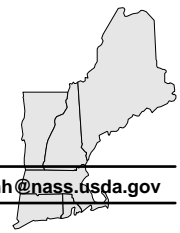




New England Agricultural Statistics



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

Volume 26, Number 7

Crop Weather

(Issued weekly on the internet, May – October)

June 12, 2006 – 4 pm

For week ending 6/11/06

Way too Much Water, Way too Little Sunshine

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending June 11, 2006, there were 3.0 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture: 27% adequate, 73% surplus. Subsoil moisture: 46% adequate, 54% surplus. Pasture condition: 1% poor, 6% fair, 60% good, 33% excellent. Another week of cool, rainy conditions and most farm work was at a standstill. Some New England locations had minor flooding throughout the week and into the weekend. Most of the region had heavy rains on Friday and Saturday. By Sunday, clear skies and breezy conditions finally arrived.

FRUIT: Continual rain has caused some disease problems and scabbing in berries and fruits. Pick your own strawberries have started to open in Connecticut but weather conditions have hindered pickers from coming to the fields. There were reports of hail damaged fruits as a result of Wednesday's storm. Maine wild blueberry growers removed bees from fields and recent rains limited pollination last week in down-east fields. Massachusetts cranberry beds were underwater toward the end of the week and injuries to vines should be minimal. Rainy conditions continued to allow insects to thrive. Fruit growers were busy monitoring pest and crop development. Most fruit tree growers were unable to find enough dry weather to spray trees to prevent scab.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Stage	Fruit Set	Condition
Apples	Petal Fall	Average	Good/Fair
Peaches	Petal Fall	Average	Fair/Good
Pears	Petal Fall	Average	Good/Fair
Blueberries			
Highbush	FB/PF	Average	Good/Fair
Wild, ME	Petal Fall	Average	Good
Cranberries, MA	Bud Stage		Good
Strawberries	FB/PF	Average	Good

EB = Early Bloom, FB = Full Bloom, PF = Petal Fall

VEGETABLES: Continuous rain has caused vegetable growers to wait for drier days to come. Most vegetable growers are at a standstill with planting due to fields being too wet to enter. Sweet corn growers continued to plant more corn as weather permitted for equipment to access fields. Those able to continue on were busy planting eggplants, peppers, pumpkins, tomatoes, and winter squash. In drier areas of fields growers were able to cultivate crops to help dry out. Harvesting continued for asparagus, greens, rhubarb, and spinach. Greenhouses and nurseries are starting to overflow with flowers as sales are low due to rainy weather.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	3
Short	0	6	6
Adequate	27	33	77
Surplus	73	61	14
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	3
Short	0	6	10
Adequate	46	54	76
Surplus	54	40	11

FIELD CROPS: Cool, wet weather hindered farmers from doing field work during the week. Most fields are too saturated for equipment to access. The recent rain storms caused fields to leach and tests results show low level of nitrogen. Maine potato growers were unable to access fields to finish planting. Reports of some seed rot from earlier planted crops. Rhode Island potatoes have completely emerged and Massachusetts potatoes were close to three quarters emerged at week's end. Some farmers were able to plant more field corn where soils permitted. When the sun was out, farmers took advantage of the weather and cut more first cutting. Most of the hayfields are over mature and drier weather is needed to harvest first crop. Maine oats and barley are ahead of schedule and most of the crop has emerged. Tobacco growers were busy transplanting in between rain storms and half of the broadleaf crop was planted and ten percent of the shade crop remained to be planted at week's end.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2006	2005	5-yr Avg	Condition
	--Percent Planted--			
Potatoes				
Maine	95	95	99	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	80	90	85	Fair
Sweet Corn	65	75	80	Fair/Good
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	50	70	60	Good/Fair
Shade	90	100	95	Fair/Good
	--Percent Emerged--			
Barley, ME	95	70	80	Good/Excellent
Oats, ME	95	70	80	Good/Excellent
Potatoes				
Maine	70	5	20	
Mass	70	80	80	Good
Rhode Isl	100	99	85	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	60	65	65	
Sweet Corn	50	35	40	
	--Percent Harvested--			
Dry Hay				
First Cut	15	30	30	Good

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics
Prepared By AWIS, Inc.

For the Period: Monday June 5, 2006
To: Sunday June 11, 2006

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta State A	50	75	57	-6	341	+36	69	+23	3.44	+2.67	6	7.91	+4.63	19
Bangor Intl_Arp	49	74	58	-3	345	+94	62	+33	4.35	+3.58	6	7.75	+4.57	17
Bethel	47	74	56	-6	292	+26	61	+26	3.38	+2.46	6	6.89	+3.40	14
Caribou Municip	50	82	60	+2	304	+110	49	+31	1.72	+1.09	5	5.78	+3.06	16
Dover-Foxcroft	45	75	54	-5	185	-14	29	+12	2.98	+2.14	6	5.77	+2.47	17
Frenchville	43	82	59	+2	263	+101	38	+31	1.74	+1.04	4	4.98	+2.15	16
Houlton	50	80	59	+1	295	+97	47	+28	3.52	+2.75	5	7.38	+4.30	17
Livermore Falls	49	77	58	-2	310	+108	60	+43	3.12	+2.14	6	6.45	+2.84	15
Moosehead	43	81	56	-2	173	+37	29	+26	2.68	+1.77	6	6.58	+3.27	20
Portland_ME	51	69	57	-4	310	+75	51	+31	4.20	+3.36	6	10.59	+7.41	19
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	44	73	53	-8	261	-18	54	+15	3.35	+2.44	6	8.17	+4.82	20
Berlin AG	44	76	56	-5	275	+17	53	+18	3.01	+2.05	6	7.97	+4.46	15
Concord	49	74	59	-4	432	+102	114	+54	3.28	+2.55	6	9.53	+6.66	16
Diamond Pond	42	73	53	-3	153	+23	35	+35	2.80	+1.75	6	9.14	+5.21	21
Keene AP	48	72	58	-7	384	-36	95	-3	1.24	+0.40	5	5.54	+2.11	17
North Conway	43	75	58	-5	358	+63	86	+39	1.55	+0.61	3	5.80	+2.14	14
Rochester	48	71	57	-8	359	-13	70	-5	3.19	+2.35	6	10.36	+6.98	16
VERMONT														
Burlington Intl	46	79	60	-4	483	+97	139	+53	1.97	+1.20	4	7.88	+4.93	22
Island Pond	44	77	57	-2	280	+88	61	+41	2.29	+1.31	6	8.82	+5.13	22
Montpelier	44	76	58	-3	379	+106	88	+48	3.00	+2.16	5	6.22	+3.02	21
Pownal	45	71	56	-5	333	+45	69	+24	1.41	+0.30	6	6.93	+2.67	20
Rochester	43	76	57	-4	296	+40	65	+29	2.23	+1.32	6	8.63	+4.82	19
Rutland AG	46	74	58	-7	368	-64	86	-21	1.25	+0.41	5	5.95	+2.68	18
Springfield_VT	48	73	59	-3	381	+75	88	+37	2.39	+1.48	4	8.29	+4.59	18
Sutton	42	76	55	-4	248	+58	48	+28	2.02	+1.04	6	6.90	+3.27	22
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	52	70	59	-8	464	+3	108	+12	3.60	+2.83	6	10.87	+7.99	16
Fitchburg	51	73	59	-3	465	+186	128	+89	2.88	+2.04	5	8.49	+5.21	16
Greenfield	51	75	59	-7	414	-47	98	-10	1.09	+0.18	5	5.88	+2.26	18
New Bedford	49	71	58	-8	403	-52	83	-7	5.38	+4.50	6	9.42	+6.06	17
Otis_AFB	52	72	60	-3	401	+106	87	+48	6.40	+5.63	6	9.40	+6.18	17
Plymouth	48	72	58	-6	377	+53	80	+29	6.41	+5.57	6	9.49	+6.06	16
Walpole	49	72	58	-6	417	+44	97	+27	4.45	+3.60	6	9.58	+6.38	18
Chicopee/Westov	48	73	59	-9	471	-97	111	-42	0.64	-0.34	3	5.83	+2.00	15
Worthington	46	72	57	-5	301	+15	72	+30	1.31	+0.40	5	7.19	+3.24	18
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	54	73	61	-5	537	+121	119	+37	3.76	+2.99	5	7.70	+4.44	15
Woonsocket	49	73	58	-6	423	+55	96	+36	4.40	+3.45	6	10.43	+6.75	17
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	51	70	62	-5	544	+69	108	-8	1.68	+0.87	5	6.84	+3.44	15
Hartford/Bradle	51	76	61	-6	577	+45	156	+13	1.74	+0.83	4	7.18	+3.47	14
Norfolk	46	69	56	-6	345	+64	89	+50	1.25	+0.14	3	5.66	+1.41	14
Thomaston Dam	49	73	60	-4	457	+69	104	+28	2.05	+1.07	6	6.17	+2.25	18
Willimantic	50	74	60	-5	499	+108	119	+44	2.19	+1.32	5	6.53	+2.90	16

