

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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For week ending 5/8/11

Are We Planting Yet?

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending May 8, 2011, there were 4.6 days available for field work across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 10% poor, 33% fair, 49% good, and 8% excellent. The beginning of the week was cloudy with average to above average temperatures ranging from the mid 50s to upper 70s. Rain traveled across the region on Wednesday, with mostly average temperatures. Precipitation ranged from 0.24 to 0.77 inches. Cloudy conditions continued through the rest of the week with scattered showers on Thursday and Friday. Temperatures were mostly in the 50s and 60s. Mother's Day Weekend had brief, scattered thunderstorms with heavy downpours and some small hail. The week's rainfall totals were 0.27 to 2.24 inches across the region.

FRUIT: Mummyberry cups were still present in some Maine wild blueberry fields and were actively shooting out spores this week in mid-coast areas. Orchardists made sure that bees were out in apple orchards. They were also watching the bloom and hoping to avoid freezing temperatures. Some early strawberries, which were under plastic, were blooming.

VEGETABLES: While some vegetable growers were trying to dry out their fields, others were planting early crops. In the north, there was little growth because of cool temperatures. Farmers were planting cabbage, lettuce, spinach, kale, parsnips, onions, sweet corn, peas, greens, and cole crops. They were also harvesting peas, lettuce, and greens.

FIELD CROPS: Fields dried out enough this week for some farmers to plant small grains and potatoes and reseed hay fields. Others were concerned about seed rotting if they planted too soon. Flooding was still high along Lake Champlain and the Connecticut River and most of its tributaries which left those farmers waiting to start field work.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	0	0	4
Adequate	67	49	85
Surplus	33	51	10
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	1
Short	1	2	4
Adequate	64	46	83
Surplus	35	52	12

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Stage of Development	Condition
Apples	Bud Stage/Early Bloom	Good/Fair
Peaches	Bud Stage/Early Bloom	Good
Pears	Bud Stage/Early Bloom	Good
Blueberries		
Highbush	Dormant/Bud Stage	Good/Fair
Wild	Dormant/Bud Stage	Good/Excellent
Cranberries, MA	Dormant	Good/Excellent
Strawberries	Dormant/Bud Stage	Good/Fair

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2011	2010	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				
Barley, ME	0	50	20	N/A
Oats, ME	0	50	20	N/A
Potatoes				
Maine	<5	30	10	N/A
Mass	25	85	60	Good/Fair
Rhode Island	50	75	50	Good
Silage Corn	<5	10	10	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	15	25	20	Good
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	0	0	0	N/A
Shade	0	0	0	N/A
-- Percent Emerged --				
Silage Corn	<5	<5	<5	
Sweet Corn	5	15	5	
-- Percent Harvested --				
Dry Hay				
First Cut	0	0	0	Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday, May 2, 2011
 To: Sunday, May 8, 2011

