



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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Crop Weather

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For week ending 5/12/02

Cool Weather Continues in New England

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending May 12, 2002, there were 5.8 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 3% very short, 11% short, 72% adequate, 14% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 10% very short, 22% short, 62% adequate, 6% surplus. Pasture condition was rated as 2% very poor, 8% poor, 25% fair, 62% good, 3% excellent.

Cool weather continued last week throughout most of New England, with northern states experiencing more precipitation than the southern states. Farmers are continually on the alert for frost. Major farm activities included: planting field corn, early vegetables, sweet corn, potatoes and berries; spreading manure; seeding; applying fertilizer; disking; plowing and harrowing; laying plastic; fixing fences; and setting up irrigation systems for frost protection.

FRUIT: Fruit tree growers applied fertilizers, sprayed orchards, and monitored for disease and insects last week. Farmers are still evaluating the extent of the frost damage caused to some fruit crops the previous week. Maine wild blueberry growers continued to apply pre-emergence herbicide and fungicide for mummyberry disease. Blueberry and apple blossom development has been delayed by the cool weather. Insecticides were applied to cranberry beds in Massachusetts last week in response to insect population thresholds being reached.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Stage	Fruit Set	Condition
Apples	Full/Early Bloom	Avg/B.Avg	Good/Fair
Peaches	PF/Full Bloom	B.Avg/Avg	Fair/Good
Pears	PF/Full Bloom	B.Avg/Avg	Fair/Poor
Blueberries			
Highbush	Early Bloom/Bud	--	Good/Fair
Wild, ME	Early Bloom/Bud	--	Good
Cranberries, MA	Bud	--	Good/Fair
Strawberries	Bud/Early Bloom	Avg/B.Avg	Good/Fair

*PF = Petal Fall

VEGETABLES: Planting of sweet corn, broccoli, cauliflower, peas, onions, carrots, beans, lettuce and cabbage continued. Asparagus, fiddleheads and spinach continued to be harvested. Growers sprayed sweet corn fields for weeds last week. Some vegetable crops that had been killed by the previous week's frost had to be replanted.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	3	3	26
Short	11	9	40
Adequate	72	82	32
Surplus	14	6	2
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	10	9	12
Short	22	25	30
Adequate	62	65	57
Surplus	6	1	1

FIELD CROPS: Potato planting in Maine began last week and farmers also made good progress with the planting of oats and barley. Massachusetts and Rhode Island potato growers are well past the half-way mark in planting. This year's silage corn crop was in good to fair condition as of last week and remained behind last year and the normal for planting progress.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2002	2001	5-yr Avg	Percent Emerged	Condition
	-- Percent Planted --				
Barley, ME	25	40	30	0	Good
Oats, ME	25	35	30	0	Good
Potatoes					
Maine	10	25	20	0	Good/Excellent
Mass	65	65	70	5	Good/Fair
Rhode Isl	85	80	65	20	Good
Silage Corn	15	30	20	<5	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	20	35	25	10	Fair/Good
Tobacco					
Shade	0	0	<5	--	--
Dry Hay					
First Cut	0	0	0	--	Fair

