



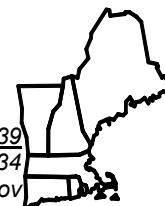
New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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Crop Weather

Volume 23, Number 6

(issued weekly on the Internet, May - October)

June 2, 2003 - 4 pm

For week ending 6/1/03

Wet Weather Continues

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending June 1, 2003, there were 3.7 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 0% very short, 1% short, 63% adequate, 36% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 0% very short, 9% short, 72% adequate, 19% surplus. Pasture condition was rated as 0% very poor, 3% poor, 12% fair, 64% good, 21% excellent. Below average temperatures and rain continued throughout most of the week. New England awaits sunny, warm weather to aid crop growth, boost sales and allow field activities to continue. Major farm activities included: planting vegetables, sweet corn, field corn, potatoes and small grains; transplanting shade tobacco; spreading manure; applying fertilizer, herbicides and fungicides.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	2	3
Short	1	3	12
Adequate	63	71	64
Surplus	36	24	21
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	0	3	0
Short	9	4	27
Adequate	72	77	64
Surplus	19	16	9

FRUIT: Wet weather during peak blossom for apples and strawberries may impact pollination. Strawberry farmers were keeping their fingers crossed and wondering if the crop will be ready by July 4th. Orchardists and small fruit producers were applying fungicides to reduce the pressure of fruit diseases. Late varieties of cranberries were just turning green and the buds on early varieties and hybrids were starting to swell. Several growers applied Avaunt for control of cranberry weevil. A number of beds had near threshold levels of black-headed fireworm.

FIELD CROPS: Rain and field conditions again prevented farmers from accomplishing much this week. Some growers tried to mud in some corn. Corn that had emerged was short and sickly yellow in color. Grass harvest was way behind due to wet fields and no heat to wilt haylage. Field corn planting continued as weather permitted and manure applications to hay were made to fields. Potato planting in Massachusetts and Rhode Island was close to wrapping up and right on schedule by week's end, with emergence well underway. Maine potato farmers were catching up on planting. Shade tobacco growers had completed 85 percent of transplanting by the end of the week. Broadleaf tobacco growers were getting underway with 10 percent of transplanting complete.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Stage	Fruit Set	Fruit Size	Condition
Apples	FB/Petal Fall	Avg/A.Avg		Good/Fair
Peaches	Petal Fall	Avg/B.Avg		Good/Fair
Pears	Petal Fall	Avg		Good/Fair
Blueberries				
Highbush	EB/Petal Fall	A.Avg/Avg		Fair/Good
Wild, ME	FB	Avg	--	Fair
Cranberries, MA	Bud	--	--	Good/Fair
Strawberries	EB/Petal Fall	Avg/B.Avg		Good/Fair

* FB = Full Bloom, EB=Early Bloom

VEGETABLES: Pumpkin, squash and tomato planting continued last week. Sweet corn under plastic was thriving. Too much rain over the weekend was hurting bedding plants. Farm sales continued to suffer as rain and cool weather discouraged gardening. Saturday, however, did bring out market gardeners, as summer weather made a brief appearance. Farmers continued to harvest asparagus, greens and rhubarb. Sweet corn fields reached 30 percent emergence last week.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2003	2002	5-yr Avg	Percent Emerged	Condition
-- Percent Planted --					
Barley, ME	85	90	95	20	Fair
Oats, ME	85	90	95	20	Fair
Potatoes					
Maine	85	85	90	--	Fair
Mass	95	95	95	40	Good
Rhode Isl	100	100	99	35	Good/Excel
Silage Corn	55	65	75	25	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	55	60	65	30	Fair/Good
Tobacco					
Shade	85	50	75	--	Good/Fair
Broadleaf	10	30	35	--	Good/Fair
Dry Hay	-- Percent Harvested --				
First Cut	5	15	20	--	Good/Fair

