

Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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April 29, 2013 – 4 pm

For week ending 4/28/13

Spring arrives to most of New England

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending April 29, 2013, there were 5.8 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated 13% very poor, 24% poor, 34% fair, 26% good, and 3% excellent. Temperatures were below normal early in the week with most areas receiving at least one frost. By week's end temperatures warmed to normal or slightly above. Average daytime temperatures ranged from the low 40s to low 50s. Most of New England received less than 0.25 of an inch of precipitation though some coastal areas received well over an inch.

FRUIT: Development of fruit trees was considered to be closer to normal when compared to last year. Orchardists were finishing pruning, chopping brush, fertilizing and applying protective sprays. Cranberry growers ran sprinklers for frost protection at least four nights last week.

VEGETABLES: Vegetable growers were plowing, disking, and spreading fertilizer and lime. They were planting leafy greens, onions, peas, sweet corn, and cole crops. Some were transplanting tomatoes into high tunnels.

FIELD CROPS: Dry hay development has been slowed by the cooler temperatures this spring. Planting of field corn is just ahead of average. Some small grain seeding has been done as far north as Northern Vermont. Planting of potatoes and small grains in Maine had not begun, while planting of potatoes in Massachusetts and Rhode Island was underway.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	1	-	3
Short	32	-	19
Adequate	63	-	61
Surplus	4	-	17
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	-	3
Short	17	-	22
Adequate	76	-	60
Surplus	7	-	15

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Stage of Development	Condition
Apples	Dormant/Bud/Early Bloom	N/A
Peaches	Bud/Early Bloom/Full Bloom	N/A
Pears	Bud Stage	N/A
Blueberries		
Highbush	Dormant/Bud Stage	N/A
Wild	Dormant	N/A
Cranberries, MA	Bud Stage	N/A
Strawberries	Dormant/Bud Stage	N/A

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2013	2012	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				
Barley, ME	0	0	<5	N/A
Oats, ME	0	0	<5	N/A
Potatoes				
Maine	0	0	<5	N/A
Mass	25	90	20	N/A
Rhode Island	20	40	15	N/A
Silage Corn	5	10	<5	N/A
Sweet Corn	10	20	5	N/A
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	0	0	0	N/A
Shade	0	0	0	N/A
Dry Hay	-- Percent Harvested --			
First Cut	0	0	0	Fair/Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday April 22, 2013
 To: Sunday April 28, 2013

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
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	27	62	45	-3	10	+3	0	+0	0.09	-0.82	2	1.71	-1.75	12
Bangor_Intl_Arp	21	64	44	-3	6	+2	0	+0	0.18	-0.59	2	1.77	-1.31	12
Bethel	23	71	43	-4	13	+9	0	+0	0.01	-0.83	1	1.78	-1.58	8
Caribou_Municip	21	62	43	+2	9	+7	0	+0	0.10	-0.49	2	1.40	-0.87	14
Dover-Foxcroft	20	64	41	-2	8	+6	0	+0	0.17	-0.67	2	2.29	-0.99	13
Frenchville	21	60	42	+3	3	+3	0	+0	0.06	-0.57	1	1.04	-1.32	10
Houlton	18	63	42	+0	9	+7	0	+0	0.05	-0.60	2	1.35	-1.05	13
Livermore_Falls	22	63	42	-2	11	+9	0	+0	0.03	-0.88	1	1.71	-1.92	9
Moosehead	20	59	40	+0	4	+4	0	+0	0.00	-0.77	0	1.34	-1.52	11
Portland_ME	31	64	45	-2	14	+11	0	+0	0.08	-0.86	2	2.11	-1.71	12
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	23	73	43	-3	12	+0	0	+0	0.00	-0.70	0	2.41	-0.13	11
Berlin_AG	23	74	45	+2	21	+13	1	+1	0.00	-0.83	0	1.51	-1.65	11
Concord	24	77	46	-2	44	+32	2	+2	0.02	-0.68	1	2.01	-0.70	9
First_Conn_Lake	20	71	40	+2	11	+11	0	+0	0.05	-0.72	1	2.22	-0.62	12
Keene_AG	25	76	45	-5	20	-1	0	+0	0.00	-0.77	0	2.76	-0.17	11
North_Conway	25	71	44	-2	16	+9	0	+0	0.03	-0.95	3	2.01	-1.83	13
Rochester	27	71	45	-4	17	+2	0	+0	0.04	-0.94	1	2.27	-1.69	10
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	28	76	45	-1	42	+29	0	+0	0.06	-0.99	1	3.51	-0.51	12
Burlington_Intl	25	74	47	-2	34	+14	1	+1	0.06	-0.63	1	2.09	-0.47	14
Island_Pond	20	71	41	-2	7	+2	0	+0	0.04	-0.64	1	2.44	-0.04	12
Montpelier	21	74	42	-4	18	+8	0	+0	0.02	-0.58	1	2.04	-0.20	13
Rochester	22	75	42	-3	13	+5	0	+0	0.00	-0.91	0	2.96	-0.48	11
Rutland_AG	23	74	43	-7	15	-15	0	+0	0.00	-0.68	0	2.58	+0.12	9
Springfield_VT	24	75	45	-2	30	+19	0	+0	0.00	-0.91	0	2.12	-1.41	9
Sutton	23	70	42	+0	5	+3	0	+0	0.06	-0.64	1	2.79	+0.10	16
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	36	69	49	-3	64	+33	2	+2	0.16	-0.68	2	1.40	-1.96	11
Fitchburg	30	77	48	+3	67	+59	3	+3	0.06	-0.78	1	1.68	-1.48	9
Greenfield	29	75	48	-3	34	+6	0	+0	0.02	-0.87	1	2.46	-0.92	12
New_Bedford	29	65	48	-5	56	+22	3	+3	0.11	-0.81	3	2.43	-1.43	12
Otis_AFB	32	61	46	-3	34	+25	2	+2	1.74	+0.83	2	3.45	-0.15	12
Plymouth	30	65	47	-2	50	+40	2	+2	0.30	-0.68	3	2.07	-1.88	11
Walpole	30	70	47	-3	55	+37	2	+2	0.19	-0.77	2	1.80	-2.15	11
Chicopee/Westov	28	76	48	-6	58	+0	1	+1	0.10	-0.81	1	2.31	-1.28	10
Worthington	26	74	44	-2	12	+1	0	+0	0.08	-0.91	1	2.22	-1.46	12
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	35	72	50	-2	68	+43	2	+2	0.05	-0.87	3	1.99	-1.86	12
Woonsocket	32	75	49	+0	61	+46	1	+1	0.07	-0.91	2	1.68	-2.18	9
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	39	65	51	-1	69	+33	4	+4	0.00	-0.91	0	1.23	-2.26	5
Hartford/Bradle	32	75	50	-3	69	+25	2	+2	0.04	-0.87	1	2.10	-1.49	9
Norfolk	28	72	44	-3	14	+6	0	+0	0.00	-1.05	0	1.70	-2.45	9
Thomaston_Dam	28	73	47	-3	37	+14	0	+0	0.03	-0.99	1	1.60	-2.34	9
Willimantic	31	73	49	-2	67	+47	2	+2	0.07	-0.91	1	1.87	-2.02	9

