



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



New
England



Crop Progress & Condition

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www.nass.usda.gov/nh
Week ending March 31, 2019

*Issued weekly on the internet, April - November
by the Northeastern Regional Field Office of NASS*

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Poor week for field work: New England averaged 2 days suitable for field work last week. The region experienced sunny skies and a gradual warm up in temperatures last week. Scattered rain showers fell during the later parts of the week but temperatures remained warm. Despite the warm up, the ground still remained frozen with at least a foot of snow. Snow coverage especially in wooded areas has slowed the harvest of maple syrup for many producers. Reports indicated that producers were estimating $\frac{3}{4}$ or less of a crop this year, however the sugar content of the sap was reported as significantly higher than in recent years. Vegetable producers were busy seeding crops in their greenhouses. Orchardists were pruning fruit trees, berry bushes, and grape vines. With fields still completely covered in snow, operators were preparing for spring, repairing equipment, purchasing supplies for spring work, and cleaning around the farm and farm stands.

Soil Moisture for Week Ending March 31, 2019 (in percent)

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
TOPSOIL	0	1	16	83
SUBSOIL	0	1	36	63

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

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

No comments available

MAINE

CUMBERLAND/YORK, Sandy Truslow

Maple sap was flowing last week after a slow start this year. Crop fields have lost the snow cover. Seedlings are being started in the greenhouses.

FRANKLIN, Gary J. Raymond

Fields in this area are still completely covered with snowpack. Maple syrup producers are really on edge because the season is off to a very slow start. There is about 2 and a half feet of snow in the woods.

PENOBSCOT/PISCATAQUIS, Donna Coffin

Still have at least a foot of snow in the fields. The high spots are starting to show up. Maple syrup operations are in full swing. Greenhouses are running.

MASSACHUSETTS

ALL MA COUNTIES, Tom Smiarowski

Lot of activity in greenhouses with the seeding of transplants. A few isolated instances of field preparation for planting early sweet corn though the vast majority of cropland still too wet.

BARNSTABLE/BRISTOL/DUKES/NANTUCKET/PLYMOUTH, Dr. Peter Jeranyama
Growers are preparing for spring frost monitoring. Be on the watch for frost Advisory services from Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association's Frost Committee. Some are putting in floods for trash removal. We are maybe 2 weeks away from late floods. The cranberry buds have not pushed as yet --seems to be still dormant.

PLYMOUTH, Steve Ward

Water levels are very high coming into the cranberry growing season, for many growers the highest levels they have seen in years. Cranberry buds are still very tight, but as temperatures warm up over the next few weeks, growers will be preparing sprinkler systems to protect for impending frost.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

GRAFTON, Heather Bryant

With rain over the weekend, the snow is beginning to melt over much of the County.

GRAFTON, Steven Schmidt

Cold weather has persisted through the month of March. Snow continued to arrive frequently enough to keep the ground well covered. Morning temperatures have frequently been down to the single digits, slowing the thawing process. Maple sugar makers have been waiting for daytime temperatures to increase sufficiently (but not too much) to get the sap running. It appears that the first week of April may be just what maple sugar makers want to see.

HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton

Hauling and stock-piling manure and/or compost to fields. Getting equipment repaired and purchasing supplies for spring work and the new growing season. Pruning apple trees, peach trees, grape vines, blueberry bushes and raspberry patches. Orchardists are getting ready to apply oil and/or copper sprays. With the wet fall weather we had, orchardists are concerned about potential for peach leaf curl disease. So, the copper spray is in need prior to bud swell to help prevent peach leaf curl disease

ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad

Growers were busy transplanting tomato seedlings in greenhouses. Also seeding greens seeds in flats in the greenhouses as well as many other vegetables varieties and cut flowers. Harvesting greens. Mainly a sunny week, on the cooler side. The weekend saw some rain. Growers continue fixing equipment, pruning fruit trees and small fruits bushes and canes. Cleaning around the farm and farm stands.

SULLIVAN, Jennifer Z. Gehly

The last week of March saw sunny skies and a gradual warm up. By Thursday, highs were in the low 50s and lows were in the 20s. Scattered rain showers fell during the weekend and temperatures remained warm. Some areas hit 60 degrees on Saturday. Despite the warm up, the ground remains frozen and there are still patches of lingering snow in fields, pastures, and woods. Maple sugaring got off to a late start but is going strong now. While producers are estimating $\frac{3}{4}$ or less of a crop, sugar content of the sap is significantly higher this year than in recent years, particularly last year when it was noticeably below average. A lot will depend on conditions during the next two weeks. Vegetable producers have been busy in their greenhouses. Honeybees made it through the winter better than usual.

RHODE ISLAND

No comments available

VERMONT

FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley

Spring is beginning to inch its way in for Franklin County, Vermont. Sugar makers are getting some anxiety relief with good sap flows. Some flooding in low lands, however, not damaging at this time. Manure ban is lifted today and any manure spreading needs caution with wet conditions.

LAMOILLE, Heather Mateja

Ground is still frozen and some snow cover.

ORLEANS, David Blodgett

Warmer temperatures last week went a long way to melting the snowpack. Fields are still white but there are brown patches showing. Rain on Sunday caused some ice jams and flooding but not severe. Fields are not suitable for field work at this time.