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 WEATHER SUMMARY

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 11, 2006

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	39	83	57	-3	1.35	5.46
NH	32	80	57	-5	0.75	4.31
VT	33	81	57	-4	0.79	6.24
MA	45	75	58	-5	0.30	6.41
RI	49	73	59	-5	1.55	4.40
CT	46	76	60	-6	1.25	3.30

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: Constant rainy weather has made it impossible for vegetable farmers to finish their planting. Some seed has rotted in the ground. It is impossible to make dry hay and most hay has gone to seed - past the best time for harvest. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Too wet to plant the fields this week. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Cultivating vegetables to try and dry soils out. Rain continued most of the week frustrating many farmers. Finally saw the sun on Saturday and Sunday but most fields were still too wet to get in. Many crops suffering from the wet conditions. Recent PSNT show need for a lot of nitrogen especially in field corn. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** Another rain soaked week prevented any significant fieldwork on field corn or hay. The sun finally came out on Saturday and some hay was being cut in anticipation of a better week ahead. Many corn fields have water standing in certain sections. Depending on the corn varieties planted poor growth can be anticipated in these water soaked fields. Some fields still too wet to even spread manure. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Most fields too wet to work in. Sun and warmer weather should help. Producers report we are two weeks behind schedule. Corn not in wet fields is looking good. Local strawberries are of good size and flavor. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Okay, now farmers are getting worried. Optimism is being tested with wet, wet, cloudy, cool conditions, hard to plant any crops. Concerns about emerged corn, yellow, not going anywhere. Behind on hay cutting, winds and rain have tangled and laid the hay flat in some fields. Hail damage visible on fruit. Sweet corn weekly plantings delayed to once each month for some farmers. Field corn seed getting exchanged for short season corn. Wet weekends not good for bedding plant sales. Good news...the sun has just to come out soon. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Another rainy and cool week has made field work almost impossible. A lot of producers are reporting that they can't get into their fields to plant and hay making has stopped. No dry hay can be harvested and a lot of fields are past their prime harvest time. The high winds and rain on Wednesday knocked down a lot of hay fields. Pick-your-own strawberries began last week but the weather has kept the customers away. There are still a lot of flowers in the greenhouses waiting for a nice weekend to bring out the gardeners. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** June nitrate tests on corn fields are coming back low in nitrates after last weeks nor' easter rains. Records from previous years may confirm that previous organic nitrogen will become available when the soils heat up. Corn stalk tests this fall will answer if fertilizer was really needed. Useful next time this happens! **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Rain, mud, standing water in fields...all combined to make field work difficult. A few farms sampled for pre-side dress nitrate tests. Sample results are coming in low due to the leaching effect of the rains.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes and small grains: Growers have begun hilling potatoes, spraying herbicides and picking rocks. They are finishing up moving last years potato crop to the processors. It appears they will use all the russet burbank variety left in storage. All crops look good with adequate moisture and temperatures; however there are spots in some fields where potato seed rotted due to excessive moisture during planting. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** What can I say - again rain, rain, rain and more rain. Still a small percentage of crops to plant. Hopefully the weather cooperates this coming week so that planting will be done. All crops planted earlier have emerged. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: Waiting to cultivate and spray crops. Received three to five inches of rain throughout the week. **Amanda May (Ext), Penobscot:** Wet! Wet! Wet! Those who were lucky to get their crops in early are now worried about rot. We could use a little sunshine. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Standing water in fields is making problems for all crops. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** More than five inches of rain last week has stopped almost all crop activities. Corn is small, yellow and sometimes under water. First crop hay crops will be terrible quality when and if it gets harvested! **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** No fieldwork took place last week due to the continual rain and wet weather. Standing water in fields everywhere. Even with no rain it will take a week for the ground to dry out. The sun finally came out Sunday afternoon! **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Bees being removed from the fields as pollination is finishing up. Pollination success was reduced in down-east fields last week because of excessive precipitation. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Rain, rain go away. That is what all the farmers are saying. Many plantings have been lost either in part or whole. Land is so wet that the tractors do more damage than good. Everyone from veggie farmers to apple growers are worried about tractor damage. Many farmers are saying this is the worst start to a season they have seen. They are unable to even walk on the land to plant transplants. Many have ordered shorter growing varieties and still haven't been able to get them in the soil. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** Way too much water. Way too little sunshine. Crops are still a couple of weeks ahead. The problem has been getting planted with all the rain. Hay harvest was off to a good start but came to a standstill in the rain. **Marcia Hall**