For the Week Ending Sunday, May 12, 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
MAINE														
Augusta_ME	39	76	56	+4	82	+34	4	+4	0.33	-0.56	1	3.02	-0.58	10
Bangor	37	73	54	+4	58	+26	2	+2	0.29	-0.55	2	3.40	+0.23	12
Bethel	32	80	54	+4	84	+48	9	+9	0.27	-0.53	2	3.60	+0.28	10
Caribou	29	72	49	+2	28	+6	0	+0	0.90	+0.20	3	2.53	+0.03	14
Dover-Foxcroft	32	72	50	+1	20	-2	0	+0	0.06	-0.76	1	2.02	-1.32	11
Frenchville	25	65	46	-1	13	+1	0	+0	1.07	+0.37	3	2.81	+0.19	13
Houlton	26	75	52	+4	48	+26	2	+2	0.59	-0.16	3	2.51	-0.22	17
Livermore_Falls	30	80	54	+5	61	+39	5	+5	0.38	-0.46	2	3.43	-0.10	10
Moosehead	28	74	49	+5	23	+15	0	+0	0.14	-0.63	3	2.71	-0.29	13
Portland_ME	37	73	55	+5	79	+50	3	+3	0.35	-0.49	1	3.12	-0.54	10
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	37	77	53	+3	102	+49	27	+25	0.04	-0.70	1	2.19	-0.58	9
Berlin_AG	37	79	53	+4	75	+34	8	+8	0.22	-0.55	2	2.42	-0.79	9
Concord	35	81	57	+6	178	+119	50	+49	0.10	-0.60	1	2.95	+0.15	11
Diamond_Pond	30	69	47	+2	24	+12	0	+0	0.42	-0.42	3	3.33	+0.23	16
Keene_AP	36	79	57	+3	188	+99	53	+44	0.31	-0.53	3	2.88	-0.31	14
North_Conway	37	82	55	+4	108	+61	21	+21	0.19	-0.72	1	3.62	-0.17	11
Rochester	39	84	58	+5	149	+78	32	+28	0.25	-0.66	1	3.62	-0.27	9
VERMONT														
Burlington_VT	42	79	56	+3	165	+85	48	+39	0.07	-0.63	2	1.99	-0.71	11
Island_Pond	32	74	51	+4	73	+46	13	+13	0.22	-0.55	2	2.98	+0.18	12
Montpelier	38	78	54	+4	128	+78	40	+39	0.02	-0.68	1	2.36	-0.14	11
Pownal	38	76	53	+2	140	+85	42	+38	0.43	-0.56	4	3.61	-0.51	16
Rochester	29	77	53	+3	108	+65	26	+26	0.01	-0.97	1	3.61	-0.15	7
Rutland_AG	39	78	54	-1	136	+34	30	+17	0.19	-0.58	3	2.44	-0.35	11
Sutton	35	77	52	+4	78	+55	18	+18	0.17	-0.60	3	2.76	-0.14	12
Townshend_Lake	34	83	56	+3	159	+88	42	+36	0.44	-0.40	3	4.31	+1.15	13
MASSACHUSETTS														
Ashburnham	39	78	57	+6	172	+128	39	+39	0.11	-0.66	1	3.09	-0.08	11
Boston	49	77	60	+5	237	+132	57	+57	0.34	-0.43	2	2.31	-0.93	10
Greenfield	38	83	59	+4	200	+96	57	+50	0.16	-0.68	2	3.55	+0.10	16
New_Bedford	41	75	58	+3	219	+111	41	+40	0.19	-0.65	1	3.18	-0.43	12
Otis_AFB	46	72	57	+5	168	+122	19	+19	0.36	-0.48	1	3.00	-0.56	8
Plymouth	44	76	58	+6	178	+126	33	+33	0.18	-0.73	1	2.60	-1.28	10
Walpole	42	78	60	+7	217	+142	60	+60	0.24	-0.54	1	2.74	-0.88	12
Westover	41	79	60	+3	263	+106	85	+70	0.10	-0.81	2	3.40	-0.24	14
Worthington	36	76	55	+4	153	+102	43	+43	0.06	-0.99	2	3.03	-1.02	16
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	42	75	59	+5	234	+146	54	+54	0.09	-0.77	1	2.53	-1.14	12
Woonsocket	40	78	60	+7	227	+156	64	+64	0.23	-0.69	1	3.70	-0.15	12
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport	46	74	60	+5	238	+124	54	+45	0.05	-0.86	3	3.78	+0.15	14
Hartford_AP	44	79	61	+5	291	+155	96	+82	0.04	-0.87	1	3.21	-0.43	14
Norfolk	40	75	56	+5	174	+127	52	+52	0.02	-1.00	1	4.35	+0.18	14
Thomaston_Dam	39	81	59	+5	225	+139	66	+61	0.18	-0.87	2	3.59	-0.51	14
Willimantic	38	77	60	+6	250	+167	76	+72	0.05	-0.93	1	2.37	-1.55	14

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY
For the Week Ending Sunday, May 12, 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.

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State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	20	81	52	+3	0.00	1.18
NH	13	84	54	+3	0.04	0.52
VT	24	83	53	+3	0.00	0.74
MA	35	83	58	+5	0.00	0.36
RI	40	78	58	+5	0.06	0.23
CT	38	81	59	+4	0.02	0.22

Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

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: Some field corn has been planted on the lighter soils. The clay soils are still too wet to work. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Chopping rye for feed. Corn planting continues at full speed. Hay growing at a slow pace to date. Replanting of earlier frozen sweet corn. Showers on Sunday were nice. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Farm activities are strong with manure being spread, fields tilled and planted. Dry weather continues. Spits of rain have arrived but still ten inches below normal. Greenhouse and nursery crops look great, but warmth is needed to inspire plantings. **Nancy Welsh/Karen Lockman (FSA), New Haven:** Heavy frost which occurred a week earlier affected much of the strawberries, apples, peaches and pears. The vegetables that have been planted have been replanted since frost has killed them. Drought conditions are still in effect. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Spreading manure, planting corn, fertilizing grass. Spotty reports of Japanese beetle grubs damaging hay fields.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes: Potato planting has pretty much begun for all growers. Soils still tend to be cold and wet; however, the calendar dictates it's time to start planting. Small grains being planted, lime spreading, etc. Maybe it will warm up someday. It was 22 degrees on Sunday! **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Planting has begun. Farmers were busily getting grounds ready. Some grains planted. We need some warmer temperatures. **Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook:** This past week most of the farmers started working on the ground, planting some potatoes and grain. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Cold weather. Grass land seems to be coming slow now. Some young stock are out on pasture. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Spreading manure and tillage are the primary farm activities for the past week. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Field work is getting ready for planting corn. Need warmer weather and rain. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Cool, dry weather. Lots of wind to dry out soil surfaces. Fields being spread and some corn being planted. Some growers waiting until soil temperatures are more favorable. Snow is in the forecast again for May 14. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Not much outdoor activity due to weather. Fertilizer being spread. Weed control on blueberry fields is in progress. Cool, damp weather has kept blossoms from opening on blueberries and apples, but bees will be arriving from southern states soon. A lot of the early corn is in the ground and some has emerged. **David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild Blueberries: Pre-emergence herbicide and fertilizer being applied. Fungicide being applied to protect plants from mummyberry disease. Bees being placed out in mid-coast wild blueberry fields. Cool weather delaying bloom development. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** Will someone out there please turn off the faucet and turn up the heat!? The row crop producers are ready to plant, but can't get on the ground because of the rain. Surface water is causing problems and the ground water is still low. Living off the land is sometimes tough and frustrating. The apple and strawberry people are content at this point. The rain and cool weather is allowing the crops to slowly grow and stay free from a frost. The hay crop should be really good this year. At least this weather isn't breeding our friends, the army worms. Let's see what this week gives us. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Some hayland plantings have emerged. Producers are planting corn, spreading manure and repairing fences. We need sunshine and warm weather for growth. It was a very windy weekend. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Dust is flying everywhere! Potatoes, corn and small vegetables are being planted with a flurry. Cold weather seems to be the norm. Need rain and warm weather to make this season a success.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Lots of spreading of manure on corn fields and then harrowing, plowing, then planting. Sweet corn planting underway, some under plastic. Cool, wet weather slowed everything down. Weather permitting, the harvesting of haylage should start soon. **Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester:** Plowing cover crops under, harrowing. Some lime being spread. Some sweet corn and silage corn planted - testing Mother Nature. Still some cold temperatures and wet. Continuing manure spreading along with the tillage. Weather finally catching up and warming up a bit. Cattle being put out and enjoying that first tender bite of grass. Continuous battle with fencing repairs, manure

