



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



New  
England



# Crop Progress & Condition

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[www.nass.usda.gov/nh](http://www.nass.usda.gov/nh)  
Week ending August 28, 2016

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 latest U.S. Drought Monitor had much of the New England region listed in abnormally dry conditions to extreme drought along the coastal areas of Massachusetts. Only the northern parts of Maine and some parts of New Hampshire and Vermont had normal conditions. The average weekly temperatures ranged from one degree above normal to eight degrees above normal in the six states. Weekly precipitation ranged from 0.22 to 1.78 inches throughout the region. Soil moisture has been below normal in many areas. Hay, corn, and other crops were reported as showing signs of drought stress in many places except on low lying areas near bodies of water. As such, barley harvest and hay cutting slowed in many areas on the second and third cut. The vegetable harvest included Cole crops, cucumbers, greens, beans, beets, peas, potatoes, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, and zucchini among others albeit with reduced yields. Field work shifted to manure spreading, irrigating, weeding, and monitoring for pests. The situation was similar for orchardists. Apple trees were stressed and fruit size has been smaller than normal. Growers harvested blueberries, blackberries, and ever bearing strawberries while monitoring the Spotted Wind Drosophila fruit fly whose population has appeared to have increased recently. Other pests of concern were corn earworm and Fall Armyworm. Farm stands in some areas still had an abundance of good quality sweet corn among other items.

## Soil Moisture for Week Ending August 28, 2016 (in percent)

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
TOPSOIL	27	39	30	4
SUBSOIL	22	37	36	5

## Crop Conditions as of August 28, 2016 (in percent)

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
APPLES	2	8	34	47	9
CORN	3	10	27	38	22
CRANBERRIES (MA)	0	5	20	70	5
DRY HAY	4	9	29	55	3
OATS (ME)	0	0	0	57	43
PASTURE AND RANGE	18	37	35	7	3
PEACHES	94	1	2	2	1
PEARS	1	7	54	37	1
POTATOES (ME)	0	0	0	41	59
QUALITY OF DRY HAY MADE	1	3	13	48	35
RYE (ME)	0	0	0	48	52

## Crop Progress as of August 28, 2016 (in percent)

Item	This Week
APPLES: HARVESTED	17
BLUEBERRIES, TAME: HARVESTED	90
BLUEBERRIES, WILD (ME): HARVESTED	61
DRY HAY: 2nd CUTTING	89
DRY HAY: 3rd CUTTING	49
OATS (ME): HARVESTED	10
PEACHES: HARVESTED	54
PEARS: HARVESTED	8
POTATOES (ME): HARVESTED	6
RYE (ME): HARVESTED	65
SWEET CORN: HARVESTED	68

