



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



New
England



Crop Progress & Condition

King Whetstone, Regional Director

53 Pleasant St. Room 3450, Concord, NH 03301

Phone: 1-800-498-1518 Fax: 855-270-2719

www.nass.usda.gov/nh
Week ending June 16, 2019

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

nassrfoner@nass.usda.gov
Released June 17, 2019

Good week for field work: New England averaged 5 days suitable for field work last week. The region experienced several days of rainfall. Erosion and flooding was reported in Rhode Island but damages were minimal. Growers were finding short windows of time in between the rains to do field work. Corn planting was winding down. Grain fields that have emerged were reported as excellent. Hay fields were reported as growing nicely, however, the rain had delayed cuttings. Vegetable harvest continued; more crops were seen in the markets including broccoli, greens, bok choy, beets, carrots, peas, radishes, rhubarb and strawberries. Cranberries were beginning to bloom; however, with all the rain, producers were concerned the root system may not be developed to the point where they are able to support the crop. Fruit growers were monitoring pests, crop development, and applying sprays for pest control. Field activities for the week included side-dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating and hand hoeing weeds, scouting for pests and spraying.

Soil Moisture for Week Ending June 16, 2019 (in percent)

| Item | Very Short | Short | Adequate | Surplus |
|---------|------------|-------|----------|---------|
| TOPSOIL | 0 | 0 | 87 | 13 |
| SUBSOIL | 0 | 0 | 81 | 19 |

Crop Conditions as of June 16, 2019 (in percent)

| Item | Very Poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|-------------------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|
| DRY HAY | 0 | 1 | 19 | 78 | 2 |
| PASTURE AND RANGE | 0 | 1 | 11 | 70 | 18 |
| QUALITY OF DRY HAY MADE | 0 | 0 | 38 | 57 | 5 |

Crop Progress as of June 16, 2019 (in percent)

| | This Week | Last Week | Last Year | 5 Year Avg. |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| APPLES: FULL BLOOM | 97 | 90 | 63 | N/A |
| APPLES: PETAL FALL | 64 | 47 | 52 | N/A |
| APPLES: FRUIT SET | 40 | 18 | 42 | 69 |
| BARLEY (ME): EMERGED | 81 | 50 | N/A | N/A |
| BLUEBERRIES, TAME: PINK | 100 | 93 | 82 | N/A |
| BLUEBERRIES, TAME: FULL BLOOM | 89 | 65 | 65 | N/A |
| BLUEBERRIES, TAME: PETAL FALL | 60 | 35 | 50 | 77 |
| BLUEBERRIES, TAME: FRUIT SET | 25 | 6 | 29 | 52 |
| CORN: PLANTED | 86 | 68 | 95 | N/A |
| CORN: EMERGED | 48 | 22 | 82 | 82 |
| DRY HAY: 1st CUTTING | 47 | 30 | 62 | 5 |
| OATS (ME): EMERGED | 75 | 40 | N/A | N/A |
| PEACHES: PINK | 99 | 90 | 84 | N/A |
| PEACHES: FULL BLOOM | 82 | 64 | 71 | N/A |
| PEACHES: PETAL FALL | 66 | 49 | 58 | N/A |
| PEACHES: FRUIT SET | 44 | 23 | 44 | 59 |
| PEARS: PINK | 97 | 89 | 80 | N/A |
| PEARS: FULL BLOOM | 84 | 61 | 65 | N/A |
| PEARS: PETAL FALL | 61 | 40 | 49 | 68 |
| PEARS: FRUIT SET | 35 | 12 | 36 | 47 |
| POTATOES (ME): PLANTED | 90 | 81 | 69 | N/A |
| POTATOES (ME): EMERGED | 33 | 5 | 22 | 55 |
| SPRING TILLAGE: PERCENT COMPLETE | 93 | 88 | 96 | N/A |
| STRAWBERRIES: GREEN TIP | 99 | 94 | 82 | N/A |
| STRAWBERRIES: PINK | 90 | 72 | 71 | N/A |
| STRAWBERRIES: FULL BLOOM | 75 | 56 | 62 | N/A |
| STRAWBERRIES: PETAL FALL | 57 | 43 | 48 | N/A |
| STRAWBERRIES: FRUIT SET | 43 | 16 | 37 | 57 |
| SWEET CORN: PLANTED | 72 | 59 | 70 | 76 |

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

Grass is fully headed out. Quality is decreasing rapidly as seeds mature. Corn planting is winding down. Most farms are just waiting for the few wettest areas to firm up before planting those last fields. Strawberry picking has started. Fruit is ripening slowly. Several area stands were sold out of ripe fruit by Sunday.

MAINE

AROOSTOOK (Central), Larry James

Fair weather has allowed most operations to finish planting. We are at least two weeks behind normal. Grain fields that have emerged look excellent. Hay fields are filling in nicely and the season will start in a couple of weeks. Hope we have enough water to fill out the large crop of apples that appears to be on the way.