(FSA), Oxford: Oxford County producers have reported very wet conditions. Crops are in need of sunshine. Fields are again too soft to get equipment onto to finish up planting and start harvesting. Garden crop planting came to a stop and the soils are in need of drying out before starting up again. The sunshine that came out late Sunday was welcomed by all! Harvesting rhubarb throughout the county. Rivers and streams are above normal and fields are saturated. Hayfields have begun to head out and are too wet to harvest which will bring low quality.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Back to cool weather again with cloudy days and a full day of rain. Weekend high winds helped dry things out. More hay was made although tricky because of the showers. Field corn is up and growing slowly, sweet corn is just emerging. There are continued concerns over defoliation by forest tent caterpillars on the maples. Greens, herbs, flowers, shrubs and transplants are being sold. Planting continues for summer and fall vegetables. Solanaceous crops are not thriving. We could use some sunny weather. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: May and June are making up for the lack of precipitation in March and April. On Tuesday/Wednesday, rain amounts (in 12 hours) were 6-8 inches in most places, with another 0.5-1.0 inch on Friday/Saturday. Many beds were under water on Wednesday and Thursday. Fortunately, flowers were unopened in early varieties and buds were tight for later varieties and temperatures remained in the 50's and low 60's. Injury to the vines should have been minimal. If this had happened two weeks later, damage would have been extensive. I would suppose that there was probably damage from erosion that growers will need to repair in the dikes, berms, reservoirs, and in newly-renovated beds. In spite of all this, insects (primarily gypsy moth, Sparganothis fruit worm and black-headed fireworm) continue to thrive. Highbush blueberries are affected by a considerable amount of blight and dieback due to the cool, wet conditions. Grapes are suffering from Phomopsis injury as well. Hopefully, we'll get some dry weather and that Alberto's effects will be minimal later this week. **Jason Otto (FSA), Bristol:** This week was another washout. More flash flooding. Fields are/were under water. Hopefully this week we will dry out some. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** A very cool and wet week. The temperatures are below normal for this time of year. Vegetable growers are harvesting greens, rhubarb, spinach, asparagus and lettuce. Planting tomatoes, pumpkins, winter squash, peppers eggplant and summer squash. Shade tobacco is all planted and field tobacco is 50% complete. Potatoes are being hilled-up. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** What a summer(?) we're having! All transplanted crops took a real beating from the weather this week. Heavy rains and really strong winds damaged standing corn and fruit/maple trees as well. And the retail end of business just awful, citizens just don't have much time weather wise for planting flowers. Still very cool and corn is slow to grow. Hay crops look awesome but will we have a long enough period without rain to bale?

