



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 April 14, 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. Weather varied greatly throughout the New England States. The week started with snow, rain and winds but ended on a warmer note. Rain and warmer temperatures at the end of the week had largely melted snow in low-lying areas. Rivers were running high but reporters were expecting minimal flooding. Field preparation began with producers stock-pilling manure on corn fields and applying manure and lime on drier fields. Vegetable operations continued to get planting done in greenhouses and high tunnels. Vegetable seedlings were reported as growing well in greenhouses. Pruning of grapes, blueberry bushes, raspberry canes and some fruit trees continued last week. Orchardists were getting ready to apply oil/protective spray. Many maple producers pulled their taps last week. Despite the late start, the 2019 maple season was reported as a fairly normal year in terms of production. 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 14, 2019 (in percent)

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
TOPSOIL	0	0	20	80
SUBSOIL	0	0	53	47

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

LITCHFIELD, Richard Meinert
Spreading manure, a little plowing on some vegetable ground, not much else moving with all the mud.

MAINE

AROOSTOOK (Central), Larry James
Warm temperatures over the weekend started clearing the fields. Seed growers are busy sending their product south. It will probably be a couple of weeks before local seed starts to move.

CUMBERLAND/YORK, Sandy Truslow
The week started out with snow, cold and windy, but ended on a warmer note. Any tilling is only starting on high, dry soils. Greenhouses are opening up for those who can't wait to get planting!

FRANKLIN, Gary J. Raymond
Finally maple sap is running freely. The fields are finally showing some bare ground. There was over 200 inches of snow in the western Maine mountains; good thing the snow melt has been slow. There is a chance of some flooding on Monday.

MASSACHUSETTS

ALL MA COUNTIES, Tom Smiarowski
Field preparation continuing in earnest. Sweet corn continues to be planted. Many fields still have standing water though warm, dry conditions at the end of the reporting period have helped out considerably.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

CHESHIRE, Carl Majewski
Despite a little snow/sleet early in the week, temperatures are warming up, and fields are drying out. Farms starting to spread manure.

GRAFTON, Heather Bryant
Rain at the end of the week has largely melted the remaining snow across the County.

GRAFTON, Steven Schmidt
Spring has finally started to make its presence. Warmer days followed by colder nights have slowed the melting of snow and ice in the higher elevations. Rivers are running high, but we are hoping that flooding will be minimal. There is plenty of mud out there. Maple sugar makers are looking at a fairly normal season this year. Some may even do a little better than normal.

HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton
Getting equipment repaired and purchasing supplies for spring work and the new growing season. Vegetables: Greenhouse operations busy starting to plant seeds and raising transplants. Peas were planted during the week. Some farms spreading lime on drier fields. Fruits: Pruning apple trees, peach trees, grape vines, blueberry bushes and raspberry patches. Orchardists are getting ready or applying oil and/or protective sprays. Removing straw from strawberry patches. Field Crops: Hauling and stock-piling manure to corn fields. Some manure spreading starting to occur on drier fields.

ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad
The week started on Monday with rain drizzle, showers, heavy rain and cold temperature followed on Tuesday late afternoon with snow and rain. The sun came out on Thursday and at the end of the week. Preparing vegetable fields and shaping beds. Tomato seedlings growing well in greenhouses as well as arugula and spring greens in high tunnels. Some fields remain wet. Soils are cold. More pruning taking place: grapes, blueberry bushes, raspberry canes and some fruit trees. Repairing equipment and machinery.

SULLIVAN, Jennifer Z. Gehly
Several clear days this week including a 70-degree day on Saturday allowed farmers to get on their best drained fields to spread manure. Vegetable producers continued with their work starting seeds for transplanting in their high tunnels and greenhouses. Garlic is up. Many maple producers pulled their taps earlier in the week, however a couple of unexpected freezing nights produced sap for those who hung on. Boiling occurred through the weekend. Despite the late start, the 2019 maple season ended with total syrup production estimated between 70% and 80%. Rain showers Friday night and Sunday night have made for very wet soils. Rivers and streams were high Monday morning with flash flood watches and warnings issued throughout the region.

RHODE ISLAND

ALL RI COUNTIES, Heather Faubert
Nice, cool, slow spring!

VERMONT

ORLEANS, David Blodgett
Most fields in the valleys are now bare but very wet. Fields at higher elevations are still snow covered. On the drier corn fields some manure spreading has commenced. The winter manure spreading ban was lifted on April 1 but there was still too much snow to begin. Spring runoff coupled with an inch of rain overnight has caused some flooding. Streams and rivers are bank full and in the lower elevations are overtopping.