



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 21, 2019

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

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Fair week for field work: New England averaged 3 days suitable for field work last week. The region experienced several days of rain that had cleared most fields of snow. Flooding was reported in many low-lying areas but no damage was reported. Rain and mud prevented any field work last week. Greenhouse and high tunnel operations continued to transplant early season vegetables. Apples and peaches were beginning to show some early stage greening. Orchardists continued pruning young fruit trees, chopping brushes in orchards, and applying protectant spray on all fruit trees and bushes. Maple season was reported as finished. Warmer temperatures had shut down the tapping for the year. Field activities for the week included equipment repair and purchasing supplies for spring work.

Crop Progress as of April 21, 2019 (in percent)

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
APPLES: GREEN TIP	6	N/A	<5	14

Soil Moisture for Week Ending April 21, 2019 (in percent)

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
TOPSOIL	0	0	25	75
SUBSOIL	0	0	27	73

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

Reporter comments not available.

MAINE

AROOSTOOK (Central), Larry James

We still have snow along woods and fence lines. A week of rain has cleared most fields. Ground is saturated at this time. Planters are being serviced and local seed is starting to move.

FRANKLIN, Gary J. Raymond

Still some snow melt here. There was some flooding but not extreme. Maple sap season is winding down after a very short season. Production of maple syrup will be down in this area. We are in the middle of mud season.

PENOBSCOT/PISCATAQUIS, Donna Coffin

Rain and mud prevent any field work.

MASSACHUSETTS

ALL MA COUNTIES, Tom Smiarowski

Great weather early in the week were ideal for field activities. Rain at the end of the week slowed down field activities. Temperatures were above normal.

BARNSTABLE/BRISTOL/DUKES/NANTUCKET/PLYMOUTH,

Dr. Peter Jeranyama

We have essentially entered into the spring frost season in cranberry production. Once buds break dormancy, they will need to be protected against temperatures below tolerance level. Here in Massachusetts we go by what we call the Dee model and it says protect for 20F at 100 growing degree days (GDD) for native cultivars (Early Black and Howes) - others protect for 22F. We reached the 100GDD on April 20th this year. In terms of bud stage of development, we are between spring dormant and the white bud stage. Make sure that your sprinkler heads are functioning properly for the frost sprinkling.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

CHESHIRE, Carl Majewski

A few warm days over the week, and things are looking greener all of a sudden. Farms spreading manure, some looking to get spring forage seedings in. Vegetable operations to be starting field preparation soon. Greenhouses will be opening soon.

GRAFTON, Heather Bryant

Rain over the weekend cause some flooding in low lying areas, including some agricultural fields.

GRAFTON, Steven Schmidt

Snow and ice in the northern end of New Hampshire is finally melting. Rain last week melted much of the snow cover that was still around. Rain and snow melt caused localized flooding along low fields along the major rivers. Top soils are saturated. Field work is still tenuous at best. It will take a few more days for soils to warm up and dry out enough to begin spring field activities on many fields. The maple season is done. Warm temperature have shut down the tapping for this year. Over all, the maple season was pretty good.

HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton

Field Crops: Liming and fertilizing hayfields. Spreading manure and getting equipment ready for the spring rush. Vegetables: Transplanting tomatoes into high tunnels. Early season vegetables (peas, lettuce, greens) are being planted. Liming, fertilizing, plowing, disking (fields that are not too wet to work) and getting ready to plant fields. Fruits: Apples are at ½ inch green to tight cluster stage in Hollis. Peaches are beginning to show color. Blueberry bush buds pushing along bed break to tight cluster. Pruning blueberry bushes and raspberry patches. Orchardists are pruning younger fruit trees, chopping brush in orchard or push pruning out of the orchards. Fertilizing and liming orchards. Applying protectant sprays on all fruit trees and bushes.

ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad

Tomato plants growing well in the ground in heated greenhouses as well as greens and onions. Seeding more crops. Checking daily on high tunnels and rolling up the sides as temperature during the days are getting warmer. Preparing vegetable fields, planting cool season crops. Some fields are wet. First part of the week saw heavy rain and gusty winds. Hardening off vegetable plants. Forsythia bushes in bloom with a decent set of flowers and hopefully that will equal to a decent crop of peaches. Growers hoping for more sun and warmer weather.

SULLIVAN, Jennifer Z. Gehly

Farmers are working fields with light Sandy soils. Bees are busy collecting pollen from trees. Maple season is over, 75% crop with a few higher. Garlic is up and apples and blueberries look quite good at this early stage.

RHODE ISLAND No comments available

ALL RI COUNTIES, Heather Faubert

Very wet, warm weather which is predicted to last a few more days.

ALL RI COUNTIES, Michael Sullivan

Turfgrass sod harvest has begun in a strong market. Tillage on some crops is advancing nicely. Spring sod, early vegetable ground all underway. Greenhouses filled with early transplants. Forecast a bit bleak with rain predicted for 4 of next 7 days. Temperatures cooler than normal expected during the next week as well.

VERMONT

ALL VT COUNTIES, Terence Bradshaw

Apples are just breaking bud with green tip expected on most cultivars at lower elevations by the end of the weekend. Generally too windy for applying oil or copper later last week. Growers are planting trees and finishing pruning and winter clean up. Vineyards have another 2 weeks or so of time to prune before bud break. Now is a good time to apply herbicides in vineyards to avoid vine damage on emerged tissue.

BENNINGTON/RUTLAND, Tina Williams

Spring Tillage has been delayed due to heavy rainfall last weekend and this weekend. Many fields are saturated with standing water.

FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley

Very nice temperatures in Franklin County, Vermont are bringing things to life! Plenty of moisture to go along with nice temperatures hampering field work; however, frost is quickly moving out and should allow for activity soon. Tree buds are in the swelling stage and will soon be showing signs of green. Manure spreading will be a welcome endeavor with many storages at the brim from last falls snow making manure applications difficult.