



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 October 2, 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.

Some rainfall this past week provided slight relief to the ongoing drought conditions plaguing this crop season in New England. Weekly precipitation ranged from 0.00 to 1.85 inches throughout the region. The weekly temperature ranged from six degrees below normal to six degrees above normal. As of September 27<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. Drought Monitor's D3 Extreme Drought classification expanded to cover half of the state of Massachusetts and further up the coast through New Hampshire and southern Maine. In these areas, some growers were concerned if the rain received would be enough for their crops. Farmers continued spreading manure, disking, cleaning, and planting cover crops. Harvest included cabbages, kale, brussel sprouts, pumpkins, carrots, squash, silage corn, potatoes, onions, apples, and third hay cutting among others. Sweet corn was nearing the last part of harvest. Grapes and raspberries were also being harvested with smaller fruit size still a concern. Blueberries were reported as average. Pick-Your-Own (PYO) operations were busy while Farm Stands and Markets had an abundant supply of squash, garlic, and onions.

## Soil Moisture for Week Ending October 2, 2016 (in percent)

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
TOPSOIL	23	29	45	3
SUBSOIL	27	32	41	0

## Crop Conditions as of October 2, 2016 (in percent)

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
CORN	3	14	26	29	28
CRANBERRIES (MA)	0	10	20	70	0
DRY HAY	3	9	31	43	14
PASTURE AND RANGE	15	37	41	7	0
PEARS	1	8	53	37	1
POTATOES (ME)	0	0	0	35	65
QUALITY OF DRY HAY MADE	2	3	18	47	30

## Crop Progress as of October 2, 2016 (in percent)

Item	This Week
APPLES: HARVESTED	63
CORN FOR SILAGE: HARVESTED	55
CRANBERRIES (MA): HARVESTED	10
DRY HAY: 3rd CUTTING	87
DRY HAY: 4th CUTTING	30
FALL TILLAGE: SINGLE	13
OATS (ME): HARVESTED	97
PEACHES: HARVESTED	92
PEARS: HARVESTED	52
POTATOES (ME): HARVESTED	32

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."