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 1, 2003

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		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F TOT	BASE-60F DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	47	72	58	-2	170	-20	24	+4	0.97	+0.13	5	2.44	-0.98	13
Bangor_Intl_Arp	45	72	57	+0	168	+20	22	+11	1.03	+0.25	4	2.56	-0.68	9
Bethel	44	73	56	-3	134	-26	12	-2	0.96	+0.10	6	2.31	-1.02	14
Caribou_Municip	41	75	57	+2	120	+9	21	+13	1.05	+0.35	4	2.24	-0.56	13
Dover-Foxcroft	40	66	53	-4	85	-29	6	-1	0.65	-0.19	5	1.82	-1.44	12
Frenchville	44	77	56	+2	117	+32	29	+29	0.26	-0.44	3	0.87	-1.96	7
Houlton	39	70	57	+2	133	+20	16	+7	0.90	+0.13	5	2.35	-0.70	13
Livermore_Falls	45	74	57	+2	136	+21	13	+6	0.87	-0.03	5	2.12	-1.30	12
Moosehead	37	67	53	+0	75	+7	7	+7	0.96	+0.13	6	1.91	-1.23	14
Portland_ME	47	70	57	-1	164	+27	19	+14	1.48	+0.71	7	3.24	+0.03	17
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	47	70	56	-3	152	-28	15	-7	1.84	+1.00	7	3.23	+0.09	16
Berlin_AG	47	70	56	-2	154	-4	19	+1	0.90	+0.02	6	2.27	-0.99	12
Concord	47	76	58	-2	235	+25	36	+7	1.76	+1.02	5	3.99	+1.15	15
Diamond Pond	43	65	51	-2	70	-1	5	+5	1.44	+0.46	7	3.16	-0.47	19
Keene_AP	48	75	59	-4	232	-49	24	-29	2.86	+1.98	7	4.18	+0.75	15
North_Conway	45	71	56	-4	177	-7	19	-4	1.45	+0.54	7	3.02	-0.61	17
Rochester	48	72	57	-4	175	-67	21	-18	1.94	+1.10	5	4.13	+0.65	15
VERMONT														
Burlington_Intl	50	72	60	+0	305	+49	40	-8	0.67	-0.08	5	2.87	+0.02	11
Island Pond	47	71	56	+1	146	+32	12	+2	0.87	-0.06	6	2.77	-0.64	15
Montpelier	47	69	57	-2	172	-3	16	-5	0.83	+0.03	4	1.15	-1.85	8
Pownal	48	71	58	-1	196	+10	11	-14	1.85	+0.80	4	4.58	+0.44	15
Rochester	48	71	58	+1	160	+0	9	-9	1.72	+0.75	7	3.87	-0.04	15
Rutland_AG	48	71	58	-4	194	-101	18	-45	1.73	+0.90	6	4.11	+0.92	16
Sutton	46	68	55	+0	145	+33	9	-1	1.77	+0.86	7	3.82	+0.49	17
Townshend_Lake	49	75	58	-3	174	-62	13	-27	1.85	+1.08	6	3.90	+0.69	17
MASSACHUSETTS														
Ashburnham	47	75	57	-2	206	+34	20	+4	2.32	+1.49	5	4.20	+1.00	14
Boston/Logan_In	47	75	59	-5	299	-10	58	+17	2.96	+2.25	5	4.08	+1.17	15
Greenfield	49	78	60	-4	270	-42	33	-22	1.91	+1.00	6	3.83	+0.31	17
New_Bedford	46	75	58	-5	213	-96	11	-29	1.57	+0.73	2	2.96	-0.36	13
Otis_AFB	46	75	57	-2	191	+11	14	+1	1.17	+0.37	2	2.96	-0.36	11
Plymouth	46	74	57	-4	216	+17	19	+1	1.56	+0.72	2	3.07	-0.47	14
Walpole	45	77	58	-4	268	+24	42	+10	3.14	+2.36	6	4.20	+1.09	17
Chicopee/Westov	50	77	59	-6	302	-99	40	-45	2.19	+1.21	6	3.76	+0.03	17
Worthington	47	74	57	-2	168	-13	9	-12	2.45	+1.46	5	4.76	+0.62	14
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	47	76	59	-3	287	+13	34	+0	2.06	+1.25	4	3.32	-0.04	14
Woonsocket	46	77	58	-4	237	-3	23	-2	3.28	+2.37	5	4.38	+0.72	16
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	49	76	60	-3	286	-38	33	-29	4.25	+3.41	6	6.03	+2.50	16
Hartford/Bradle	50	78	61	-4	362	-9	59	-20	3.48	+2.57	5	4.97	+1.24	14
Norfolk	48	70	57	-2	181	+4	7	-11	4.19	+3.14	4	5.69	+1.55	14
Thomaston_Dam	46	76	61	-1	294	+34	36	-4	4.91	+3.93	6	6.49	+2.49	17
Willimantic	48	78	59	-3	280	+19	30	-9	3.52	+2.61	7	4.64	+0.87	17

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY
For the Week Ending Sunday, June 1, 2003

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.

