



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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

22 Bridge St. Third Floor
PO Box 1444
Concord, NH 03302

Aubrey R. Davis, Director
www.usda.gov/nass

603-224-9639
Fax: 603-225-1434
nass-nh@nass.usda.gov



Crop Weather

Volume 22, Number 14

(issued weekly on the Internet, May - October)

July 29, 2002 - 4 pm

For week ending 7/28/02

Rain Still Needed in New England

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending July 28, 2002, there were 6.2 days suitable for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 2% very poor, 6% poor, 23% fair, 51% good, 18% excellent. Scattered showers fell across New England last week, bringing some relief to crops. Despite rain, drought-like conditions remain throughout most states. Growers continue to irrigate, where available. Major farm activities included: planting vegetables; harvesting tobacco, strawberries, highbush blueberries, peaches and vegetables; weeding, cultivating fields; applying fertilizer; cutting dry hay and chopping haylage; mowing orchards and around fields; monitoring for pests and disease; applying fungicides and insecticides.

FRUIT: Raspberry, strawberry, highbush blueberry and peach harvest continued last week, and growers are gearing up for early apple harvest. Peach harvest in Worcester County, MA is at 50 percent. Renovation of strawberry fields progressed. Pear condition continues to be rated as very poor in Connecticut and good in other states. Maine wild blueberry growers applied insecticides last week and continued to monitor traps; harvest is expected to begin soon. Cranberries in Massachusetts continued to be irrigated as growers await significant rainfall to size up the berries.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2002	2001	5-yr Avg	
Apples	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Peaches	20	5	10	Good/Fair
Pears	--	--	--	Poor
Blueberries				
Highbush	20	25	35	Good/Excellent
Wild, ME	--	--	<5	Good
Cranberries, MA	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Strawberries	99	100	99	Good/Fair

VEGETABLES: Vegetable growers continued to irrigate where possible in areas where little or no rain fell. Sweet corn harvest jumped ahead to 25 percent complete in New England and the crop was rated in good to fair condition last week. Beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, lettuce, peas, peppers, radish, spinach, squash, tomatoes and zucchini were harvested last week.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	15	11	1
Short	23	32	33
Adequate	52	47	65
Surplus	10	10	1
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	11	10	0
Short	21	28	32
Adequate	66	60	67
Surplus	2	2	1

FIELD CROPS: Farmers began cutting the third crop of hay last week, as the first and second cuts progressed. Maine oat and barley crops are in great condition with harvest just around the corner. Potato harvest has begun in Massachusetts. Potato growers in Maine cultivated and applied fungicides and insecticides; late blight has yet to be reported in the state. Massachusetts shade tobacco harvest is gaining momentum with 20 percent harvested by week's end; broadleaf harvest is just getting underway with five percent picked. Intensive spray programs are in full force to control the spread of blue mold in tobacco fields.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	-- Percent Harvested --			Condition
	2002	2001	5-yr Avg	
Barley, ME	--	--	--	Excellent/Good
Oats, ME	<5	--	--	Excellent/Good
Potatoes				
Maine	--	--	--	Excellent/Good
Mass	<5	--	5	Good
Rhode Isl	--	5	<5	Good
Silage Corn	--	--	--	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	25	20	20	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Shade	20	15	30	Good/Fair
Broadleaf	5	15	10	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
First Cut	95	95	95	Good/Fair
Second Cut	45	65	45	Good
Third Cut	<5	10	5	Good/Excellent

