



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



# Crop Progress & Condition

New  
England



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[www.nass.usda.gov/nh](http://www.nass.usda.gov/nh)  
Week ending April 28, 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 with very few sunny breaks. Rivers and streams were running high with some flooding into fields in low-lying areas. Some damage to cover crops and hayfields was reported but it was too early to assess the damage. Some potatoes were planted last week but most cropland was waterlogged, grinding tillage and planting to a halt. The rain had provided plenty of moisture for the start of hay and pasture growth. Grass was reported as greened up but fields were too wet for pasturing. On dry fields, farmers were spreading manure, plowing, disking, fertilizing and getting ready for planting. Orchardists continued pruning younger fruit trees, chopping bushes, and applying protectant sprays. Field activities for the week included spreading manure, tillage, equipment repair, and purchasing supplies for spring work.

## Crop Progress as of April 28, 2019

(in percent)

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
APPLES: GREEN TIP	37	6	6	38
SPRING TILLAGE: PERCENT COMPLETE	5	<5	<5	N/A

## Soil Moisture for Week Ending April 28, 2019

(in percent)

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
TOPSOIL	0	8	46	46
SUBSOIL	0	0	44	56

*For a complete nationwide weekly weather and crop bulletin, please visit [www.usda.gov/occe/weather](http://www.usda.gov/occe/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

Planters are ready and waiting. Fields are wet, manure is late getting out. Some germination of cover crop has been accomplished on the drier fields. Conditions could be better, but they could be a whole lot worse so we will keep our fingers crossed.

### MAINE

CUMBERLAND/YORK, Sandy Truslow

Rainy, cool conditions continue with few sunny breaks, slowing any plant growth in the houses or in the ground. Grass has greened up, but not grown enough for pasturing. Next week is more of the same. Spring is not in a hurry this year.

FRANKLIN, Gary J. Raymond

Last week was the big snowmelt of the spring here. There was some flooding, debris on cropland and some erosion. Maple sap season was below average. There is still some snow in the woods and shady spots on fields. The good news is there is plenty of moisture for the start of hay and pasture growth.

WASHINGTON, Audre Hayward

Flooding in some areas.

### MASSACHUSETTS

ALL MA COUNTIES, Tom Smiarowski

High temperatures early in the week followed by low temperatures with more rain late in the week has led to a very challenging start to the farming season. Potatoes finally started going in the ground this week but lots of acres of cropland waterlogged grinding tillage and planting operations to a halt. Peaches and nectarines in bloom though growers having a hard time getting sprays on.

BARNSTABLE/BRISTOL/DUKES/NANTUCKET/PLYMOUTH,

Dr. Peter Jeranyama

We are now in the spring frost season. Frost warnings were issued on Friday night (April 26th) and Sunday night (April 28th). I have confirmed with a few growers that they ran as the temperature on their bog dipped to 26 F early this morning (April 29th) around 3 am. We are currently protecting for: 20 F for Early black and Howes; 22F for Stevens, Ben Lear, Demoranville, Crimson Queen and Mullica Queen. The buds are at the white bud stage and that could be up-graded tomorrow to Bud Swell.

PLYMOUTH, Steve Ward

Cranberries are very slow to start this season. Most growers are enjoying not having to protect for frost, but at some point, the damp cool conditions will be a problem. On the bright side, the abundance of rain has been a great opportunity to hold late water.

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

BELKNAP/STRAFFORD, Kelly McAdam

Low lying fields still very wet. Lots of rain, causing some flooding.

CHESHIRE, Carl Majewski

Both cool and rainy and warm and sunny conditions throughout the week. Fields have dried out enough in some locations for farms to work on spring forage seedings, though many are commenting how wet the soil is. Vegetable operations still working on field preparation.

GRAFTON, Heather Bryant

Rivers and streams are high with some flooding into fields in low lying areas. Snow melt in the mountains is causing some flooding in higher areas. Some damage to cover crops and hayfields, but until things dry out it's too early to assess.

GRAFTON, Steven Schmidt

Spring has finally made an attempt at arriving in the North Country. Temperature conditions continue to be generally cooler than normal. Wet conditions prevail throughout the northern end of the state. This past weekend we received close to an inch of rain. Many farms are waiting for the soils to dry down before beginning spring field work. Some farms with well drained sandy soils have been able to begin manure spreading on those fields. We are getting calls from producers about potential winter kill on grass and alfalfa fields. If you have NAP coverage through FSA, be sure to let us know immediately if you see signs of winter kill.

HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton

Field Crops: Liming and fertilizing hay fields and pastures. On fields that are not too wet to work, farmers are spreading manure, plowing, disking, fertilizing and getting ready to plant corn. Fixing pasture fences. Also, getting ready to make new pasture and hay field seedings. 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: Applying protectant sprays on all fruit trees and bushes due to rain and bud development. Apples are at tight cluster stage in Hollis. Peach are blooming. Blueberry bush buds pushing along early 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.

ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad

The week saw fog, mist, rain drizzle and heavy downpour. Thursday is about the only day with some sunshine and growers were trying to do as much field work as possible that day. Fields are wet and not workable. Some nights saw very cold temperatures. Preparing vegetable fields, and planting vegetables crops. Fertilizing blueberries, raspberries, strawberries and grapes fields. Apricots are in full bloom. Harvesting baby kale and microgreens. Spreading manure on hayfields and fields where field corn will be planted.

SULLIVAN, Jennifer Z. Gehly

A few nice days this week allowed farmers to get started on spring hay seedings. Grass is growing well despite the lack of heat. The Connecticut River and other smaller streams remain high. Surface moisture on anything but the best drained ground will make getting fertilizer spread a challenge. Same for manure spreading on corn ground. Soil temps will be hard-pressed to warm up this week. While some early vegetable transplants have gone in the ground, most of the planting has yet to begin. A few retail greenhouses opened this weekend.

## **RHODE ISLAND**

ALL RI COUNTIES, Heather Faubert

Warm and pleasant for a few days. Plants advancing quickly now.

ALL RI COUNTIES, Michael Sullivan

Regular rainfall disrupts continuing field operations to varying extents. Highly localized storms have reduced some field operations to as few as 4 days. Cool, wet day followed by fantastic warm day and repeat is the current situation. Hayland and pastures greening fast. Sod harvest advancing as possible with considerable product moving to satisfy spring demands. Spring lambs and young pigs out and about in barnyards without much real risk due to weather.

## **VERMONT**

ALL VT COUNTIES, Terence Bradshaw

Apples in Champlain Valley had reached 1/2" green tip stage by April 25, and cool weather has held them there. Rains over the weekend may have triggered an apple scab infection in some orchards. Grape buds are swelling but not yet open.

BENNINGTON/RUTLAND, Tina Williams

Rainy weather and saturated fields continue to hinder field work progress. Manure spreading and some spring tillage/seedings is started.

FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley

Mix of Sun and Rain in Franklin County, Vermont this week is keeping spring progress at a minimum. Manure storages continue to be at the bank full with rains hampering spreading and refilling to the level before any spreading. Grass is green with some growth hampered by cool temperatures. Trees and fruit shrubs are in full bud stage also hampered by the cool temps. No corn in the ground. Cool and wet will keep things at bay in this arena for a while.

ORLEANS, David Blodgett

Rain and snowmelt from the higher elevations has caused widespread flooding on many crop fields. Water is now starting to recede. Field work this past week consisted of manure spreading on the drier fields. Fields are turning green now. Spring tillage has not begun due to the wet fields.