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	---	---
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	36	68	52	+2	63	+31	0	+0	0.29	-0.62	2	3.54	-0.04	13
Bangor_Intl_Arp	37	68	52	+3	56	+36	0	+0	0.57	-0.23	2	4.08	+0.95	14
Bethel	31	69	50	+2	39	+16	1	+1	0.56	-0.28	2	5.54	+2.18	14
Caribou_Municip	32	66	49	+3	20	+6	0	+0	1.74	+1.06	4	3.70	+1.28	15
Dover-Foxcroft	29	68	48	+1	20	+6	0	+0	1.12	+0.28	4	4.69	+1.33	16
Frenchville	32	62	45	+0	4	-3	0	+0	1.93	+1.23	5	3.83	+1.29	16
Houlton	28	68	50	+4	34	+20	1	+1	1.53	+0.82	5	3.88	+1.27	18
Livermore_Falls	33	68	50	+3	41	+27	0	+0	0.86	+0.02	3	5.66	+2.09	16
Moosehead	26	64	45	+1	1	-3	0	+0	1.55	+0.80	5	4.49	+1.53	16
Portland_ME	35	69	52	+3	62	+44	0	+0	0.34	-0.53	2	5.11	+1.37	14
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	33	68	50	+0	40	+3	5	+5	0.81	+0.11	3	4.76	+2.07	19
Berlin_AG	31	69	49	+2	38	+9	4	+4	0.86	+0.09	3	4.77	+1.56	15
Concord	31	74	54	+3	114	+73	23	+23	0.67	-0.03	2	4.26	+1.46	13
Diamond_Pond	31	69	45	+2	15	+7	0	+0	1.33	+0.51	4	5.74	+2.72	17
Keene_AG	31	76	52	-2	89	+25	17	+12	0.58	-0.26	3	3.35	+0.24	15
North_Conway	34	72	51	+1	44	+13	2	+2	0.71	-0.20	4	6.74	+2.91	19
Rochester	34	75	55	+3	118	+68	15	+15	0.86	-0.07	3	5.73	+1.80	14
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	29	76	53	+3	134	+95	34	+34	1.07	+0.04	3	3.70	-0.42	16
Burlington_Intl	39	70	52	-1	97	+39	13	+8	2.24	+1.55	3	9.04	+6.38	17
Island_Pond	34	71	48	+3	38	+19	7	+7	0.93	+0.18	3	5.53	+2.81	16
Montpelier	35	69	51	+2	66	+31	13	+13	0.99	+0.32	3	6.14	+3.72	20
Rochester	29	73	50	+2	53	+23	9	+9	0.86	-0.12	3	6.61	+2.93	18
Rutland_AG	31	74	51	-4	76	+0	11	+2	1.63	+0.89	3	5.78	+3.08	16
Springfield_VT	30	75	55	+5	116	+77	27	+27	0.82	-0.09	3	5.03	+1.40	17
Sutton	32	69	49	+3	29	+14	2	+2	0.86	+0.10	3	7.13	+4.28	18
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	44	72	58	+4	184	+105	35	+35	0.74	-0.03	3	3.87	+0.59	13
Fitchburg	37	77	58	+8	176	+146	40	+40	0.47	-0.30	3	4.13	+0.96	16
Greenfield	32	75	53	-3	98	+21	17	+14	0.32	-0.53	4	4.86	+1.41	19
New_Bedford	35	69	56	+2	178	+96	22	+22	0.31	-0.53	2	5.15	+1.46	11
Otis_AFB	32	66	53	+3	106	+74	6	+6	0.45	-0.42	1	5.51	+1.91	8
Plymouth	34	69	56	+5	180	+144	28	+28	0.47	-0.48	2	5.11	+1.19	14
Walpole	35	76	56	+4	135	+81	20	+20	1.18	+0.36	3	4.77	+1.00	13
Chicopee/Westov	33	80	56	-2	164	+41	42	+33	0.61	-0.30	3	4.78	+1.14	14
Worthington	30	72	51	+2	84	+48	18	+18	0.39	-0.66	2	5.11	+1.14	18
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	39	68	55	+3	159	+94	22	+22	0.37	-0.53	3	5.22	+1.47	13
Woonsocket	37	71	56	+4	152	+102	24	+24	0.50	-0.46	3	5.03	+1.14	14
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	44	68	56	+2	146	+60	12	+7	0.48	-0.43	2	4.58	+0.99	11
Hartford/Bradle	37	79	57	+2	171	+68	39	+30	0.32	-0.59	1	5.24	+1.60	10
Norfolk	37	73	52	+2	93	+61	19	+19	0.24	-0.81	2	5.76	+1.56	14
Thomaston_Dam	30	77	54	+2	138	+75	36	+35	0.45	-0.60	2	4.97	+0.91	14
Willimantic	32	76	56	+3	171	+111	34	+34	0.35	-0.63	3	4.69	+0.77	13

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, May 8, 2011

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	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	25	72	49	+2	0.29	2.76
NH	17	76	51	+2	0.31	1.33
VT	25	78	50	+1	0.62	3.02
MA	30	80	54	+2	0.27	1.18
RI	37	71	54	+3	0.17	0.50
CT	30	79	55	+1	0.24	0.54

