



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



Crop Progress & Condition

New
England



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www.nass.usda.gov/nh
Week ending April 7, 2019

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by the Northeastern Regional Field Office of NASS*

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Fair week for field work: New England averaged 4 days suitable for field work last week. Weather varied greatly throughout the New England States. Some areas in Maine reported 4-6 inches of snow while areas in New Hampshire experienced several days of gusty winds close to 45 mph. Most areas reported progress with thawing ground. Additionally, several states experienced mild weather resulting in many days suitable for field work, however all fields were still very wet. Most farm activities remained indoors in high tunnels or greenhouses with producers starting to plant seeds and raising transplants. Fruits were still reported as dormant. Producers were busy wrapping up pruning and some had started applying oil/protective sprays. Temperatures last week were ideal for maple sap production and reports indicated that it has been a good year. Field activities for the week included equipment repair, purchasing supplies for spring work, and hauling and stock-pilling manure or compost to fields.

Soil Moisture for Week Ending April 7, 2019 (in percent)

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
TOPSOIL	0	2	28	70
SUBSOIL	0	2	26	72

For a complete nationwide weekly weather and crop bulletin, please visit www.usda.gov/oce/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

LITCHFIELD, Richard Meinert

The days may be suitable for field work but few fields are suitable for field work. You can sum up field operations with one word "MUD".

MAINE

AROOSTOOK (Central), Larry James

We still have several feet of snow in many areas. We have 4 to 6 inches of snow forecast for today. I don't believe we will see any April planting this year.

CUMBERLAND/YORK, Sandy Truslow

Most farming activities remain indoors either in high tunnels or greenhouses. Frost is out of the ground on open cropland, however, the threat of snow/sleet every couple of days remains. Apples, blueberries and other fruit trees are still being pruned.

MASSACHUSETTS

ALL MA COUNTIES, Tom Smiarowski

Some farmers began planting sweet corn under plastic. Subsoiling and plowing underway.

BARNSTABLE/BRISTOL/DUKES/NANTUCKET/PLYMOUTH, Dr. Peter Jeranyama

Growers are preparing to enter the frost season. Based on a growing degree model (GDD) we start frost monitoring when we have acquired 100 GDD using a base temperature of 41 starting from January 1st. As of last week we were under 40 GDD. Floods for trash removal are being used by some growers and some growers are pruning their vines especially in beds with overgrown runners.

PLYMOUTH, Steve Ward

Cool conditions continue to hold cranberries in check this season. Some growers are hoping for warmer weather to get the season started, while others want the cool temperatures to stay and push back frost season.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

BELKNAP/STRAFFORD, Kelly McAdam

Field conditions still very wet.

CHESHIRE, Carl Majewski

Snow is gone, but ground is still too wet to do anything in the field. Farms working on seeding, getting equipment ready for when things dry out.

GRAFTON, Heather Bryant

The snow is beginning to melt especially in the river valleys. Rain and warm temperatures in the forecast should speed that process up.

GRAFTON, Steven Schmidt

There was still a significant snow pack in the hills in Coos, Carroll and Grafton County. Last week saw daytime temperatures above freezing, and much of the snow along the river bottom areas melted. Thick ice accumulations along the banks of the Ammonoosuc, Israel, and other rivers still remain. Upland fields above the river bottom areas still had snow and ice, with north east slopes still mostly covered. Maple sugar makers are having a pretty good year. Night time temperatures below freezing and daytime temperature in the 30s or higher have been ideal for maple sap production. April 3rd delivered high winds and some maple sugar makers had minor wind damage to their taps and tubing lines from tree limbs that blew down. The frost is slowly going out the ground. Farmers are anxious to get going with spring field activities.

HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton

Getting equipment repaired and purchasing supplies for spring work and the new growing season. Greenhouse operations busy starting to plant seeds and raising transplants. Pruning apple trees, peach trees, grape vines, blueberry bushes and raspberry patches. Orchardists are starting to apply oil and/or protective sprays. Some apple varieties showing silver tip on Sunday April 7 and some peach varieties are starting to show swollen buds. Hauling and stock-piling manure and/or compost to fields.

ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad

A wild week that saw several days of gusty winds close to 45 mph. Also saw some very cold nights and one day had snow showers. Tuesday, April 3 saw a four season weather capsuled in 24 hours and even hitting a temperature close to 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Growers waiting for their back-order potato seeds to arrive any moment. Dry fields are being disked and being ready for planting. First planting for peas started in the field. Planting and transplanting in greenhouses lettuce, pepper, broccoli and herbs. More apple cider is being made and apple operations still have apples for sale from last season. Operations are also testing soil for pH and nutrients. Some field work on hold waiting for field to dry up. Equipment and tractors are being repaired.

SULLIVAN, Jennifer Z. Gehly

Made some progress this week thawing ground and drying a few fields to where they're passable, but overall topsoil still has surplus moisture and subsoil is at least adequate. An inch or two of snow Friday night/Saturday morning offered a very brief setback. Sap flow early in the week was quite good but overnight temps in the southern part of the county did not go low enough in the days after Wednesday's rain to encourage the maple trees heading into the weekend. Producers in the northern parts of the county fared better with some reporting catching up to nearly average production. The forecast going forward with very few freezing nights indicate the already shortened season has ended for southern areas.

RHODE ISLAND

ALL RI COUNTIES, Heather Faubert
Temperature slightly cooler than normal.

ALL RI COUNTIES, Michael Sullivan
Field preparations ramping up quickly. Turf grass sod farmers prepping for early seeding. Fertilizer being applied on late spring/early summer crops. Buds showing swelling on some fruit trees and vines. Early vegetable crops being planted on some farms. Deer fencing showing greater need on tree and small fruit properties as winter feeding damage showing up. Some reports of short feed due to late rains last year and limited opportunity for hay harvest. Early lambs and kids on limited pasture showing signs of optimism for spring.

VERMONT

ALL VT COUNTIES, Terence Bradshaw
Apples and grapes are still dormant. Growers are wrapping up pruning and pulling brush.

FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley
Sugar makers have come out of anxiety mode with much sap flowing in Franklin County Vermont this week. Snow is receding on the fields with still ample frost in the ground, good time to do some frost seeding. Much prep work for manure spreading, however, wet greasy field conditions are in place keeping spreading activity at a minimum.

LAMOILLE, Heather Mateja
Manure is starting to be spread. Some fields still have snow.