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	34	79	56	-1	0.00	1.86
NH	33	77	56	-3	0.90	4.11
VT	42	76	58	-1	0.13	2.29
MA	45	79	58	-3	0.64	3.55
RI	46	77	57	-4	1.71	3.28
CT	46	81	60	-3	3.19	4.91

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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: Weather has been very cool and wet. Corn that has emerged is yellow. We need some warm days. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Wet and cool weather prevailed for most of the week. Setting of shade tobacco nearly complete but broadleaf growers are waiting for soil to warm up. Sweet corn and field corn showing a lot of yellow at two leaf stage. Some setting of tomato plants and plantings of summer squash are in the ground. Too much rain on the weekends is hurting bedding plant sales. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Unusually cold, wet weather is causing concern as crops cannot be planted nor hay harvested. Hoping for sun this week. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Cold, wet, weary weather. Still trying to get corn planted and harvesting haylage. No consistent sun, no hay to date. Planting pumpkins and cut flower seedlings. Bedding plant sales hurt with wet weekends. Fruit trees gearing up for good production. **Nancy Welsh/Karen Lockman (FSA), New Haven:** Weather pattern still cool and rainy. Plant sales are not doing well, no one is thinking about gardening. Corn is up, for those who got it in early enough. Hay is being cut though it is wet, producers can't wait. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Rain and field conditions again prevented farmers from accomplishing a lot this week. Some growers tried to mud in some corn. Grass harvest is way behind due to wet fields and no heat to wilt haylage. Emerged corn is short and sickly yellow in color in a lot of fields.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Many growers have completed planting. Those who have not would need only two or three good days to finish. However, showers during the last part of the week curtailed any field activity. Small grains are emerging rapidly due to moist weather and warm temperatures. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Farmers are still trying to finish up planting crops. The recent rain has slowed progress. Hopefully, by the end of the week, all crops should be in the ground. **Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Things are going well. We need sunshine. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Cattle are grazing, though growth of forage has been slow. Potatoes are nearly all planted. Corn is being planted. **Donna Lamb (Ext), Piscataquis:** Cool wet weather has delayed a lot of farm activities. Hay farmers are applying fertilizer to hay fields. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Wet weather has slowed field work and crop progress. Cold soils have slowed germination. Wet weather during peak blossom for apples and strawberries may impact pollination. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Silage corn planted. Row crops being planted. Another week of cool, overcast weather could mean pollination problems in blueberry fields. Sweet corn is up. Saturday was a good day for bees, farmers and market gardeners with summer weather. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Cold wet weather delaying bloom and reducing pollination. Little insect activity because of cool conditions. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** What a lousy week. It's been cold and wet most of the week. A few rays of sunshine have allowed the producers to farm around the edges. When weather allowed, the tractors were tearing up the fields, of course in a Conservation-like manner. Producers have made a good dent in the number of acres that they want planted to corn. The potato growers are just about done. Apple growers are concerned with the wet, cold weather. The bees aren't very busy in that atmosphere. Sweet corn is thriving under the plastic, and strawberry growers are keeping their fingers crossed. Isn't farming fun! **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Still cool and wet, most crops are very slow developing, grass is looking good and some are chopping. Strawberry growers are starting to wonder if the crop will be ready for the 4th. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** Wet weather continues. Most planting of crops has come to a halt due to wet ground. Daily temperatures are below normal. Producers are ready to return to planting as soon as the ground dries and the sun reappears. Wonder when that will be?

MASSACHUSETTS - Paul Russell (FSA), Southeast Massachusetts: And the rain continues, wet cool weather dominated southeastern Massachusetts last week, by the time the soil dried enough to work it started to rain again. Late variety of cranberries are just turning green and the bud on early varieties and hybrids are starting to swell. Vegetables that have been transplanted are doing nothing and growers are concerned the crops planted from seed may have poor germination. **Kip Graham (FSA), Worcester:** Manure has been spread, but too wet to go in the fields to plant. Have to wear knee boots to get into fields. The rain is preventing farmers to plant. Could be a bad scab year. Need more sun to make fruit grow right. Again, too much rain!

