



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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

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Crop Weather

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For week ending 5/06/01

Heat Wave Dries out Wet Fields

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY For the Week Ending Sunday, May 6, 2001

STATE	AIR TEMPERATURES				PRECIPITATION	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	22	93	56	+10	0.00	0.32
NH	19	96	58	+10	0.00	0.98
VT	22	91	57	+9	0.00	0.09
MA	23	94	63	+12	0.00	0.06
RI	33	95	64	+13	0.00	0.01
CT	29	93	64	+12	0.00	0.01

Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

For the week ending May 6, 2001, there were 6.8 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 21% very short, 38% short, 38% adequate, 3% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 16% very short, 16% short, 66% adequate, 2% surplus. Pasture condition was rated as 11% very poor, 12% poor, 51% fair, 25% good, 1% excellent. Major farm activities included: planting field corn, sweet corn, and potatoes; spreading manure, prepping seed beds for planting, applying fertilizer, plowing, fixing fences, and setting up irrigation systems.

FIELD CROP PROGRESS ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	--Percent Planted--			2001 Condi ti on
	2001	2000	5yr-Avg	
Potatoes				
Maine	5	<5	5	---
Mass	40	55	50	---
Rhode Isl	35	30	45	---
Oats, ME	5	10	15	---
Silage Corn	10	<5	10	Good/Excel l ent
Barley, ME	5	15	15	---
Sweet Corn	25	15	15	Good
Dry Hay				
First Cut	0	0	0	Fai r/Good

FIELD CROPS: Record-breaking temperatures in some areas have dried up wet fields. Crops are being planted at a fast pace. Drought is a concern in some areas so farmers are irrigating where necessary to keep down dust. Warm weather has permitted operators to plant field corn and potatoes, spread manure, apply fertilizer and fix fences. Planting of potatoes in Rhode Island was above last year but behind the 5-year average. Potato planting in Massachusetts was behind both last year and the 5-year average. Alfalfa is looking good after a well-protected winter. Some animals have been put onto pastures.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Stage	Fruit Set	2001 Condi ti on
Apples	Bud/Early Bloom	--	Fai r/Good
Peaches	Early Bloom	--	Fai r/Good
Pears	Bud/Early Bloom	--	Good/Fai r
Strawberries	Bud Stage	--	Fai r/Good
Cranberries, MA	Bud Stage	--	Good/Fai r
Blueberries			
Highbush	Bud/Early Bloom	--	Fai r/Good
Wild, ME	Bud Stage	--	Good

VEGETABLES: Planting of broccoli, sweet corn, peas, lettuce and cabbage has begun. Plastic sweet corn has germinated. Tomatoes are being transplanted into high tunnels. High temperatures have affected early planting and harvest schedules.

FRUIT: Apples were in the bud to early bloom stage. Orchards are putting their first sprays on trees. Strawberries are starting to grow and irrigating has started on established beds. Fungicide application for mummy berry disease in blueberries has begun in some areas of the region. Cranberry vines look good; early varieties are green and later varieties starting to take on color. Pollination going well due to the abundant number of bees for this time of the year.

To receive this report every Monday evening, send an e-mail message to listserv@newsbox.usda.gov and in the body, type **subscribe usda-new-eng-crop-weather**

Statisticians: Suzanne Adams, Robin Helrich
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For the Week Ending Sunday, May 6, 2001