spreading, plowing and harrowing, corn planting, plastic laying, spraying and vegetable transplanting. Still looking forward to a good cropping season. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Insect populations are reaching thresholds in many beds, requiring the first insecticide applications. Black-headed fireworm has been especially notable. The industry is still trying to get approval for a material to control what will be horrendous numbers of cranberry weevil. Growers are applying Ridomil and Aliette for Phytophthora root rot. Several renovation projects are nearing completion. Quiet week for frost. Good rainfall on Sunday (5/12) with significantly more coming on Monday (5/13). **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Last week was spent planting; some warmer season crops now being planted. Farmers continue to prepare fields. Plastic was removed from sweet corn. Fruit appears in good order at this time. Sweet corn and silage corn a little yellow at this point. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Cool, dry and windy conditions have allowed most farms to continue spreading manure and complete field preparation. Topsoil is drying out quickly after being tilled. This has led to really dusty conditions in the Valley. Early spring forage crops are doing well, so are rye and oat crops. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** It was a big week for planting field corn and potatoes. Harvesting asparagus, fiddleheads and spinach. Early potatoes started to break through the ground. Sweet corn under plastic looks good. Farmers were very pleased with the rain showers on Sunday, May 12th. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Hanging baskets and flower sales were through the roof this week, especially Friday & Saturday. What slow economy? Fields here especially dry, but rains on Sunday afternoon and this coming week will help. Plowing fields and planting corn were major activities this week, as growers held off laying plastic until more moisture is received. Corn not up yet.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Soil prep including liming, manure spreading, plowing, disking, and plastic laying going on throughout the county. Ground dried enough for more planting. Third planting of peas and fourth planting of corn in ground. Lettuce, spinach, broccoli and cauliflower planted on plastic. Strawberries growing well. Greenhouse tomatoes looking good. Pastures and hayland greening up. Fungicide applications going on for apple scab. Fruit fertilizers being applied. **Bruce Clement (Ext), Cheshire:** Sunny, but still on the cool side for most of the week. The usual spring activities going on. Planting silage and sweet corn, some early vegetables and small fruits. Plowing, harrowing, fixing fence, seeding, spreading fertilizer, spraying. Pastures and hay fields looking good. Haylage making will start as soon we get a stretch of clear weather. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** A good weather week for field work sees farmers very busy hauling manure, spreading and tilling in preparation for field corn planting. Hay and pasture lands greening up well with rain at week's end, adding to soil moisture. Dandelions in full bloom, a welcome sign to bee keepers. Greenhouse operations beginning sales with nice Saturday weather preceding Mother's Day Holiday. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Some cold (freeze) damage showing up on lush growing orchard grass. Corn planting continues, but no emergence yet. Soil moisture adequate for crops so far, but it is still dry. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruits: Peaches were well past petal fall stage, apples were past full bloom and are now in petal fall stage in the Hollis area. With all the rain during week, orchardists making sure to have protective fungicide sprays applied. Still evaluating if damage occurred and the amount of damage due to freezing temperatures the week of April 22. Vegetables: Harvesting asparagus. Plowing, disking, fertilizing and laying down plastic and drip irrigation. Early season vegetables are being planted, along with sweet corn and potatoes. Weed spraying sweet corn fields. Field Crops: Fixing pasture fences during rainy weather. Spreading manure, plowing, disking, fertilizing and planting corn on fields that are not too wet. Grasses and forage crops growing well. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Very strong wind. Rain was welcomed on Sunday. Planting a second crop of sweet corn, potatoes, peas, carrots and other early vegetables. Disking, fertilizing and laying black plastic in vegetable fields. Some orchardists spraying protective fungicides in apple orchards. Spreading lime, fertilizer and manure, and preparing hayfields and pasture for seeding. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** Field work continues between rain showers. Manure spreading, plowing and harrowing, silage/sweet corn planting and spraying is

continuing. Many vegetable fields have been planted. Early sign of web worms in crab apple trees already. Unknown frost damage to fruit set. Early grass seedings are coming up nicely with the spot rains. Alfalfa is looking good and close to being harvested.

RHODE ISLAND - Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties: Strawberries were blooming here late in the week. Much farm activity going on including plowing, disking and harrowing, with a minimal amount of planting taking place. Equipment failure and maintenance was using up valuable time. Rain is expected for the next several days. The local weather station predicted 1-2" which will still leave us with a 13" deficit. Fruit tree bloom is past in most areas. Fields are in the last stages of readiness for planting vegetable crops.

VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille: "A cool, wet May means a barnful of hay." That old saying may come true this crop season, considering this month's weather conditions. Some corn was planted last week and many are still spreading manure and fertilizer. **Bill Snow (Ext), Orange:** Continued work on corn field soil preparation. Some corn being planted; however, concern about

cold soil conditions. High winds dried out top soil and mini dust storms developed. Also forest fires were more prevalent. Rain on Sunday amounted to ½ inch. Grass that had manure / fertilizer looks good, while other fields look behind normal. Need rain and warmer weather. **Lynette Hamilton (FSA), Windham:** Corn planting is in full swing. Farmers are hoping for warmer temperatures for quick germination. Soil temperature is only about 45 degrees. Legume crops are looking excellent with vigorous growth. **Richard Noel (FSA), Grand Isle/Franklin:** Crop work in Franklin/Grand Isle going like gang busters. Field work being done on the lighter soils and bottom lands. Much manure has been spread and tilled into the soil. The heavier soils with these rains we've had lately are coming around slowly, but we'll need some sunshine to warm them up. Farmers aren't getting nervous yet, but they're starting to look at the clouds and would like to see the silver lining soon! **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Finished planting potatoes, fifth planting of peas, new strawberries, and 60% of small vegetables planted. Good weather for planting, but temperatures are on the cold side - ground still cool. Quarter-inch of rain in our area. Hope for warm, sunny weather. Asparagus slow coming up; no cutting yet.

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