

# Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND  
Agricultural  
Statistics



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For week ending 5/9/10

## Cooler Temperatures Begin to Arrive

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending May 9, 2010, there were 4.7 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 1% very poor, 2% poor, 34% fair, 44% good, and 19% excellent. The week began rainy and warm with relatively uniform temperatures throughout New England ranging from the mid-70s to low 80s. Precipitation and above average temperatures in the 60s and 70s continued until Thursday with total rainfall amounts ranging from 0.02 to 0.99 inches. Scattered areas reported thunderstorms on Tuesday. Nighttime temperatures during the first half of the week ranged from low 40s to upper 60s. Temperatures dropped on Friday and continued doing so during the weekend with daytime temperatures ranging from the low 40s to mid-50s on Sunday. The second half of the week was wet with most precipitation being reported on Saturday. Lightning was reported in southern New England that day. Light snow showers were present in northern Vermont and New Hampshire at the end of the week. Heavy winds, particularly in Massachusetts, caused damage to asparagus crops on Sunday. Total rainfall for the week ranged from 0.35 to 1.90 inches.

**FRUIT:** Fruit trees were mostly bloom to petal fall stage by week's end, far ahead of schedule due to the unusually warm weather during the past two months. Winter moth caterpillars were actively feeding on fruit trees in Massachusetts. Orchardists were busy planting new fruit trees, applying fertilizers, and spraying fungicides. Cranberry vines continued to green up and produce new growth, if at a slower pace due to cool weather. Cranberry growers were using insecticide sprays, treating for upright dieback, phytophthora root rot, and fairy ring. Mummy berry disease and insect damage were observed in scattered blueberry fields.

**VEGETABLES:** The planting and emergence of sweet corn continued being significantly ahead of last year and normal. Cabbage, carrots, peas, lettuce, greens, beans, and onions were being planted. Planting of other later vegetable crops began ahead of schedule. Farmers were harvesting asparagus, fiddleheads, spinach, cucumbers, rhubarb, and greens. Tomato and cucumber crops in greenhouses were reported in good condition. Farmers were also liming, fertilizing, plowing, disking, laying plastic mulch, and getting ready to plant fields.

**FIELD CROPS:** Planting and field preparations progressed well this past week with the exception of Vermont as a consequence of wet, unfavorable climate. Farmers continued planting field corn, potatoes, oats, barley, and small grains well ahead of schedule. A small percentage of all of these crops have already emerged by week's end which is unusual at this time of the year. Pasture growth continued rapidly and some of it was chopped. Hay growth is several days ahead of schedule; first cutting of hay may begin anytime. The majority of potatoes in Massachusetts and Rhode Island have been planted, 1-2 weeks ahead of last year and normal. Farmers were busy spreading manure, chopping grass, plowing, disking, fertilizing, and laying plastic mulch for planting.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	1	1	0
Short	4	5	3
Adequate	85	85	72
Surplus	10	9	25
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	1	1	0
Short	4	4	3
Adequate	83	86	73
Surplus	12	9	24

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Stage of Development	Condition
Apples	Full Bloom/Petal Fall	Good
Peaches	Full Bloom/Petal Fall	Good/Fair
Pears	Full Bloom/Petal Fall	Good/Fair
Blueberries		
Highbush	Early Bloom	Good/Fair
Wild	Early Bloom	Good
Cranberries, MA	Bud Stage	Good
Strawberries	Bud Stage/Full Bloom	Good

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2010	2009	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Planted--				
Barley, ME	60	<5	15	N/A
Oats, ME	55	5	15	N/A
Potatoes				
Maine	30	<5	<5	N/A
Mass	90	60	55	Good
Rhode Island	80	45	50	Good
Silage Corn	10	10	10	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	25	15	15	Good/Fair
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	0	0	0	N/A
Shade	0	0	0	N/A
--Percent Emerged--				
Barley, ME	10	0	<5	N/A
Oats, ME	10	0	<5	N/A
Potatoes, MA	<5	0	<5	Good
Potatoes, RI	10	0	5	Good
Silage Corn	<5	0	0	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	15	<5	<5	Good/Fair
-- Percent Harvested --				
Dry Hay				
First Cut	0	0	0	Good

**Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics**

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday May 3, 2010  
 To: Sunday May 9, 2010

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		
<b>MAINE</b>															
Augusta_State_A	39	82	59	+9	172	+136	32	+32	0.42	-0.49	5	1.52	-2.07	16	
Bangor_Intl_Arp	42	84	59	+10	149	+126	28	+28	0.86	+0.05	5	1.62	-1.52	12	
Bethel	37	82	59	+10	127	+101	25	+25	1.42	+0.59	5	3.82	+0.47	13	
Caribou_Municip	32	79	55	+9	89	+73	15	+15	1.69	+1.00	6	2.59	+0.15	15	
Dover-Foxcroft	39	83	57	+9	89	+73	15	+15	0.98	+0.14	4	1.98	-1.38	15	
Frenchville	32	76	53	+8	70	+62	9	+9	1.80	+1.10	6	2.87	+0.31	15	
Houlton	30	82	55	+9	93	+77	19	+19	1.10	+0.38	4	2.15	-0.49	15	
Livermore_Falls	39	82	59	+11	111	+95	17	+17	0.94	+0.10	6	3.06	-0.50	15	
Moosehead	35	83	53	+10	58	+53	7	+7	1.80	+1.04	5	3.38	+0.41	16	
Portland_ME	40	81	60	+10	165	+145	30	+30	0.69	-0.17	5	1.69	-2.03	11	
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>															
Benton	34	84	56	+7	111	+70	16	+16	1.49	+0.78	5	4.35	+1.64	12	
Berlin_AG	36	87	57	+9	103	+71	16	+16	1.72	+0.95	5	3.73	+0.52	12	
Concord	39	87	62	+10	196	+151	54	+54	0.50	-0.20	5	2.08	-0.72	11	
Diamond_Pond	25	85	48	+4	38	+29	6	+6	1.70	+0.87	6	4.90	+1.86	16	
Keene_AG	39	91	59	+6	157	+87	27	+21	0.99	+0.15	5	2.20	-0.93	13	
North_Conway	35	82	59	+9	142	+107	24	+24	1.17	+0.26	5	3.63	-0.19	16	
Rochester	38	86	62	+10	199	+144	45	+44	0.62	-0.30	3	2.40	-1.52	9	
<b>VERMONT</b>															
Bennington_AP	34	86	59	+9	180	+137	50	+49	1.07	+0.05	6	2.33	-1.79	14	
Burlington_Intl	37	85	60	+8	185	+122	50	+44	1.00	+0.30	6	3.40	+0.73	15	
Island_Pond	32	82	55	+8	95	+74	16	+16	1.24	+0.48	6	3.58	+0.84	16	
Montpelier	32	84	58	+9	148	+110	43	+43	1.51	+0.83	5	3.85	+1.41	15	
Rochester	33	85	58	+9	114	+81	18	+18	1.82	+0.84	5	3.73	+0.03	14	
Rutland_AG	36	85	60	+6	148	+66	33	+23	1.98	+1.23	6	4.84	+2.11	14	
Springfield_VT	37	87	60	+10	184	+141	45	+45	1.10	+0.19	6	2.97	-0.67	14	
Sutton	30	81	53	+7	87	+70	13	+13	2.08	+1.31	6	5.38	+2.51	18	
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>															
Boston/Logan_In	42	87	66	+12	308	+223	85	+85	1.24	+0.47	4	2.14	-1.13	13	
Fitchburg	39	93	64	+14	285	+252	79	+79	1.41	+0.64	5	2.17	-1.00	12	
Greenfield	38	86	59	+5	170	+87	31	+27	1.22	+0.38	5	1.81	-1.64	12	
New_Bedford	43	80	63	+9	222	+134	45	+45	0.54	-0.30	5	1.92	-1.75	15	
Otis_AFB	43	77	60	+10	159	+124	24	+24	0.89	+0.03	5	2.03	-1.56	14	
Plymouth	42	84	65	+13	251	+211	64	+64	1.10	+0.16	5	2.45	-1.46	13	
Walpole	39	81	62	+10	248	+189	60	+60	0.72	-0.09	4	1.79	-1.95	12	
Chicopee/Westov	39	91	64	+8	258	+127	71	+61	1.11	+0.20	6	1.65	-1.99	11	
Worthington	33	87	58	+9	150	+111	30	+30	1.13	+0.08	6	2.05	-1.94	14	
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>															
Providence	43	82	65	+12	316	+246	71	+71	1.30	+0.41	5	2.55	-1.18	13	
Woonsocket	40	88	64	+12	254	+199	59	+59	0.86	-0.09	4	1.95	-1.93	13	
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>															
Bridgeport/Siko	43	80	64	+10	259	+166	41	+35	0.82	-0.09	3	2.77	-0.83	10	
Hartford/Bradle	41	92	66	+11	350	+239	94	+84	0.53	-0.38	5	1.58	-2.06	11	
Norfolk	35	87	60	+10	194	+159	44	+44	0.99	-0.06	6	2.51	-1.69	15	
Thomaston_Dam	39	86	63	+10	233	+165	50	+48	0.96	-0.09	5	2.35	-1.72	12	
Willimantic	41	89	65	+12	267	+202	68	+67	0.62	-0.36	5	1.60	-2.32	10	

**State Weather Summary**

For the Week Ending Sunday, May 9, 2010

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	27	86	57	+9	0.16	2.21
NH	13	92	58	+9	0.50	2.17
VT	20	88	57	+8	0.38	3.87
MA	33	93	62	+10	0.50	1.44
RI	40	88	63	+11	0.24	1.30
CT	35	92	63	+10	0.46	1.53

**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:** Temperatures were 20 degrees above normal last week and 15 degrees below normal today. A frost advisory is in effect for tonight. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Field corn planting has progressed very nicely and some were near finished. Hay is ready to cut for silage, just need the right weather. Tobacco progressing nicely in beds and greenhouses. Fruit producers are still concerned over potential frosts. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Hay and pasture grasses are flowering but they are on the short side due to the early heat. Most grass is still less than a foot or so tall but the orchardgrass and timothy are flowering and the alfalfa is setting buds. Field corn planting is progressing. Progress is slow as farmers work to spread manure before planting. **Patricia Smith (FSA), New London:** Great growing conditions. Producers preparing fields and planting corn. Starting to chop grass. Greenhouse sales are down about 35% overall for Mothers Day Plants. Concern for predicted frost tonight. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Another nice warm week of weather. Some strong thunderstorms mid-week. Field work progressing nicely as silage corn and sweet corn planting continued. Early vegetables are in the ground. Worries about a frost during the weekend as temperatures are expected to drop. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Spreading manure, bio solids and commercial fertilizers, harrowing, planting corn, starting to chop grass, and harvesting asparagus, finishing up on apple and cider sales. Cooler nice sunny weather this week.

**MAINE – Casey Cote (St John Valley Soil & Water Conservation Dist), Northern Aroostook:** Weather patterns have been season appropriate. Cool days (50F-60F) and cooler evenings (35F-40F). Fields are wet. **Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Wind and rain late week has brought planting to a halt. Early grain has emerged and is looking great. Pastures are growing well. Planting is 10-14 days ahead of normal. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Most farmers have been getting fields plowed and have been planting potatoes. Grains are continuing to be planted in the area. Some farmers in the area are just going to start planting potatoes in the upcoming week. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland /York:** The weather over the weekend has turned cold and windy. Chance of a frost last night and tonight. Strawberries have fruit already, and farmers are irrigating or covering their crops which would be hurt by frost. Other farmers are still busy with land preparation and manure spreading. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** The cold weather snuck back in! This will not be a major setback because some hay is almost ready to harvest and field prep conditions are still excellent. There is some danger for frost to early fruit crop pollination and set. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock /Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Past week was on and off showers but some field work was being done. Pastures are nice and green. Manure being spread on ground but cold and damp days are not warming the ground very fast. Apple trees are starting to get blossoms but still have a long ways to go. Frost possible for this week so be careful of any planted crops. **Megan McDonough (FSA), Kennebec:** If you don't like the weather in Maine, wait 15 minutes...it will change! The Northern portion of Kennebec County experienced severe storms with rain and very strong wind gusts; while the Southern portion was spared this wild weather. Apple and peach trees appear to be in full bloom. Pasture conditions are great; a few folks even reported getting corn planted! **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Lots of field activities continued this week with more plantings of various crops. The smell of manure was in the air this as farmers were spreading their fields. Approximately 50% of the sweet corn has been planted in this area. Bees are out on cropping blueberry fields and these fields are being scouted for signs of insect damage. Pre-emergent herbicide was applied to non-bearing blueberry fields. The apple and blueberry crops are looking good but there are concerns of frost warnings for this evening. Pastures are in great shape and a little bit of grass was even chopped this week. We received plenty of sunshine and warm temperatures earlier in the week with some rain and colder temps to end the week. As of today, farming activities are on or ahead of schedule in the mid-coast area. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County received some wet weather last week and high winds over the weekend. Field work is still going strong and livestock have been seen roaming the hills!! **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Spreading manure, plowing, discing are the main farm activities. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** We had a good

week with some dry areas getting some needed rain and field work continuing. **Elaine Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** A microburst hit the area on Monday afternoon, dropping tree limbs on power lines causing power outages, no damages to cropland reported at this time. Field activities are going strong, lots of manure being spread and harrowed in and some planting of forage corn has been done. The colder than normal temperatures are slowing down the development of apples, even though at this point seemingly to be 3 weeks ahead of schedule. Most MacIntosh pollination has taken place, with later varieties still to be pollinated - the bees will have to work longer this season. No damage at this point due to the colder weather, but this week's weather predicts frosts. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Good weather allowed for a lot of field work. Hay crops look like they are about 1-2 weeks ahead of schedule. Field work, spreading manure and planting corn. Strawberries and apples are flowering. Cool weather over the weekend may slow things down some. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries; Cooler weather is slowing crop development. Mummyberry sprays ending as cups are no longer viable. Bees continue to be moved into the field's Downeast. Crop development is still 2 to 3 weeks ahead of normal.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** It was all about the wind this week. Very windy conditions have dried out soil and impaired spraying of weed control. Some corn was planted. Farmers markets selling flats of flowers and transplants were plagued with a rainy, raw day. Orchards are in full bloom, blueberries are ahead of schedule and strawberries, though still covered are beginning their bloom. All are hoping to avoid a predicted hard freeze early in the week. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** The strange weather continues! Strong winds caused damage to a few farm structures and has wreaked havoc on the Asparagus crop, causing the stalks to twist and bend. Planting of crops is still ahead of schedule. We could use some rain though. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** A very cool and dry week with heavy rain showers by weeks end. All crops are ahead of schedule by at least 2 weeks. Harvesting asparagus, spinach and rhubarb. Planting cabbage, carrots, peas, lettuce, potatoes, onions, sweet corn and beans. Dairy farmers are fixing fence, spreading manure, and releasing young stock on to pastures. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Vines continue to green up and produce new growth. Several frost nights during the week, the coldest on Sunday(5/9) into Monday(5/10). Much-needed rain fell on Saturday(5/8). On new beds, some hook is evident. The cool weather we're in currently will slow things down and get us to a much typical phenological situation. Winter moth, black-headed fireworm and other Lep's are out munching on foliage, necessitating insecticide sprays. Growers are also treating for upright dieback, Phytophthora root rot and fairy ring. Many growers are digging ditches for removal of the silt.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE – William Lord (Ext), Belknap:** Relatively warm and humid conditions most of the week pushed rapid growth and development. Pastures and hay both are growing well. Vegetable planting is moving quickly as soil conditions and warm weather are favorable for early planting. Apples moved through bloom and into petal fall by Friday for most varieties and locations. Strawberry bloom from fields demulched early is heavy. Fields with later mulch removal are entering bloom. Wild blueberry fields are opening with what should be good to heavy blossom. Highbush blueberries have a good bloom, though not quite as heavy as the past 2 years which were exceptional. **Debra Eddison (Ext), Carroll:** This week's weather showed temps ranging from mid 50's- 70's which is closer to the average for this time of year. We are still finding a few nights with temps in the high 30's. In the woods, trees are leafed out at least half way, spring ephemeral wildflowers in floodplains such as trout lily and jack in the pulpit are coming up. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Generally seasonal weather, with some rain over the weekend but still plenty of dry weather for getting things done in the field. Pastures look good, and animals are out grazing. Grasses are getting tall, and some orchardgrass is heading out. Corn planting continues, and some of the earliest planted fields are starting to emerge. Early crops planted on veggie operations, and planting later crops has begun. Orchardists are getting routine spraying done. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Sunny warm weather at beginning of week turns to cold, wet and windy by week's end. Fresh snow on hills

and mountains. Farmers continue to prep fields for corn planting; grass rowing well; pasturing on-going. Apples, blueberries beginning to blossom. Poor weekend weather conditions for greenhouse/ nurseries big Mother's Day sales. Honeybees active as dandelions in full bloom. Early season veggies up on some operations- peas, etc. Black flies start to show up, perhaps predicted freezes in coming week will zap them.

**Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending May 8th, we received a little less than 1.5 inches of rain toward the end of the week. Soil conditions remain highly variable. The better drained soils typically along the river bottoms are in good shape for manure spreading, and ground preparation. Many upland soils are still not dry enough to be worked. The snow and freezing temperatures of a few days ago do not appear to have done any damage to budding trees.

**George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruits: Apple, Pear, Cherry, Peach and Plum were at petal fall to fruit set in the Hollis area. Blueberry is at blooming. Warm during bloom has many apple and pear orchardists concerned about future fire blight problems. Orchardists are fertilizing orchards and are applying protective fungicide sprays on fruit trees and blueberries. Planting fruit trees. Field Crops: Farmers are spreading manure, plowing, disking fertilizing and planting corn. Vegetables: Continue early season vegetables (peas, lettuce, greens, cole crops) planting, along with sweet corn and potatoes. Liming, fertilizing, plowing, disking and getting ready to plant fields. Harvesting of asparagus.

**Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Orchardists are monitoring weather and timing sprays for apple scab. Fire blight risk was high this week. Looks like it's going to be a good blueberry year. Farmers are preparing fields and laying plastic mulch for planting. Pastures and hay fields are nice and green.

**Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Some sun, some rain, some strong gusty winds and cold temperature on the week-end. Preparing vegetable fields. Planting cool vegetable crops and harvesting greens. Mummyberry disease in blueberry patches. Spraying protective fungicides in fruit orchards and small fruits. Planting small fruits

**Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Great weather for field work most of the week. Rain showers on the weekend. Grass in pastures and hay fields are growing very well. Apples and peach trees are doing very well but all the varieties seem to be about two weeks early due to warm spring weather. Fruit growers were mowing orchard floors and some growers were applying protective fungicides ahead of the weekend rain showers. Some growers were planting new fruit trees to expand their orchards. Vegetable growers were plowing and harrowing to prepare for planting. Some were planting cool season crops such as lettuce and peas. Others were transplanting tomatoes into high tunnels. Tomato and cucumber crops in greenhouses are doing very well. Some growers were already harvesting cucumbers in greenhouses. Bedding plant growers had a busy week and Mother's Day weekend.

**RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule, (FSA) Bristol:** Potato seed short will finish planting this week. Sweet corn in under Reemay. Cold crops are in, waiting for some areas to dry. Need about a week of dry weather.