Too much rain - will wash fertilizer off and will have to reapply. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Warmer temperatures got things moving a bit, especially lending to less dormant red color in the later cultivars. Several growers have applied Avaunt for control of cranberry weevil. Several beds have near threshold levels of black-headed fireworm. No frost nights. More than 2 inches of rain fell in most of the area on Sunday. Vines look very good so far. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** More cold weather and rain has kept field work to a minimum. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** Another week of unsettled and cool weather has delayed planting and harvesting operations. Cool season crops and grasses look great although many hay fields have lodged. Fruit growers are concerned pollination rates may be lower than normal. **Paul Fischer (FSA), Essex/Middlesex:** Several days of below normal temperatures and what seems like constant rain has significantly delayed field work. Farmers are running approximately two weeks behind schedule. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr./Julie Jacque (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The month of May was very cool and rainy. May didn't have many days in the high 70's and above. Sunshine and heat are needed for all crops. Orchardists and small fruit producers are applying fungicides to reduce the pressure of fruit diseases. Vegetable crops are growing very slowly due to the cool and cloudy weather. Growers are harvesting greens, asparagus, and rhubarb. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Growers have been fighting weather and lousy weekend market conditions. Good retail sale day on Sat but can we get at least one nice weekend? In two days that were good this week growers were busy transplanting crops and planting more corn. Emerged corn looks excellent.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: Rain, rain and more rain, more rain forecast for this week. Some dry days will be needed in order to begin first cutting, fields are very wet. Temperatures remain in the 60's and low 70's still feels like April even though the calendar says June. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Rain every day. Many grass stands have headed out - forage quality is decreasing steadily, but farms can't get in to harvest. Alfalfa is ready to harvest. Most of the corn along the CT River is planted, still some to plant in wetter soils. Much of planted corn has emerged - spike stage. Wet weather continues to delay operations on fruit and vegetable operations, and greenhouses are noticing a drop in business. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Somewhat wet field conditions delay haylage harvest as orchard grass heads out alfalfa at bud stage. Nearly all corn now planted, in later than usual generally. Spring vegetables in and could use some sun to get growing, also to get the honeybees working. Apples now at blossom stage. Black flies have certainly arrived. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Rain and showers all week delayed the beginning of first cutting. A few small areas got started but the real push will be this coming week, as weather looks more promising. Corn planting finishing up and most corn has emerged. Grasses heading out slowly due to cooler than normal weather. Alfalfa in late vegetative to bud stage. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the month of May, weather conditions were cool, with light showers. We received a total of 2.85 inches of rain for the month at our Woodsville location. Top soil moisture is adequate. Grass is growing well. Persistent rain showers since the 24th of May have delivered a total of 1.23 inches of rain, and frustrated farmers. First cut is ready, now we need the weather to dry hay. Corn is mostly planted. Early planted corn is up about 6"-8". A couple of apple growers felt that pollination could be down due to the showery weather of the past few days, but acknowledged it only takes one good day for adequate pollination. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Weather: Rain was on and off for most of the week along with windy conditions on Sunday. Fruits: With all the rain during week, orchardists making sure to have protective fungicide sprays applied. Moved bees out of orchards. Blueberries and strawberries are blooming. See some winter injury on raspberries and blueberries. Mowing orchards. Vegetables: Harvesting asparagus, rhubarb and some spinach. With the rain during week, it was very difficult to do any field work, including making successive plantings of sweet corn and trying to finish potato planting. Planting tomato transplants. Field Crops: Difficult to plant and weed spray corn fields with rainy conditions. Some farmers are starting to make haylage, difficult to do because of wet weather. **David Seavey (Ext), Merrimack:** Hayland and pasture seedings continue. Highbush blueberries fertilized. Vegetables planted under row covers. Nurseries still planting trees and shrubs. Orchardists are finding difficulty in timing sprays with block of trees in different stages of development. Extended periods of wet weather has set the stage for fireblight and apple scab concerns. Some orchards sprayed for plum curculio. Pre-emergence weed control sprays on

