



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 May 19, 2019

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

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Released May 20, 2019

Fair week for field work: New England averaged 3 days suitable for field work last week.

New England continued to experience cold and rainy weather. Soil temperatures were below normal so delays in planting with concerns for pythium rot and other associated root declines were common. Grass for hay has been making slow progress. Cranberry buds were now at the stage of bud elongation. Blueberry was at full bloom. Apricots, early plums, and some sweet cherries were just beyond full bloom. Peaches and nectarines were in varying stages of bloom. Apple trees were in full bloom. Growers were harvesting lettuce mix, asparagus, and rhubarb. Field activities for the week included plowing, disking, fertilizing, planting corn, and applying herbicides to fields dry enough to get on.

Soil Moisture for Week Ending May 19, 2019 (in percent)

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
TOPSOIL	0	1	28	71
SUBSOIL	0	1	21	78

Crop Conditions as of May 19, 2019 (in percent)

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
PASTURE AND RANGE	0	15	59	20	6

Crop Progress as of May 19, 2019 (in percent)

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
APPLES: GREEN TIP	93	69	65	N/A
APPLES: PINK	51	25	45	64
BLUEBERRIES, TAME: GREEN TIP	73	69	69	N/A
BLUEBERRIES, TAME: PINK	35	18	34	51
BLUEBERRIES, WILD (ME): GREEN TIP	99	80	82	69
BLUEBERRIES, WILD (ME): PINK	80	55	61	42
CORN: PLANTED	6	<5	45	34
CRANBERRIES (MA): GREEN TIP	25	<5	86	N/A
PEACHES: GREEN TIP	57	48	75	N/A
PEACHES: PINK	40	16	61	64
PEARS: GREEN TIP	51	33	72	N/A
POTATOES (ME): PLANTED	20	<5	32	N/A
SPRING TILLAGE: PERCENT COMPLETE	32	20	59	N/A
SWEET CORN: PLANTED	16	8	20	28

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

Still jumping around to the drier fields to plant corn. Manure spreading still behind schedule waiting for field's conditions to improve. Grass is finally growing with some sunshine late in the week.

MAINE

AROOSTOOK (Central), Larry James

Rain and cold has kept operations out of the field most of the time. Seed still being shipped to lower New England and New York. It appears at this time that there will be a lot of June planting. Ground temperatures are still running way below normal.

CUMBERLAND/YORK, Sandy Truslow

Cold, wet temperatures continue. Plantings are behind. Lowest high temperature on record Tuesday. Apricots, early plums, and some sweet cherries are just beyond full bloom. Peaches and nectarines are in varying stages of bloom. Bugs aren't moving around much, and that includes bees. Apple bloom is delayed, but looks heavy. We could use a few warm days in a row!

FRANKLIN, Gary J. Raymond

Soils are cold and wet. There has been some seed rot in early planted corn. Only the best drained soils are being worked. The flies and leaves are coming out.

PENOBSCOT/PISCATAQUIS, Donna Coffin

Pasture and hay slow to start growing. Looking forward to warmer weather.

WASHINGTON, Audre Hayward

Cold and wet spring.

MASSACHUSETTS

ALL MA COUNTIES, Tom Smiarowski

Better weather conditions over the past week led to increased field activity.

BARNSTABLE/BRISTOL/DUKES/NANTUCKET/PLYMOUTH, Dr. Peter Jeranyama

Cranberry buds are now at the stage of bud elongation. This means that the temperature tolerance level for a spring frost damage is at 27F for the native varieties (Early Black and Howes), and 29.5F for hybrids (Stevens, Crimson Queen, DeMoranville, Mullica Queen and also Ben Lear). Growers have been spraying Bravo for upright dieback, Avaunt for weevil or gypsy moth. Devrinol, Caseron or Kerb have been sprayed against weeds.

HAMPSHIRE/HAMPDEN, Heather Baylis

A couple of better days this week but still temperatures are struggling and rain continues. More farm activity is being seen but Asparagus harvest is much slower this year. Hopefully next week's warmer temperatures will improve everything. Pastures continue to be too wet to support livestock.