### October 2, 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	68	41	55	0	0.46	2	13.57	-8.24	62	2460	+325	4099
	Bangor_Intl_Air	66	34	53	-1	0.21	3	13.27	-6.69	68	2571	+570	4207
	Bethel	71	32	52	-2	0.46	4	17.37	-6.77	57	2099	+197	3665
	Bridgton	63	35	50	-2	0.39	4	17.40	-6.35	58	2052	+335	3627
	Caribou_Municip	66	31	49	+1	0.01	1	23.77	+3.02	77	1986	+506	3509
	Dover-Foxcroft	65	30	49	0	0.05	3	17.17	-5.73	72	1993	+489	3543
	Durham	69	34	54	-1	0.54	3	15.49	-7.07	64	2247	+286	3874
	East_Surry	65	36	52	-2	0.35	3	16.54	-5.89	71	1917	+60	3507
	Eustis	66	28	46	-3	0.07	3	15.35	-6.28	69	1629	+479	3079
	Frenchville	66	30	48	0	0.03	1	19.43	-1.80	79	1796	+436	3278
	Harmony	65	31	51	0	0.17	3	17.06	-5.34	60	2097	+341	3690
	Houlton	65	28	48	-2	0.00	0	18.91	-1.65	69	1881	+368	3399
	Livermore_Falls	70	28	50	+1	0.57	2	15.77	-8.35	55	2080	+553	3642
	Millinocket_Wtr	65	29	49	-3	0.10	2	16.07	-6.86	62	1861	+105	3370
	Moosehead	64	31	49	0	0.08	2	18.35	-5.04	70	1757	+450	3244
	Portland_ME	71	39	56	+3	0.59	3	12.77	-8.58	58	2492	+579	4139
	Rangeley_2NW	68	28	47	-2	0.16	3	16.65	-5.75	77	1581	+279	3023
	Sanford	71	36	53	-3	0.58	3	14.68	-8.80	55	2427	+220	4054
	Topsfield_2	65	38	51	+1	0.18	3	19.80	-3.49	72	1969	+283	3533
	Turner	71	39	53	-3	0.61	3	16.01	-6.11	65	2298	-8	3894
	Wesley_2W	66	30	50	-2	0.50	2	18.23	-2.96	53	2014	+313	3595
	West_Rockport	65	34	53	-1	0.51	3	17.14	-6.47	66	2204	+408	3799
	Whiting	70	37	54	+3	0.28	2	14.89	-9.03	58	2136	+671	3755
New Hampshire	Berlin_AG	67	32	50	-1	0.38	3	18.39	-3.84	69	1901	+251	3451
	Bradford_2	69	28	48	-6	0.61	4	15.27	-8.20	54	2009	-24	3580
	Colebrook	68	29	49	-1	0.26	4	18.68	-4.48	93	1660	+150	3132
	Concord	74	32	55	+2	0.37	3	12.88	-6.59	66	2811	+671	4482
	East_Milford	71	35	53	-3	0.67	4	13.77	-9.05	64	2646	+357	4329
	Epping	72	33	53	-2	0.61	4	13.02	-9.38	62	2512	+341	4167
	Errol_AP	67	27	47	-2	0.29	4	19.00	-2.39	68	1674	+312	3150
	Greenville	67	33	49	-4	0.89	4	13.27	-9.66	58	2349	+548	3976
	Hancock	74	29	53	-1	0.93	4	14.77	-8.92	71	2315	+339	3930
	Jaffrey_Silver_	71	32	52	0	1.07	4	17.02	-5.91	65	2549	+748	4203
	Jefferson	66	32	51	-1	0.25	2	19.99	-2.70	68	1940	+222	3482
	Keene_AG	75	31	53	-1	0.70	3	16.81	-5.39	62	2437	+374	4086
	Lakeport_2	71	39	55	-1	0.71	3	15.92	-5.98	54	2672	+434	4324
	Lebanon	73	33	55	+2	0.35	2	18.90	-0.90	64	2639	+640	4275
	North_Conway	72	34	53	+1	0.30	4	17.48	-6.69	63	2375	+396	3970
	Tamworth_4	67	28	49	-1	0.35	5	19.47	-7.01	66	1878	+319	3428
	Wolfeburro	70	33	54	-2	0.71	5	16.63	-5.27	66	2404	+166	4056
Vermont	Averill	67	27	49	+3	0.09	1	23.35	-2.62	54	1673	+559	3101
	Bennington_AP	70	31	57	+6	0.60	2	17.43	-9.57	71	2501	+852	4168
	Burlington_Intl	74	38	59	+6	0.15	1	13.90	-7.78	66	2939	+730	4571
	Corinth	63	32	49	-4	0.12	2	16.12	-4.04	64	1789	+11	3321
	Johnson_2N	67	30	51	+2	0.29	2	24.51	+0.89	70	1870	+225	3394
	Marlboro_Raws	68	33	50	+1	0.65	3	18.94	-3.17	68	2234	+628	3851
	Montpelier_AP	69	32	52	+2	0.09	2	19.34	-0.82	65	2080	+302	3643
	Newport_AG	68	33	51	-2	0.30	3	21.08	-1.84	75	2047	+12	3572

