



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



New
England



Crop Progress & Condition

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Week ending May 26, 2019

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by the Northeastern Regional Field Office of NASS

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Fair week for field work: New England averaged 4 days suitable for field work last week.

Last week some areas in New England continued to experience cold and wet conditions, while others reported less rain and warmer temperatures. Some fields still had standing water on them, making them too wet for farm equipment. In the areas with better-drained fields and drier locations, farmers were eager to start working in their fields. Grass was growing well on fields that had manure or fertilizer applied. Dry hay harvest was just beginning in some locations, as well as chopping haylage. Some early-planted corn had started to emerge, but most areas were still working on planting corn. In the drier fields, growers were busy laying black plastic and fertilizing crops. Others were busy at planting vegetable seeds in the ground and transplanting seedlings. Farmers were harvesting and selling various lettuces mixes, spinach, rhubarb, and asparagus. Fruit growers were assessing winter injury to fruit crops and applying protective fungicide sprays on fruit trees and blueberries. Cranberry growers were hoping that the extended cool and wet conditions haven't had a negative impact on this year's crop. Field activities for the week included plowing, disking, fertilizing, planting corn, and applying herbicides. The Memorial Day weekend saw nice weather that drew customers at garden centers and at farmers' markets.

Soil Moisture for Week Ending May 26, 2019 (in percent)

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
TOPSOIL	0	0	32	68
SUBSOIL	0	0	27	73

Crop Conditions as of May 26, 2019 (in percent)

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
PASTURE AND RANGE	0	11	60	24	5

Crop Progress as of May 26, 2019 (in percent)

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
APPLES: GREEN TIP	99	93	84	N/A
APPLES: PINK	73	51	66	80
APPLES: FULL BLOOM	54	18	35	59
APPLES: PETAL FALL	10	N/A	N/A	N/A
BLUEBERRIES, TAME: GREEN TIP	84	73	85	N/A
BLUEBERRIES, TAME: PINK	61	35	59	76
BLUEBERRIES, TAME: FULL BLOOM	20	<5	26	47
BLUEBERRIES, WILD (ME): PINK	100	80	67	59
BLUEBERRIES, WILD (ME): FULL BLOOM	9	<5	47	28
CORN: PLANTED	13	6	67	56
CRANBERRIES (MA): GREEN TIP	85	25	90	N/A
PEACHES: GREEN TIP	80	57	82	N/A
PEACHES: PINK	62	40	69	N/A
PEACHES: FULL BLOOM	21	18	44	57
PEARS: GREEN TIP	77	51	81	N/A
PEARS: PINK	31	26	66	61
POTATOES (ME): PLANTED	25	20	46	49
SPRING TILLAGE: PERCENT COMPLETE	44	32	79	N/A
STRAWBERRIES: GREEN TIP	57	52	54	N/A
SWEET CORN: PLANTED	21	16	32	43

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

No reporter comments available.

MAINE

AROOSTOOK (Central), Larry James

We had about two days last week to plant some of the high spots. Many fields have not been fit to work this season. Early-planted grain is starting to emerge. Hayfields look full and green. This is the latest spring I can remember.

CUMBERLAND/YORK, Sandy Truslow

Fields dried out due to warmer weather and strong winds. Apples are past bloom. Fire Blight weather on Sunday. Strong Memorial Day sales for plants over the weekend, after a very slow start for sales. Warm weather crops will be planted out under plastic this week.

FRANKLIN, Gary J. Raymond

It is still too wet and cold. Blossoms are about a week late. The soil is muddy and gummy even on well-drained soils. There is standing water on fields that are poorly drained. There were no lilac blossoms for Memorial Day here.

WASHINGTON, Audre Hayward

Cold and wet.

MASSACHUSETTS

ALL MA COUNTIES, Tom Smiarowski

Finally a great week for field activities. Potatoes starting to emerge. Plastic coming off early sweet corn plantings. Transplanting of a variety of vegetables along with planting of winter squash and pumpkins. Hay harvest has begun. Asparagus yields down; growers seeking answers.

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

Spring frost season is still ongoing and now the tolerance is as follows; natives (Early Blacks and Howes) are tolerant at 27F; hybrids (Stevens, Ben Lear, Crimson Queen, DeMoranville, Mullica Queen) are now at 29.5F. Devrinol, Intensity and Kerb are the herbicides being sprayed at this time. Avaunt or Actara are insecticides being sprayed against weevils. There has been low numbers of spanworm and cutworm. Bravo is being used for upright dieback and there is also a treatment for fairy ring.