For the Week Ending Sunday, July 28, 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	BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL		DFN	DAYS
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN		
MAINE															
Augusta_ME	50	93	67	-4	1091	-52	424	+13	0.20	-0.54	2	1.46	-1.43	10	
Bangor	44	90	66	-4	1016	-13	375	+38	0.26	-0.45	1	1.74	-1.28	10	
Bethel	46	89	65	-4	954	-88	322	-18	0.08	-0.74	2	1.29	-1.93	9	
Cari bou	44	84	64	-3	780	-72	240	+12	0.50	-0.47	4	5.68	+2.09	18	
Dover-Foxcroft	43	84	61	-6	736	-157	207	-47	0.39	-0.38	1	2.02	-1.23	12	
Frenchville	40	86	63	-3	692	-95	209	+15	0.17	-0.74	4	3.58	+0.17	17	
Houlton	38	85	64	-4	820	-63	258	+7	0.46	-0.43	3	6.28	+2.90	18	
Livermore Falls	45	94	67	+0	1006	+117	377	+130	0.61	-0.16	1	2.37	-0.75	10	
Moosehead	40	87	62	-4	702	-32	185	+12	0.57	-0.34	3	2.98	-0.67	12	
Portland_ME	49	90	66	-5	1079	+60	403	+69	0.68	+0.02	2	2.99	+0.17	10	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	46	85	66	-2	983	+1	348	+68	0.28	-0.52	2	2.10	-1.05	7	
Berlin_AG	46	87	65	-3	936	-45	309	+14	0.76	-0.09	2	3.00	-0.39	10	
Concord	46	92	69	-1	1311	+140	569	+142	0.51	-0.26	2	1.22	-1.68	7	
Diamond Pond	42	81	61	-2	607	-38	144	+33	0.56	-0.49	4	2.56	-1.61	13	
Keene_AP	46	91	68	-3	1303	-20	547	+19	0.38	-0.46	1	0.98	-2.29	4	
North Conway	49	93	68	-2	1167	+72	479	+103	0.07	-0.77	4	1.29	-2.09	10	
Rochester	47	90	67	-5	1239	-8	498	+19	0.45	-0.36	1	0.74	-2.40	4	
VERMONT															
Burlington_VT	49	90	71	+0	1324	+52	574	+74	0.70	-0.14	3	2.97	-0.31	7	
Island Pond	42	86	65	+1	868	+72	275	+85	0.49	-0.50	3	2.51	-1.34	12	
Montpelier	46	87	68	+1	1062	+69	392	+88	0.21	-0.50	2	3.00	+0.20	9	
Pownal	50	86	67	-2	1120	+96	423	+104	1.10	+0.19	2	2.23	-1.46	7	
Rochester	48	88	67	+0	1018	+57	366	+80	1.40	+0.49	2	3.12	-0.32	10	
Rutland_AG	48	87	68	-4	1119	-201	426	-96	1.32	+0.41	2	2.51	-0.97	8	
Sutton	45	86	65	+0	897	+90	286	+84	0.64	-0.34	3	3.65	-0.18	11	
Townshend Lake	51	90	68	-4	1219	-15	487	+14	0.21	-0.59	1	0.88	-2.13	5	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Ashburnham	49	88	68	-1	1252	+192	508	+157	1.42	+0.59	1	2.35	-1.00	6	
Boston	58	97	72	-3	1622	+140	777	+134	0.53	-0.10	2	1.40	-1.14	6	
Greenfield	46	94	70	-3	1425	+8	632	+40	0.89	+0.05	2	1.54	-1.85	7	
New Bedford	48	87	68	-7	1445	-22	609	-17	0.14	-0.59	1	0.32	-2.44	4	
Otis_AFB	52	86	69	-3	1334	+170	542	+110	0.15	-0.51	1	0.41	-2.18	5	
Plymouth	48	91	68	-4	1375	+152	590	+115	0.15	-0.62	1	0.35	-2.73	5	
Walpole	48	94	69	-3	1450	+175	652	+153	0.55	-0.22	1	1.93	-1.18	6	
Westover	50	93	71	-4	1618	-9	779	+39	0.82	+0.05	1	1.87	-1.42	7	
Worthington	45	89	66	-2	1145	+114	448	+126	0.64	-0.34	2	4.36	+0.49	7	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	55	94	72	-2	1628	+228	778	+187	0.25	-0.49	1	0.36	-2.49	3	
Woonsocket	48	94	69	-2	1451	+198	649	+178	0.60	-0.29	1	1.49	-2.08	6	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport	60	91	72	-3	1699	+201	826	+161	0.43	-0.41	1	1.13	-2.29	3	
Hartford_AP	53	95	73	-3	1715	+146	847	+140	0.59	-0.11	1	2.18	-0.69	4	
Norfolk	49	90	69	+1	1326	+291	562	+235	0.97	+0.02	1	2.80	-0.99	5	
Thomaston_Dam	50	95	70	-1	1495	+249	677	+214	1.00	+0.02	1	1.56	-2.18	3	
Willimantic	49	92	70	-1	1506	+239	687	+208	1.16	+0.23	1	2.29	-1.46	5	

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY
For the Week Ending Sunday, July 28, 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	36	94	64	-4	0.00	1.44
NH	30	95	66	-2	0.04	1.09
VT	40	94	67	-1	0.15	1.53
MA	43	97	69	-3	0.03	1.54
RI	48	94	69	-3	0.00	0.60
CT	49	97	70	-3	0.00	1.16

Copyright 2002: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS home page at www.awis.com or call toll free at 1-888-798-9955.