**VERMONT – Jeff Carter, (Ext), Addison:** Rain and snow this week slowed down field work. Started corn planting on light soil. Some manure spread on fields. One field of winter rye chopped for haylage. Then rain.

**Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Very warm at the start of the week and very cool at the end of the week- made it about average. A few showery days, some heavy showers, strong winds, snow flurries here on Sunday morning. Wet soil limited activities. Some corn ground preparation on drier soils.

**Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Cool, wet and snow sums up the week for Franklin County. The grasses are loving this, however, the wet cool weather is hampering the grazing process to get the grass to the cows. This should make for some good first cut harvest if some dryer weather comes along to get field work done. Corn planting is beginning to get into delayed mode due to the wet cool conditions. The next two weeks are going to be critical. Apples and other flowering fruits are another concern in the next to weeks; these fruits are in full bloom!!!!!! A killing frost will be detrimental.

**Heather Darby, (Ext), Franklin:** Erratic weather continues in our area. This has slowed or completely stopped field work in most areas. Farmers have some manure spread and some fields prepped for planting. A small amount of corn has been planted and some new forage seedings have been finished. Small grains planted in April are in the early stages of vegetative growth.

**John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Cooler and wetter weather conditions have put the brakes on the planting of field crops. Field preparation had been ahead of normal but the ground is going to have to re-warm before planting shifts into high gear. Most pastures are looking pretty good and the cows are being turned out much to their delight. Veggie producers are making good use of their crop covers and greenhouses during this cold spell.

**Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Last week ended up to be cold and wet. Most areas saw snow on Mother's Day this past Sunday. Corn planting slowed down this week with the wet weather. A small percentage of planted acreage has emerged. Emergence looks pretty uniform but not much plant growth due to the temperature. Pasture and hayland grass is growing but slowed a bit last week as well. Some limited grazing has started. Apples are in full bloom. There is some pollination concerns due to lower activity with the bees and frost damage. The same holds for the blueberries. It's early for strawberry blossoms here so the cold weather right now may not be a big factor.

**Julie Jacque, (FSA), Windham:** Good weather allowed for large tracts to be planted to commodity crops. Winds kept things dried out and rain is needed. Severe winds early in the week occurred over a widespread area, but no reports of damage submitted to the office.

**April 2010 CROP WEATHER SUMMARY:** Record-breaking temperatures and mostly sunny skies dominated the weather patterns across New England during the first week of April with temperatures climbing into the 70s and 80s during the weekend and breaking records by as much as 15 degrees. Weather remained warm during the start of the second week with temperatures peaking on April 7. Apart from Maine, daytime temperatures were 25-37 degrees above average, ranging from the upper 70s to low 90s. A cold front moved in the following day bringing temperatures back down to more normal levels for the rest of the week. This front produced 0.2 to 1.3 inches of rain. The third week began partly cloudy with average to above average temperatures but gave way to precipitation and cooler temperatures by week's end. Some northern areas and higher elevations reported snow accumulation. The fourth week saw mostly above average temperatures in the mid-50s to low 70s. Lightning and dime-sized hail were reported in Rhode Island and eastern Massachusetts during April 22. Rain showers returned to the southern region during the fourth weekend of the month. A cold spell during April 27-28 brought unusually low daytime temperatures and nighttime temperatures low enough to cause mild to moderate frost. Northern areas of Vermont and New Hampshire received significant snowfall with some areas reporting well over a foot of snow accumulation. Some elevated regions in New England also reported snowfall. April ended with damaging winds and variable temperatures. Total precipitation for the month ranged from 1.03 to 3.50 inches. Nighttime temperatures averaged in the low 30s to mid-40s. The maple season was mostly over by early April due to an early start of spring-like weather. Fruit trees were blossoming several days ahead of normal due to the warm weather. General farm activities included working in nurseries and greenhouses, tending livestock, moving apples and potatoes from storage, performing general maintenance and making preparations for the spring planting season.

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