

# Crop Progress & Condition



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For week ending 5/31/09

## Welcomed Rain Halts Fieldwork

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending May 31, 2009, there were 3.9 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 6% fair, 79% good, 15% excellent. The week began with a beautiful, warm Memorial Day across New England with high temperatures reaching into the upper-70s to low 80s. Overnight lows dipped down into the mid-30s in some areas of the extreme north, bringing frosts which lightly damaged emerged sweet and silage corn in some areas as well as highbush blueberries. Clear skies continued into Tuesday; however rain arrived during the night. Many areas of the south saw only scattered rain showers through Friday while the north saw heavier rainfall. All field activities were halted for much of the week, but farmers welcomed the much needed rain. High temperatures were below average in the low 50s to mid-60s, with nighttime lows ranging from the mid-30s to low 50s. Skies cleared up for Saturday where high temperatures were back up to average to above average levels with highs reaching into the upper-70s in most areas. Sunday was windy with scattered thunderstorms throughout the northern states. Hail was reported in areas of Maine and New Hampshire; however there were no reports of damage sustained. Total precipitation for the week ranged from 0.25 to 2.06 inches, south to north.

**FRUIT:** Fruit development ranged from full bloom to petal fall across New England; however Massachusetts cranberries remained at bud stage. Tree fruit were in good condition throughout the region and orchardists were busy applying protective fungicide sprays, insecticides, and mowing orchard floors at the start of the week. Strawberries were in good condition for the most part; however warm days are needed for growth. Highbush blueberries were reported as having a good set and being in good to fair condition. Maine's wild blueberries had an average fruit set and were in good condition. Insect pressure has been very low this year and few traces of mummyberry blight were reported. Despite minimal hail damage, numerous insect infestations, and instances of leaf drop, Massachusetts cranberry vines still looked very good at week's end.

**VEGETABLES:** Planting of snap beans, cabbage, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, and cucurbits continued between rain showers with pumpkin planting just beginning. Planting of sweet corn also continued, and was on par with last year and normal. Producers continued to harvest asparagus, spring greens, radishes, and rhubarb. Growers were also busy laying plastic slit row cover on various vegetables.

**FIELD CROPS:** Field corn planting progressed, but is still slightly behind last year and ahead of normal. The emerged crop was reported as being off to a good start. Shade tobacco transplanting continued; however the crop needs warm weather to grow. The broadleaf tobacco crop is slow to be planted and was 20% complete at the end of the week. Maine oat and barley planting neared completion with a majority of the crop emerged by week's end. Potato planting also continued between showers and early potatoes were being top dressed and hilled up. The beginning of the week provided excellent conditions for harvesting the first cutting of dry hay. Rains during the week hampered field work, but the much needed moisture helped crops emerge.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	3
Short	3	9	23
Adequate	76	86	73
Surplus	21	5	1
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	1	0	3
Short	1	4	22
Adequate	84	92	75
Surplus	14	4	0

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Development	Set	Condition
Apples	PF	Avg/Below Avg	Good
Peaches	PF	Below Avg/Avg	Good
Pears	FB/PF	Below Avg/Avg	Good
Blueberries			
Highbush	FB/PF	Average	Good/Fair
Wild	FB	Average	Good
Cranberries, MA	BS	--	Good
Strawberries	FB/PF	Average	Good

BS = Bud Stage, EB = Early Bloom, FB = Full Bloom, PF=Petal Fall

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2009	2008	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Planted--				
Barley, ME	99	90	85	
Oats, ME	99	90	85	
Potatoes				
Maine	95	80	75	
Mass	99	99	95	
Rhode Island	N/A	95	95	
Silage Corn	75	80	70	
Sweet Corn	60	60	60	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	20	20	25	Good/Fair
Shade	95	90	85	Good/Fair
--Percent Emerged--				
Barley, ME	75	20	40	Good
Oats, ME	85	25	40	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	0	5	Good
Mass	65	55	50	Good
Rhode Island	N/A	60	65	N/A
Silage Corn	30	30	30	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	45	25	25	Good
-- Percent Harvested --				
Dry Hay				
First Cut	15	20	10	Good

**Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics**  
Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday May 25, 2009  
To: Sunday May 31, 2009

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
	---	---	---	---	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	---	---	INCHES	---	---
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_State_A	37	73	53	-6	249	+69	38	+20	1.30	+0.46	5	3.38	-0.05	15
Bangor_Intl_Arp	32	71	52	-7	194	+55	20	+10	1.14	+0.37	5	3.39	+0.16	13
Bethel	34	73	51	-7	170	+19	19	+6	1.36	+0.51	5	3.51	+0.19	13
Caribou_Municip	34	68	50	-6	124	+20	16	+9	1.19	+0.49	5	3.57	+0.77	12
Dover-Foxcroft	31	72	51	-6	135	+28	16	+10	0.64	-0.20	4	2.69	-0.57	13
Frenchville	32	65	49	-6	88	+9	11	+11	1.50	+0.79	5	3.24	+0.41	14
Houlton	30	71	50	-6	133	+27	20	+12	0.93	+0.16	5	2.85	+0.19	12
Livermore_Falls	30	74	51	-6	173	+65	20	+14	1.73	+0.84	5	4.02	+0.61	13
Moosehead	28	76	48	-6	84	+21	15	+15	1.17	+0.35	4	2.83	-0.30	12
Portland_ME	37	74	54	-4	244	+115	46	+42	1.60	+0.83	4	4.25	+1.02	13
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	31	72	51	-8	179	+8	27	+6	1.84	+1.00	4	4.20	+1.08	11
Berlin_AG	30	71	51	-7	178	+28	22	+5	0.97	+0.10	5	3.11	-0.13	13
Concord	31	78	54	-6	306	+106	68	+41	1.43	+0.69	5	3.89	+1.05	13
Diamond_Pond	25	67	48	-5	75	+9	7	+7	1.51	+0.53	4	5.40	+1.79	12
Keene_AG	35	80	55	-8	284	+15	65	+16	1.50	+0.62	4	3.78	+0.36	14
North_Conway	32	73	51	-8	206	+32	31	+10	1.98	+1.07	5	4.39	+0.76	13
Rochester	35	78	54	-7	286	+55	60	+24	1.61	+0.77	4	4.46	+0.97	12
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Bennington_AP	32	74	56	-2	316	+139	61	+37	1.55	+0.50	4	3.50	-0.64	11
Burlington_Intl	33	76	56	-5	319	+74	63	+18	1.15	+0.41	5	4.99	+2.15	11
Island_Pond	28	71	50	-5	133	+25	17	+8	1.21	+0.29	4	4.75	+1.37	12
Montpelier	32	73	53	-6	241	+75	43	+23	1.96	+1.17	5	4.97	+2.00	11
Rochester	30	75	51	-6	179	+27	30	+13	3.43	+2.46	5	6.94	+3.03	12
Rutland_AG	33	76	54	-8	253	-30	42	-17	2.06	+1.22	6	4.02	+0.84	13
Springfield_VT	33	76	54	-5	296	+109	55	+29	1.24	+0.27	5	3.12	-0.58	12
Sutton	29	70	49	-7	122	+16	20	+11	2.05	+1.14	6	5.22	+1.91	14
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	48	81	59	-4	446	+150	128	+91	0.85	+0.14	4	2.65	-0.27	13
Fitchburg	39	81	57	-2	440	+277	122	+108	0.78	-0.06	4	3.78	+0.58	13
Greenfield	38	79	56	-7	312	+13	69	+18	1.29	+0.38	4	4.32	+0.81	15
New_Bedford	45	78	59	-4	338	+42	62	+26	0.54	-0.30	5	4.14	+0.82	18
Otis_AFB	48	81	60	+2	373	+203	75	+64	0.24	-0.56	2	2.90	-0.43	15
Plymouth	45	79	58	-2	359	+170	81	+65	0.37	-0.47	5	2.96	-0.60	17
Walpole	43	76	57	-4	320	+87	70	+41	2.35	+1.58	5	3.93	+0.82	14
Chicopee/Westov	37	80	58	-7	403	+17	100	+21	0.58	-0.40	4	3.48	-0.24	14
Worthington	35	77	54	-5	238	+66	50	+31	1.10	+0.10	4	4.42	+0.27	14
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	47	81	61	-2	396	+134	90	+60	0.42	-0.39	4	3.26	-0.11	16
Woonsocket	43	79	58	-4	380	+151	95	+73	0.59	-0.32	4	2.51	-1.16	18
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	52	78	61	-2	372	+61	74	+16	0.38	-0.46	3	2.72	-0.82	12
Hartford/Bradle	43	81	60	-4	458	+102	127	+53	0.66	-0.25	3	3.36	-0.37	13
Norfolk	41	78	56	-3	282	+114	69	+52	0.78	-0.27	5	4.59	+0.45	14
Thomaston_Dam	44	79	59	-3	356	+107	83	+46	1.03	+0.05	5	4.67	+0.66	17
Willimantic	46	78	60	-1	432	+183	108	+72	0.74	-0.17	4	2.72	-1.06	15