vegetables. Highbush blueberries in full bloom. Corn is out of the ground but is off color due to cloudy weather and cold, wet soils. Lush grass growth. Haylage cutting is limited due to lack of sunlight. Concerns for leaching of pre-emergence herbicides. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Making successive vegetable plantings between rain. Cultivating vegetable fields. Monitoring pests in apple and tree fruits orchards and small fruits. Plant growth slow due to cool and wet weather. Hay about ready for harvest. **Pam Marvin (FSA), Sullivan:** More rain this past week has put hay and haylage cutting a little behind and also the last of the corn to be planted. First cut of haylage and alfalfa look really good. Strawberries, apples, peaches and pears are progressing nicely. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Rain showers and little sunshine through the week. Pastures and hay fields growing well. Fruit growers spraying protective fungicide sprays, and monitoring for both disease and insect pests. Vegetable growers start to plant warm season crops. Greenhouses and nurseries picking up in their plant sales. **RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** A cloudy, cool week. Field work for crops continued, herbicide being applied on potatoes, sweet corn and field corn being planted and summer crops going in. Some of the more tender vegetables are still not being planted. Roadside stands are busy hoping to catch up on some of the lost business from a rainy Memorial Day.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Not a very good week for doing fieldwork. Some progress was made on finishing up corn planting and there were a few opportunities for herbicide spraying. First cut of grass is delayed and hopefully will catch up this week. Vegetable transplants and seedlings are about on schedule and what's in the ground is doing fine. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Almost all corn has been planted. A few landowners have started first cut haying. Most fields are wet and farmers are making tracks. Hay crop appears to be heavy. A few days of sun would be good to start to dry things out. **Lynette**

Hamilton/Perley Sparrow (FSA), Windham: The cool wet weather has slowed up the vegetable crops, but for transplanting the extra water has saved on irrigating. Hay producers say it is time to get started but need warmer weather and more sunshine. Apple producers are reporting a good set of fruit and blueberries and strawberries will be in full bloom this week. Corn is up but not growing very fast, needs hotter temperatures. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Very little ground scratched up this week, very wet. Corn in spike stage, weed control spraying activity between showers. A few windrows laid down at end of week, no chopping yet. New seedlings look good. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Damp cool week. But not a lot of rain. Grass really grew even with little sun. Some corn has emerged, I would think with sun and warmer temperatures for a few days this week, the season will really progress. People trying to get outside, but weather did not allow it. Monday's sun will see lots of tractors and people in motion. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Very good cutting of asparagus. Spraying early sweet corn for weed control. Dairy farmers planting corn. Mid-season sweet corn planted, second planting of beans. Some hay ready to cut when weather changes. 0.687 in. rainfall. Cloudy, damp week. Not much rain, early corn came up good but needs sun to color it up. Peas coming along great. Vegetables slow without sun. Asparagus still cutting good. Hope sun will come back soon. **Chris Benedict (Ext), Chittenden:** Cool, and very wet weather sums this previous week. Prior to the onslaught of wet weather we had reached full bloom, early last week. Petals have begun to fall. The cooler weather this previous week has slowed arthropod development, but disease concerns are still heightened. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Rain rain go away..... Scattered showers most of the week. Delayed some field work, however, farmers were trying to work fields and plant corn in between pesky rain showers. Corn is starting to emerge and most is at spike stage. Very little hay was mowed and conditions poor for drying. Very wet haylage going into storage.

May 2003 Crop Weather Summary: Unseasonably cool temperatures dominated the month of May, causing planting schedules in New England to fall behind by as much as three weeks. Low soil temperatures early in the month stunted germination of crops already in the ground. The below average temperatures also raised the threat of frost, causing farmers to irrigate to protect certain crops. Similar to last year, hay growers were optimistic about this year's crop due to the fact that cool, wet conditions in spring provide optimal growing conditions. Potato planting progress was close to the five-year average as of May 27 in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Maine potato planting progress was below the five-year average by twenty percent on the same date, as growers were forced to wait out the lingering cool conditions. Shade tobacco transplanting reached 45 percent complete by the end of the month, as broadleaf growers prepared to set out seedlings. Field and sweet corn plantings were behind normal schedules, as neither had reached the halfway mark by month's end. Most tree fruit crops had reached petal fall stage and were rated in good to fair condition. Spring weather conditions were not optimal for pollination this year; bee populations in the area had suffered from a harsh winter. Maine wild blueberry growers kept active during the month as they pruned and applied fungicides and herbicides to fields. Cranberries in Massachusetts were in bud stage by month's end, and growers kept watch for fungus and insects.

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**

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