



# New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service  
United States Department of Agriculture

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## Crop Weather

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For week ending 7/7/02

### High Heat and Humidity Accelerate Growth

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending July 7, 2002, there were 5.8 days suitable for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 0% very poor, 2% poor, 20% fair, 60% good, 18% excellent. Hot temperatures and high humidity were prevalent last week, promoting rapid crop growth. Most states received minimal precipitation, forcing growers to irrigate where available. Maine was the exception; the state received above average rainfall, which caused field activities to halt the latter part of the week. Major farm activities included: planting vegetables and sweet corn; finishing up planting field corn; harvesting strawberries, highbush blueberries and early vegetables; weeding and cultivating fields; sidedressing fields with fertilizer; cutting dry hay and chopping haylage; mowing orchards; monitoring for pests and disease; irrigating, where available; applying fungicides, herbicides and insecticides.

**FRUIT:** Strawberry harvest is around three-quarters complete across New England, and raspberry, cherry and highbush blueberry picking began last week. Orchardists continued to mow and wrapped up the thinning of peaches and apples. The Connecticut pear crop was rated in very poor condition due to earlier frost and hail damage. Wild blueberry fields in Maine continued to be monitored for insects and disease, and growers irrigated where necessary. Cranberry beds in Massachusetts were also irrigated last week and growers were active in applying fruit rot fungicides and the first fruitworm applications.

#### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2002	2001	5-yr Avg	
Apples	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Peaches	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Pears	--	--	--	Poor/Fair
Blueberries				
Highbush	<5	<5	<5	Good/Excellent
Wild, ME	--	--	--	Good
Cranberries, MA	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Strawberries	75	80	80	Fair/Good

**VEGETABLES:** Vegetable growers irrigated crops where available and cultivated fields. Farmers continued to plant sweet corn, summer squash, cucumbers, cabbage and other vegetables last week. The harvesting of tomatoes, beet greens, turnip, spinach, cucumbers, broccoli, squash, peas, zucchini, radish, and lettuce also progressed. Sweet corn planting and emergence were both right on schedule with last year and normal, and growers sidedressed fields last week.

#### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
<b>Topsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	6	4	2
Short	19	12	15
Adequate	58	59	73
Surplus	17	25	10
<b>Subsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	7	2	8
Short	17	17	8
Adequate	71	73	74
Surplus	5	8	10

**FIELD CROPS:** The making of dry hay was possible in some areas of New England last week, but in other areas it was impossible due to high humidity and/or rain. Maine oat and barley crops remained in excellent to good condition last week. Potato growth in Maine was pushed ahead by last week's warm, wet conditions and the crop is now fully emerged. Growers are on high alert for late blight and spray programs are in full force. Field corn planting was completed last week and emergence was in line with last year and normal. Tobacco growers in the Connecticut River Valley are actively scouting and spraying for blue mold.

#### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2002	2001	5-yr Avg	Condition
	-- Percent Emerged --			
Barley, ME	100	100	100	Excellent/Good
Oats, ME	100	100	100	Excellent/Good
Potatoes				
Maine	100	100	100	Good/Excellent
Mass	100	100	100	Good
Rhode Isl	100	100	100	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	95	95	95	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	95	95	95	Good/Fair
	-- Percent Planted --			
Silage Corn	100	100	100	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	99	99	99	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Shade	100	100	100	Good/Fair
Broadleaf	100	100	99	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	80	85	80	Good/Fair
Second Cut	20	15	15	Good/Excellent

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 7, 2002

The 41 stations shown below are limited by space but are well distributed across the region. All 86 stations appear on the Internet and in e-mail subscriptions.