PLYMOUTH, Steve Ward

Even though weather conditions have become drier, cranberry growers continue to be concerned with the impact of such a damp, cool spring.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

CHESHIRE, Carl Majewski

More sun and warmer temps than we've seen lately, but still at least a little rain every day this week except Saturday. Grass is growing a little better, and most farms have animals turned out on pasture by now. Farms able to make progress planting corn, though there are still quite a few acres to go. Transplanting and seeding continues on veggie operations. Trees and bushes in bloom in orchards and berry farms.

GRAFTON, Heather Bryant

We got thunder and significant rain the afternoon and night of 5/19 which reversed some of the progress we'd seen earlier in the week with fields starting to dry out enough to start tillage.

GRAFTON, Steven Schmidt

For the week ending May 18th, weather conditions remained cool and damp. Rainfall was close to an inch for the week. Soils remained wet on some fields, however farmers have been able to get onto the sandy sites and spread manure and incorporate it into the soil. Grass for hay has been making slow progress. Some additional sun and warm, dry conditions will give things a boost.

HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton

Fruits: Assessing winter injury to small fruit crops, especially brambles and minor damage to blueberry. Many growers are concerned about strawberry and all the wet weather. Apples are at full bloom to petal fall and growers are determining what they should use to thin apples. Blueberry is at full bloom. Most peaches were at petal fall in northern New Hampshire and full bloom in central New Hampshire. Sweet cherry and plum flowers were at petal fall. Strawberry is starting to bloom. Orchardists are applying protective fungicide sprays on fruit trees and blueberries. Field Crops: Farmers are plowing, disking, fertilizing, planting corn, and applying herbicides to fields dry enough to get on. Pastures and hayfields starting to look better. Vegetables: Continued planting vegetables, along with successive planting of sweet corn in dried fields. Laying plastic mulch and drip irrigation tape. Harvesting spinach, asparagus, rhubarb and all kinds of greens.

ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad

More tomato seedling being planted in season extension structures. Watering plants in heated greenhouses as well as in high tunnels. Staking tomatoes plants. Harvesting lettuce mix, asparagus, and rhubarb. Tomato fruits are sizing nicely in heated greenhouses. Apple trees are in full bloom. Planting apple trees.

SULLIVAN, Jennifer Z. Gehly

Despite a cool start to the week and a dusting of snow Tuesday morning, the area finally saw a good stretch of weather. Skies were clear. Temperatures were warm. Soils were drying out. Planting has begun in earnest. Peaches are flowering and it looks like there will be a good crop. Apples are progressing. Growers have applied 2-4 sprays for scab given the frequent rains. Asparagus is coming on. High tunnels are being planted but many protecting them with emergency heat. Winterkill on forage crops, particularly in alfalfa is abundant.

RHODE ISLAND**ALL RI COUNTIES, Heather Faubert**

Need more sun and less rain.

ALL RI COUNTIES, Michael Sullivan

Overall weather continues to be cooler than normal and skies have not been sunny. So while rain has been abundant, less humidity has not, so foliar disorders are an increasing concern. Soil temperatures are below normal so delays in planting with concerns for pythium rot and other associated root declines are common. Pasture are an ongoing concern. Grazers are needing to put animals into wetter than normal areas and thus seeing higher than normal damages to plant stands. Elevated moisture levels are causing stress or direct losses of some legumes in pastures and haylands. Short term forecast indicates sunny and above average temperatures to occur next week. Growers should be watching for foliar outbreaks requiring intervention or damage might be greatly enhanced.

VERMONT**FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley**

Yet another wet week in Franklin County. Starting to make everyone think about corn planting and the effects of the late planting. Still not at critical stage, however, the days and weeks move on. Grass is doing well but lacking sun and heat for major growth and quality. Fruit blossoms keep plugging along and would also like to see some sun and warm temps.