CUMBERLAND/YORK, Sandy Truslow

Some sun last week, but the area still received around 2" of rain through the week. Farmers who are trying to plant corn and cut hay are having a tough time. Vegetables, however, are looking good. Good germination due to the rain. Peas are blossoming late. Asparagus is being picked, but could use some heat. Strawberries are late, hopefully picking will start next weekend.

FRANKLIN, Gary J. Raymond

This was a good week for catch up. Planting is progressing and lots of hay is coming in. Cows look content on pasture. There does not seem to be much insect pressure on vegetables so far. The lady slippers just blossomed and lupins are looking good in our neck of the woods.

MASSACHUSETTS

ALL MA COUNTIES, Tom Smiarowski

Surprisingly it was starting to get a little dry so intermittent showers this week helped crops along. After a slow start, potatoes are looking very good and saw first blossoms in a field on Saturday. Strawberry season in full swing. Harvest of various greens continues. Great haying weather in the early part of the week.

BARNSTABLE/BRISTOL/DUKES/NANTUCKET/PLYMOUTH,

Dr. Peter Jeranyama

Spring frost season is wrapping up and now the focus is on production and pesticide control. Most growers applied starting up fertilizer by now and waiting for the next window for top-dressing, especially with nitrogen around late flowering early fruit set. Due to good weather we expect to see scattered bloom this week and that will be a time to spray against fruit rot especially in hybrid cultivars. Insect sprays have wrapped up except for scale. Migratory honey bees have begun to be deployed.

HAMPSHIRE/HAMPDEN, Heather Baylis

Another busy week on the farms. More and more crops are on the market including broccoli, greens, bok choy, beets, carrots, peas, radishes, rhubarb and finally strawberries. Transplanting of tomatoes, peppers and tobacco are in full swing. Farmers are monitoring orchards and using fungicides as necessary.

PLYMOUTH, Steve Ward

Quite a bit more rain this week, but there were also some very good growing days mixed in with it. Cranberries seem to be setting up for a decent bloom. However, with all the rain, root systems may not have developed to the point where they are able to support that crop.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

CARROLL, Olivia Saunders

Growers finding short windows of time to do field work in between rains. Bloom times are a bit behind, but certain vegetable crops seem to be doing well in cold spring. Brassicas and spring lettuces are thriving through first harvests and CSA distributions. Plant producers trying to offload the last of their starts.

HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton

Fruit: Strawberry harvest started. Fruit growers mowing an orchard floors, monitoring pest and crop development and applying sprays for pest control. Winter injury still being seen on blueberry and brambles. Field Crops: Farmers making haylage between showers. Farmers are side-dressing fertilizer to field corn, if needed, and to hay fields. Pastures and hay fields are growing well. Hay yields have been less than normal. Vegetables: Growers continued harvesting early season vegetables such as summer squash, asparagus, beets, greens, radishes, rhubarb, and spinach. Weeds are plaguing growers. Farmers are side-dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating and hand hoeing weeds, scouting for pests and spraying. Pests: Striped Cucumber beetle, Potato leaf hopper and European corn borer has been caught. Root Maggot damage has been observed. Plum curculio are still active. Apple Scab seen in orchard where spray timing was off.

ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad

Three rainy days this week; night temperatures unseasonably cold. Harvesting tomatoes from heated greenhouses; the first strawberries of the season are harvested and many Pick-Your-Own getting ready to open next week. Harvesting radishes, greens, scallions, herbs, and cut flowers. Haying and haylage being done.

SULLIVAN, Jennifer Z. Gehly

Up to an inch of rain fell through the course of the week. During the nice days, producers kept busy planting corn and vegetables; most operations are 2-3 weeks behind schedule. 1st cut haylage was harvested as well. The weather during the week was not optimal for making dry hay. Blueberries are being fertilized. Garlic has started scaping. Strawberries are behind.

RHODE ISLAND

ALL RI COUNTIES, Heather Faubert

Two days of excessive rainfall 3-4 inches cumulative for the week.

ALL RI COUNTIES, Michael Sullivan

Two days of vibrant storms and excessive rainfall causing erosion and flooding in many environments. A window earlier in the week where some great hay was made. Growers survived the weather where soils had been prepped and moved transplants. Some damages reported with young or tender transplants. Most crops in the ground except for pockets in low-lying areas where some were finally dry enough to till but now excessively wet and will be further delayed in planting.

VERMONT

BENNINGTON/RUTLAND, Tina Williams

Wet weather continues to hinder field work. Dry fields and well-drained soils have been planted or haylage harvested, wet fields continue to be wet and a problem. Dry hay has been nearly impossible to harvest.

FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley

Continued good weather stretches allowing more catch up in Franklin County, VT. Still much first cut hay out, however, a lot has been harvested and more corn planted. Manure going out on corn and grass land with a much needed catch up in this arena also. Strawberries are getting closer to major harvest and hoping that the drier weather will keep the mold and spoilage down.