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		
	-----				BASE-50F		BASE-60F		-----			-----		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
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MAINE														
Augusta_ME	39	91	63	+14	120	+94	47	+47	0.10	-0.81	2	1.01	-2.55	6
Bangor	35	91	60	+12	96	+80	37	+37	0.17	-0.62	4	0.80	-2.31	8
Bethel	27	87	57	+9	90	+73	25	+25	0.00	-0.84	0	1.01	-2.35	3
Cari bou	30	87	55	+10	58	+48	17	+17	0.01	-0.65	1	0.74	-1.64	6
Dover-Foxcroft	29	87	56	+10	59	+49	14	+14	0.05	-0.79	2	0.50	-2.86	5
Frenchville	30	85	53	+9	42	+37	12	+12	0.01	-0.68	1	0.98	-1.52	6
Houlton	25	89	55	+10	65	+55	21	+21	0.03	-0.67	1	0.76	-1.80	6
Livermore_Falls	25	91	58	+12	91	+81	31	+31	0.05	-0.81	1	0.80	-2.79	5
Moosehead	26	88	53	+10	48	+46	8	+8	0.10	-0.65	2	0.41	-2.53	6
Portland_ME	33	92	61	+13	115	+101	42	+42	0.10	-0.79	1	1.15	-2.63	7
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	29	85	58	+10	94	+63	28	+28	0.04	-0.66	1	0.61	-2.06	5
Berlin_AG	30	87	57	+10	83	+60	23	+23	0.02	-0.76	1	0.50	-2.71	4
Concord	27	91	60	+11	142	+109	54	+54	0.07	-0.63	1	0.73	-2.06	6
Diamond_Pond	28	86	55	+13	57	+51	17	+17	0.04	-0.76	1	0.88	-2.10	6
Keene_AP	27	90	60	+8	134	+81	48	+45	0.98	+0.15	1	1.00	-2.07	3
North_Conway	28	91	61	+13	118	+93	46	+46	0.03	-0.88	1	0.73	-3.12	5
Rochester	26	95	63	+12	144	+103	67	+67	0.35	-0.60	2	1.42	-2.53	7
VERMONT														
Burlington_VT	32	89	62	+11	142	+94	55	+52	0.02	-0.66	1	0.45	-2.19	4
Island_Pond	28	84	54	+9	61	+46	12	+12	0.03	-0.70	1	0.46	-2.21	5
Montpelier	28	85	58	+10	98	+69	31	+31	0.01	-0.64	1	0.53	-1.85	7
Pownal	30	87	61	+13	129	+96	47	+47	0.00	-1.05	0	0.32	-3.80	5
Rochester	25	89	57	+10	81	+57	19	+19	0.05	-0.93	1	0.65	-2.99	5
Rutland_AG	27	87	58	+7	102	+38	29	+22	0.08	-0.64	1	0.43	-2.21	5
Sutton	27	84	56	+11	65	+54	19	+19	0.00	-0.74	0	0.71	-2.10	5
Townshend_Lake	28	90	59	+8	100	+57	28	+28	0.00	-0.79	0	1.27	-1.83	4
MASSACHUSETTS														
Ashburnham	30	89	62	+13	141	+117	54	+54	0.06	-0.72	1	0.97	-2.20	6
Boston	44	92	68	+15	203	+136	86	+86	0.01	-0.77	1	0.44	-2.86	8
Greenfield	23	92	62	+9	145	+80	51	+50	0.00	-0.87	0	0.82	-2.63	5
New_Bedford	34	91	64	+11	145	+75	45	+45	0.01	-0.85	1	1.39	-2.34	7
Otis_AFB	37	90	62	+12	118	+92	41	+41	0.01	-0.88	1	1.41	-2.21	9
Plymouth	30	90	62	+12	136	+107	41	+41	0.00	-0.97	0	1.65	-2.29	8
Walpole	34	94	66	+14	188	+143	80	+80	0.00	-0.86	0	0.74	-3.09	6
Westover	30	91	65	+10	204	+97	80	+73	0.01	-0.90	1	0.71	-2.93	7
Worthington	30	87	61	+12	125	+95	44	+44	0.00	-1.05	0	0.88	-3.05	6
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	37	92	67	+14	190	+135	72	+72	0.00	-0.91	0	1.17	-2.61	8
Woonsocket	33	95	66	+15	178	+137	73	+73	0.01	-0.96	1	1.27	-2.64	7
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport	39	86	65	+12	188	+114	57	+54	0.00	-0.91	0	1.41	-2.16	6
Hartford_AP	32	93	66	+11	219	+130	85	+78	0.01	-0.90	1	0.57	-3.07	7
Norfolk	35	87	62	+13	151	+125	60	+60	0.00	-1.05	0	0.84	-3.36	6
Thomaston_Dam	30	91	62	+11	157	+104	58	+58	0.00	-1.05	0	0.82	-3.22	6
Willimantic	32	93	66	+14	204	+154	75	+75	0.00	-0.98	0	0.69	-3.23	6

Summary based on NWS data.

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normal s 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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Weather Summary for New England Agricultural Statistics Service
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: Fields are drying out after a cool, late, spring. Planting of field corn is about two weeks behind last year. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Sweet corn and field corn planting has begun. Orchards are putting first sprays on trees. Hay and pasture development is delayed due to lack of rain. Tobacco seedlings in beds and green houses are looking very good. Bedding plants and flowers moving at farm stands. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Crops are going in the ground at record pace. Grass is growing rapidly. No major problems reported by anyone. **Karen Lockman (FSA), New Haven:** Unusual weather conditions resulted in a heat wave, with temperatures in the 90s for more than 3 consecutive days. Lack of rain has caused some problems and farmers are irrigating very dry soils. Early planted sweet corn and silage corn have emerged. Bedding plants are flowering and are ready to go. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** First year alfalfa looking good after a well protected winter. Plowed corn fields creating lots of dust for the neighborhoods, with no rain expected until Thursday. Dust seems to be the topic of the suburbanites, more than the manure odor. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Dry, Dry, Dry....third driest April in 100 years according to Connecticut News Station, farmers are spreading manure and harrowing with a lot of powder, temperatures in the 80's and 90's have brought on full blossoms in peaches with other fruits right behind. Bees have to get to work to pollinate while the flowers are on the trees, only for a short while if the heat continues.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Practically no field work as yet. Minimal tillage last couple of days. Next week field planting should begin. **Erin Chadborne (Ext), Aroostook:** Currently, potatoes, oats, barley, and broccoli are being planted. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Dry weather has allowed farmers to start tilling the fields that have good drainage. Some farmers have started turning out a few animals on pasture, but most pastures are just starting to green up. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Dry Conditions have allowed a lot of early field work. Lots of manure being spread. Some corn already planted. We need some significant rain. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Planting has begun. Some early corn has emerged. Burning continues on blueberry fields; unusually late due to the weather we had. We went from heavy snow cover to extremely dry conditions in record time! Fire danger is high! **David Yarborough (UM), Washington:** Fields being pruned by burning and mowing. Pre-emergence herbicide application being made to non-bearing fields. Fungicide applications being made for mummy berry disease. Strawberry root worm adults and early instar span worm larvae found in sweeps. Fields extremely dry. Development normal. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** The warm, dry weather has allowed many farmers to start spreading manure and preparing the land for planting. Some of the early crops are in the ground. It is very dry and we are in need of some moisture for all crops. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Field preparation has started with manure spreading. Strawberries are being irrigated. Maple sap production is down 50% or more. Despite record setting heat, there is still snow left in the woods and on roadsides in some areas. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** It's been a long snowy winter! Oxford county has just started to receive weather to permit ground preparation. Seed beds are being tilled and prepped for planting. A few cold crops have been planted. Snow melt was slow and no rain in sight.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Planting corn, applying fertilizer. Overly dry. **William Graham (FSA), Worcester:** Plowing corn and vegetable areas and spreading manure on fields. So far, crops are looking normal for this time of year. Not too wet. Soil moisture high. Fields are workable. Still a bit early in the season. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Very low temperatures Sunday night into Monday morning. Running the sprinklers on a frost night is one way to irrigate, something growers have needed to do since it has not rained appreciably here since April 18. Quite a contrast from the record-breaking rainfall we had in March. Cranberry vines look good for the most part. Things advanced significantly last week with Wednesday through Friday in the low 90's. Early varieties are all greened up and later varieties are taking on color. I have never seen so many bumblebees at this time of the year; boding well for subsequent pollination. At this point the industry is waiting for word on whether there will be a marketing order to reduce the crop or not. Many more beds than usual are being held under a late water flood at the present time. This may be to compress the bloom into a shorter period in order to destroy the bloom with a June flood. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Record breaking high and low temperatures have affected early planting and harvest schedules. It's been a difficult week for any crops grown under plastic row covers. Frosty weather at the beginning of the week was followed by 90 degree heat. Asparagus is still in short supply. Farm tillage and manure spreading are ahead of schedule. **Ted Smiarowski Jr (FSA), Hampshire:** Preparing land for spring seeded crops, spreading manure, top-dressing hay fields, subsoiling and fixing fences. Planting corn, potatoes, peas, lettuce and cabbage. Harvesting fiddleheads and asparagus. It is dry and farmers are irrigating their early crops. Fruit trees are in bloom. Strawberry growers have lain remay over strawberry beds for earlier production. Nursery growers are very busy harvesting their stock for spring sales. Greenhouse growers have had a good growing season and sales are very good. Most of the week was very dry, warm and sunny.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Bruce Clement (Ext), Cheshire: Hot, dry weather for much of April and early May has helped to dry out fields but is raising concerns about drought. Crops have wintered well with the exception of rhododendrons. Manure and fertilizer spreading, seedings, plowing and harrowing, fence repair, fruit spraying and all other usual spring activities going on. Need rain! **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** After a long winter, summer came. Had rain on Friday. Spreading manure and fertilizer ongoing. Preparing seed beds. Some seeding being done. Early vegetables being planted. Pruning blueberry bushes. Need rain. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Liming and fertilizing hayfields. Spreading manure, plowing, disking, fertilizing and planting corn. Making new pasture and hayfield seedings. Vegetables: Transplanting tomatoes into high tunnels. Early season vegetables (peas, lettuce, greens) are being planted, along with sweet corn. Plastic sweet corn germinated. Fruits: Bloom is one week ahead. Apples were in full bloom in the Hollis area on Sunday. Peaches are at full petal fall. Strawberries starting to grow and irrigating established beds. Planting fruit trees, raspberries, blueberries and strawberries. Fertilizing orchards. Protective fungicide sprays applied. Winter-kill seen on highbush blueberries and some apple trees. Weather: From snow-covered field, three to four weeks, ago to extremely dry condition for beginning of the growing season. Some grower have started to irrigate fruit crops and early season vegetables that have been planted.