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: This has been a very wet spring. Farmers state that they are about 2 weeks behind normal planting. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Fields started to dry, but wet spots remain. Most still waiting to plant field corn, but some have started spreading manure. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Finally we have some corn in the ground - not much - but some is better than nothing! Grass greened up noticeably this week. Orchardgrass seemed to make the most gains. Clover and other legumes are slower coming on this spring as the soil temp is still low. Still struggling to get manure spread as fields can't seem to dry up. Plows and harrows are navigating around wet spots in a large number of fields. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Warmer weather most of the week with some rain, which is still slowing planting. Nice weekend weather for Mother's Day plant sales. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Anxious to plant but too cool and wet in most areas. Spreading some manure. Rising fuel costs increase use of no-till. Deer damage to apple trees and vole damage to apple roots. Still pruning. Spraying for apple scab. Peaches in bloom; will need to spray for fungal rot. Farmers Markets have begun.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: With only two days at the start of the week without rain very little field work was done. A few operations drilled some small grains. One of the larger operations planted broccoli Monday and Tuesday. Looking forward to a drier, warmer week. Most operations should be going by week's end. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Currently in Aroostook County fields are quite wet after receiving rain all week. Soil temperatures are still very cool, 40-45 degrees. Initial grain and early potato planting has just started as of this week with just a few farmers getting on the ground. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Vegetables are being planted, however, cool temperatures are not promoting much growth. Many beekeepers are reporting significant hive losses this year. Hay is looking good. Peaches are blooming and some of the early strawberries which were under plastic are blooming. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Lots of manure spreaders heading up and down the roads. Fields are wet, but well drained soils are being worked. Producers are fencing and the black flies are coming out. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Rainy days are keeping farmers from getting fields ready for planting. Upcoming week looks promising. Cool nights are still keeping the ground from warming up. Some manure was spread on fields but much more to do. Some potatoes were planted so upcoming sunny days will help. Berries should be uncovered soon and apple trees will be greening up. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Producers are starting field work and spreading manure. Planting of grain corn has begun in parts of Oxford County. The pastures and hay fields are looking very green. Preparation has begun in potato fields as well this week. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Field operations are in full swing on well drained fields. Grasses have really responded to the warmer weather and rain. Some animals have been turned out on the driest fields. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Wet weather has slowed field work. Some manure is getting spread on drier ground while many wait for drier weather. **Elaine S. Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Field work continues on some fields, reports of fields still being too soft to get equipment on in places. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Intermittent rain and showers have slowed field work. Some manure and tillage on better drained soils. Should see some perennial fruits starting to blossom next week. Just a few corn silage fields have been planted. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Fields are being pruned by mowing and burning. Pre-emergence herbicide and fertilizer applications are being made. Mummyberry cups are still present and were actively shooting out spores this week in Mid-coast fields. Mummyberry blight forecast blog on www.wildblueberries.maine.edu indicated multiple mummyberry infection periods have occurred. Downeast rain/drizzle/fog continued in this area through the week which have

produced infection periods. Fungicide applications are being applied to protect the plants.

MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Cool, damp weather with a little sun this week. Temps are in the 50s and 60s with a couple of nights in the 30s. Orchardists are watching the bloom hoping to avoid freezes. Corn planting is beginning very slowly due to wet fields. Also, soil temps very cool still. Farmers markets busy with flower sales. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** A great week weather-wise, warm days and cool nights. Asparagus harvest is starting to get underway. Planting of sweet corn is also underway. Land preparation measures are continuing as fields start to dry out. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Field conditions are still wet from past heavy rains. Vegetable growers are sub-soiling fields, plowing, spreading lime, and cultivating fields to dry them out. Dairy farmers are spreading manure and repairing fences. Farmers are seeding new hay fields and planting potatoes, cabbage, lettuce, spinach, kale, parsnips, onions, and sweet corn. Farmers are also harvesting fiddleheads, parsnips, and asparagus. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Vines continue greening up with some new growth on the early cultivars. Later cultivars are losing their dormant red color too. Growers are starting to sweep for insects, applying pre-emergent herbicides and fungicides, cleaning out ditches. Many beds have a late water flood (flood from April 20 until May 20 or thereabouts), more than I have seen in 15-20 years. There was a frost night last night into Monday. Perennial weeds grew quite a bit this past week with consistently warmer weather.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Bill Lord (Ext), Belknap: Soil temperatures are still relatively low, limiting planting activity. Some early sweet corn including some on plastic is in. Greenhouse tomato activity is still lagging due to cool soil temps and cloud cover. Fruit crops in general look good. Most hay and pasture growth is good with fertilization this past week done on most acres. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Warmer weather this week, but showers mid-week have still slowed down field activities. Farms still spreading manure and getting some tillage done, but there's still lots to do. First corn got planted over the weekend. Grass growing very well - animals are out on pasture. A couple of light frosts over the week, but shouldn't have caused too much injury. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Flooded fields looking better as water level recedes. Some planting prep on workable corn land, manure spreading, discing, etc. Grass growing well in cool, wet weather. A little pasturing of livestock as conditions permit. Hi-tunnel tomatoes going in. Fruit trees, blueberries budding out, green tip on some. Pruning activities finished up. An inch or more of rain this week. So far so good. **Heather Bryant (Ext), Grafton:** Water from last week's flooding is receding. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Wet conditions continued to hamper spring field work. Flooding and high waters along the Connecticut River and most of its tributaries reached levels not seen for many years. Fields that were normally not subject to flooding went under water this year. One source stated that the flooding was at least 5 or 6 feet higher than normal on their farm. The soils that are not as well drained remain cool. Some are concerned about the corn seed rotting if they plant too soon. The well drained river bottom soils are further along and field work has begun. Maple sugar producers generally had a respectable year. Production was about where they expected it to be. Syrup quality and grade was good. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Orchardists made sure bees were in apple orchards. Cherry, peach, and plum trees were at full bloom to petal fall over May 7-8 weekend. Apple and pear trees are at king bloom to full bloom in the Hollis area. Blueberries are at pink bud stage. Orchardists are fertilizing orchards and are applying protective fungicide sprays on fruit trees and blueberries. Planting fruit trees, grapes, raspberries, blueberries, and strawberries. Finishing up pruning blueberries and pruning peach trees. Vegetables: Continued early season vegetables (peas,

lettuce, cole crops, greens) planting, along with sweet corn and potatoes. Liming, fertilizing, plowing, discing, and getting ready to plant fields. Harvesting asparagus. Field Crops: Farmers are fertilizing hayfields; spreading manure, plowing, discing, fertilizing, planting corn, and applying herbicides. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Farmers are preparing fields and tending to early greenhouse crops. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Cooler and cloudy weather. Some rain. Gusty winds and a heavy rain storm on Saturday in the PM with possibly some hail. Sunday afternoon also brought thundershowers and hail (pea size). Plowing, applying fertilizers, and laying black plastic. Spreading manure. Harvesting greens and lettuce. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** Less rain this week allowed farmers to get out in their drier fields. Due to the excessive amount of moisture in April, low lying areas still remain wet. Farmers report that while some areas of fields are flooded, others are ready for planting. New seedlings have been planted on some fields. Sweet corn planting is anticipated to begin this week.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: No frost and cool temps. Getting ready for the season.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: No tillage. Spreading manure and topdressing fertilizer on grass. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Things are the same for this past week here in Franklin County. Much rain and cool temps. Lake Champlain is above record levels for high water. No field work accomplished and we are hoping for a better week coming. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Things are slowly drying, but too wet to work the fields. Looks like a late start to the growing season. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** The good weather this week allowed for manure to be spread, harrowing, and plowing, and new seedlings established. Very little sweet corn under remay, some lettuces and cole crops being planted. Reports received in county office of good maple sugaring season. Frost around the region reported early last week does not appear to have affected anything to date.

To receive this report every Monday evening, send an e-mail message to listserv@newsbox.usda.gov and in the body, type **subscribe usda-new-eng-crop-weather**

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