orchards still waiting for bloom to better assess injury from sub-freezing temperatures a couple weeks ago.

COOS, Steve Turaj

Still cold nights and frosty most mornings. A dry week has allowed farmers to get a good start on spring work. Manure spread on many grass meadows, which are now greening up, and a few cornfields on lighter soils, beginning to be tilled. Seeing some spring lambs and what looks like a lot of turkeys in fields this year.

GRAFTON, Heather Bryant

1-2 inches of snow fell over much of the county on the 26th, but daytime temperatures were mild allowing many farms to get more tillage and soil prep done.

GRAFTON, Steven Schmidt

Over a half-inch of snow and rain fell on April 26th. This provided some needed moisture. Soils on cropland areas remain too cool to plant. Most mornings have been below freezing, with daytime temperatures up into the 50s or more. Farmers are spreading manure and preparing their fields for planting. Hay fields are beginning to show greener, but the grass is coming on slowly.

HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton

Fruits: Orchardists made sure bees were in apple orchards. Plum were starting to bloom. Apple and Pear are at tight cluster to pink and earliest blooming varieties are at king bloom on Sunday, May 1st in the Hollis area. Orchardists are fertilizing orchards and are applying protective fungicide sprays on fruit trees and blueberries. Planting fruit trees, grapes, raspberries, blueberries and strawberries. Finishing up pruning blueberries and pruning peach trees. Field Crops: Farmers are fertilizing hay fields; spreading manure, plowing, disking and fertilizing corn fields to be planted. Vegetables: Continue early season vegetables (peas, lettuce, greens, Cole crops) planting, along with sweet corn and potatoes. Transplanting zucchini and summer squash into row tunnels and floating row cover. Liming, fertilizing, plowing, disking, laying plastic and getting ready plant fields.

ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad

Busy preparing vegetable fields for planting: disking, tilling, applying wood ash, fertilizing, and irrigating beds for Sugar snap peas, arugula, baby kale, lettuce, and Napa cabbage. Direct seeding beans. Tomatoes and pepper seedlings that outgrew their flats have been transplanted into larger pots. Monitoring the weather and spraying protective fungicide for apple scabs in fruit orchards and mummy berries in blueberry patches. Pears in full blossoms. Shredding blueberry brush from pruning. The week saw some rain and more steady much needed rain on Sunday. Few sunny days and a couple of nights saw some cold temperature close to frost.

SULLIVAN, Jennifer Z. Gehly

It was another seasonable week. Average high temperatures for the week ranged from the upper 50s to mid-60s with overnight lows in the upper 20s to low 30s. Needed rain (0.25 - 0.35 inches total) fell across the region on Tuesday and Sunday. Producers kept busy this week prepping fields for spring planting. More manure was spread, cover crops plowed under, black plastic was being laid. Producers have been completing new hay seeding. Cover crops and hay fields are greening up. Pastures look good. Producers have noted that it is very dry out there, particularly in the Connecticut River Valley.

RHODE ISLAND

ALL RI COUNTIES, Heather Faubert

There are no peaches to follow this year. Killed by warm, then low temperatures in February. Conditions are very dry.

ALL RI COUNTIES, George Goulart

This week the temperatures dropped into the upper 50s during the day and down into the 30s in the evening causing frost in many locations. The northern part of the state continues to experience issues with their fruit trees. In the southern portion of the state, the fruit trees are progressing normally. Planting in the fields have started for corn, potatoes, cabbage, kale, lettuce and parsley.

VERMONT

ALL VT COUNTIES, Terence Bradshaw

Rain, beginning on May 1 and continuing intermittently through this week, has triggered the first substantial apple scab infection event in Vermont orchards for this season. Growers applied fungicides over the weekend ahead of this event and will be evaluating the extent of infection potential to determine need to reapply. Foliar nutrient applications targeted at ameliorating cold damage will soon be applied. Grapes are just starting to show swelling buds, but no reports of green tissue showing have been made. Winter damage to grape buds from this past winter was relatively low.

FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley

Continued cool weather keeps growth and planting at bay in Franklin County this week. This is sounding like a broken record; however, it is good that very little budding has occurred with the frosty mornings. Field work is limited to primary tillage with manure incorporation. No one seems very enthusiastic with garden planting and we may be headed to the typical Memorial Day planting this year.

ORLEANS, David Blodgett

The land is dry enough to work now. Some activities this last week included frost seeding clover in pastures, manure spreading, spring tillage, fence repair for grazing and seed bed preparations for permanent hay land planting. Soil moisture is still adequate but has dried a lot over the past week. This is enabling farmers to start working the land. The soil temperature is still too low to plant corn.