

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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For week ending 5/27/12

Early Development of Crops

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending May 27, 2012, there were 6.0 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated 17 percent fair, 50 percent good, and 33 percent excellent. Scattered rain showers moved across New England during the early part of the week with average to above average temperatures in the 60s and 70s. Thursday and Friday were foggy in the morning with clouds in the afternoon and some areas saw more showers. Saturday, temperatures climbed to the low to mid-80s with partly cloudy skies for most. Sunday was a mix of clouds and sun with temperatures in the mid to high 70s.

FRUIT: Fruit growers monitored fruit development and assessed the full extent of frost injury to their crops. Pollination weather was very favorable across New England, leading to the rapid development of fruit crops. Some growers reported a light or variable McIntosh crop this year. Strawberries were ripening rapidly and a few growers began harvesting the crop by week's end. Beehives began arriving in cranberry fields to prepare for upcoming blooming of crop. The wild blueberry crop was mostly in full bloom stage; the mild winter insured minimal injury. Fruit growers were monitoring pests, applying cover sprays, mowing orchard floors, and weed spraying under trees.

VEGETABLES: Warm, sunny weather promoted continuous plantings of vegetables as well as transplanting tomato and pepper plants. Farmers continued planting a wide arrangement of summer vegetables, including cucumbers, eggplant, peppers, tomatoes, and squashes. They also harvested asparagus, fiddleheads, greens, rhubarb, and spinach. Vegetable growers were also laying plastic mulch and drop irrigation tape.

FIELD CROPS: Abundant sunshine encouraged fieldwork activity across New England. Soil moisture across the region was very favorable to a variety of crops. Farmers took advantage of the weather to start or continue their first cutting of haylage or dry hay. Warm, sunny weather advanced planting and emergence of field corn. Potato planting neared completion and some growers had begun hilling. Emergence of potatoes and grains were ahead of schedule by week's end as a result of early planting of the crops. Pastures responded well to soil conditions, showing rapid growth. Farmers were also busy spreading manure on hay and corn fields.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	1	1	0
Short	7	8	0
Adequate	87	76	55
Surplus	5	15	45
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	1	0
Short	5	7	0
Adequate	85	76	50
Surplus	9	16	50

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Development	Fruit Set	Fruit size	Condition
Apples	PF	Average		Good
Peaches	PF	Avg/Bel		Good/Fair
Pears	PF	Average		Good/Fair
Blueberries				
Highbush	FB/PF	Average		Good
Wild	FB	Abv Avg /Avg		Exc/Good
Cranberries, MA	BS			Good
Strawberries	EB/PF	Avg/Bel	Average	Good

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

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2012	2011	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				
Barley, ME	95	55	80	
Oats, ME	95	50	80	
Potatoes				
Maine	90	40	70	
Mass	100	85	95	
Rhode Island	100	99	99	
Silage Corn	65	35	60	
Sweet Corn	65	40	55	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	20	10	15	Good/Fair
Shade	40	60	75	Good/Fair
-- Percent Emerged --				
Barley	70	20	35	Good/Excellent
Oats	65	15	30	Good/Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	15	<5	10	Good
Mass	60	35	55	Good
Rhode Island	99	20	55	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	35	10	20	Good/Excellent
Sweet Corn	35	25	30	Good
Dry Hay	-- Percent Harvested --			
First Cut	15	5	15	Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday May 21, 2012
 To: Sunday May 27, 2012

