



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



New  
England



# Crop Progress & Condition

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[www.nass.usda.gov/nh](http://www.nass.usda.gov/nh)  
Week ending May 5, 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. Cool, overcast conditions with frequent light rain had put most field activities on hold throughout the region. Some well-drained fields were planted last week, but many operators were waiting for fields to dry up. Hay fields and pastures were reported as looking good, but many farmers weren't able to topdress or fertilize hay fields due to wet field conditions. Cooler temperatures and wet weather also continued to hold back cranberry producers; growers were concerned that wet soils will prevent the necessary root development that would sustain the crop later in the season. Vegetable operations continued transplanting and seeding crops. Fruit and berries were reported as progressing well. Orchardists were applying protective fungicide sprays on fruit trees. Field activities for the week included spreading manure, plowing, disking, and getting ready for planting.

## Crop Progress as of May 5, 2019 (in percent)

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
APPLES: GREEN TIP	55	37	28	64
SPRING TILLAGE: PERCENT COMPLETE	7	5	10	N/A

## Soil Moisture for Week Ending May 5, 2019 (in percent)

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
TOPSOIL	0	0	31	69
SUBSOIL	0	0	20	80

## Crop Conditions as of May 5, 2019 (in percent)

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
PASTURE AND RANGE	0	15	62	17	6

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

Some silage corn finally planted in the CT River Valley. Other regions with heavier soils are still waiting for the rain to stop so fields can start to dry.

### MAINE

AROOSTOOK (Central), Larry James

Some of the well-drained fields will get planted this week. Some broccoli was planted this weekend. Springs are still open in a lot of the fields.

CUMBERLAND/YORK, Sandy Truslow

Cool, overcast conditions with frequent light rains have put most outdoor activities on hold. Temps in the 40's for a few days. Soils are still cold. Leaves are starting to come out on apple trees.

FRANKLIN, Gary J. Raymond

Finally a little sunshine! The soil needs some heat to warm up. Pasture and hay are off to a good start. The main activities here are manure spreading and fencing. It is always good to get as much fencing done as possible before the flies come out. Some bee activity has begun - always a good sign.

PENOBSCOT/PISCATAQUIS, Donna Coffin

Some spring peas are in the ground. Pastures are starting to green up. After a very rainy week, the weekend allowed the soil to dry somewhat.

SOMERSET, Kathy Hopkins

Lots of rain and lakes in fields.

### MASSACHUSETTS

ALL MA COUNTIES, Tom Smiarowski

Monday morning saw a frost across Western Massachusetts. The rest of the week continued with mostly rainy, cloudy conditions. Sporadic reports of hail. Rain was not heavy for the most part but added to the already saturated fields many farmers are dealing with. Wherever possible, farmers have been planting cabbage, broccoli, beans, potatoes, and other vegetables, but planting is starting to fall behind. Asparagus harvest has started in the CT River Valley but has been sporadic so far. Hay fields and pasture for the most part look good but many farmers have been prevented from topdressing fertilizer on the hay fields due to wet field conditions. Appears to be one of the most trying springs here in quite a while.

PLYMOUTH, Steve Ward

Cool temperatures and lack of sun light continue to hold back this season's cranberry crop. Growers are concerned that wet soils will prevent the necessary root development that would sustain the crop later in the season.

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

BELKNAP/STRAFFORD, Kelly McAdam

Fields still very wet.

CHESHIRE, Carl Majewski

Chilly and damp all week, with a little sun on Saturday afternoon. Farms still spreading manure and plowing some fields, but soil is too wet to work in many locations. Some vegetable operations transplanting and seeding early crops.

GRAFTON, Heather Bryant

Rivers and streams are still a little high, but most fields are drying out, and some farms were able to spread manure and begin tillage this week.

GRAFTON, Steven Schmidt

For the week ending May 4th, 2019, top soil conditions generally remained wet. Rainfall totaled more than an inch for the week. Temperatures remained cool through most of the day, warming up late in the afternoon for most of this time. Field work is moving along slowly on most fields. Some of the well-drained soils along the river bottom are in better condition and producers are spreading manure and harrowing.

HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton

Fruits: Orchardists made sure bees were in apple orchards by week end. Early blooming apple varieties at pink and later blooming apple varieties were at tight cluster to early pink on May 8. Peaches were at full bloom. Peach, sweet cherry and plum flowers blooming to petal fall. Blueberry is at early pink to pink. Pruning peach trees, blueberry bushes and raspberry patches. Fertilizing orchards and other fruit plantings. Protective fungicide sprays applied on fruit trees. Vegetables: Fields that were not too wet was being plowed, disked, fertilized and limed. Making successive planting vegetable crops (like lettuce, greens and transplant summer squash and zucc) including planting sweet corn. Field Crops: Farmers are fertilizing hayfields, spreading manure, plowing, disking, fertilizing, and starting to get ready to plant corn.

ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad

Mainly a cloudy week, with downpour rain and drizzle and relatively cold nights. Assessing the effect of below freezing temperature of Sunday April 28 and some nursery plants stock leaves showing burn. Growers keeping busy repairing equipment while waiting for rain to stop and for fields to dry. Planting peas, cold crops and, sweet corn. Some sweet corn fields are still untouched since last fall. Peaches in full bloom. Trellising tomato plants growing in high tunnels. Harvesting asparagus, radish grown, and micro-greens in high tunnels. Seeding greens continues in greenhouses. Despite the rainy and cold weather homeowners are buying annuals, herbs, and plants in hanging baskets. Handful of farmers markets opened for business on Saturday and Sunday. Growers and bees looking for SUN and WARM DAYS.

SULLIVAN, Jennifer Z. Gehly

The area experienced cooler temperatures and more rain last week. Topsoil moisture is still excessive in the normal wet spots for sure. We need a good stretch of warmth and sunny skies. Farmers have been able to get out and prep their fields. Fertilizer is being spread and delivered. Frosts earlier in the week took some crops that were planted early, but those reports are few and far between. Fruit trees are opening and most have their fruit all pruned. Same holds with the blueberries and raspberries. Asparagus is a week away from emerging.

## **RHODE ISLAND**

ALL RI COUNTIES, Heather Faubert

One sunny day, the other days totally overcast, but at least not rainy during the day. Rained some nights.

ALL RI COUNTIES, Michael Sullivan

Regular rain and cooler than average temperatures continue to delay many spring activities. Planted crops are growing slower in response to these conditions. Turfgrass and B&B nursery stock activities particularly challenged as receiving sites at residential or commercial sites are difficult to prepare. Pastures and hay lands are doing well with regular moisture but cool wet conditions could cause significant challenges if warmth comes quickly because of suppressed root development.

## **VERMONT**

FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley

Rains are subsiding in Franklin County, VT. this week. Temps are getting grasses and tree leaves going. More manure spread this week with some tillage and no signs of corn planting. Pastures are beginning to show growth. Apple and fruit trees are beyond green tip and showing signs of life.