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: Heavy rains fell at scattered locations at the end of the week. The field corn crop is looking better with the scattered showers. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Continuing mowing hay, picking blueberries and early peaches. Good taste. Irrigating until recent rain. Sweet corn not ready until August. Monitoring vine crops for cucumber beetle and assessing spray programs for weed control in sweet corn. **Nancy Welsh/Karen Lockman (FSA), New Haven:** Weather has been hot and humid, two cool days in the middle of the week with temperatures at night in the 50's. String beans being harvested along with summer squashes, cucumbers. Ponds are getting low. Showers are very spotty.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Arostook: Potatoes: Growers applying fungicides. Some insecticides being applied. Isolated European borer infestation. Growers applying insecticides to control them. No blight reported. All crops continue to grow very well. A little rainfall would be welcome. No drought stress as yet. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Due to delays in harvesting first crop dry hay, the second crop is being harvested with the first crop. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Good week for making dry hay. Lots of tail end first cut hay finally put in the barn. Strawberry renovation in progress. Still very little sweet corn available from local sources. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Second crop haying has begun. The first sweet corn of the season is at roadside stands. Blueberry raking begins this week. Scattered showers during the week were welcome as some areas have had almost no rain for a month. **David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild Blueberries: Fruit Flies being captured in traps and insecticides are being applied. Fruit is approximately 70% blue, but ripening is very uneven. Crop development is a week or more behind normal. Harvest is expected to begin in mid-coast region on Monday. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** A mild week overall with some cool nights. Raspberries being harvested. Second cutting of hay continuing. Farmstands and farmers markets are busy. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** It is still an excellent year for all crops. It is time for more showers because the topsoil is drying out. **Laura Rand/Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Producers still harvesting hay crops in-between clouds and brief showers. Silage corn is starting to curl due to lack of moisture, and the same with sweet corn. Potato producers are irrigating their crops. Strawberries are almost done being harvested and blueberries are very low in quantity due to poor weather this spring. Pastures are for the most part ok, but are in need of rain. Market gardens are in need of a steady rain to help with the lack of moisture.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Still cutting first cut hay, second and third cuts coming good. Potato bug very popular as well as other varmints. No tree fruit to cause any concerns. Area sweet corn coming on first time. Lots of veggies. Very little moisture except low fog and sprinkles. Warm heavy dews (is) helping crops more than given credit. **Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts:** The drought continues, all vegetable crops are suffering, growers are irrigating however, they can't keep up. Growers are picking sweet corn, tomatoes, squash, etc., with below average yields. Second cutting of hay is not as good as expected, drought has cut yield. Cranberry growers are irrigating every day and water supplies are shrinking. Fruit needs water to size up so the growers are doing a rain dance every day. Shellfish growers have slowed harvest as demand has dropped since the Fourth of July. Inventories of shellfish are backing up and prices are dropping at a time growers usually see peak demand. **Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester:** Some corn borer activity reported, but seemingly under control. Some

hay got caught in the rain but overall a good second crop so far and on time. Most vegetables being harvested. The rain and humidity helped give the veggies and hay a boost. Some farmers reporting having a very good vegetable crop this year. Strawberries are at their end. Raspberries are at their peak and looking good. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Hot weather and a little rain have really helped drought stressed crops catch up this week. Forage corn is as green as I've ever seen it, many fields are tasseling now. Cucumber harvesting is in full swing this week, all growers are reporting good yields. Unfortunately these conditions have also increased disease pressure. Several tobacco farms have reported blue-mold infection. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Harvesting of all summer crops is in full swing. A few rain showers have helped crops greatly. All crops are in good demand. Started harvesting broadleaf tobacco and topping continues. Cultivating, fertilizing, and scouting for pests and diseases continues by growers. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** An ideal week weather wise but cool nights slowed corn ripening down a little. All crops look excellent, harvesting all summer crops, fall crops at fruit set. Strawberry renovations complete. A U-pik blueberry farm south of here has about the best crop I've ever seen there! Preventive spraying continues for fungus and European corn borer, not much damage noted.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire: A heavy but brief rainfall on Tuesday - not enough to alleviate dry conditions. Field corn continues to grow well - some corn along CT River starting to tassel. Decent regrowth on hay land, though grass regrowth is slower than alfalfa. Sweet corn harvest is just starting. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Cutting, tedding, baling. Lots of dry hay being put up in mid to end of this week. Untimely showers continue to make this year quite a challenge. Field corn beginning to put on rapid growth; some early sweet corn in tassel/silk stage. Empty patches in low areas where corn was under water earlier this year noticeable. Raspberries, beans becoming available at farms. High-tunnel tomatoes just beginning to ripen. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn beginning to tassel. Weather has been excellent for corn growth, but has made it challenging to make dry hay. Third cutting has just begun. Quality is excellent. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Orchardists began harvesting first apples. Blueberry, peach and raspberry harvest continued. Strawberry cultivating and weeding newly renovated beds. Orchardists busy monitoring for pests, spraying if needed, and mowing orchard floors. Starting to move bins into orchards. Vegetables: Growers are busy irrigating fields! Harvesting an array of vegetables: beans, beets, cole crops, cucumbers, greens, peas, potatoes, radishes, summer squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, zucchini, and other vegetables. Farmers kept busy cultivating, hoeing weeds, monitoring pest pressures, spraying pesticides for insect and disease control where needed. Field Crops: Hay cutting continued at a rapid pace during the week with the second cut being made. The remaining first cut is only good for mulch hay. **David Seavey (Ext), Merrimack:** Vegetable growers are irrigating during dry spells. Rain showers provided some relief. Second cut hay continues. Some sweet corn was harvested along with other warm season vegetables. A large crop of highbush blueberries was harvested. Vegetable and fruits sprayed with protective fungicides. Trellis tomatoes being suckered. Inchworm damage on raspberries. Squash bug on squash and several vine crop diseases are prevalent. Angular leaf spot found on several cucumber fields. Greater incidence of disease during humid weather. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Harvesting sweet corn, tomatoes and a whole array of vegetables, blueberries and raspberries. Irrigating vegetable fields, monitoring for pests and cultivating. Some crop damages occurred last Tuesday during