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, April 28, 2013

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	17	72	42	-2	0.00	0.26
NH	13	77	44	-2	0.00	0.12
VT	20	80	43	-3	0.00	0.14
MA	25	78	47	-3	0.01	1.95
RI	32	75	48	-2	0.01	0.07
CT	28	75	48	-3	0.00	0.09

REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County: *Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), or other knowledgeable individuals.*

CONNECTICUT – Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland: So dry that you can plow and harrow the wet holes. Several days had frost to start but warmed up nicely. Dairy farmers adding water to manure pits to agitate solids and pump. Planting field corn, sweet corn, peas and cabbage. Some cattle put out on pasture. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Corn planting is getting underway. Grass greening slowly, needs water. Other crops are slow also. **Ann McCard (FSA), New London:** Very dry conditions throughout the county. Some field corn being planted. Early veggies and some sweet corn also in. Fruit trees in bloom. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** A cool, dry spring- temperatures have stayed low day and night. Starting to warm up. Spreading manure and harrowing fields. Finishing pruning of apples, blueberries, and raspberries. Soil testing fields.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: A few gardens being tilled. Slight greening in the hay fields. Looks like a lot of warm weather coming, so we will see some early birds in the fields by the end of the week. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** April has been dry and cool. Farmers are planting early crops; potatoes, peas, onions, Swiss chard, carrots and beets. The weather is great for planting this week! **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** The soil is drying out nicely. In fact, we will need rain soon. Manure is being spread and fence posts being driven. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Producers are spreading fertilizer/manure on fields that are high and dry. Grass is greening up and berries are starting to come alive as well. Slow start but good weather predicted for the upcoming week will help farmers to get a head start on grounds. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis /Penobscot:** Fields are slowly drying out. Some manure being spread on the driest fields. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Early vegetables appearing at Farmers Markets. **Elaine S. Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** After a relatively mild winter with minimal spring flooding problems, producers have begun field work, spreading manure, lime and plowing the fields they can get on. Some fields are too wet in some areas. Reports from a few maple sap producers indicate it was a good season. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Fields are being mowed and burned, in some areas it had been difficult to do the burning as wet and windy conditions have prevented it. In all blueberry areas, it has been a slow start to the season. The rain which lasted through Thursday did not cause much mummyberry infection since there are very few mature cups present to produce spores and the majority of the plants are not mature enough to become infected, so no fungicide treatments are recommended.