Summary based on NWS data.  
DFN = Departure from Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).  
Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.  
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.  
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.  
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**State Weather Summary**  
For the Week Ending Sunday, May 31, 2009

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	26	77	51	-6	0.51	2.52
NH	21	80	52	-6	0.66	2.08
VT	26	77	52	-6	0.92	3.43
MA	33	82	57	-4	0.20	2.35
RI	43	81	59	-2	0.23	0.59
CT	40	83	60	-3	0.31	1.03

**REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County:** *Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), or other knowledgeable individuals.*

**CONNECTICUT - Howard Rood (FSA), Fairfield/Litchfield:** It was a cool and wet week. Hay is growing well. Some field corn has emerged. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** A generally cool (if not cold) week with intermittent showers. Planting of corn silage continued with many producers complete. Planting continues for sweet corn, snap beans, cabbage, tomatoes, peppers, and cucurbit crops. Shade tobacco is waiting for warmth to grow and broadleaf tobacco is slow to be planted. With sunshine on Saturday many were mowing grass for silage. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Little field work was accomplished last week due to rain. Timothy headed out and clover is starting to bloom. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Cool, wet weather, tough to get hay in. Corn planting continues. Fruit set is good on blueberries. Mulching vegetables.

**MAINE – Doreen Conlogue (FSA), Aroostook:** Great week for field work! Everyone is pretty much finished planting. Most of Aroostook County received about one inch of much needed rain over the weekend with some areas reporting hail. Some potatoes and grains are emerging and look good. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Recent rains slowed down planting. Seed growers still trying to finish planting potatoes. Grains all mostly in the ground. If weather conditions hold, growers could finish planting this week. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Growers are starting to do their herbicide applications on potatoes. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** The excellent growing and planting season continues. One area did have some good size hail fall. Hay is being harvested at a steady clip. Most of the planting of field crops is complete. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock /Penobscot/Piscataquis:** A mixed week of rain and sunny days, but field work is right on track. Frost was reported on some blueberries, but damage has not been determined. Corn and potatoes have emerged and look good. Most crops have been planted and farmers are right on track. Strawberries are a little behind, some much needed sun and warm days are need. Apple trees are looking great as well. Hay fields look good. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** A lot of planting took place at the first of last week, but by Wednesday rainy weather put a stop to all field activities. We received over an inch of rain throughout the week. Some crops are starting to look a little yellow and need sunshine. Some farmers have started chopping grass and a little dry hay has been made. The blueberry crop is looking good although monilinia blight is an ongoing problem. Most blueberry fields have been treated with velpar and scouting of fields occurred earlier in the week. Hopefully we will have a week full of some much needed sun! **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Plenty of rain fell last week. Farmers have begun to cut first crop hay and most sweet corn has been planted except for late plantings. Silage and grain corn looking good. Heavy soils are very wet again due to the rain last week and need warm sunny days. Market gardens still have some plantings left to go in. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** We need the sun to help with the crops. High winds and some hail this past weekend. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Frost damage on emerged sweet and silage corn from cold temperatures. Experienced another mild frost on 5/31-6/1. Some haylage harvested. Most corn planted. Cooler windy conditions are not helping pollination of fruit crops. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries; Bees are in all fields and we have had some good pollination weather. Note many native bees as well so pollination should be strong. Some mummyberry blight symptoms appearing but very little infection seen on fields that were treated with fungicide. Some untreated fields had significant injury as there were numerous infection events. Insect pressure has been very low this year with few outbreaks. Post emergence applications for weeds on non crop fields are being made.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** After a beautiful three day holiday weekend it rained for four days. No field work until Saturday when some hay was cut and field prep