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_ME	57	94	74	+7	719	-7	262	+58	1.16	+0.41	5	4.22	+1.18	17
Bangor	58	95	73	+7	654	+14	223	+66	0.94	+0.17	5	2.96	-0.12	15
Bethel	53	93	73	+7	639	-17	210	+47	0.11	-0.73	2	4.50	+0.88	12
Caribou	54	89	69	+5	499	-21	156	+56	3.45	+2.63	5	6.05	+3.16	14
Dover-Foxcroft	55	91	70	+6	468	-71	132	+24	0.86	+0.02	6	2.58	-0.87	15
Frenchville	52	88	67	+4	426	-47	132	+53	2.33	+1.53	6	4.12	+1.10	15
Houlton	56	92	71	+7	543	+9	173	+65	3.14	+2.33	6	5.21	+2.09	16
Livermore_Falls	50	101	74	+9	662	+121	234	+127	1.56	+0.75	5	5.92	+2.24	16
Moosehead	51	92	70	+7	453	+27	125	+61	1.51	+0.59	6	3.91	+0.21	15
Portland_ME	56	94	73	+7	704	+82	238	+93	0.11	-0.65	3	2.97	-0.19	14
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	50	92	72	+7	673	+40	231	+92	0.10	-0.71	1	4.99	+1.54	13
Berlin_AG	53	93	72	+6	631	+6	203	+59	0.16	-0.70	3	7.33	+3.59	12
Concord	57	95	76	+8	917	+160	380	+158	0.00	-0.71	0	3.71	+0.76	12
Diamond_Pond	51	86	67	+6	403	+26	105	+67	0.65	-0.40	4	5.70	+1.39	16
Keene_AP	54	93	74	+5	913	+28	362	+63	0.00	-0.81	0	2.83	-0.50	8
North_Conway	57	97	75	+8	780	+80	302	+111	0.01	-0.85	1	4.11	+0.46	14
Rochester	56	97	76	+8	860	+43	329	+71	0.00	-0.79	0	4.51	+1.29	12
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Burlington_VT	55	95	76	+8	922	+86	382	+108	1.01	+0.20	3	6.55	+3.26	17
Island_Pond	52	91	70	+7	593	+101	190	+100	0.33	-0.65	4	6.95	+2.97	17
Montpelier	51	91	71	+6	728	+94	255	+101	0.93	+0.23	3	7.21	+4.11	19
Pownal	55	93	74	+9	784	+129	289	+129	0.07	-0.89	1	3.83	-0.28	13
Rochester	51	94	71	+6	689	+79	243	+101	0.39	-0.45	3	6.54	+3.12	15
Rutland_AG	53	91	73	+4	777	-111	287	-12	0.19	-0.65	2	3.14	-0.22	12
Sutton	53	92	70	+7	603	+109	190	+94	0.83	-0.15	4	8.24	+4.26	19
Townshend_Lake	55	94	74	+6	840	+34	318	+66	0.05	-0.65	1	3.43	+0.58	12
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Ashburnham	57	95	75	+8	864	+191	330	+157	0.06	-0.78	1	2.69	-0.67	11
Boston	65	97	81	+9	1140	+157	505	+151	0.00	-0.65	0	3.08	+0.29	10
Greenfield	58	98	77	+7	994	+39	410	+70	0.06	-0.81	1	3.19	-0.32	13
New_Bedford	60	97	78	+7	1022	+56	396	+62	0.11	-0.59	1	1.87	-1.31	8
Otis_AFB	61	95	76	+8	909	+181	327	+122	0.15	-0.52	2	1.20	-1.70	7
Plymouth	58	98	78	+9	953	+177	377	+139	0.08	-0.69	1	1.20	-1.94	7
Walpole	59	95	77	+8	1013	+182	424	+160	0.04	-0.76	1	1.77	-1.67	10
Westover	59	97	79	+6	1147	+34	518	+83	0.15	-0.72	2	1.74	-1.94	14
Worthington	54	90	73	+7	791	+129	297	+135	0.01	-0.92	1	2.57	-1.06	11
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	64	98	81	+10	1131	+213	491	+173	0.00	-0.71	0	1.09	-1.92	9
Woonsocket	58	96	78	+9	1024	+207	432	+187	0.01	-0.90	1	1.44	-2.30	10
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport	64	95	79	+8	1184	+190	521	+152	0.00	-0.84	0	2.03	-1.20	7
Hartford_AP	59	98	79	+8	1214	+147	556	+141	0.00	-0.77	0	2.68	-0.67	10
Norfolk	57	90	74	+9	915	+254	360	+197	0.41	-0.57	1	3.36	-0.83	11
Thomaston_Dam	55	95	76	+8	1055	+228	447	+194	0.00	-0.91	0	1.29	-2.44	9
Willimantic	58	96	77	+8	1065	+228	456	+198	0.02	-0.89	1	1.84	-1.69	12

**STATE WEATHER SUMMARY**  
For the Week Ending Sunday, July 7, 2002

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.