MASSACHUSETTS – Russell Norton (Ext), Barnstable: Weather conditions for the past week included approximately 2.00 inches of rain on Tuesday into Wednesday followed by good conditions the rest of the week highs in the high 50s/low60s, lows in the low 40s with bright conditions. Soils dry enough by the end of the week for tillage. Winter Moth hatch is coming to an end, growers are applying 2nd or 3rd control application. **Carolyn DeMoranville (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Cranberry buds are advancing, but nights remain chilly. Growers ran sprinklers to protect from frost on at least four nights this week.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Kelly McAdam (Ext), Belknap: Very little precipitation last week, however fields are still relatively moist from ground-thawing. **Olivia Saunders (Ext), Carroll:** Growers are busy in their seeding greenhouses and making preparations to transplant in their high tunnels. The soil was still frozen 4 inches down on April 18, although the past weeks warm weather has helped increase soil temperatures. Many have harvested fall planted spinach and early season radishes. Ice is out on the lakes, and snow has cleared the fields, although morning frosts are still quite regular. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Much cooler this spring than last year, but much closer to normal. Dry weather has allowed farms to get a lot of work done in the field. Dairy farms spreading manure and getting spring forage seedings in. Veggie operations getting fields ready and planting early crops. Fruit crops seem to be doing nicely so far. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending April 6th, weather remained good for field work. 2 Or 3 warm days toward the end of the week helped soil conditions and gave the grass a much needed kick start. Frost is still present below the surface, in colder soils in the upland areas. In the Ct. River valley, the frost is gone. Field activities on the well drained soils along the river bottom are in progress. Farms are spreading manure, plowing and harrowing, and seeding down alfalfa and grass. Maple sugaring is done. Some producers are reporting a good year while others are down 35% to 40%, depending on the location and aspect of their sugar bush. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Apples are at tight cluster stage. Peach are at pink stage to first bloom. Blueberry is at bud swell stage. Pruning last blueberry bushes and raspberry patches. Orchardists are chopping brush in orchard or push pruning out of the orchards. Fertilizing orchards. Protective fungicide sprays applied on fruit trees. Field Crops: Liming and fertilizing hayfields. Spreading manure, plowing, disking fertilizing and getting ready to plant corn. Fixing pasture fences. Also, getting ready to make new pasture and hayfield seedings. Vegetables: Transplanting tomatoes into high tunnels. Early season vegetables (peas, lettuce, greens) are being planted. Liming, fertilizing, plowing, disking (fields that are not too wet to work) and getting ready to plant fields. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Preparing fields for planting vegetables, small fruits, tree fruits. Spreading lime/Sulfur, fertilizer. Laying black plastic in vegetable fields. Planting tomatoes in High-tunnels. Spreading manure, lime in forage fields. Pastures are green. Finishing up pruning blueberry bushes, raspberries. Harvesting greens.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: As far as fruits, the weather was getting really nice during last week. They are not in the bud stage yet. We expect to see a lot of potatoes being planted this week. They are putting sweet corn in. Spring is here, where the nights are going to be in the 40's and days in the 60's and we are starting to move along. The hay fields need heat to grow. They are nice and green but need some heat. Most of the farmers are done planting strawberry plants. They are all in and can take the cool weather. I think this week we'll start to see some vegetables being planted: lettuce, cabbage, cold crops. I think spring is here even though it's a little cool, I think we'll see more and more being planted as the days go by.

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Started field tillage and corn planting on lighter soil. New seeding hay crops, spreading manure and tillage with spring tooth harrows, aeration tillage, disc harrows. Winter cover crops incorporated on lighter soil, less than 10 inches growth. Hay fields just starting to grow. **Daniel Hudson (Ext), Caledonia:** It is dry with no rain in the forecast. Manure is being applied. I expect that there will be/has been a lot of ammonia loss from topdressed manure. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Slow going due to cool weather. Fields are drying and many farms have started to plant new forage seedings. Small grains were planted last week and continue this week. Manure is being applied and fertilizer has been applied to first cut forage fields. Pasture is behind and just starting to green up in some areas. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Here we go!!!! Spring is underway in Franklin County. Manure is moving and some tillage underway. Soil is still cold, however, air temps are starting to warm things up all around. Soil surface is a little on the dry side keeping grass growth at a slow pace. **Dave**

Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans: The land has dried up enough to start tilling the lighter soil crop fields. Farmers have been spreading manure since the snow melt. Fields are just starting to turn green in the past few days. **Terence Bradshaw, (UVM):** Apples have been taking a long time to advance bud stages this year, with most cultivars at the half-inch green stage by Friday 4/26 in the Champlain Valley. Away from the Valley in high elevations, many apples are just now approaching green tip. Warm weather this week will advance bud stages pretty quickly, many should be at tight cluster by Wednesday. The dry weather has put apple scab season on hold, with no infections reported yet; however, when rains does comes, possibly late Tuesday, we could have 8-15% mature ascospores ready to release. Growers should keep an eye on the weather and make sure they have fungicide protection on before the next rain event. Insect activity in orchards is pretty quiet, but horticultural oil can be applied any time from now through tight cluster to suppress overwintering European red mite, codling moth, scale and aphids.

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