heavy rain and strong winds. A good soaking rain is needed. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Sweet corn is being harvested and looking real good. Most roadside stands are now open with corn and a variety of summer vegetables being sold. Reports so far put it at a good year. Second cutting of hay being completed, as well as a third cutting of alfalfa haylage soon to be ready. Raspberry and blueberry picking is in full swing and this year's crops look good. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** We had a short storm in the middle of the week and a few showers at the end of the week. However, growers would be happier with more showers because the last few weeks have been very dry. Vegetable growers continue to harvest vegetables. Harvesting of highbush blueberries and raspberries continued last week. Some producers continued to make the second cut. Corn growers continued to monitor for ear worms.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Irrigation efforts still continuing, while the need for rain marches on. Haying being done, planting cabbage and some cole crops. Farm stands are packed with summer harvest. **Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** Sundays rains were welcomed, but did little to relieve the dry subsoils. More rain is needed. Good haying weather but without the rain, crop growth is slow.

VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille: Last week was one of the better weeks of the summer for fieldwork. Conditions were favorable for haying and warm temps kept the corn crop moving. Despite the wet conditions, weed control in the corn has been quite good. One major vegetable grower is reporting good crops

even though plantings were later than normal. No reports of armyworms this summer. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** The dry week has allowed most all of first cut hay to be harvested. Most landowners have started second cut hay. Corn on average looks good at 3-4 feet high. Some corn is very poor due to the wet conditions and the flood in June. **Lynette Hamilton (FSA), Windham:** Another very hot week in Windham County with rain coming as scattered showers last Thursday and again on Sunday. Field corn looks great with good ear development and stalks. Second cut alfalfa is about all harvested with third coming on strong. Veggie growers are reporting an excellent season. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Received torrential downpours Thursday night. Throughout the week it was hot with scattered showers. Farmers are busy spreading manure and harvesting crops. **Richard Noel, Grand Isle/Franklin:** Have no lack of rain! Second cut being harvested on many farms, first cut still being harvested for baled hay. Corn looks terrible on many farms. Manure spreading and topdressing is ongoing, pastures in excellent shape. Some fields being seeded down and others lay fallow. Sweet corn being harvested coming out of Canada, not too much state-side. Tomatoes may ripen before they freeze. What a crop year! **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Applied nitrogen on late sweet corn, vine crops and beans. Sprayed for blight on potatoes. Harvesting beans, summer squash, early potatoes and most of early summer vegetables. Had great two inches of rain that did a nice job on all crops. Sweet corn has been slow, but expect to start picking by July 29-30. Nice crop of carrots, squash and leafy vegetables. Finished picking peas - good crop. Have a fine week.

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**

<p>Aubrey R. Davis, Director Statisticians: Emily McAllister, Robin Helrich</p>	<p>David Luckenbach, Deputy Director Stat Assistant: Wayne Colpitt</p>
--	---

PERMIT NO. G-38
 USDA
 POSTAGE & FEES PAID
 FIRST CLASS
 PRESORTED

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
 POST OFFICE BOX 1444
 CONCORD NH 03302-1444
 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED