

# Crop Progress & Condition



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

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For week ending 6/21/09

## Enough Rain Already!

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending June 21, 2009, there were 3.7 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 4% poor, 16% fair, 65% good, 15% excellent. It was another cool, wet week across New England. Monday started the week off rain in all states and a hail storm in Connecticut that shred the leaves off corn and damaged fruit and vegetable crops. Tuesday was the lone dry day of the week, providing the only full day of good field work conditions. Southern states experienced rain on Wednesday. Thursday brought heavy rain and thunderstorms to all six states. Showers continued throughout the rest of the week. Total precipitation for the week ranged from 0.55 to 3.06 inches. Daytime temperatures were five to fifteen degrees below average throughout the week, ranging in the mid-60s to mid-70s. Nighttime temperatures were average to above average, ranging in the upper 40s to low 60s. Sunshine and warmer temperatures are desperately needed to dry out saturated fields and spur crop development.

**FRUIT:** Cranberries were in early bloom by week's end. The abundance of rain prevented timely fungicide applications and pollination activities for cranberry producers. Highbush blueberries finally hit the petal fall stage of development by the end of the week. Both the highbush blueberry and Maine wild blueberry crops were reported in good condition. However, mold is becoming an issue and the June drop is predicted to be high due to wet conditions. The strawberry harvest is off to a rough start this year. The large amounts of rain are causing low yields and rot issues, as well as keeping customers away from pick-your-own operations. Tree fruit growers were busy applying fungicides and insecticides between showers, mowing orchard floors, and monitoring crop development. Fruit set and size were rated average for all crops.

**VEGETABLES:** The excessive amount of rain this month has caused many late planted vegetable seeds to rot in the fields. Vegetable growth is at a standstill and weed and slug infestations are plaguing growers. When the weather allowed, harvesting of asparagus, lettuce, peas, radishes, summer squash, and zucchini continued. Broccoli planting also began in Maine. Growers were busy side dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating weeds, and scouting for pests.

**FIELD CROPS:** Planting of field corn continued slowly, with 95% planted at week's end, slightly behind last year, but on par with normal. While most of the crop was reported in good condition, corn planted in low-lying fields is beginning to yellow. Broadleaf tobacco transplanting was nearly complete in Massachusetts and was 86% complete in Connecticut. Both shade and tobacco crops were reported in good to fair condition. Potato and grain plantings neared completion as well. It has been nearly impossible to make dry hay this June. However, growers were busy making haylage between showers. Pastures and hay fields are growing well despite the excessive moisture.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	1	0
Short	2	1	5
Adequate	51	71	82
Surplus	47	27	13
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	1	1
Short	2	1	5
Adequate	53	78	87
Surplus	45	20	7

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Percent Harvested			Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
	2009	2008	5-yr Avg			
Apples	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Peaches	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Pears	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Blueberries						
Highbush	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Wild	-	-	-	Average	Average	Good
Cranberries, MA	-	-	-			Good
Strawberries	20	20	15	Average	Average	Good

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2009			2008	5-yr Avg	Condition
	--Percent Planted--					
Silage Corn	95	95	95	99	95	
Sweet Corn	90	90	90	90	90	
Tobacco						
Broadleaf	90	85	85	85	85	Good/Fair
Shade	100	100	100	100	100	Good/Fair
--Percent Emerged--						
Barley, ME	99	95	95	95	95	Good
Oats, ME	99	95	95	95	95	Good
Potatoes						
Maine	95	75	75	75	75	Good
Mass	100	99	95	95	95	Good
Rhode Island	N/A	99	100	100	100	N/A
Silage Corn	95	90	85	85	85	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	75	75	75	75	75	Good
-- Percent Harvested --						
Dry Hay						
First Cut	50	55	50	50	50	Good/Fair
Second Cut	0	0	0	0	0	Good/Fair

**Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics**

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday June 15, 2009  
 To: Sunday June 21, 2009

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				INCHES	DFN	DAYS	
<b>MAINE</b>															
Augusta_State_A	50	77	60	-5	448	+1	62	-27	3.23	+2.46	5	6.51	+3.33	16	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	45	80	61	-4	376	-7	39	-24	4.99	+4.22	5	8.00	+4.88	16	
Bethel	44	76	59	-6	339	-59	30	-39	3.00	+2.07	5	6.77	+3.13	15	
Caribou_Municip	46	80	64	+3	280	-22	46	+11	0.87	+0.19	3	3.94	+1.27	15	
Dover-Foxcroft	43	78	59	-3	268	-42	24	-12	2.53	+1.63	4	5.80	+2.35	14	
Frenchville	49	80	64	+4	235	-29	39	+16	0.59	-0.14	3	3.88	+1.04	15	
Houlton	45	79	62	+1	274	-35	41	+3	2.02	+1.25	4	4.90	+1.82	15	
Livermore_Falls	42	79	60	-3	343	+28	32	-7	4.04	+3.06	5	7.66	+3.85	16	
Moosehead	41	80	59	-2	183	-47	23	+8	0.94	+0.03	3	4.49	+0.98	11	
Portland_ME	45	73	60	-4	464	+101	87	+36	3.99	+3.18	5	8.30	+5.08	15	
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>															
Benton	44	73	60	-4	328	-72	39	-26	0.61	-0.30	3	4.48	+0.95	13	
Berlin_AG	48	77	59	-4	332	-50	35	-28	1.71	+0.73	4	4.42	+0.67	16	
Concord	42	77	61	-5	546	+69	121	+15	1.49	+0.72	4	5.80	+2.83	14	
Diamond_Pond	44	72	56	-3	148	-61	7	+0	1.10	-0.02	4	4.59	+0.39	16	
Keene_AG	44	78	62	-5	522	-60	123	-37	1.42	+0.58	5	5.35	+1.94	16	
North_Conway	44	76	58	-7	380	-54	45	-42	2.89	+1.97	5	7.09	+3.38	18	
Rochester	41	80	60	-7	526	-1	110	-20	2.41	+1.57	5	6.63	+3.27	14	
<b>VERMONT</b>															
Bennington_AP	46	74	63	+0	560	+148	119	+43	2.71	+1.66	6	5.91	+1.64	16	
Burlington_Intl	52	77	65	-1	574	+33	134	-7	1.29	+0.45	3	4.42	+1.28	16	
Island_Pond	51	74	61	+1	282	-10	38	-1	0.70	-0.34	5	3.61	-0.31	17	
Montpelier	45	76	62	-2	436	+41	79	+9	0.59	-0.23	3	3.98	+0.69	16	
Rochester	46	75	60	-3	352	-24	51	-13	2.10	+1.25	4	7.60	+3.95	16	
Rutland_AG	45	75	62	-5	465	-127	83	-84	0.91	+0.07	4	4.97	+1.64	16	
Springfield_VT	45	74	62	-2	535	+97	109	+23	1.31	+0.40	5	5.14	+1.44	15	
Sutton	46	73	59	-2	254	-36	29	-9	0.90	-0.14	4	4.52	+0.62	19	
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>															
Boston/Logan_In	53	75	63	-7	723	+81	210	+34	1.07	+0.37	3	2.88	-0.02	13	
Fitchburg	46	77	63	-1	726	+313	210	+135	1.41	+0.57	5	5.53	+2.20	15	
Greenfield	48	75	62	-6	556	-78	126	-55	1.94	+1.03	7	5.96	+2.32	17	
New_Bedford	39	76	62	-7	594	-37	126	-37	1.17	+0.33	4	3.54	+0.14	15	
Otis_AFB	41	77	63	-3	643	+202	145	+61	0.55	-0.22	3	2.47	-0.65	15	
Plymouth	41	76	61	-6	602	+124	131	+27	0.76	-0.02	4	2.71	-0.59	19	
Walpole	44	75	62	-5	567	+36	123	-4	1.15	+0.24	5	4.70	+1.30	17	
Chicopee/Westov	44	77	64	-7	687	-73	182	-63	2.50	+1.56	5	5.48	+1.60	13	
Worthington	43	73	59	-5	440	+25	88	+12	3.28	+2.40	5	7.45	+3.73	15	
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>															
Providence	49	74	63	-5	687	+98	175	+21	1.30	+0.53	5	3.50	+0.34	16	
Woonsocket	44	76	62	-4	643	+120	160	+47	1.37	+0.41	6	3.77	+0.01	19	
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>															
Bridgeport/Siko	54	81	64	-5	669	+14	164	-30	2.51	+1.74	5	6.17	+2.94	16	
Hartford/Bradle	49	79	65	-5	769	+49	234	+4	2.46	+1.59	5	6.22	+2.62	15	
Norfolk	49	72	61	-4	497	+86	106	+33	4.92	+3.85	5	9.36	+5.05	18	
Thomaston_Dam	49	77	63	-3	629	+89	154	+25	4.35	+3.40	5	8.70	+4.81	19	
Willimantic	46	79	64	-3	722	+175	196	+66	2.11	+1.26	5	5.09	+1.58	17	

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 Weather Summary**

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 21, 2009

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	41	82	60	-4	0.48	4.99
NH	36	80	60	-4	0.60	2.89
VT	40	79	61	-2	0.52	2.71
MA	35	78	62	-5	0.21	3.28
RI	44	76	62	-4	1.28	1.37
CT	43	82	63	-4	1.60	4.92

**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:**

Another cold, wet week. Many fields are too wet to work, it is impossible to make dry hay. Low-lying corn fields have yellow or dead corn in the wet spots. Late planted corn and vegetable seeds have rotted in the ground. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Another wet, cool week. Some sunshine on Tuesday and Wednesday. Chopping grass continued and spraying RR corn. Tree fruit growers continued to apply fungicide to keep disease away. Field peppers and tomatoes are at a standstill in wet soil conditions. PYO strawberries disappointing due to customers not coming out in the rain. Sixteen of the first 21 days of June had measurable rain fall. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Two plus inches of hail Monday shredded corn leaves and had folks snowmobiling in June. About 50 acres of field corn were basically stripped of their largest leaves. A little over twice the normal June rainfall continues to keep equipment out of the fields. Little, if any first cut hay is still standing - repeated storms have flattened everything in the area. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Wet weather continued this past week making all field activities very difficult - almost three more inches of rain fell on Friday alone. Planting, cultivation, and harvesting was put on hold and many producers have reported that it just has been too wet to finish planting their crops. Strawberry harvest has begun but there are reports of low yields and rotting fruit. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Rain, rain go away! Things are really soggy out there. Nothing is growing, everything is just sitting there. Signs of tomato blight, summer squash dampening off, and black spot on cabbage. Weed control is awful, can't get into the fields to cultivate and herbicides are just washing away with the rains. Parts of the two county area reported three inches of rain on Thursday. Grass hay is so tall that it is being knocked down by the rain and winds. We need warm sunny weather. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Wet, wet, wet and more wet. One grower said that the one chore he is able to get done on time is to plant sweet corn thanks to his Zone Builder. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Wet week, only three days were somewhat dry. Hail on Monday night in the western part of the county. Heavy rains left many crops standing in water. The northern part of county not as wet, and was able to plant sweet corn every three days. Slugs in newly planted vegetables, using slug bait there, field corn reports of slug issues too. Strawberry issues with wet weather for the berries and for customers. Baling dry hay was not possible again this week.

**MAINE – Doreen Conlogue (FSA), Aroostook:** Last week was fairly decent for field work. The major rains didn't hit the County until late Friday. The weekend was a total wash - literally. We received more than two inches of rain over the weekend - minor compared to other areas of the state. This weeks forecast isn't too promising at the moment, but should get better as the week progresses. Potatoes and grains look great! **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Continuing to apply herbicides to crops. Grains are planted. Rock picking continued. Broccoli still being planted. Cultivation of crops will begin soon as crops grow. Crops are continuing to emerge with the recent warmer weather and recent showers in the area on Saturday. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Summer has arrived, but you couldn't tell by the weather. Too much rain and cool temperatures delayed vegetable plantings. Strawberries are ripening very slowly. Producers were trying to spray fungicide between the rains. Hay is not being harvested. Some warm dry weather would do wonders for the crops! **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Enough rain already. The slug population is doing well. Most other insects have been inactive in the rain. They will probably all come out at once. Manure was being spread and second cut hay looks good for fields that were harvested before the rains hit. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** The first part of the week was good for crop growth, but excessive rain put a stop to any ground work. Standing water in fields due to excessive rain showers. Pollination is completed for blueberries and fruit size looks pretty good. Vegetable growers are reporting plant growth is behind. Sunshine and heat is highly needed to catch up on plant growth and for keeping diseases down. **Maria Granger (FSA), Kennebec:** Wet

weather continued this past week making all field activities very difficult - almost three more inches of rain fell on Friday alone. Planting, cultivation, and harvesting was put on hold this past week and many producers have reported that it just has been too wet to finish planting their crops. Strawberry harvest has begun but there are reports of low yields and rotting fruit. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** It was a discouraging week for farmers in the mid-coast area. We received between three to four inches of rain on Friday which has left a lot of crops sitting in water. The two days following continued to be damp and wet with off and on showers. Mold is a problem for many crops including blueberries and strawberries. The strawberry crop has not ripened and therefore very few berries have been picked. Tomatoes are dropping off the vines due to wet conditions. Slugs are feasting on damp, wet crops which are just emerging as well. Those farmers that harvest dry hay will have wet field conditions to contend with in attempting to harvest their first crop. The June drop for blueberries may be higher than average due to all the wet weather. Blossom blight is still a problem for the blueberry crop and many normal field activities have been stalled on all crops. Apple growers had a higher than normal fruit set but were unable to thin the fruit within the normal two week window. The apple crop is now expected to be smaller than normal. Wet, damp weather is forecasted through mid-week and then some much needed sunshine may reappear and possibly some warmth after a dismal week. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Standing water in crop fields and pastures. We are in need of heat and sunshine. Field work has come to a complete standstill. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Too much rain, cool temperatures and no sun has yielded standing water in fields. Little crop development and disease problems are cropping up. Another rainy week has made it difficult to get any dry hay in. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** We need sun. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Rain and cold weather has slowed crop progress. Lots of cutworm damage showing up on corn crops. Some strawberry fields are very, very wet and difficult to pick. It will be a while before more grass silage or hay is harvested as soils are very wet with more rain forecasted.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** Hail and heavy rains on Monday with flash and field flooding. The hail shredded corn and damaged fruit. Some strawberries lost to flooding. . . bad timing. Farmers selling greens, rhubarb, strawberries, annual and perennial flowers, herbs, pepper plants and tomatoes for transplanting. We need some sun. Happy Solstice! **Emily Desrosiers (FSA), Bristol:** Rain almost every day this past week. First cutting for hay has mostly gone past maturity and was a loss for many farmers in Bristol and Norfolk Counties. Continuing rain forecast this week will be damaging for early vegetables. Greens and other early crops are already suffering. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Continued rain during the week has made harvesting of the first hay crop very difficult. Rain is also a detriment to strawberry PYO operations. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The week was very rainy and overcast with below normal temperatures. All crop fields are saturated from the rains. Sunshine and a drying breeze are greatly needed. Vegetable and fruit producers are applying a protective spray to prevent disease. Growers are on the watch for the cucumber beetle, Colorado potato beetle, tarnish plant bug and two-spotted spider mite. Asparagus, lettuce, salad greens, peas, strawberries and radishes are being harvested. Between rain storms, growers are cultivating, hoeing and top dressing their crops. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Sunny days have been hard to come by recently. Rain has been a steady occurrence, thus preventing the application of fungicides for fruit rot control and pollination by honeybees. It's been miserable enough for bumblebees to stay away too, as temperatures have been much cooler than usual. Fungal diseases are showing up in cranberries and many other plants because of the weather. If fungicides aren't applied in a timely fashion, growers will have issues with fruit rot, as fruit quality is predicted to be poor this fall. Insect problems have leveled off for the time being. We had a major frost event last Tuesday into Wednesday,

as temperatures plummeted into the low 30's and high 20's, a very rare occurrence for mid-June. Even when it hasn't been raining, growers aren't able to apply chemicals.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Rain, rain go away! Six inches of rain in eight days, enough already. Cold, wet weather, even the rare sunny day too cool, ground too wet to do anything with hay. Several more days of cool wet weather predicted. Most of the corn is planted and emerged, now it needs some sunshine and warm temperatures to really get going. Vegetables need the same, everything planted not much growth, plants are just sitting there. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Pretty soggy out there - only two days without any showers. Field corn is doing well on most sites, much of it five to six leaf stage. Forage crops growing well, but harvesting is a challenge. Despite rain, vegetable crops looking good. Seems to be a bumper crop of strawberries. Blueberries look ready for harvest in a couple of weeks. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Some hard rains at times but most field activities were on-going without too many disruptions. First chopping of haylage in. Manure spreading on cut meadows. Most, if not all corn is now up and looking OK although some low-lying fields are pretty wet. Timothy is about right for dry hay harvest. Vegetable operations were busy, could use some more sun to move growth along. Good weather for transplanting as soil moisture remains in good quality. Activity is declining at garden centers as early press to get vegetables and annuals passes. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending June 20, we had around a half inch of rain over a five day period. Just enough to make haying difficult. Temperatures remained cool. We need some warmer weather and sun to give crops a boost. Many farmers are reporting that the first cutting of hay has been well below what they would normally expect. A number of them have attributed this to a thinning of the stands due to winter kill. Vegetable growers have reported that their cold crops are doing well. Some of the other crops need some warmth and sunshine. Some producers with grazing have reported that their pastures have not done as well so far this year. Others have been OK. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Difficult in making successive planting of several different vegetables because of rain showers. Growers continued harvesting early season vegetables such as lettuce, radishes, summer squash, and zucchini are being harvested. Grower's busy side dressing fields with fertilizer, cultivating weeds, scouting for pests and spraying if needed. Fruit: Growers were harvesting field grown strawberries. Fruit growers monitored pest and crop development and applied sprays for pest control, along with mowing orchard floor. Field Crops: Farmers made haylage between showers and have stopped baling hay because of rain. Many hayfields are too wet to cut. Grass hayfields are maturing. Cold and wet growing conditions is causing stress problems with plants. Apple scab is being found in several orchards. Fire blight is seen in some apple orchards throughout the county, growers should wait until dry weather is forecasted to start to carefully prune out the fire blight strikes. Squash vine borer have been caught! Continued seeing damage from asparagus beetle, flea beetle, striped cucumber beetle, and Colorado potato beetle. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** No worries about irrigation so far this year. Rains have done pastures and hay land a favor but vegetable

and strawberry growers are wishing for more sunshine. Farmers were harvesting strawberries, rhubarb, all sorts of greens, and early broccoli. Blueberry fruit set looks outstanding in many places. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Strawberry season is good with great fruits. Due to off and on rain PYO operations seen slower traffic on certain days. Picking a whole array of green leafy vegetables. Continued successive planting of vegetables. Side-dressing with fertilizer, monitoring pests in vegetable and small fruits fields, and orchards and sprayed protective fungicides. It's been a difficult haying season so far because of rain. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Rain showers most of the week with only a few days of sunshine. Grass in pastures and hay fields are growing very well. However, dry hay producers were not able to do any haying this past week because there was no adequate break from wet weather. Apple growers were scouting and spraying insecticides against plum curculio. Blueberry fruit set looks very good. Growers started to pick strawberries mid-week. Vegetable growers started to harvest cool season crops like greens and early crops planted under plastic row covers. Greenhouses growers started to plant fall mums and to prepare for poinsettia.

**RHODE ISLAND – Melissa Turisi (FSA):** Planting is ten days to two weeks behind schedule. Strawberry PYO operations are having a tough time due to wet weather.

**VERMONT – Jeff Carter, (Ext), Addison:** Wet field conditions showing patches of dead corn and soy. Corn on well-drained soil still vigorous. Some corn to 10" and uniform. Hay fields wet with ruts. Dry hay this week was rained on and is brown. Weed growth in corn fields is increasing, roundup effects showing in corn fields. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Another cool, damp week. Very little haying and some manure spreading. Corn waiting for some warmth and sunshine, it did respond to the one sunny day that we had. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** We are off and running this week in Franklin County. The corn is in, first cut hay and haylage is all harvested except some of the odd fields, Strawberries are about ready, and gardens are up and growing great. Corn growing weather has been good this past week with some warmer temperatures and a little humidity. Rains were spotty and mixed with clouds and sun. Some of the very early planted corn seemed to be stressed due to a wet May. However, with some good growing conditions and a little N boost it should come along. Pastures are doing great and hoping for some good growth before the July and August risk off dry weather comes. Second cut hay is doing very well with some folks that did the early first cut harvest will be thinking about starting on second cut. **Heather Darby, (Ext), Grand Isle:** Corn is looking good up north. The last week of normal day and night temperatures helped invigorate the corn. Some corn already being topdressed. Most folks are finished with first cut. Some folks getting geared up to start cutting second cut. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** Rough week to get cropping done. It wasn't that the weather was all that bad it was just the more or less constant threat of rain that made cropping hit or miss. Corn isn't doing too bad but could use some serious heat. Grass has been growing very well but most of the harvesting has been by cows. Most veggies could also use some heat and a soaking rain wouldn't hurt either.

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