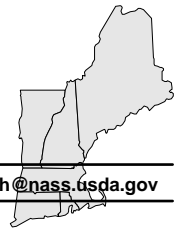




# New England Agricultural Statistics



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**Crop Weather**  
(Issued weekly on the internet, May – October)

May 21, 2007 – 4 pm

For week ending 5/20/07

## Got Rain?

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending May 20, 2007, there were 3.66 days suitable for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 1% short, 75% adequate, and 24% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 1% short, 83% adequate, and 16% surplus. Pasture condition was rated 4% very poor, 3% poor, 8% fair, 70% good, and 15% excellent. Moderate to heavy rains throughout most of the week slowed down field work once again. Monday saw average temperatures and no rain, allowing farmers to get out into the fields to fertilize, seed, and plant. Tuesday and Thursday had light rains, but Wednesday and Friday through Sunday saw heavy rains across all six states. Some areas saw one to three inches of rain per day. Below average temperatures throughout the latter part of the week threatened frost damage and Northern Maine even saw some snow showers on Thursday. Planting of field and sweet corn, potatoes, and early crops is well underway. However, some areas are still experiencing very wet fields and are hoping this week brings drier weather.

**FRUIT:** Fruit tree development is well underway in New England. Apples ranged from full bloom to petal fall in most areas. The wet weather has led to increased susceptibility to scab infection. Peaches and pears ranged from full bloom to petal fall as well. Strawberries ranged from dormant to bud stage in Maine to full bloom to petal fall in Connecticut, and are expected to be plentiful this year. Cranberries ranged from dormant to bud stage. Cranberry producers were busy spraying for pests and applying fungicides. Highbush blueberries were in bud stage in Maine and ranged from early bloom to full bloom elsewhere. The wet weather delayed burning of wild blueberry fields, but producers were able to spray fungicides for mummyberry.

**VEGETABLES:** Vegetable producers were busy harvesting asparagus, rhubarb, spinach, and lettuce and planting early season crops. Fall crops were beginning to be transplanted in some areas. Sweet corn was 45 percent planted and was beginning to emerge by the end of the week. Farmers continued to prep fields for planting and laying plastic mulch and drip irrigation tape.

**FIELD CROPS:** Potato planting neared completion in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Rains hampered planting efforts in northern Maine, and farmers had 20 percent of the crop seeded by May 20, behind last year and normal. Maine oats and barley were also 20 percent planted. Field corn planting neared the halfway mark, but the continued rain hindered any further progress. Shade Tobacco ranged from five percent transplanted in Massachusetts to 75 percent transplanted in Connecticut. Broadleaf tobacco was 15 percent transplanted in Connecticut; no outdoor tobacco had been set out in Massachusetts. Reporters indicated that hay and pastureland are doing very well. Farmers were busy fertilizing, spreading manure, plowing, discing, and applying herbicides.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	1	19	0
Adequate	75	73	28
Surplus	24	8	72
<b>Subsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	1	6	6
Adequate	83	79	48
Surplus	16	15	46

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Development	Condition
Apples	FB/PF	Good/Fair
Peaches	FB/PF	Good/Fair
Pears	FB/PF	Good/Fair
Blueberries		
Highbush	EB/FB	Good/Fair
Wild	EB	Good
Cranberries, MA	Dormant/BS	Good
Strawberries	BS/EB	Good

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

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2007	2006	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Planted--				
Barley, ME	20	85	45	
Oats, ME	20	85	45	
Potatoes				
Maine	20	60	30	N/A
Mass	98	90	80	
Rhode Island	85	90	85	
Silage Corn	45	45	35	
Sweet Corn	45	35	35	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	10	0	<5	Fair/Good
Shade	60	0	25	Good/Fair
--Percent Emerged--				
Barley, ME	0	40	15	
Oats, ME	0	40	10	
Potatoes				
Mass	20	25	20	Good
Rhode Island	40	30	15	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	5	10	5	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	20	15	15	Good/Fair
-- Percent Harvested --				
Dry Hay				
First Cut				Good/Fair

