



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 12, 2019

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

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Released May 13, 2019

**Fair week for field work:** New England averaged 4 days suitable for field work last week. A few sunny days, but still chilly, rainy, and freezing overnight temperatures were reported throughout the region. Well-drained fields were being tilled; some had started planting corn, but the big push had yet to occur. Grass was reported as beginning to green up. Several areas reported winter kill and many operations were beginning to overseed the affected areas. Pastures were reported as too wet for any grazing. Lack of dry, sunny weather had delayed the development of cranberries. Producers expect crops to progress quickly once the weather warms up. Vegetable operations continued with seeding and transplanting. Cold temperatures were dragging out the development of many fruits and berries. Winter kill was also reported for raspberry, tame blueberry, and highbush blueberry varieties. Field activities for the week included spreading manure, plowing, disking, and getting ready for planting.

## Soil Moisture for Week Ending May 12, 2019 (in percent)

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
TOPSOIL	0	7	50	43
SUBSOIL	0	0	36	64

## Crop Conditions as of May 12, 2019 (in percent)

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
PASTURE AND RANGE	0	19	56	19	6

## Crop Progress as of May 12, 2019 (in percent)

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
APPLES: GREEN TIP	69	55	48	N/A
APPLES: PINK	25	<5	18	43
BLUEBERRIES, WILD (ME): GREEN TIP	80	N/A	69	50
BLUEBERRIES, WILD (ME): PINK	55	N/A	44	N/A
PEACHES: GREEN TIP	48	44	50	N/A
PEACHES: PINK	16	13	30	49
PEARS: GREEN TIP	33	28	45	N/A
PEARS: PINK	8	5	24	34
SPRING TILLAGE: PERCENT COMPLETE	20	7	28	N/A
SWEET CORN: PLANTED	8	<5	12	17

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  
Manure spreading is still lagging, which pushes corn planting back. Fields just won't dry when rain falls every other day or so.

### MAINE

AROOSTOOK (Central), Larry James  
Cold and wet conditions have kept most of the potato seed inside storages. Most are content putting in their grain. Soil temperatures are running five degrees below normal. Rain is predicted on and off all week.

CUMBERLAND/YORK, Sandy Truslow  
Still on the cool side, spotty frosts Wednesday night. When the sun does manage to come out, it warms up. Unfortunately, that hasn't been happening much. Some early corn planted under cover. Snow showers possible tomorrow!

FRANKLIN, Gary J. Raymond  
Well-drained fields are being tilled. The ground is still very cold. Post pounding and manure spreading are the main activities. Snow is predicted for Tuesday!

PENOBSCOT/PISCATAQUIS, Donna Coffin  
Fields are starting to dry out enough so manure can be spread on the well-drained areas. Some early planting of vegetable crops. Weather forecast calls for snow!

### MASSACHUSETTS

ALL MA COUNTIES, Tom Smiarowski  
Weather conditions were a bit drier with warmer temperatures for the week though the period ended with rain and cooler temperatures. Vegetable planting and field operations continued on fields that dried out.

BARNSTABLE/BRISTOL/DUKES/NANTUCKET/PLYMOUTH, Dr. Peter Jeranyama  
We are in the thick of spring frosting season and as of last check: 1 week ago the buds were at the cabbage head stage. The native cultivars (Howes and Early Black) are at 25 F tolerance; the hybrids (Stevens, DeMoranville, Crimson Queen, Mullica Queen including Ben Lear) are at 27F tolerance level. Frost protection must be exercised accordingly. May 15 is the last day when late water floods are to be removed (April 15 -May 15). Late water floods among other things are used to reduce fruit rot infections.

HAMPSHIRE/HAMPDEN, Heather Baylis  
Couple of warmer, dry days this week helped some but the rain still continues and in the hills small amounts of snow. In most areas pastures are still not suitable for grazing due to the wet conditions. Tillage is slow due to the moisture and cool temperatures.

PLYMOUTH, Steve Ward  
Although weather conditions have improved over the past week, plant development continues to be very slow on the cranberry bogs. Once the weather breaks, growers expect things to move very quickly.

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

BELKNAP/STRAFFORD, Kelly McAdam  
Fields still very wet; rain almost daily. Almost freezing temperatures at night this week.