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	49	101	71	+6	0.02	4.96
NH	38	102	72	+7	0.00	1.09
VT	46	103	72	+7	0.00	1.99
MA	52	99	76	+8	0.00	0.35
RI	58	98	77	+8	0.00	0.01
CT	55	99	77	+8	0.00	0.41

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**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:** Weather was extremely hot and humid through the entire week. Field corn is looking much better. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Heat really pushed crops to grow, but also shrunk the milk tank as the cows are not happy. Haying in full swing. Some areas look scorched but should recover with the next bit of rain. **Nancy Welsh/Karen Lockman (FSA), New Haven:** Corn is showing signs of stress, though rows are shaded. We expect sweet corn in 10 days. Vegetable growers need rain. Fruit producers are confirming damage/loss to fruit due to earlier frost and hail we received.

**MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook:** Potatoes: Field activities were somewhat curtailed due to excess rainfall during the past week. Fungicide spraying and hilling were done earlier in the week. Now growers have gotten behind due to wet conditions. Hopefully fields will dry out soon so they can get back into the fields. All crops continue to grow rapidly due to moisture and heat. No word on any blight being found, but growers are nervous as conditions for blight are favorable. Over four inches of rainfall in some areas during the past week. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Spraying and fungicide application continues, cultivation also continues. Crops are growing fast with all of the rain we've had. Mild insect activity has started, with the appearance of the first European Corn Borer moth in our traps and a few aphids have also been found in our water pan traps. **Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook:** In the Houlton area on the 4th of July we received three inches of rain which puts us behind in spraying and cultivation. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** A struggle to get hay into the barn between baling and the next shower. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** We have had rain or showers almost every day this week. Some hay that was cut was never baled due to the wet, humid conditions. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Crops in Somerset County look very good. We are a little behind due to the weather. Strawberries this year look and taste very good. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Heavy downpours all week long have made hay harvest almost impossible. Hot, humid weather has strawberries all ripening at once! Some areas received more than 3 inches of rain, with hail on Thursday and Friday. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Fly traps have been put into blueberry fields to monitor fruit flies. Vegetables and strawberries are plentiful at farmstands. Heat and soil moisture making a good growing season. Some areas got one to two inches of rain from showers, while other areas didn't get a drop. Blueberries need an inch of rain each week from now on. **David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild Blueberries: Fly traps being monitored for blueberry maggot fly. Some fields being irrigated. No other insect or disease problems noted. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** A hot and humid week! Some thundershowers. Lots of hay has come in. There will be a heavy hay harvest this year. Strawberries look good. Cultivation and spray activity on potatoes. All crops are looking good. **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Summer weather hit with a vengeance and most crops have responded with a tremendous growth surge. There seems to be a lot of insects around, but most crops are doing well. Strawberries will have a short season and blueberries are starting to show a little blue. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** There has been a good mix of sun and moisture for plant growth. It has been difficult to harvest square bales because of the frequency of showers. There are plenty of insects and weeds to keep everybody busy! **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Farmers are busy trying to make hay during this humidity. Best hay crop reported in 2 years. Crop farmers are cultivating and strawberry picking is well underway. The week's heat and humidity went a long way in warming up the soil and pushing plants in growth.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire:** Making hay - all types. Truck farmers busy picking a variety of vegetables and fruit. Sidedressing corn crops. Early frosted fruit crops are still not going to produce. Plastic covered greenhouse tomatoes are slow in turning ripe red. After early strawberry crop was killed by frost, later berries are coming on with good production. Temperatures up to 100 degrees and higher, the type of heat where you can fry eggs on concrete sidewalks. **Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester:** Fly traps being set up to monitor the maggot fly. Not too much of an insect problem noted at this time. Strawberry season is nearing its end, maybe another week left. Cultivating, spraying and harvesting peas, broccoli, lettuce and some summer squashes. Cucumbers will be ready soon. Humidity, rainfall, and moderately high temperatures (80's and 90's) allowing the crops to grow rapidly. Some corn shot up more than a foot last week.