HAMPSHIRE/HAMPDEN, Heather Baylis

Less rain and warmer temperatures made for a frenzied week for farmers eager to get into the fields. Finally we are getting fields to dry up and planting is starting to catch up. Pastures have dried out and are being grazed. Bees are flying! Farmers are selling various lettuces mixes, rhubarb and asparagus. Many farmers are out

pulling plastic off from some plantings, plowing, disking and fertilizing.

PLYMOUTH, Steve Ward

It was nice to have some sunny weather this week! Cranberry growers are hoping that the extended cool wet conditions haven't had too much of a negative impact on this year's crop.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

GRAFTON, Heather Bryant

Significant winter injury apparent on blueberry and bramble crops on 2 out of 4 farms visited this week. All farms visited (fruit, vegetable and dairy) report being between 12 days and 3 weeks behind where they would normally be this time of year.

GRAFTON, Steven Schmidt

Weather conditions have shown some improvement. Conditions earlier in the week were wet; showers interspersed with periods of sun and gradually warming conditions have allowed field preparation to move ahead slowly. Some fields are still quite wet, but the better-drained soils are being worked and planted. Some fields are still plagued with standing water or are too wet to get onto with farm equipment. Grass is growing well on fields that had manure or fertilizer applied. A few farms have started to chop haylage.

HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton

Fruits: Assessing winter injury to fruit crops. Apples are at petal fall and growers were determining what they should use to thin apples and apply it. Blueberries are at full bloom. Strawberries are 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. Early-planted corn has emerged and new seedlings are up and growing. Vegetables: Continued planting vegetables, along with successive planting of sweet corn. Laying plastic mulch and drip irrigation tape. Harvesting spinach, asparagus, rhubarb and all kinds of greens. Starting to plant warm season transplants in low tunnels.

ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad

The week saw some rain, gusty winds, and some cold nights. Growers were busy laying black plastic and fertilizing crops. Growers were busy at planting vegetable seeds in the ground and transplanting seedlings. Memorial Day weekend saw nice weather that drew customers at garden centers and at farmers' markets. Orchardists and small fruit growers were monitoring pests. Some blueberry bushes are still recovering from winter injury and with this week's warmer temperatures the bushes are showing leaf buds.

SULLIVAN, Jennifer Z. Gehly

Another good stretch of weather in Sullivan County. A few overnight showers did not get in the way of field work. More ground prep and field corn planting taking place as conditions allow – some has emerged. A great stretch of weather 5/25 – 5/27 allowed for some haylage harvesting and in one spot even some dry hay harvest. More vegetables were planted and greenhouses were busy during the holiday weekend.

RHODE ISLAND

ALL RI COUNTIES, Heather Faubert

Mostly dry and seasonable temperatures. Lovely!

ALL RI COUNTIES, Michael Sullivan

Weather has been more amenable to farm activities. Soil temperatures rising along with emergence of seeded crops and transplants being moved. A few problems being seen on transplants that have been held in greenhouses or high tunnels longer than expected. Elevated temperatures and humidity are reflected in higher rates of foliar disorders. Powdery mildew common. Turfgrass sod harvest moving along quickly in the season and plant back happening at reasonable rates as well. Early hay harvest has begun with quality expected to be high with early boot and bud growth stages most commonly seen. Weather conditions have favored fungal controls that we are hopefully going to keep gypsy moth numbers down on remaining oak forest. Substantive multiyear damage and last year's failure of natural controls due to drier spring allowed far greater tree losses. Emerging conditions rather favorable to elevated forest fire and income losses for forest managers who had planted and managed for oak timber. Delayed strawberry and blueberry expected but forecast for elevated temperatures in coming week will influence greatly.

VERMONT

ALL VT COUNTIES, Terence Bradshaw

Rain is growing tiresome. Very strong bloom on most varieties, and decent pollination weather will likely lead to overset of apple fruit and need to thin. Grapes are breaking bud all over.

FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley

Very repetitive report of wet weather in Franklin County, VT. Getting some warmer temps which is helping growth in sod crops and tree flowering. Much grass maturing which will begin to push quality downward, however, yields will be good on the high ground. Will also be in a position of whether to harvest sod crops or plant corn. Apple and fruit trees are in full bloom and making for some great Memorial Day sights and smells.