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

For the Period: Monday May 14, 2007  
To: Sunday May 20, 2007

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
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta State A	37	70	49	-6	134	+42	33	+29	1.73	+0.89	6	3.60	+0.06	13
Bangor Intl_Arp	32	69	49	-5	105	+40	29	+29	2.59	+1.75	6	3.83	+0.58	12
Bethel	29	71	47	-8	89	+17	23	+21	1.99	+1.15	4	3.01	-0.30	10
Caribou Municip	28	63	46	-7	80	+33	18	+18	0.92	+0.22	6	1.69	-0.97	11
Dover-Foxcroft	30	64	45	-8	65	+17	17	+17	2.09	+1.32	6	3.17	-0.09	11
Frenchville	31	59	45	-6	73	+42	18	+18	0.36	-0.34	4	0.91	-1.81	10
Houlton	24	63	45	-7	89	+42	24	+24	1.53	+0.76	6	2.29	-0.60	12
Livermore Falls	30	70	48	-5	80	+32	17	+17	1.60	+0.76	5	2.79	-0.66	11
Moosehead	28	66	43	-7	45	+23	5	+5	1.68	+0.91	5	2.84	-0.22	10
Portland_ME	34	73	51	-4	134	+74	26	+26	1.65	+0.84	6	2.97	-0.50	11
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	32	69	48	-6	101	+8	27	+17	1.03	+0.26	5	1.89	-1.03	10
Berlin AG	30	69	47	-7	91	+15	25	+19	2.38	+1.59	4	3.43	+0.27	9
Bethlehem	33	71	49	-6	114	+23	24	+14	1.50	+0.75	6	2.62	-0.23	13
Concord	31	81	52	-4	195	+88	58	+49	2.18	+1.48	5	4.32	+1.52	13
Diamond Pond	29	64	44	-6	45	+17	10	+10	2.53	+1.63	6	4.83	+1.52	14
Keene AP	28	81	54	-5	164	+11	53	+32	1.30	+0.46	4	2.35	-0.93	12
North Conway	31	72	48	-7	97	+8	22	+15	1.48	+0.58	4	2.58	-1.12	10
Rochester	33	71	51	-7	152	+26	40	+28	2.13	+1.26	5	4.32	+0.61	11
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Burlington Intl	35	73	51	-7	165	+27	52	+33	1.34	+0.64	4	1.90	-0.88	10
Island Pond	27	67	47	-5	81	+28	19	+19	1.37	+0.53	5	2.30	-0.74	13
Montpelier	31	72	51	-4	129	+40	31	+22	1.63	+0.88	5	2.17	-0.54	11
Pownal	32	79	51	-4	136	+40	38	+26	1.44	+0.39	3	3.00	-1.14	11
Rochester	29	73	49	-5	89	+10	19	+13	1.79	+0.81	5	2.40	-1.46	12
Rutland AG	30	75	50	-8	112	-54	28	+0	1.07	+0.30	4	1.96	-0.99	10
Springfield_VT	29	80	52	-3	142	+42	46	+35	2.19	+1.28	6	3.33	-0.31	14
Sutton	30	69	47	-5	76	+26	19	+19	3.00	+2.18	6	4.34	+1.31	13
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	42	82	55	-5	260	+89	71	+63	3.06	+2.35	6	4.95	+1.85	13
Fitchburg	37	83	55	+1	251	+168	80	+78	2.76	+1.98	5	4.15	+0.99	13
Greenfield	34	84	55	-5	184	+11	49	+30	1.88	+1.00	5	3.55	+0.06	11
New Bedford	32	72	53	-6	164	-10	20	+11	2.35	+1.54	4	4.42	+1.00	12
Otis AFB	37	64	52	-4	114	+28	8	+8	2.65	+1.81	4	4.63	+1.15	12
Plymouth	34	78	53	-3	171	+74	37	+36	2.31	+1.40	4	3.91	+0.14	12
Walpole	35	81	54	-4	224	+95	66	+58	3.12	+2.35	5	4.66	+1.31	15
Chicopee/Westov	30	86	57	-5	211	-29	62	+28	1.89	+0.98	4	3.08	-0.56	11
Worthington	30	80	52	-3	139	+48	33	+26	1.18	+0.13	5	2.82	-1.33	14
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	41	83	57	-2	268	+120	59	+53	1.94	+1.10	4	3.64	+0.13	12
Woonsocket	35	85	55	-2	229	+104	64	+59	2.97	+2.06	5	4.85	+1.08	11
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	43	76	58	-2	252	+68	40	+17	0.77	-0.14	3	3.03	-0.61	11
Hartford/Bradle	37	86	59	-2	296	+81	84	+52	1.06	+0.08	5	4.12	+0.40	12
Norfolk	34	81	53	-3	157	+70	43	+38	1.02	-0.01	5	2.71	-1.43	14
Thomaston Dam	35	82	56	-2	202	+59	45	+32	1.29	+0.31	5	3.16	-0.94	15
Willimantic	34	83	57	-1	227	+86	59	+47	1.31	+0.36	4	3.53	-0.36	14