continued. Transplants were set out for summer veggies. Spring greens and asparagus were being harvested. Pasture quality is good. Farmers markets and stands are doing brisk business. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** A beautiful Memorial Day weekend meant bedding plant sales were out of sight and first cutting of the hay crop was beginning. However, the week following was filled with much needed rainfall that put haying on hold. Cool temperatures also slowed the asparagus harvest. A good crop of lettuce has begun to be harvested. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The week was rainy with below normal temperatures. Planting peppers, tomatoes, eggplants, cucurbits, sweet corn, and cabbage has begun. Asparagus, rhubarb, chard, arugula, salad mix, baby bok choy, spinach, and radishes were being harvested. Early potatoes were being top dressed and hilled up. Plastic has been removed off of early sweet corn. Dairy farmers were planting field corn and harvesting hay. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Last night (Sunday into Monday) was a pretty significant frost event for growers. There were widespread reports of hail on the previous Sunday, mostly in the Kingston-Pembroke area; one grower dealt with hail the size of ping pong balls, a very rare occurrence indeed. Damage was minimal, as far as I have been able to determine. All reports continue to indicate a bad year for insect infestations. Growers are applying insecticides to combat several individual insect pests and early season fertilizers to spur good vine growth. There are several instances of leaf drop caused by oxygen deficiency during the time the beds were flooded during the winter months. It has also been associated with corners that had snow buildup. Leaf drop will only occur after a large crop the previous fall - this was true in all instances. Aside from the things mentioned above, vines look very good.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Good rainfall midweek and a hard frost/freeze Sunday night. Most field corn is planted and much of it has emerged and is off to a good start. Many farms took advantage of dry conditions early in the week to harvest haylage/baylage and a little dry hay. Planting on vegetable operations continued. Orchards doing well. Farmer markets full of seedlings and bedding plants. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Lots of rain this week, cooler temperatures and a hard freeze at mid-week. Corn planting continued when possible, although some low lying fields are too wet for equipment. Farmers readied for first cut of haylage, a little may have been taken at this time. Plastic laid on vegetable plantings, pumpkins going in. Hi-tunnels in operation. Many apples and highbush blueberries were at full bloom when temperatures were down into the mid-20's, may have sustained damage. Windy conditions made it difficult for pesticide applications. Reports and observations of blackbirds and crows in corn fields. Grasses grew well in these weather conditions. Hope we can harvest them in the coming month. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending May 30, we received varying amounts of rain from just over two inches to around three inches, depending on location. Soils now have adequate moisture, and a few soils are surplus with water on the surface. Nearly all the corn is planted, and much of what was planted in the last three weeks has emerged. We had two mornings last week with frost conditions. Some places reported temperatures as low as the mid twenties. Most of the first cutting of haylage ground to a halt last week. No one has reported producing any dry hay so far this season. Vegetable crops are being planted, with those who grow under row cover making the most progress. Many farms have re-seeded the fields winter killed in February 2009. **Heather Bryant (Ext), Grafton:** Some small sized hail reported in the northern part of the county the night of May 30. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Transplanted tomato and pepper plants in field, and made successive planting vegetable crops. Harvested spinach, asparagus and rhubarb. Fruit: Fruit growers monitored pest and crop development and applied cover sprays for pest control. Orchardists wondering if they should be applying thinning sprays to apple orchards. Mowed orchard floor and