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

**August 28, 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	87	54	71	+5	1.08	2	12.17	-5.43	50	1952	+156	3241
	Bangor_Intl_Air	86	52	70	+4	0.78	2	11.92	-4.12	55	2105	+408	3397
	Bethel	86	54	69	+4	1.06	2	16.38	-3.50	44	1706	+83	2930
	Bridgton	82	49	66	+4	1.20	2	15.95	-3.48	45	1695	+208	2930
	Caribou_Municip	85	51	69	+8	1.19	4	20.81	+3.87	64	1615	+295	2806
	Dover-Foxcroft	88	49	68	+7	0.94	2	15.54	-2.63	58	1620	+294	2834
	Durham	89	48	69	+3	1.43	2	14.03	-4.21	51	1803	+155	3082
	East_Surry	80	50	67	+2	1.15	1	15.05	-2.69	57	1530	-33	2774
	Eustis	83	44	65	+6	1.20	2	13.20	-4.25	54	1368	+339	2515
	Frenchville	83	50	67	+8	1.15	4	16.88	-0.40	66	1462	+244	2623
	Harmony	88	46	68	+5	0.70	1	15.12	-2.83	46	1698	+176	2950
	Houlton	84	48	68	+7	1.35	2	17.90	+1.35	60	1527	+180	2730
	Livermore_Falls	88	45	67	+6	1.00	1	13.38	-6.38	43	1687	+347	2919
	Millinocket_Wtr	87	49	68	+5	0.50	2	14.60	-4.05	48	1505	-26	2683
	Moosehead	82	50	67	+7	1.34	2	16.99	-1.92	59	1447	+292	2604
	Portland_ME	88	53	72	+7	0.75	2	11.56	-5.83	47	1964	+351	3261
	Rangeley_2NW	81	46	64	+4	1.18	2	14.69	-3.46	62	1287	+141	2416
	Sanford	88	50	70	+4	1.00	2	12.35	-6.75	41	1958	+106	3235
	Topsfield_2	85	51	68	+4	0.95	3	18.18	-0.39	60	1592	+136	2810
	Turner	86	52	70	+3	1.03	1	14.31	-3.76	51	1844	-90	3091
	Wesley_2W	85	48	67	+4	1.20	2	15.99	-0.80	42	1648	+189	2884
	West_Rockport	83	50	69	+5	1.06	2	15.64	-2.98	53	1753	+257	3001
	Whiting	86	53	68	+6	0.22	1	13.71	-5.50	47	1703	+471	2972
New Hampshire	Berlin_AG	83	46	66	+4	1.15	1	14.88	-3.11	55	1564	+124	2775
	Bradford_2	84	45	66	+2	1.05	3	13.20	-6.02	43	1646	-87	2882
	Colebrook	82	43	64	+4	1.47	4	16.84	-1.99	74	1366	+43	2505
	Concord	90	46	72	+7	0.94	3	9.83	-5.95	55	2249	+432	3572
	East_Milford	87	48	70	+4	0.99	1	9.70	-8.89	53	2153	+226	3486
	Epping	88	50	70	+5	0.61	1	10.73	-7.22	51	2045	+219	3351
	Errol_AP	83	46	64	+4	1.08	1	15.88	-1.50	51	1380	+182	2535
	Greenville	86	49	70	+7	0.59	1	10.63	-8.33	46	1912	+368	3200
	Hancock	87	44	67	+3	0.89	2	12.96	-6.08	58	1882	+200	3149
	Jaffrey_Silver_	87	49	69	+6	0.62	1	12.22	-6.74	52	2091	+547	3399
	Jefferson	83	46	67	+5	1.11	2	17.20	-1.35	59	1625	+124	2833
	Keene_AG	88	46	69	+4	0.84	3	14.57	-3.61	53	1980	+227	3281
	Lakeport_2	87	52	71	+5	1.14	2	13.77	-4.24	44	2152	+274	3454
	Lebanon	88	47	70	+6	1.62	3	16.81	+1.02	54	2136	+427	3424
	North_Conway	88	51	69	+5	1.03	2	16.25	-3.65	52	1923	+221	3170
	Tamworth_4	82	44	66	+5	1.21	2	18.26	-3.58	53	1552	+175	2773
	Wolfeburro	82	55	69	+2	1.13	3	14.53	-3.48	51	1930	+52	3235
Vermont	Averill	81	45	65	+7	1.05	1	19.16	-1.92	45	1377	+373	2484
	Bennington_AP	83	44	68	+7	1.15	2	14.35	-7.45	61	2021	+583	3343
	Burlington_Intl	87	52	73	+8	0.36	2	12.35	-4.91	56	2348	+463	3630
	Corinth	86	45	64	+1	1.43	2	17.09	+0.81	54	1501	-41	2700
	Johnson_2N	81	47	65	+4	0.37	2	19.05	-0.12	58	1535	+96	2727
	Marlboro_Raws	85	48	67	+5	0.85	2	16.58	-1.46	57	1842	+439	3119
	Montpelier_AP	83	46	66	+4	1.00	2	17.40	+1.12	54	1681	+139	2902
	Newport_AG	82	49	67	+3	0.51	2	16.66	-1.88	60	1677	-72	2863