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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Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

**STATE WEATHER SUMMARY**

For the week ending Sunday, May 20, 2007

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	24	74	47	-7	0.23	2.85
NH	22	85	49	-5	0.93	3.39
VT	21	80	49	-5	0.66	3.00
MA	27	86	54	-3	1.13	4.04
RI	35	85	55	-3	1.58	2.97
CT	31	88	56	-2	0.68	2.19

**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:** Rain during the week made fields difficult to work. Some field corn has been planted on the lighter soils. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** The rain last week was a welcomed relief, as the soils were getting pretty dry and dusty for planting. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Sweet corn planting continues with early plantings six to eight inches high and plastic being pulled off. H2A workers showing up for the season. Some sweet corn showing lower populations due to reduced germination. A lot of field corn planted but not much emerged. Planting of shade tobacco really took off and a lot got planted with hopes that frost stays away. Broadleaf tobacco looks good in beds and green houses. A few acres planted by weekend. Most squash and cuke seed still in the bag. Tuning up choppers and hay mowers to get first cutting off early. Waiting for warmer soil temps to start transplanting peppers and tomatoes. **Frank Himmelstein (Ext), New London:** Field Corn-Field preparation for planting continued throughout most the week until Friday's rains put a halt on further progress. Many growers are several weeks behind schedule due to the excessive rains from the month of April leaving the wet areas in the field still tough to work despite all the good drying days in May. This weekend's weather will not improve field conditions. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** Producers have been taking advantage of the weather, getting the drier silage corn fields planted. Spikes have been emerging, as two of our towns have completed silage corn planting. Complaints about the rye cover, those planted early are lush, while the later rye is a poor cover. Sweet corn planting is on schedule. Strawberries are expected to be plentiful. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Another wet week with a microburst hitting the northern part of the county and snapping trees and knocking down two buildings. The whole county is saturated with continuing rains. Corn planting delayed. A few forage seedings went in, good bloom on blueberries and nice bud development on grapes. Nitrogen fertilizer high in cost and some farmers are looking for alternatives they can afford. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Early this week it was unusually warm and great conditions for field work. Mid-week the severe thunderstorms brought in much cooler weather. Scattered showers and flood warnings told the tale at week's end. **Lorraine Los (Ext), Windham:** Apple Scab Status – I now have weather stations at seven orchard locations throughout the state. In our cooler sites in eastern CT that were checked on Thursday (May 17); spore maturity ranged from 76-87% or 589-689 apple scab degree days since McIntosh green tip. (Still in the "accelerated" phase). **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Rain again put the brakes on corn planting. Orchardgrass is flowering - albeit short in stature due to cool wet weather, height is only about 1/2 - 2/3 normal. Seeing some nitrogen deficiency showing up in haylots and lawns as wet conditions denitrify soils.

