

# Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND  
Agricultural  
Statistics



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For week ending 5/13/12

## Wet Weather Continues

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending May 13, 2012, there were 4.3 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition was rated 2 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 62 percent good, and 21 percent excellent. The week began with average to above average daytime temperatures in the 60s and 70s. Nighttime temperatures were cool Monday night in northern New England, with some locations experiencing frost. Rainfall of greater than an inch fell in most locations from Tuesday to Thursday. Temperatures rapidly warmed up to the 70s and 80s by the weekend, providing favorable fieldwork conditions throughout all six States. Crops in need of warm, dry weather to advance growth.

**FRUIT:** Apple producers continued to be concerned about previous frosts, particularly in lower elevations where crops were most vulnerable. Cool, wet weather extended bloom stage in apple orchards, making insecticide application and thinning treatments more difficult. Other tree fruits, such as peaches, showed signs of frost damage and reduced fruit set. There were several reports of strawberry losses as a result of earlier freezing temperatures. Cranberry plants responded well to precipitation, resulting in a healthy development of the crop. Bees have been moved into most wild blueberries fields in Maine but crop bloom was delayed by cool weather. Maine growers were busy applying fungicides to protect the wild blueberry plants from mummyberry infections.

**VEGETABLES:** Farmers planted asparagus, cole crops, fiddleheads, leafy greens, parsnips, onions, peas, rhubarb, spinach, and sweet corn. Some growers harvested asparagus, arugula, cilantro, fiddleheads, kale, rhubarb, spinach, and Swiss chard. Vegetable growers were also busy preparing vegetable fields and transplanting tomatoes and other vegetable plants once soil temperatures reached adequate warmth.

**FIELD CROPS:** Hayfields at many locations have reached maturity, but farmers were forced to wait for drier weather for harvest. Field corn planting stalled as some fields became too wet for entry. Many farmers were still finishing up manure applications and field preparations prior to planting the crop. Potatoes in Massachusetts and Rhode Island were mostly planted, well ahead of normal. Pastures were greening up well thanks to abundant moisture, but growth was limited by lack of heat.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	6	9	0
Adequate	73	73	67
Surplus	21	18	33
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	1	1	0
Short	7	10	1
Adequate	80	76	64
Surplus	12	13	35

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Development	Fruit Set	Condition
Apples	EB/PF	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	FB/PF	Average/Below	Good/Fair
Pears	FB/PF	Average/Below	Good/Fair
Blueberries			
Highbush	EB/PF	Average	Good/Fair
Wild	BS/EB		Excellent/Good
Cranberries,	BS		Good
Strawberries	BS/FB	Average/Below	Good

EB= Early Bloom, FB=Full Bloom, PF=Petal Fall, BS= Bud Stage

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2012	2011	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				
Barley, ME	50	15	25	
Oats, ME	50	15	25	
Potatoes				
Maine	40	<5	15	N/A
Mass	95	40	70	
Rhode Island	99	50	70	
Silage Corn	20	10	20	
Sweet Corn	30	20	25	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	0	0	0	N/A
Shade	0	0	<5	N/A
-- Percent Emerged --				
Barley	10	0	5	Excellent
Oats	10	0	5	Excellent
Potatoes				
Mass	20	0	10	Good
Rhode Island	60	<5	15	Good
Silage Corn	<5	0	<5	Fair/Good
Sweet Corn	15	10	10	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
-- Percent Harvested --				
First Cut	0	0	0	Good

**Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics**

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday, May 7, 2012  
 To: Sunday, May 13, 2012

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	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
	---	---	---	---	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	---	---	INCHES	---	---
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_State_A	38	74	53	+0	157	+99	26	+26	1.88	+1.01	3	6.97	+3.37	12
Bangor_Intl_Arp	31	70	52	+1	120	+81	13	+13	2.06	+1.22	3	6.53	+3.34	12
Bethel	32	73	51	-1	110	+66	10	+10	1.01	+0.22	3	5.17	+1.86	13
Caribou_Municip	31	67	49	+1	66	+39	4	+4	1.63	+0.93	5	5.31	+2.77	13
Dover-Foxcroft	27	69	48	-2	58	+30	2	+2	2.03	+1.23	4	6.88	+3.56	11
Frenchville	32	66	47	-1	50	+34	8	+8	1.46	+0.76	4	4.45	+1.79	14
Houlton	28	67	50	+1	70	+43	2	+2	1.74	+0.97	4	4.34	+1.57	12
Livermore_Falls	28	73	50	-1	98	+70	5	+5	1.48	+0.64	3	5.89	+2.38	13
Moosehead	25	67	46	+0	30	+20	0	+0	1.42	+0.65	4	6.04	+3.02	12
Portland_ME	36	77	53	+2	144	+109	21	+21	2.05	+1.21	3	7.78	+4.16	13
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	32	73	50	-3	99	+38	13	+9	1.44	+0.68	4	5.81	+3.00	15
Berlin_AG	31	73	50	-2	107	+58	12	+12	1.10	+0.33	4	5.26	+2.06	13
Concord	31	80	55	+2	231	+162	48	+45	1.56	+0.86	4	5.16	+2.36	13
First_Conn_Lake	29	71	48	+3	56	+40	2	+2	1.77	+0.93	3	5.42	+2.28	14
Keene_AG	31	79	54	-3	192	+89	32	+21	1.40	+0.56	4	4.52	+1.30	15
North_Conway	32	76	51	-2	133	+77	17	+16	1.54	+0.63	4	6.30	+2.53	14
Rochester	34	80	54	-1	206	+123	48	+42	1.78	+0.87	3	5.88	+2.03	11
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Bennington_AP	33	76	55	+3	217	+153	32	+26	2.57	+1.57	4	5.58	+1.44	15
Burlington_Intl	34	77	57	+3	239	+146	56	+45	1.86	+1.16	5	5.42	+2.70	16
Island_Pond	27	79	50	+2	98	+65	12	+12	0.97	+0.18	4	4.08	+1.22	14
Montpelier	29	74	53	+2	146	+88	22	+19	0.95	+0.25	4	4.23	+1.69	15
Rochester	31	79	52	+0	114	+63	12	+12	1.31	+0.33	4	5.10	+1.30	15
Rutland_AG	31	80	54	-3	156	+40	17	+1	1.75	+0.98	4	4.58	+1.75	13
Springfield_VT	33	79	56	+4	220	+154	38	+33	1.45	+0.54	4	5.07	+1.43	14
Sutton	34	72	50	+2	99	+70	12	+12	1.36	+0.59	5	4.91	+1.99	17
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	47	80	58	+2	324	+204	79	+77	1.27	+0.50	4	4.54	+1.32	12
Fitchburg	41	80	58	+6	336	+284	86	+86	0.99	+0.22	4	4.66	+1.49	14
Greenfield	37	80	56	-1	237	+117	47	+38	2.22	+1.38	4	5.41	+1.96	13
New_Bedford	37	74	57	+0	237	+114	35	+32	1.72	+0.88	3	5.00	+1.43	12
Otis_AFB	36	70	55	+2	166	+112	17	+17	3.16	+2.32	3	5.01	+1.47	9
Plymouth	37	77	56	+2	251	+189	47	+47	2.23	+1.32	4	4.78	+0.92	13
Walpole	38	84	58	+4	276	+189	61	+59	1.62	+0.85	4	5.86	+2.32	13
Chicopee/Westov	33	80	57	-2	289	+113	58	+39	1.16	+0.25	4	4.15	+0.51	14
Worthington	35	75	53	+2	156	+97	18	+17	1.43	+0.38	4	4.97	+0.88	16
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	45	78	58	+3	274	+173	44	+44	1.49	+0.65	3	5.51	+1.88	12
Woonsocket	39	79	57	+3	291	+208	62	+62	1.89	+0.98	3	6.22	+2.39	10
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	45	75	59	+3	285	+155	25	+14	1.55	+0.64	2	5.40	+1.76	10
Hartford/Bradle	40	81	59	+2	344	+190	78	+60	1.22	+0.29	4	4.96	+1.30	16
Norfolk	36	74	53	+1	176	+121	19	+19	1.02	+0.02	4	4.42	+0.27	15
Thomaston_Dam	34	77	58	+3	252	+154	36	+29	1.73	+0.70	4	4.88	+0.78	13
Willimantic	38	79	58	+3	305	+209	62	+56	1.21	+0.23	4	4.52	+0.60	12

**State Weather Summary**

For the Week Ending Sunday, May 13, 2012

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	25	77	50	+0	1.01	3.32
NH	23	81	52	+1	0.97	1.90
VT	27	80	53	+2	0.48	3.76
MA	32	84	56	+2	0.99	3.16
RI	39	79	57	+3	1.49	2.24
CT	34	81	57	+2	0.78	2.70

**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:** Hay is heading out shorter than usual because of the lack of rain. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** A cool week with plenty of wind, some showers on Thursday. Flowers were a large seller over Mother's Day weekend. Some farmers chopping grass for silage. Field corn planting continues and sweet corn development looks ok. Tree fruit not looking so great as some peaches were dropping fruit sets. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Field corn planting has been put on hold in favor of harvesting first cut haylage, with just under half of the acreage planted. April plantings are finally starting to emerge much to the relief of the early planters. We were worried the seeds had rotted in the cold soil. Grass is heading out early and short stemmed. Tonnage is off at least 15%. Orchardgrass is in full flower with timothy, alfalfa and clover not far behind. **Mary Concklin (Ext), Tolland:** Apple fruit set continuing to be assessed. Damage from freeze weekend becoming more evident with brambles, and many canes slow to push new leaves, others dead. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** A wet week. St Croix grapes hit hard by earlier frost. Planting and mowing hay.

**MAINE – Marcia Hall (FSA), Androscoggin/Oxford/Sagadahoc:** Received more rain last week which was needed throughout the counties. Field work is in full swing and crops are being planted. Greenhouses are full of flowers and vegetable plants. Pastures are looking much greener, but still behind in growth. **Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Great progress was made the first of the week. Early grain and broccoli has emerged. Rain over the weekend has stopped operations until midweek. Looking forward to some warm dry weather. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Farmers are waiting for the rain to stop to begin planting potatoes. Planting of grains continued. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** We now have had plenty of rain; we could use some warmth and sun. There have been more reports of apple blossom damage. The frost damage is elevation related with lower areas having more severe problems. Some of the early strawberry buds were also damaged. The grass is growing well. Farmers did plant some sweet corn early and are hoping they don't have to replant all of it with all the rain. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Cultivation is proceeding between rainfalls. The grass is starting to grow well. Soil temperatures are still in the low 60's. Strawberry and highbush blueberry blooms are early. Pollination could be poor due to cool wet weather. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** The weather for the past week is still keeping farmers off most of the land. Rain, rain go away. We need some warm dry days so farmers can start planting and spreading manure. Crops are expected to be a little later since current temperatures and moisture issues are slowing down the process of preparing fields. Apple trees are starting to bud out and some blossoms are on. Some winter kill on strawberries has been reported and blueberries are starting to bud out as well. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Lots of rain this week and very wet ground for fieldwork. With a frost Sunday night and heavy rain this week, it will be interesting to see how successful pollination was. **Elaine S. Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Another wet middle of the week allowing limited field work; however, field corn planting has begun! Producers anxiously awaited the fair weather over the weekend to continue with land preparation and planting. Apple producers continue to be concerned in some areas where frost occurred during the pink bloom stage of development. Until fruit set in a couple of weeks, it will be difficult to determine the extent of the frost damage. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Another wet and cold week. More frost damage on early flowering strawberries and potentially on highbush blueberries. Apple blossoms starting. Some corn planted before heavy rains on Wednesday and Thursday. It will be a few days before farmers can get into any fields. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Bees have been moved into most fields. The cool wet weather is delaying bloom and there were several infection periods for mummyberry infection, so growers were applying fungicides to protect the plants. Current

information on the disease progress may be obtained at: <http://mainewildblueberries.blogspot.com/>

**MASSACHUSETTS – Russell Norton (Ext), Barnstable:** Several days of decent work weather, also received heavy rain on Wednesday and Thursday locations reporting between 2.5 and 3.5 inches of rain. Second plantings of sweet corn have emerged. Noticed some damage on strawberries from frosts in April, less than 10%. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** A rainy and very cool week. Farmers were busy spreading manure, fertilizing fields, and plowing. Sweet corn is 10 inches tall under plastic and looks good. Potatoes are all planted and 25% have emerged already. Also, planting greens, cabbage, lettuce, spinach, onions and beets. Harvesting fiddleheads, greens, spinach, rhubarb, and asparagus. Orchardists are applying a protective fungicide sprays on their fruit trees. Many greenhouse growers were preparing for a great Mother's Day Weekend selling hanging flowers. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Thanks to 2-4 inches of rain last week, plants are much happier now. Only one night when growers had to watch for frost and most did not have to run the sprinklers that night. Cranberry vines are greening up nicely. Some flower buds are showing in the ditches, so bloom is not far away. Insects have been present, but not the huge populations we feared, except for winter moth. The latter has decimated some blueberries and cranberries and have required insecticides in several locations. Growers are cleaning ditches, applying fungicides, insecticides and herbicides, and finishing renovation projects and/or planting vines. So far so good.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack:** Over an inch and a half of rain fell mid-week (May 8, 9, and 10) which helped bring surface water levels closer to normal. Producers have reported planting about half their field corn on lower, well drained fields. Fields in the highlands were being prepped for planting early and late last week, as weather permitted. Temperatures have been hovering around normal with a cold night Saturday May 12 dipping down to a low of 31 degrees in Concord. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Some warm, sunny days with a little more rain mid-week. Livestock is out on pastures, and hayfields are growing nicely - a fair amount of grass is ready to mow. Field corn planting in full swing. Planting continues on vegetable operations. Producers still finding some cold injury on tree fruit and strawberries. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending May 12, weather remained cooler and scattered rain showers persisted for the majority of the week. Field work slowed down for a couple of days due to rainy wet conditions. Some farmers are planting corn, but many are still finishing up manure applications and ground preparations. Total rain fall for the week was 2 inches. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Apples are at petal fall in later blooming areas of the county area and determining to thin in early blooming areas of the county, but it is difficult due to frost occurrences. Some apples are still blooming. Strawberries are blooming. Orchardists and fruit growers are applying protective fungicide sprays on fruit trees and blueberries. Finishing up pruning peach trees. Planting new fruit trees and small fruit. Field Crops: Farmers are plowing, disking, fertilizing, planting corn, and applying herbicides. Pastures and hay fields starting to look good. Vegetables: Continued planting vegetables, along with successive planting of sweet corn and transplanting tomato plants in field. Laying plastic mulch and drip irrigation tape. Harvesting asparagus, spinach and greens. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Busy preparing vegetable fields, plowing, disking, fertilizing, laying black plastic mulch, and planting vegetables, potatoes and sweet corn. Harvesting greens. Monitoring pests in tree fruit orchards, and spraying protective fungicides. Preparing field corn and fertilizing hay fields. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** Rain mid-week hampered crop planting but helped spur on growth. Roughly 1.5 inches of rain fell during that time. Temperatures were seasonable in the 60s

during the week, with cooler lows in the mid to upper 30s going into the weekend. Once the rain cleared up, temperatures rose and field work resumed. It was a beautiful weekend with sunny skies and above average temperatures reaching into the low 80s in some areas.

**RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** Potatoes are finished being planted and are already emerging out of the ground. The early potatoes are a good four inches high. We just need some heat now. First cutting of hay is starting to top out and it looks real short, no height to it. We need more warm weather again! Strawberries still look good. It looks like we'll be picking them at the end of May, and that is a whole month early. The late strawberries are all in full bloom. The weather for the last two weeks, we got about six inches of needed rain. Now we need some nice sunshine and heat. This week the first three days are calling for showers again. No tomatoes, peppers, etc are being planted yet. Pastures are green, but not growing well.

**VERMONT – Daniel Hudson (Ext), Caledonia:** Frost earlier in the month caused significant damage to the apple blossoms, and I expect this will severely reduce the total apple crop in some areas. Forage is maturing rapidly and is at risk of passing prime prior to harvest if dry weather does not follow soon. **Paul Stanley (CCA),**

**Franklin:** Slow week in Franklin County with showers slowing field work and corn planting. Poor timing for the showers as producers are itching to get corn planted. Some vibes on haylage harvest. Grasses are at 10" to 15" with some early variety timothy heading out. Some are short of feed and this is what is driving the early harvest. Fields are on the wet side and will make any drying difficult. Apple trees seem to have come to flower and pedal fall all in the same week. Noticed some lilacs that have no flowers, maybe due to the frosty morning in the past couple of weeks. Not much happening with gardens as the rains have slowed plantings here also. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Farmers were working up their corn fields as much as possible with the rain that we got. It rained almost every day. Many corn fields are ready for planting. I expect planting will begin soon. Most farmers have started grazing their animals. With the moisture, grass is growing well. Most grass seeding had been completed. **Terence Bradshaw, (UVM):** Extended bloom in apples is making insecticide application and thinning treatments difficult. Apple scab is nearing the end of primary infection season, as we approach 100% ascospore maturity. Rain in the coming days may release the final spores of the season, but growers should maintain fungicide coverage for at least one more infection period before relaxing their program. This would be a good time to apply a first or second nitrogen application.

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