		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	84	45	66	+3	0.90	3	14.76	-6.08	46	1669	+194	2901
	Rutland_AG	84	45	66	+2	1.14	3	14.85	-3.72	66	1822	+22	3082
	Springfield_VT	85	45	69	+5	1.55	3	12.03	-7.95	50	1984	+365	3274
	South_Lincoln	79	43	64	+4	0.72	2	15.37	-6.71	50	1477	+210	2678
	Sutton	82	47	65	+5	1.20	2	21.95	+2.42	66	1516	+217	2703
	Walden	79	42	62	+1	1.14	3	20.99	+1.46	67	1221	-78	2346
	Woodstock	86	44	68	+4	0.95	3	13.70	-3.97	47	1898	+264	3157
Massachusetts	Amherst	89	47	70	+4	0.45	1	11.04	-8.36	51	2227	+273	3585
	Barre_Falls_Dam	88	49	70	+7	0.86	1	13.10	-6.73	55	2036	+490	3325
	Bedford_Hanscom	89	48	73	+6	0.56	2	7.79	-10.56	51	2349	+348	3710
	Beverly_Ag	88	51	72	+3	0.85	1	11.65	-5.07	50	1978	-119	3304
	Birch_Hill_Dam	87	45	68	+4	0.49	1	12.95	-6.22	50	1993	+425	3299
	Boston_Logan_In	91	61	76	+6	0.90	1	9.61	-6.53	45	2494	+262	3877
	Chatham_AP	83	59	73	+7	0.54	4	11.33	-6.11	51	2101	+514	3429
	Chicopee_Westov	91	46	71	+5	0.55	1	11.91	-7.49	47	2346	+392	3710
	Edgartown	86	60	74	+6	0.42	2	13.81	-4.15	49	2168	+312	3539
	East_Brimfield_	88	49	70	+5	1.55	1	17.89	-0.91	66	2050	+260	3375
	Fitchburg	90	55	74	+6	0.31	1	9.42	-10.44	45	2544	+509	3919
	Greenfield	89	49	71	+4	0.65	1	13.06	-6.34	58	2196	+242	3535
	Hyannis_AP	85	57	73	+6	0.32	4	11.60	-4.56	46	2171	+356	3514
	Maynard	92	48	73	+6	1.19	2	12.33	-6.02	55	2355	+354	3715
	New_Bedford	89	50	74	+3	0.31	1	13.18	-6.46	49	2317	+88	3678
	Newburyport	90	54	72	+5	0.81	1	9.49	-8.87	50	2125	+110	3444
	North_Adams_Har	84	45	68	+6	0.67	2	16.07	-6.02	62	2036	+528	3357
	Norwood	90	44	72	+4	0.77	2	9.86	-8.38	49	2265	+181	3633
	Pittsfield	83	45	67	+3	0.79	2	15.74	-5.66	59	1916	+234	3229
	Plymouth	89	51	74	+5	0.33	1	11.22	-7.63	49	2264	+232	3600
	Taunton_4NW	92	53	74	+6	0.49	2	14.27	-4.41	59	2414	+375	3781
	Westfield_Barne	91	47	72	+7	0.64	1	12.03	-8.02	54	2441	+735	3812
	West_Otis	87	49	70	+7	0.85	2	16.19	-6.83	71	2188	+572	3537
	Worcester	85	54	71	+6	1.40	1	12.64	-7.51	55	2169	+348	3503
	Worthington	85	46	66	+3	0.83	2	16.48	-5.19	61	1762	+196	3035
Rhode Island	Newport_AP	86	55	74	+5	0.37	1	10.82	-6.44	50	2202	+297	3572
	Providence	93	56	76	+6	0.74	1	14.80	-3.06	52	2550	+348	3943
	Westerly-Wester	87	52	73	+4	0.88	1	13.73	-5.28	47	2289	+278	3670
	Woonsocket	91	48	73	+6	0.85	1	15.66	-3.60	52	2378	+313	3750
Connecticut	Bridgeport_Siko	93	59	77	+6	0.39	1	15.33	-3.40	55	2721	+440	4141
	Danbury_AP	87	49	70	+3	1.78	1	15.87	-5.98	61	2318	+181	3706
	Hartford_Bradle	92	52	74	+5	1.11	1	13.29	-6.05	55	2621	+336	4020
	Meriden-Meriden	94	52	74	+6	1.16	1	12.51	-9.58	56	2601	+529	4005
	Norfolk	84	48	68	+4	0.52	2	15.40	-7.62	55	1944	+328	3242
	Norwich	92	54	73	+4	0.90	1	15.08	-5.35	46	2471	+275	3864
	Staffordville	87	48	69	+3	1.55	1	16.10	-4.37	48	1955	+109	3269
	Thomaston_Dam	90	46	70	+4	1.29	1	14.35	-6.83	65	2302	+433	3669
	West_Thompson_L	87	48	70	+4	0.90	1	16.31	-4.62	54	2121	+259	3458
	Willimantic	91	51	73	+7	1.73	1	14.85	-5.62	61	2545	+699	3946