CHESHIRE, Carl Majewski  
A few warm and sunny days, but still chilly and rainy for much of the week. Some farms have started planting corn, but the big push has yet to occur. Vegetable operations continuing with seeding and transplanting. Apple trees in full bloom.

GRAFTON, Steven Schmidt  
Temperature conditions for last week were a little higher, but still cooler than normal. Soils on many fields are still wet. Rainfall last week totaled more than an inch over 4 days. River bottom or sandy soils are in better shape. Farmers are spreading manure and beginning spring field preparations as soils begin to dry down. Grass is beginning to green up slowly. There are indications of winter kill on a number of farms. Alfalfa seems to have been hit very hard.

HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton  
Noticing winter injury on raspberry and other brambles that is wide spread in southern New Hampshire. Also, seeing some blueberry bush cane winter injury on select highbush blueberry varieties. Winter injury is seen on Legumse (alfalfa and red clover) and orchard grass. In some areas the damage is severe. Fruits: Orchardists and Beekeepers made sure bees were in tree fruit orchards. With cooler weather occurring during week, apple blossoms slowed pace of development and were in pink to king bloom on May 12. Most peaches were at full bloom to petal fall. Sweet cherry and plum flowers blooming to petal fall. Blueberry are at pink. Pruning peach trees, blueberry bushes and raspberry patches. Fertilizing orchards and other fruit plantings. Protective fungicide sprays applied on fruit trees. Vegetables: Fields being plowed, disked, fertilized, and limed that were not too wet. Making successive planting vegetable crops (like lettuce, greens and transplant summer squash and zucchini) including planting sweet corn. Field Crops: Farmers are fertilizing hayfields, spreading manure, plowing, diskings, fertilizing, and wanting to plant corn but fields are too wet.

SULLIVAN, Jennifer Z. Gehly

With several days of sunshine, farmers were out working in their fields. Low cold temperatures, not moisture, were the impediment this past week. Some producers have been able to get crops in the ground, however there has been no growth due to the cold soils. Winter kill has been reported on alfalfa fields across the county. Producers have been overseeding these areas. Cattle producers are frustrated with the slow pasture growth which has kept them using their stored hay. Apple trees are advancing with green tissue showing as buds open. Blueberries, strawberries, and garlic crops look good. Raspberries have some noticeable winter kill on farms around the county. Farmers were using heat in greenhouses and tunnels to protect crops.

## **RHODE ISLAND**

ALL RI COUNTIES, Heather Faubert

Sun! And temperatures staying moderate to cool, so that is good too.

ALL RI COUNTIES, Michael Sullivan

Steady progress on cropping year. Cool overcast weather but not a barrier to field work. Those people putting animals on pasture are seeing some damage due to excessive soil moisture and mud forming. Quality has been impacted but persistence of damage yet unknown. Approaching time for acreage reporting and growers are reminded that FSA Staff will be ready to assist.

## **VERMONT**

ALL VT COUNTIES, Terence Bradshaw

Extended cool temperatures is dragging out apple bud development. Just barely entering pink and earliest of bloom in warmer spots on May 13. Some cooler sites are still at half-inch green bud stage. Apple scab infection period occurred last week, another is expected for this week on Tuesday. Cool weather is holding fire blight at bay. No insects of significance to report. Traps are now hung for most insects; just a few tarnished plant bug and an occasional European apple sawfly. Grapes are in the middle of bud break; some have, others haven't, pretty much all are swollen. That leaves them susceptible to flea beetle until shoots are 1" long, and growers should be scouting and treating if damage is seen on over 2% of buds.

BENNINGTON/RUTLAND, Tina Williams

Weather was more cooperative this week for field work to progress. Spring tillage and corn planting began on dry fields. Fruit trees are blooming and progressing. Pastures are looking real good.

FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley

Wet, cool conditions continue in Franklin County this week. Much winter kill is showing up with sod ground becoming green. some spot seeding happening in these areas, with decisions that will need to happen on rotating to corn or another total seeding Sod that has escaped winter kill is progressing well, however, very wet. Fruit blossoms are getting to the flower side and some sun would be most beneficial.

ORLEANS, David Blodgett

Last week was below average for temperature. Rainfall was normal. Some spring tillage was completed on the drier fields. Fields with heavier soils are still too wet to till. Soil temperature is too low for any type of planting. Cover crops look really good. Pastures are not ready yet for grazing. Field activities for the week included manure spreading and some spring tillage.