It was a great weather week. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Bloom nearly done in the early cultivars. Tremendous number of blossoms this year! Perfect pollination weather is setting the berries nicely so far. Very dry, so irrigation has been going on in all beds. First fruitworm applications as well as second and third fruit rot applications. Bad infestations of brown spanworm continue the insect list for 2002. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Another hot, humid week has pushed crops. Some farmers are irrigating. Hay quality is poor at this time. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Very hot and dry conditions persisted most of this week. All farms with irrigation have been going non-stop since the heat wave began. All irrigated cropland looks super, non-irrigated land is drying up. Tobacco farmers were notified that the blue-mold threat is high for the Connecticut River Valley. All farms have adopted an aggressive spray schedule. Early sweet corn is beginning to be harvested this week and strawberries are winding down. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** A very hot week with high humidity. This is making crops grow very well. Many growers are irrigating because soils are starting to dry out. Harvesting sweet corn, zucchini, summer squash, lettuce, and radishes. Final plantings of sweet corn, summer squash, cucumbers and cabbage are taking place. Cultivating all crops for weed control. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Harvesting summer squash, zucchini, cucumbers, peas. Corn at shoulder height on 4th of July. Very dry. Corn curling to south of me. Strawberry season mercifully over here. Less than 750 Qts/acre. Other growers in area had similar yields and conditions, due to the freeze in May. We've been sending people to NH - big perennial sales this weekend, so I must be doing something right! Sidedressing summer and fall crops, topdressing sweet corn. Squash bugs appearing now. We have no tree fruit or blueberries at all this year.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap:** Strawberry harvest continues. Orchardists putting on a fungicidal spray for powdery mildew, which appears worse than normal. Harvesting peas, swiss chard, greens, herbs, small summer squash, greenhouse tomatoes and cucumbers. Hay and haylage making continues. Good week for field work, though very hot 3 days. Pastures look real good. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Corn has grown rapidly over the past week, due to warm, humid growing conditions. Humidity has made for less than ideal drying conditions for dry hay, but regrowth on harvested ground is coming along nicely. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Corn finally starting to show some growth with warmer weather. About right for soil nitrate testing, topdressing nitrogen on fields. Haying continues with occasional showers, then thunder showers all last week still making dried baled hay a bit of a challenge. Farmers markets starting up with early local veggies becoming available. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruits: Strawberry harvest is nearly over (90% harvest) and first raspberries and blueberries harvested. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, spraying and mowing orchard floor. Growers finished hand-thinning peaches and apples, along with training newly planted trees. Vegetables: Growers concerned about irrigating crops. Continued harvesting vegetables such as beets, greens, lettuce, peas, radishes and summer squash. First potatoes harvested. Growers busy sidedressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating, mowing weeds around edges of fields, scouting for pests and spraying accordingly. Disease pressure major concern to growers. Field Crops: With drier weather during week, farmers continued to bale hay or make haylage at a faster rate. Grass hay is maturing rapidly. Sidedressing fertilizer to field corn and harvested hayfields. **David Seavey (Ext), Merrimack:** Strawberry harvest continues. A mix of strawberry yields; some high, others low. Early season vegetables continue to be harvested. Some summer squash was harvested. Mowing, cultivating, and fertilizer sidedressing of crops. Farmers putting up baled hay. High temperatures have accelerated strawberry maturity with fewer pickers. Some strawberry fields experiencing fruit rot. Blueberries starting to color. Considering earlier weather related problems, the greenhouse tomato crop looks pretty good. Hot weather has been a big boost to corn, tomatoes, peppers and other warm season crops. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Despite the hot, humid 3 days, PYO pickers were picking strawberries. Strawberry harvest almost done. Picking cherries, blueberries, raspberries, leafy vegetables, tomatoes and cutting hay. Weeding, irrigating (where it's available) and monitoring pests in vegetable fields and orchards. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Another dry week has helped to get first cut of dry hay in. Second cutting of haylage is moving along. Fertilizing of fields after first and second cuttings being done. Reports of smaller strawberries due to the "back-to-back" snow and frost. Last week's