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

NEW LONDON, Sarah Woodward

Moderate temperatures and cool nights at the beginning of last week reminded us all that fall is right around the corner. Heat and humidity quickly returned over the weekend. Dry conditions continue. Producers were cutting hay and some say they will be starting to chop silage corn soon. Vegetable producers are harvesting tomatoes, sweet corn, potatoes, spaghetti squash, and raspberries. Apple picking is starting.

WINDHAM, Dawn S. Pindell

Sunny dry weather, great week to work outdoors with fruit and vegetable crops; hay and more. Started chopping silage corn; still on the green side despite moderate drought conditions; corn on heavy soils looks outstanding; good variety of vegetables at farm stands and farmers markets.

### MAINE

AROOSTOOK (Central), Larry James

Humid conditions held up the barley harvest most of the week. Combines were working hard toward the end of the week as the wind moved from the south to the west. Potato crops look to be record breaking. Because of shortages projected south of us, a lot of the hay that was abandoned earlier is being baled.

CUMBERLAND/YORK, Sandy Truslow

No rain last week and really no rain forecast for the next week. The severe to moderate drought has continued over 8 weeks so far. Apple trees are stressed, farmers are having a difficult time figuring out when to spray retain. Apples at markets are small. Farmers say this is summer is as bad as they can remember due to the length of the drought and heat. Vegetables have been pushed ahead, there is a glut of tomatoes right now.

FRANKLIN, Gary J. Raymond

Surprise, nice rainfall during the night! Grass is actually starting to grow again. Vegetables are maturing and some hay harvest is going on. Those with irrigation have had very nice yields this summer.

PENOBSCOT/PISCATAQUIS, Donna Coffin

An inch of rain early in the week helped with dry conditions. Vegetable farmers without irrigation are having reduced yields.

SOMERSET, Kathy Hopkins

Still need rain. Some stressed maple trees already turning to fall colors and losing leaves.

### MASSACHUSETTS

ALL MA COUNTIES, Tom Smiarowski

Winter rye being flown on silage and grain corn by helicopter across Massachusetts.

PLYMOUTH, Carolyn DeMoranville

Another dry week as the drought worsens. Many cranberry growers are near the limits of their water supplies. In much of the cranberry region, the early week rain was a quarter inch or less as the more substantial storms passed.

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

BELKNAP, Kelly McAdam

Early apple varieties are now being harvested.

CHESHIRE, Carl Majewski

Just a few showers midweek, but the rain we've gotten over the last couple weeks has helped things green up a bit. Pastures and hayfields are growing again, though yields are still much lower than they should be. Field corn is doing well - severely stressed areas are stunted, but have bounced back a bit. Most other areas are maturing well, and chopping may start in a week or so. Vegetable crops doing well. Pick-Your-Own (PYO) apples starting with early varieties.