**MAINE - Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Farmers have 25% of crops planted. The snowfall on Wednesday evening slowed planting just a little. The warmer temperatures on Friday helped to get back to planting. However, the rain on Saturday and Sunday delayed again. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Due to rain most of the week not a lot was planted on any of the crops, waiting for some dry weather. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Rainy week with not much happening. Frosts hit earlier in the week and are expected in the next few days. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Rain last week will be a boost with sunshine and warmer temperatures predicted for this week. It should be a great week. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Field work very limited due to the rain. **Dee Potter (Ext), Aroostook:** Field prep work came to a standstill when the weather turned cold and wet late in the week. There were snow showers on Thursday. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Rain on Thursday and continued the rest of the week. Planting and tillage operations on hold. Weather sounds better for upcoming week. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Silage corn planted at first of the week. Bees have been placed in blueberry fields. Worked in greenhouses during inclement weather. Over an inch of rain fell from Wednesday through Sunday curtailing most field activities. Temperatures have been below normal for this time of year. Frost is still a concern for farmers. (Strawberries at full bloom were under cover). **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Cold wet weather has delayed burning on fields. Fungicide applications to protect plants from mummyberry disease applied. Bloom just

beginning in Union area, cool weather has delayed development. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Androscoggin/Franklin:** The rain was needed so it was a good week. Planting continued on well drained and moderately well drained soils. It looks like the sun will come out just in time for apple blossom pollination! **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County producers are plowing up fields in preparation of planting. Manure is being applied where dry enough conditions allow heavy equipment. Pastures and hay fields are very green and doing well. Rain fell in some spots of Oxford County last week and over the weekend. **Guy Piper (FSA), Kennebec:** The weather had been good for plowing, harrowing, spreading manure and commercial fertilizer, seeding hayland, planting silage corn (about 500 plus planted.) The later part of the week Kennebec County got hit with cold wet weather slowing everything down. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Penobscot:** Due to a week of rain showers, not much activity on planting. We did need a little rain so this should help what is already in the ground to do better. Hay fields are really turning nice and green as well as pastures. Apple trees are starting to show some sign of blossoms. Still a little too early to tell how blueberries and strawberries have wintered.

**MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** We had a cool and breezy week, some sun, a couple of days of scattered showers with high winds, thunderstorms, and a tornado warning. One to two inches of rain this week. Cool temps overnight with frost warnings but so far no spring frosts. Orchards look good in various stages of bloom. Fields being seeded and hayfields are growing well. First signs of tent caterpillars are evident. Summer and fall veggies being planted and transplanted. Nurseries and farmers' markets are doing good business. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Things were getting dry until the three inches of rain fell over the past three days. Scouting for insects was not possible during that time, but insects are getting more prevalent each day. Many growers have sprayed for black-headed fireworm, and other caterpillars are climbing closer to thresholds. Cranberry weevil is also on the increase. Winter moth caterpillars are causing defoliation in trees off the bog, but some have been found in cranberries too. Growers are applying fungicides for upright dieback and herbicides for dodder, in particular. The vines look good in most places. **Emily Tchorz (FSA), Bristol:** Warm weather early in the week made for good days for field work. Tilling and spreading is in full swing throughout most of the county. Planting of early crops is underway. The rain over the weekend came at the perfect time, and the soil is looking moist, but not wet. So far, so good! **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Franklin/Hampshire/Hampden:** Vegetable growers are harvesting asparagus, rhubarb, spinach, fiddleheads, lettuce and parsnips. Planting field corn, sweet corn, lettuce, carrots, parsnips, potatoes, and beans. Early potatoes are emerging, sweet corn is ten inches tall under plastic and the seed onion crop looks good. Orchardists are mowing and applying a fungicide spray. The weekend received three days of needed rain.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap:** The rain made work conditions difficult in some fields. Farmers spent most of the week planting early/cold tolerant vegetable crops. Pastures look great. Garden center sales were good despite the rain. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** Rain, rain and more rain. Cool temps, rain, and clouds the story of the entire week! Not much going on, but so far those who got stuff in the ground early are still happy about it. Early planted potatoes, beans and squash doing well despite the cool wet weather. They're not out of the woods yet; frost warnings in effect for overnight tonight, but the rest of the week looks good. Pastures and hay fields growing well, dandelions in full bloom. Garden centers report decent business despite the soggy weather. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Kind of cool and damp much of the week, but at least we got some much-needed moisture. Pastures and hayfields look great, orchardgrass just getting ready to head out in warmer locations. Field corn planting proceeding well, though there's still considerable acreage left to be done. Ideal weather conditions for transplanting on vegetable operations. Orchards in full bloom. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Weather turned to cold and wet delaying field corn plantings. Heavy rains at midweek, flooding low lying fields along the Connecticut and other river valleys; some that have been seeded are underwater. Hard rains again at week's end, six inches on my rain gauge in Lancaster. Soils remain cold. Vegetables transplanted could use better. Great grass growing weather, but little else. Growing degree day's base 50 is at 61 GDSS; hasn't budged much from last week. Top-dress fertilized hay and pasture lands getting well rained in. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Field prep and corn planting continuing