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 INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
	---	---	---	---	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	---	---	---	---	---	---
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	50	84	65	+8	326	+173	70	+58	0.31	-0.53	2	3.96	+0.50	13
Bangor_Intl_Arp	50	83	65	+9	287	+172	57	+50	0.37	-0.40	3	4.04	+0.81	12
Bethel	50	85	65	+9	276	+150	54	+44	0.27	-0.57	4	3.66	+0.35	16
Caribou_Municip	42	86	65	+11	218	+133	45	+41	0.80	+0.10	2	3.13	+0.36	11
Dover-Foxcroft	45	84	63	+9	194	+106	29	+26	0.14	-0.70	3	3.61	+0.35	14
Frenchville	41	88	64	+12	191	+128	45	+45	0.68	-0.05	2	2.89	+0.06	11
Houlton	34	83	63	+9	205	+118	33	+28	0.03	-0.74	1	2.80	-0.21	12
Livermore_Falls	46	86	65	+10	263	+175	46	+43	0.54	-0.32	4	4.01	+0.62	16
Moosehead	37	85	61	+10	141	+92	15	+15	0.05	-0.74	1	2.34	-0.74	12
Portland_ME	49	80	63	+8	293	+186	49	+48	0.16	-0.61	3	4.08	+0.79	15
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	48	83	65	+9	268	+121	57	+39	0.19	-0.64	3	3.96	+0.90	16
Berlin_AG	50	85	65	+10	276	+150	55	+41	0.13	-0.71	1	2.84	-0.35	13
Concord	47	88	67	+10	435	+264	122	+101	0.33	-0.38	3	4.20	+1.39	15
First_Conn_Lake	47	85	64	+13	192	+138	36	+36	0.00	-0.96	0	3.71	+0.19	11
Keene_AG	46	87	67	+7	388	+154	99	+59	0.09	-0.81	5	3.59	+0.17	17
North_Conway	51	85	65	+8	301	+154	63	+48	0.39	-0.52	4	4.32	+0.69	17
Rochester	47	89	67	+9	409	+210	120	+92	0.30	-0.54	1	4.02	+0.47	12
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	48	85	68	+11	417	+265	106	+86	0.52	-0.53	3	5.42	+1.28	15
Burlington_Intl	52	88	70	+12	468	+256	153	+117	0.30	-0.41	2	3.92	+1.13	15
Island_Pond	48	86	65	+12	258	+168	51	+45	0.34	-0.57	3	3.12	-0.16	17
Montpelier	47	85	67	+11	324	+182	75	+58	0.04	-0.73	1	2.69	-0.20	14
Rochester	48	88	66	+11	292	+163	67	+53	0.18	-0.80	2	3.62	-0.30	15
Rutland_AG	50	86	67	+7	347	+199	82	+32	0.02	-0.82	1	3.88	+0.76	13
Springfield_VT	49	87	69	+11	432	+272	120	+100	0.42	-0.52	4	3.98	+0.31	17
Sutton	50	85	66	+12	267	+179	59	+53	0.06	-0.82	1	3.58	+0.35	14
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	54	86	65	+5	517	+259	137	+110	0.60	-0.10	2	3.26	+0.32	14
Fitchburg	48	86	68	+12	566	+428	180	+170	0.55	-0.29	2	3.26	+0.08	14
Greenfield	50	86	68	+8	449	+188	128	+88	0.26	-0.65	5	4.85	+1.35	17
New_Bedford	47	81	64	+4	421	+162	87	+60	0.54	-0.30	3	4.63	+1.30	13
Otis_AFB	50	75	63	+6	328	+185	54	+47	0.46	-0.37	2	5.25	+1.86	10
Plymouth	50	82	65	+8	445	+285	112	+102	0.74	-0.10	2	4.83	+1.21	12
Walpole	49	82	66	+7	485	+284	131	+110	0.69	-0.08	2	3.91	+0.76	15
Chicopee/Westov	47	86	68	+6	510	+167	147	+83	0.17	-0.79	3	2.86	-0.83	16
Worthington	43	81	64	+7	320	+173	58	+43	0.96	-0.07	5	4.73	+0.55	18
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	53	82	66	+6	477	+250	111	+90	0.60	-0.24	2	4.24	+0.81	12
Woonsocket	48	85	66	+7	499	+302	136	+120	0.48	-0.43	3	3.92	+0.22	14
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	58	85	66	+5	491	+218	92	+46	0.50	-0.34	3	4.34	+0.77	11
Hartford/Bradley	51	87	69	+7	580	+266	177	+117	0.21	-0.70	3	3.09	-0.64	16
Norfolk	50	80	64	+8	342	+199	59	+46	0.74	-0.31	4	3.48	-0.66	18
Thomaston_Dam	48	90	69	+10	474	+257	124	+95	0.96	-0.02	5	4.13	+0.09	17
Willimantic	52	84	68	+9	529	+313	151	+123	0.52	-0.39	3	3.33	-0.48	14