COOS, Steve Turaj

Periodic thunderstorms and a good soaking rain last night keeping soil moisture levels at decent levels; as field corn begins to fill out, sweet corn is coming in. Nice conditions for farms completing a few late summer forage seedings. This should also help aerial cover crops into standing corn. Soybean pods also starting to fill out. Mums at nurseries coloring up. Fall web-worms seem abundant this year.

GRAFTON, Heather Bryant

We had some rain on Friday which was welcome, but we could still use more.

GRAFTON, Steven Schmidt

For the week ending August 27th, soil moisture conditions remained well below normal. We received an inch of rain early in the week, but continued having warm weather which quickly evaporated moisture from the soil. The hay crop continues to show the effects of abnormally dry conditions. The corn crop is doing better along the bottom land fields of the Connecticut River. Some corn panted further away from the Connecticut River or planted on sandy soils is not doing well. The pumpkin crop appears to be maturing earlier than normal this year, perhaps due to drought stress. Apple growers are reporting that yields on some varieties are off by 60% or more due to the wide swing in temperature conditions in February.

**HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton**

Fruit: Orchardists harvesting Paula red, Ginger Gold, Zestar and Honeycrisp apples. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, mowing orchard floors, fixing up orchard roads and move bins into the orchard. Also, orchardists are spraying stop drop materials to apples. Highbush blueberry harvest over except for those few growers who have late maturing varieties, and fall raspberry harvest continued. Spotted Wing Drosophila fruit fly is population building. Recommend farmers to continue to monitor and spray accordingly to trap catches. Vegetables: Growers are harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, Cole crops, cucumbers, greens, peas, potatoes, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, zucchini, and other vegetables. Sweet corn growers are monitoring insect pressures and spraying accordingly. Growers report increase in Corn ear worm and Fall Armyworm activity. Both insects blown on storm fronts that went through August 21. Field Crops: Very little Hay cutting continued during the week with the second and third cuttings being made. Some spreading manure on hay fields. Farmers making starting to get ready to make new forages.

**ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad**

Harvesting early apple varieties, blueberries, blackberries, ever bearing strawberries, a whole array of vegetables, herbs, cut flowers. Growers busy harvesting, weeding, irrigating, monitoring pest and planting some crops for the fall and winter markets. Another hot week with localized rain on Friday. Ponds are dry and river level low.

**SULLIVAN, Jennifer Z. Gehly**

The week began on the cooler side with highs in the 70s. Temperatures quickly warmed back up into the mid-80s by the end of the week with lows in the 60s. Rain fell Thursday afternoon into Friday morning bringing roughly 0.25 inches of rain to the area. Hay was harvested during the week. Fall vegetables are now available along with plenty of summer crops. Field corn looks good. The blueberry harvest is winding down. Early apples are available.

**RHODE ISLAND****ALL RI COUNTIES, George Goulart**

Farmers continue to battle the dry conditions. Apple growers are beginning to harvest their early crop, but only expect to pick 50% of the yield they had last year. Second cutting of hay is very short due to the drought conditions. Farmers are starting to harvest their potatoes.

**VERMONT****FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley**

Hay harvest has become all over the board on the topic of which harvest we are on. Does not really matter at this point with harvests that are providing good quality and variations in yields. Corn is still on track for some great yields and quality. Have heard of some starting to dent and the majority headed into milk or R3 stage. Sweet corn is at mid-term with plenty on the farm stands so cook up some extra and get it in the freezer to enjoy on those cold winter nights.

**ORLEANS, David Blodgett**

The dry weather continued through this past week. We did get some rain showers on 2 different days but we are still below average on rainfall. Although somewhat dry there isn't any widespread signs of drought. This week's farm activity consisted of third cut grass harvest. The corn is maturing but the kernels are still in the milk stage so it is not time to harvest. Regrowth on pastures remains slow due to the drier conditions.