weed sprayed under trees. Blueberries were at bloom to petal fall during the week. Strawberries were blooming. Field Crops: Planted and weed sprayed corn fields. Farmers started to make haylage. Concern about frost one night during the week. Some growers irrigated strawberries during night/morning for frost control. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Strawberries and blueberries are in full bloom. Warm season vegetable crops are being field transplanted. Leafy greens and radish harvests are happening. Pastures are in good shape. Garden center sales are strong. High winds on Sunday caused clean-up work on Monday. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Soggy, rain, cloudy and cold three to four days. Field work had been delayed because of weather. Prepared vegetable fields by plowing, discing, liming, and applying fertilizers. Continued successive vegetable planting. Covered squashes, tomatoes and other vegetables with plastic slit row covers or fabric covers. Sprayed insecticides and protective fungicides in fruit orchards and small fruits fields. Planted field corn. Harvested asparagus and leafy greens. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Rains and cool weather the last half of the week. Grass in pastures and hay fields growing well. Fruit growers were spraying protective fungicides early in the week to protect against scab infection due to expected rains in mid week and later part of the week. Growers were also mowing orchard floors and monitoring for insect pests. Vegetable growers continued to do successive planting of various crops as well as weeding and fertilizing the germinated crops. Greenhouses and garden centers continued to have strong days with customers buying vegetable transplants as well as other plants.

**RHODE ISLAND – Melissa Turisi (FSA),** A perfect weekend for cutting hay and catching up with farm work. Roadside stands were busy with sales of vegetable and flower plants.

**VERMONT – Jeff Carter, (Ext), Addison:** Heavy rain ended field work. Big push last week to plant most corn and also chop first cut hay. Light haylage yields, early grass maturity. Manure spread on

cut fields incorporated with rain. Hay second crop re-growth already. Grasses all headed out. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Cold wet week. Frost on Tuesday morning, two inches of rain late in the week. Some farmers got a good start on first cut of hay earlier in the week. Things came to a standstill after the rain hit. Some manure went out right after that first cut of hay. We still have tulips blooming, lilacs are in full bloom. Seems like a late spring. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** It's cold here in Franklin County!!!! Very unsettled weather the last week of May. June has come in with a frost that will have nipped some tender corn leaves, most at two to three leaf stage that is up and any other susceptible plants. First cut hay harvest has come to a stand still, however, much was harvested before the rains came, which were not as heavy as predicted. High winds did do some damage to trees and power lines in Franklin and Chittenden County Sunday PM. Gardens are at a standstill for growth, just like all other crops. **Heather Darby, (Ext), Franklin/Grand Isle:** Only a few good field days this week. Corn planting and hay harvest continued during the early part of the week. Rain showers slowed things for the rest of the week. Not too much rain in our area as of Friday. The rain received was needed and helped pop the corn out of the ground. New seedlings are looking good. Many farmers reporting that first cut was 60% of normal yields. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** Last week was pretty much a washout with the weather preventing any meaningful fieldwork. Had another frost on Tuesday morning which was frustrating for the veggie folks. Planting can finish up this week if the weather cooperates. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Last week was pretty wet with only a few days dry enough for field work. Almost all of the corn is planted and some has emerged. So far it looks like germination is even. A lot of first cut hay was harvested over the Memorial Day weekend and into the first part of last week. Pastures are looking pretty good although it is a bit wet right now. **Julie Jacque, (FSA), Windham:** Rains moved in last week. Temperatures were a little cooler. Lots of producers chopping hay. A lot of corn is emerging. Reports of strawberry crop looking good so far having avoided the potential for frost.

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