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		Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
State	Station	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
	Rochester	72	33	52	0	0.15	2	16.97	-8.83	56	2061	+334	3639
	Rutland_AG	72	31	53	-2	0.21	3	16.96	-6.13	74	2202	+95	3805
	Springfield_VT	72	30	54	+3	0.13	2	13.13	-11.29	59	2443	+569	4078
	South_Lincoln	67	30	51	+3	0.22	2	18.22	-9.06	60	1780	+349	3314
	Sutton	69	33	50	+2	0.28	2	28.06	+3.98	80	1867	+403	3388
	Walden	65	29	47	-2	0.23	3	24.36	+0.28	81	1477	+13	2907
	Woodstock	72	30	52	+1	0.29	2	15.85	-6.20	55	2335	+439	3938
Massachusetts	Amherst	73	34	55	-2	1.13	3	14.97	-9.16	60	2754	+425	4462
	Barre_Falls_Dam	73	31	54	+3	1.08	4	16.50	-7.82	73	2512	+716	4148
	Bedford_Hanscom	72	32	56	+1	1.35	3	10.46	-12.36	62	2921	+530	4631
	Beverly_Ag	68	36	54	-6	0.82	3	13.87	-7.53	62	2480	-94	4155
	Birch_Hill_Dam	71	31	52	0	1.37	3	18.90	-4.41	60	2420	+595	4071
	Boston_Logan_In	72	48	59	-1	1.09	4	11.73	-8.46	58	3129	+391	4862
	Chatham_AP	68	43	60	+2	2.95	4	15.98	-6.03	63	2711	+684	4389
	Chicopee_Westov	74	30	57	+2	1.09	3	14.80	-9.33	60	2922	+593	4635
	Edgartown	70	49	60	+2	1.99	5	17.33	-4.73	64	2806	+476	4527
	East_Brimfield_	76	35	56	+3	1.05	4	20.85	-2.59	82	2542	+412	4217
	Fitchburg	75	38	57	+2	0.88	4	12.06	-12.58	56	3156	+730	4881
	Greenfield	73	36	55	-2	0.72	3	16.08	-8.05	66	2720	+391	4409
	Hyannis_AP	69	41	60	+3	2.40	5	16.09	-3.98	58	2804	+546	4497
	Maynard	72	31	54	-3	2.02	3	16.20	-6.62	69	2873	+482	4582
	New_Bedford	72	37	60	-1	1.61	4	16.96	-7.23	62	2951	+178	4662
	Newburyport	73	38	55	-2	0.89	4	12.27	-10.71	62	2638	+221	4307
	North_Adams_Har	70	32	56	+4	0.37	1	19.19	-7.82	72	2522	+769	4190
	Norwood	73	28	57	0	1.12	5	12.21	-10.43	62	2816	+313	4532
	Pittsfield	69	32	54	+2	0.46	2	17.62	-8.54	69	2385	+419	4044
	Plymouth	70	38	59	0	2.26	5	14.92	-9.28	65	2873	+380	4559
	Taunton_4NW	72	38	57	-1	2.12	5	17.54	-5.79	72	3021	+563	4738
	Westfield_Barne	73	34	57	+5	0.53	2	14.47	-10.18	65	3041	+1039	4762
	West_Otis	72	36	55	+3	0.72	3	18.77	-9.44	85	2719	+811	4418
	Worcester	69	40	54	-2	0.80	4	16.06	-9.09	69	2685	+514	4369
	Worthington	71	31	52	-2	0.78	3	19.36	-6.97	75	2167	+330	3785
Rhode Island	Newport_AP	70	43	60	0	1.85	4	14.98	-6.42	62	2832	+417	4552
	Providence	72	42	60	+1	1.35	4	18.09	-4.09	65	3216	+532	4959
	Westerly-Wester	72	38	61	+4	0.90	4	17.16	-6.60	60	2930	+451	4661
	Woonsocket	71	38	57	+1	1.59	4	18.36	-5.69	65	2979	+502	4701
Connecticut	Bridgeport_Siko	73	49	63	+3	0.41	3	17.38	-5.53	63	3477	+656	5247
	Danbury_AP	72	35	58	+2	0.60	2	17.40	-10.21	70	2889	+335	4627
	Hartford_Bradle	75	37	58	+2	0.74	3	15.74	-8.40	66	3257	+517	5006
	Meriden-Meriden	75	39	61	+4	0.46	2	13.91	-13.59	66	3296	+793	5050
	Norfolk	65	36	52	-2	0.59	3	17.95	-10.26	68	2384	+476	4028
	Norwich	73	40	59	+1	0.71	3	17.68	-7.78	57	3090	+424	4833
	Staffordville	70	36	54	-1	1.11	4	19.24	-6.18	59	2443	+249	4107
	Thomaston_Dam	75	34	56	+2	0.61	3	16.73	-9.83	77	2854	+618	4571
	West_Thompson_L	70	34	55	-1	1.10	3	17.65	-7.96	64	2631	+410	4318
	Willimantic	74	37	60	+6	0.73	2	16.43	-8.99	69	3181	+987	4932

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

Last of the sweet corn is being harvested this week. Most winter squash has been harvested. Pumpkins are light but in good shape. Talked with a lot of orchard/veggie growers last week. There were essentially no stone fruit harvested and only about 30% of the apple crop, which were small due to the lack of water. Eastern CT growers reported about 50% yields on winter squash and pumpkins. Some fields that are normally wet, made out OK this year for yields.

WINDHAM, Dawn S. Pindell

Picking corn begins; chopping silage corn nearly complete with reports of farms running out of places to pile the corn; chopping started earlier this year to avoid corn that is too dry; late summer intense heat matured sweet corn earlier too and picking sweet corn has ended on some farms; soybeans ready to harvest; weed control was a challenge; vegetable crops did well; blueberries were average; missing peaches, plums, nectarines and low apple production not good for business; picking string beans until frost comes; farm stands and farmers markets good supply of winter squash, garlic, onions, potatoes; harrowing in cover crops; working on third and fourth cuttings of hay.