humidity helped to move along the sweet corn and silage corn growth. Early vegetables being harvested and looking good. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** A very hot and humid week in Strafford County. Farmers busy making haylage and baled hay. Some farmers have started to make the second cut. Vegetable growers continued to harvest early season crops such as lettuce and radishes. Growers busy cultivating for weed control and scouting for pests and spraying if needed. Tomato growers monitoring for early blight and leaf mold and spraying if needed. Fruit growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying sprays for pest control if needed. Strawberries continue to be harvested.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** A hot, dry and windy week added up to some producers looking at their irrigation pipes. Temperatures close to 100 made for some wilt in summer crops and farmers. Strawberries had a longer run than usual and we were still picking mid-week. Summer vegetables look good, some cultivation, spraying being done, potatoes in flower. **Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** The heat was overwhelming this past week! For several days early morning was the only time fit for working outdoors. Irrigation lines were being set up wherever there was a water source available. Several towns implemented water use bans. Pastures are browning up fast. Sweet corn is coming along nicely under irrigation. Summer squash and peas continue to arrive at local markets. The strawberry harvest is done. Raspberries and blueberries will be coming along next. They look good at this time. Less heat and some rain are what we need right now!

**VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** Saw enough improvement in the weather early in the week so that hay could actually be dried. Hot weather also has benefitted the corn. Some manure being spread on first cut grass fields. Scattered problems with weed control in corn. Veggies holding their own where soils are well drained. **Bill Snow (Ext), Orange:** Located a few armyworms in corn fields in Orange and Windham counties last week. Nothing serious at that time. Severe storms on the 4th caused some damage. Report of a funnel cloud and one death by lightning. Smoke from Canadian wild fire a problem on Saturday and Sunday, blocked out sunlight. Heavy rains filled streams to the top of their banks in some places. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Rain is making it hard to finish first crop

hay. Most of hay yet to be cut is for dry hay. Fields are still very wet. Strawberry harvest just underway. The heavy rains stopped just in time for an average harvest of strawberries. **Lynette Hamilton (FSA), Windham:** Another very hot week and some of the field corn is over my head. Some second cut hay is being harvested. Fertilizer is being applied to fields and some sidedressing to corn. No worms to report. Some problems with weeds in second cut alfalfa due to the extreme heat. Veggie growers report large savings in irrigation costs because of the amount of moisture this year. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Harvesting second crop hay as chopped haylage, first cut dry hay harvest nearly finished - all that dry hay was done in a few-week period. The newly seeded hay fields have good complete coverage. Corn plants are up to about 30 inches, but mostly 10 inches, all fields planted and with vigorous growth. Soybeans by Lake Champlain are 8 inches tall and vigorous. Pasture regrowth is good, but getting slower. Some manure spreading on hay land after harvest. **Richard Noel, Grand Isle/Franklin:** Hard to believe the last of the corn planting is done. Some second planted corn is being harvested, while the first planted isn't even done yet on some farms! Trying to bale hay is almost impossible! The corn that's growing, if it hasn't drowned, needs some sun. Some corn fields have been harrowed and replanted. Some land is just laying fallow. At this point it looks like a very poor crop year! Remember that silver lining, I think it broke and the water all came out! **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Very hot and humid week. Corn growing. A bit was covered over and killed by high water. Many farmers who lost hay in the flood have baled it with hopes to sell it for mulch, or chopped it and dumped it along field edges. Some have begun a second cut of hay, some finishing up first cut. People depending on drying hay have had a very difficult time of it. This weekend was hazy from Quebec forest fires. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Applied nitrogen to mid-season varieties of sweet corn. Cultivating squash and pumpkin fields. Sprayed all vine crops for beetles and aphids. Stopped cutting and fertilizing asparagus beds. Picking peas, radishes, scallions, lettuce, beet greens, turnip and spinach. Crop failure with our strawberries. No rain for the week. Nice crop of peas. Heat wave really pushed all crops. Early potatoes in full bloom. Zucchini squash will be ready soon. Early corn starting to tassel. Lots of knee-high corn on the 4th. Have a nice week.

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