RHODE ISLAND - Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties: We have already experienced record temperatures, up to 90 degrees in the past week. Top soils are very dry from breezy days and lack of rain. Market crops are being planted earlier than usual. The fruit tree bloom is magnificent. Sunny, warm days will hopefully bring us good pollination. Potato planting was underway as of last week. No rain in the extended weather forecast. It is much too dry for early May!

VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille: Recent weather has been great for fieldwork. Everyone busy spreading manure and commercial fertilizer, fixing fences, and getting ready to plant. **Larry Hamel (NRCS), Orleans:** We need rain. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Land preparation for planting corn, manure spreading, fertilizer spreading on hay fields. Some corn planted, some new seedings of hay crop. Warm dry weather for two weeks has dried out soil nicely. Pasture growth slow, little winter injury. **Richard Noel (FSA), Franklin:** Manure being spread all over, seedings being done; 25% of corn in the ground. Surface moisture is lacking, but subsurface moisture is good. Alfalfa came through the winter very well and grass is good, but needs a good rain right now or farmers are looking at a half a crop!

Pastures are green, but are short. Grass starting to brown were ledge is close! **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Record temperatures (80's) melted the rest of the snow, except in the woods. Gentle warming before this week made for very minor flooding this spring after the record winter snow. Even after all of this melted snow, the ground is dry, allowing for a furious start to spring's work- fixing fences, spreading manure, seeding hay ground, and harrowing ground for corn. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Plowing under winter rye. Planting early sweet corn. Fertilizing. Soil dry on surface, but moist underneath. Need rain. **George Cook (Ext), Lamoille:** Dry weather for spring activities: manure spreading, top dressing with commercial fertilizer, plowing, harrowing, etc. Need rain. **Bill Snow (Ext), Orange:** We finally lost most of the patches of snow that were in shaded areas. The 80 degree temperatures did a lot to get rid of it fast. Despite the deep snow pack in April ground moisture is low because of no rainfall in several weeks. Saw the first grazing of cows this weekend. A lot of manure being spread, a lot of new seeding were also put in last week. Fencing may take longer than usual due to a lot of tree damage during the winter. Sounds like above normal temperatures and no rain for most of the week ahead.

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