### MAINE

AROOSTOOK (Central), Larry James

Warm days and cool nights makes perfect potato harvest weather. The crop looks excellent. Cauliflower is being harvested now and appears to be a good crop also. Pasture and hay fields are still green and growing.

FRANKLIN, Gary J. Raymond

Hayfields are starting to look like lawns as producers take third cuts and try to maximize total production. Hay will be in short supply this winter. Ground water remains a concern. Brooks are trickling, water holes are dry and some producers are hauling water

PENOBSCOT/PISCATAQUIS, Donna Coffin

Heavy frosts have shifted farm stands to focus on squash, storage vegetables and Halloween decorations.

SOMERSET, Kathy Hopkins

Patchy frost last week in low areas. Scattered showers have greened some fields but water is still low and some wells have gone dry.

### MASSACHUSETTS

ALL MA COUNTIES, Tom Smiarowski

Cranberry growers expressing concerns of not having enough water to carry out wet harvest operations despite this weekend's rain.

PLYMOUTH, Carolyn DeMoranville

About 2 inches of rain this week kept the drought area in Massachusetts from increasing. However there remain cranberry growers with little or no water for harvest.

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

CHESHIRE, Carl Majewski

Cool, and mostly sunny conditions most of the week, with scattered showers over the weekend. Corn silage progressing well and just about wrapping up. Not much hay/haylage harvesting, but still some good grass for pastures. Vegetable farms working on putting fields to bed. Some stands closing for the season. Pick-Your-Own (PYO) apples still going strong with later varieties.

COOS, Patricia Matte

Light scattered rain showers several days this past week. Corn harvest continues as does grass harvest. Fall vegetable crops are being picked (pumpkins, squash). Foliage has certainly popped this week and the colors are looking good.

GRAFTON, Steven Schmidt

For the week ending October 1st, rainfall totaled 0.20 inches. Total rainfall for the month of September was 1.54 inches soil remain to be very dry. The county now has a significant number of farms reporting that their livestock water supplies have gone dry. Grain yield analysis on field corn indicates a significant drop from what would be considered normal. The southeastern end of the county seems to have been impacted harder than some other areas. Farms with well drained sandy soils have the highest levels of loss in both corn and hay yields.

HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton

Fruit: PYO apple and farm stand operations had a damp weekend. Apple harvest is in full swing with most growers concentrating on strip picking McIntosh apples, and working on Cortland and Macoun. Fall raspberries harvest continues to wind down. Vegetables: Good demand for all vegetables continue. Farmers are harvesting a wide array of vegetables including: cabbage, kale, Brussel Sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins. Farmers kept busy disking, cleaning up and planting cover crops on harvested fields. Little to heavy frost occurred on Monday, September 26, scattered throughout southern New Hampshire. Field Crops: Silage corn harvest in full swing. The weak second and third cuttings of hay and haylage continue between rain showers.

ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad

Harvesting the last grape wine variety. Still harvesting fall raspberries, different apples varieties and a whole array of vegetables including potatoes, onions, greens and apples. Pumpkins and winter squashes are available. Temperatures overnight Sunday into Monday were in the 30s. There was a Monday evening rain and more rain during the end of the week. Some ponds have replenished a little bit. Fall carrots and brussels sprouts looking better with the rain as well some of crops. Cleaning

fields. Plowing and spreading manure. Applying lime. Hay crop very thin.

## **RHODE ISLAND**

ALL RI COUNTIES, George Goulart

Rhode Island farmers continue to battle drought conditions but some much needed rain is predicted for the next several days. Farmers growing vegetables are getting towards the end of the season. Silage corn continues to be harvested. Fall digging for nursery crops continue. Farmers harvesting apples are in full swing but are reporting smaller fruit sizes due to the drought.

## **VERMONT**

BENNINGTON/RUTLAND, Tina Williams

Another dry week has helped progress corn harvesting and the end of haying.

CALEDONIA, Daniel Hudson

The corn is either ready or past ready. The bottleneck is the capacity and availability of custom harvesters.

FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley

Corn harvest picked up speed in Franklin County this week. Yields are coming in as expected with silo space at a premium. It is too soon to see what forage analysis is going to say about quality; however, looks great at site. Hay harvest has taken a back seat with the corn heads on choppers instead of grass heads. Grass growth is still happening with great fall temps and some moisture that hangs around due to the shorter days, less drying heat, and falling AM dew. Pumpkins are showing up everywhere with plenty to be had for carving those favorite faces and abundance of pumpkin pie.