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, May 27, 2012

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	34	89	64	+9	0.01	1.21
NH	39	89	66	+10	0.00	0.51
VT	46	89	67	+11	0.02	0.63
MA	43	87	65	+7	0.17	1.18
RI	48	85	65	+6	0.48	0.60
CT	47	90	67	+7	0.21	0.97

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

CONNECTICUT – Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland: Tobacco transplanting of both broadleaf and shade types. Field corn planting put on hold to chop grass. Some dry hay made. Sweet corn pushing up row cover and bare ground sweet corn looking good from weekend heat. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Scattered showers made making dry hay a challenge. Field corn planting is finishing up. Weeds are flourishing in this warmer than normal spring. Scouting for insects in field corn is underway - early planted fields are ready for PSNT sampling. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** It was hot. Chopping grass and baling hay. Strawberries just beginning with evidence of frost damage to fruit. Moisture levels are better with some fields too wet now. Corn is looking better.

MAINE – Marcia Hall (FSA), Androscoggin/Oxford/Sagadahoc: Many muggy days this week with scattered showers. Many crops in early and doing well, including field corn and potatoes. **Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Most operations have finished planting. Cold, dry weather has slowed the development of most crops. We are getting a very welcome rain this morning. Most of the early planted crops have emerged and stands seem to be normal. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Growers are still planting crops. All crops should be planted very soon. Grains are emerging. **Don Audibert, (FSA) Northern Aroostook:** This has been an excellent week for the farmers to plant their crops. Weather has been warm, sunny, and most farmers are done with planting. All farmers in the St. John Valley should be done planting this week. Expecting needed rain this coming week. Hay fields look good, but still way too early for first cut. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Three days of drizzle and fog finally broke on Saturday for a nice holiday weekend. Farmers have been busy planting crops. The apple crop is reported to be light. Some varieties, such as, Macintosh will have a very small crop this year. This may be due to this year's weather and the large crop last year. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** The soil conditions are excellent. Crops are emerging and growing like crazy. Hay crop looks very good. **Elaine S Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** First hay bales of the season were seen over the weekend, with several producers bringing in the first of their green chop this week, working around the rain. The hay crop looks good at this time and field corn is emerging. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Some spotty, heavy rain slowed field work early in the week. Crop progress is still 1-2 weeks ahead of normal. Some corn silage is up. Some first cutting haylage. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: There was good pollination weather this week and since most of the fields were in full bloom, a good fruit set is expected. The mild winter insured little injury and the number of blossoms was prolific. There were mummy berry blight symptoms seen on plants which were not adequately protected by fungicides, as we had a number of infection periods over the previous few weeks. **Amanda May (FSA), Washington:** Lots of crops put into the ground over the beautiful Memorial Day weekend. The wonderful weather made for plenty of bee activity in blueberry fields.

MASSACHUSETTS – Heather Baylis (FSA) Franklin: This week's weather had ups and downs of temps reaching high 80's and other days at 70 with rain on Friday. Sweet corn looks good and is between 6 and 8 inches tall. Farmers continue to harvest rhubarb and greens and strawberries are looking to ripen early. Pastures continue to outgrow the grazing. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Many muggy days this week with