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: Very difficult weather, rainy and gray all week. Crops that were planted early are doing surprisingly well, crops that were not planted early are in most cases still not planted. This week will bring a flurry of activity getting planting completed where possible. Some first cutting has been done for haylage, fields are over mature and wet we'll need a few dry days before cutting any hay can even be considered. Orchards seem to have adequate set of fruit despite a perceived lack of pollinators. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Only two days with visible sun and blue sky - overcast to rainy the rest of the time. Everything's on hold - little plant growth, no hay/haylage harvesting, little in the way of field operations. Wet weather has made for great conditions for plant diseases - even seeing leaf spot in alfalfa. Conditions also difficult to apply sprays in orchards and berry plantings. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** A cold wet week hampering many farm activities. Short window of decent weather at beginning of week allows remained of field corn to be planted. Some haylage also chopped, wilted and ensiled. Need some dry weather. Most veggies now in, hi-tunnel tomatoes being trellised. Pastures lush but soggy, difficult to keep up with. Earlier planted field corn at about five leaf stage. Some low lying fields along rivers experiencing flooding, concerns about emergence and survivability of young seedlings. Will be hard to stay ahead of weeds and other pests this year, they are getting a good start! **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Rainfall on and off all week limited field work. Some first cutting was harvested, and corn planting is finishing up. Many soils are too wet to work. Grass hay quality is decreasing as plants mature. Corn looks good in most instances, except on wetter soils. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** We had a couple of days without rain. The rest of the week light scattered showers or rain. Last week we recorded just under four inches of precipitation. Some heavier soils still are too wet to plant, or hay. The better drained soils are doing OK, given the wet weather. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Transplanting tomato and pepper plants, and making successive planting vegetable crops. Harvesting spinach, greens, asparagus and rhubarb. Need the SUN and warmer temperatures.

Fruit: Growers monitoring pest and crop development and applying cover sprays for pest control. Orchardists deciding what thinning options they are going to apply. Mowing orchard floor and weed spraying under trees. With the previous week's rainy conditions, growers are making sure to have protectant fungicides applied for strawberry fruit mold control. First strawberry fruit was harvested - grown on plastic and with floating row covers. Field Crops: Planting and weed spraying corn fields. Farmers are continuing trying to make haylage and trying to make baled hay between rain showers. Some fields too wet for harvest equipment. Grasses heading out and maturing, especially orchard grass. Corn growing slowly. **Sadie Puglisi (Ext), Merrimack:** All of the rain has slowed down the growth rate of some crops. Some are catching up on planting, others are spending time cultivating and other means to control weeds. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Another wet week with a sunny Tuesday. Even when it's not raining many fields remain too wet to work in, harvesting strawberries that were under row covers. Planting some vegetables. Peach leaf curl, brown rots seen in fruit orchards. Hay fields are tall and not being able to cut them because of wet fields or not enough days to dry the cut. Sales at garden centers, nurseries and greenhouses are very slow. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Another wet week. Very little fields due to the continuous rain showers most the week. Grass in pastures and hay fields growing well, but it was difficult to cut hay due to the wet conditions in the fields. Fruit growers monitoring the crops for diseases insect pests. Most growers concerned about apple scab because of the wet conditions. It was difficult to spray because there was not enough breaks between the rains. Vegetable growers harvesting early season crops. Greenhouse and nurseries planting fall mums.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Some significant water in field corn, we will see if it bothers the field as the sun dries up some of this rain. Field corn, potatoes, strawberries seemed to OK after

this torrential rain. Lettuces and cole crops ok, everything could use some sun. Some haying being done at the end of the week. Roadside stands getting some business.

VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille: Another soggy weekend ended another soggy week. Not a lot of opportunities for harvesting first cut last week. Some corn and soybeans were planted along with veggie transplants. Minor flooding over the weekend put around 600 hundred acres of cropland back under water for the second time in a couple of weeks. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Another week of rain is causing some severe problems with harvesting. Some rivers and streams have flooded for the second time this growing season. Most of the first cut hay is fully matured and lodged due to the heavy rains. Some first cut hay was harvested early in the week but the fields are very wet. Some Landowners are still struggling to plant their corn. I have heard of a few cases where the fields need to be replanted. The corn that has emerged is yellow due to soil saturation. Many Landowners who pasture have started to keep their cows in the barn due to the mud. **Terence Bradshaw, Univ of Vermont:** Apples: Field assessment of fruit set suggests fewer fruits out there than previously noted. The cool, cloudy, wet weather during and after bloom no doubt led to poor fertilization of pollinated blossoms and much fruit abscission. At this point the crop appears to be lower than average for the season. Occasionally decent weather during the wet spell allowed for good spray coverage so scab does not appear to be rampant, although it is present. Growers covering trees against plum curculio at this time. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Plowing under rye finished on all fields. Applying fertilizer to corn fields as they get big enough. Corn, potatoes and most vegetables slow to start. We need sun and warm dry weather. Rain for the week 1.873 inches. Two sunny days this week, the rest of the week not very good for farmers and gardeners. Asparagus and rhubarb doing well. We need sunshine and warm weather.

May 2006 Crop Weather Summary: The month started off with warm weather and farmers were busy working the fields and planting crops. Heavy rains arrived the second week and continued into the following week, bringing field work to a halt. Flooding occurred in southern New Hampshire, southern Maine, and Massachusetts's north shore, forcing replanting at many locations. Precipitation levels for the month of May exceeded all records along the seacoast. By month's end, warm weather returned and brought sunshine for the Memorial Day weekend. Mid month heavy rains bypassed northern Maine. Oat and barley producers in Maine started the month with almost half of the crop planted and seeding was complete by month's end; condition rated excellent to good. Maine potato growers took advantage of the warm, dry spring to advance planting ahead of schedule. As the month closed, only five percent of the crop remained to be planted, well ahead of last year and normal. Potato planting in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island was in full swing during the month, with most acreage seeded at the end of May. Sweet corn producers had one quarter of the crop planted when heavy rains arrived. Planting had advanced to the halfway mark as the month came to a close, ahead of a year earlier, and slightly behind normal. Field corn planting trailed normal at the start of the season, however progress was back on schedule at month's end. Wet weather and lack of sunshine caused tobacco growers to delay setting out shade and broadleaf transplants. Condition was rated fair to good for both crops at the end of the month. The warm early spring temperatures provided ideal conditions for fruit trees to blossom and develop, and apples, peaches, and pear were all rated in good condition at the beginning of May. However, by the end of the month, prolonged wet weather had increased the incidence of scab, and condition declined to good to fair. Maine wild blueberries started the month in excellent to good condition but heavy rains caused disease damage in fields, and condition ratings fell to good by month's end. The wild blueberry crop was in the full bloom to petal fall stage of development at the end of May, a week ahead of schedule. Highbush blueberries started and finished the month in good to fair condition and at month's end, development ranged from early to full bloom. Dry conditions allowed strawberry growers to get an early start preparing beds for the harvest season. Heavy rains mid month hindered growth, which delayed the start of picking in some areas. Cranberry producers were busy monitoring pests during the month; the crop was in bud stage for most of May.

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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