scattered showers. Many crops in early and doing well including field corn and potatoes. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Open blooms in the most advanced places in the beds of the earliest cultivars. Bloom will progress in the early cultivars to necessitate the first fruit rot fungicide applications this week, two weeks earlier than usual. Weeds really took off in growth this past week. We could use a round of rain. Beehives have begun to arrive and will be distributed this week. Growers are scouting for insects, hand weeding maples, etc., and applying fungicides for root rot and fairy ring. There should be a good bloom coming.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack: Light rain on Monday and Tuesday May 21 and 22. Dry the remainder of the week with above normal temperatures in the high 70s and 80s. Most producers have reported planting all of their field corn with a good percentage of it already emerging. Beautiful weather over the Memorial Day weekend. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Warm, kind of muggy weather much of the week, with more sun over the weekend. Most field corn planted and most of the planted acres have emerged. Many farms have first cutting haylage well underway; yields seem to be down from April drought? More planting on vegetable operations. Farm stands and farmers' markets doing a brisk business. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Changing to drier, warmer weather as week progressed allowing for corn planting to proceed at a good pace. Most fields now planted, remaining are good to go at first opportunity. Few now emerging. Orchard and Kentucky Bluegrass headed out. Haylands growing well and pastures responding well to soil conditions. Nice beginning of greenhouse/nursery businesses with promising conditions for gardeners - for Mother's Day openings. Dandelions now blowing in the wind. Farmers markets starting up. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending May 26th, we received nearly a half inch of rain. There were six days suitable for field work. Farmers were busy chopping grass and planting corn. First cut haylage looks to be doing quite well on most fields, if there was no winterkill. Warmer soil temperatures have helped with corn germination. Most of the fields planted earlier have now germinated. Vegetable growers are busy with planting. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Harvesting first local grown strawberries. Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying cover sprays for pest control. Mowing orchard floors and weed spraying under trees. Orchardists last chance to apply thinning sprays to apple orchards. Evaluating the apple crop - McIntosh is light, Cortland and Gala are normal, and Honeycrisp and other cultivars are variable. Overall, 60 to 65% of a normal crop in Hillsborough County. Field Crops: Planting and weed spraying corn fields. Farmers starting to make haylage and baled hay. Corn has emerged and new seedings are up and growing. Vegetables: Laying plastic mulch and drip irrigation tape. Transplanting tomato and pepper plants in field, and making successive planting vegetable crops. Harvesting spinach, asparagus, rhubarb and greens. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Rain at the beginning of the week. Sunny and warmer days for the rest of the week. Busy field work planting, fertilizing, monitoring pests and spraying protective fungicides. Harvesting asparagus, rhubarb, and greens. Strawberry harvest about two weeks early. Spraying manure on field corn fields; haying and planting field corn.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: A lot of the early potatoes were hilled up for the last time. We are expecting

an early harvest on the early potatoes. The late potatoes look really good. Strawberries are in! The commercial pickers will be coming in on Thursday. It looks like it will be a good season. Still not able to cut any dry hay. Even this coming week we are expecting cloudy and possible rain again. Sweet corn looks good. We will probably have some corn for the 4th of July. Tremendous amount of small vegetables are being planted this week. Pastures are green, but the feed is not growing fast enough.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Activities included corn planting, chopping haylage, spreading manure on hay fields and some on corn fields before planting. Hay crop is weak in most fields. Corn looks great, some up to eight inches. Pasture growth is good. New seedings vigorous. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Another fantastic week in Franklin County. Timing is everything and the stars and the moon have aligned to bring us

a full week of field work at the best time of year. Haylage and corn planting have been happening like the wind. This will give us the needed catch up we were looking for on roughage needs, as holdover was basically none existent. Warm temps are getting corn out of the ground with great emergence. Haylage quality is exceptional with one report of 21% P and .72 meg of energy providing a close to complete feed!!!!!! Gardens have been going in with the traditional Memorial Day planting. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Corn is planted and some is up. Haying has begun and the quality looks good. Pastures are growing and re-growing. Veggies are in the ground. Great start of season for our farmers in Lamoille County. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** First cutting of hay crop in progress. Corn emerged across the county, most planting completed this past week. Vegetable plantings look good to date. Weather conditions conducive to continuous plantings for vegetables.

Coming soon – NASS's annual June surveys on crops and livestock. In the first two weeks of June, NASS will survey about 140,000 U.S. producers and visit 42,000 tracts of farm land to collect information. Responses to these surveys provide the foundation for estimates in the upcoming growing year and will first be released in the *Acreage* and other reports on June 29. Watch for the survey and be sure to respond. Your information matters!

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