as weather permits. Rainfall late in the week provided needed moisture but slowed progress. Early planted corn has emerged and new seedings are up and growing. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** Last week was cool and wet for much of the time. The weather has not been favorable for bee activity and pollination. Some apple trees are flowering, but not as much as normal. Corn is being planted, however a number of farmers have decided to hold off for a few more days due to the soil and temperature conditions. We need some warmer weather. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruits: Cherry, peach and plum were at petal fall. Apple and pear are at full bloom to petal fall in the Hollis area. Blueberry is at full bloom. Orchardists were moving bees out of orchards. Orchardists are applying protective fungicide sprays on fruit trees and blueberries. Finishing up pruning blueberries and peach trees. Field Crops: Farmers are fertilizing hayfields, spreading manure, plowing, discing fertilizing, planting corn, and applying herbicides. Vegetables: Continued planting vegetables, along with successive planting of sweet corn. Liming, fertilizing, plowing, discing, and getting ready to plant fields. Laying plastic mulch and drip irrigation tape. Harvesting asparagus. **Dorothy Perkins (Ext), Merrimack:** Rain all week in Merrimack County made fieldwork impossible. The apples are in full bloom and some have started petal fall. Growers report low numbers of pollinators. Blueberries are blooming and raspberries are progressing. Hay fields are approximately seven inches in some fields. Christmas tree growers are experiencing losses due to root rot. Black fly numbers seem low this year; possibly because of the floods. All counties are now reporting the accumulated growing degree in their areas. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** A week saturated with rain and cold weather. Need sunshine, warm and dry weather. Field work behind schedule due to wet conditions in the field. Orchardists spraying protective fungicides before rain. Some early vegetables planted. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Rain showers most the week. Grass in pastures and hay fields growing well. Limited field activity due to continuous rain showers throughout the week. Fruit growers mowing orchard flowers during rain breaks to keep with rapid growing grasses. Vegetable growers planting cool season crops wherever possible. Customer flow into greenhouses and garden centers slowed down due to rainy weather.

**RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport:** A good soaking rain at the end of the week was welcome. Most pastures and fields were in need of water. The beginning of the week saw lots of potatoes being planted, some sweet corn and field corn. Cole crops doing well, fruit trees blooming and most crops look good. Spraying being done and some fungicides being applied. Road side stands are filling up; lots of flowers and early lettuces, etc., packing the shelves.

**VERMONT - John St. Onge/Kim Peterson (FSA), Lamoille:** Our dry spell came to an end last week with Mother Nature's delivery of almost three inches of rain. The rain got the grass growing again but brought corn planting and most other fieldwork to a halt. There is enough grass now for most animals to be turned out on pasture. Looking like a great week so producers will be busy trying to catch up from last week. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** A lot of rain last week has slowed the process of planting corn. Fields are very wet right now. No corn has been planted as of yet. Farmers are starting to pasture cows. **Terence Bradshaw, Univ of Vermont:** Apples in bloom last week saw good pollination weather early, then cooler and cloudier weather later in the week. Reports of bee activity have been good but not a lot of wild pollinators have been seen. Extended wetting later in the week and over the weekend triggered a significant scab infection period. Crop at this point looks good with abundant blossoms. Now we're hoping to dodge a frost event on the morning of the 22nd. **Jeffrey Carter (Ext), Addison:** Good soil conditions for tillage into this week. Rain stopped field work but is good for seed germination. Many fields planted to corn and new seeded hay. Some new seedings up and look very good. First corn up to spike. Activities include manure spread, fertilizer, tillage, spray herbicides. Pasture and hay fields growing good, need some rain so this is helping. Dandelions full bloom, lilacs starting bloom. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Cool, wet week; farmers were planting corn early in the week. Tornado warnings were issued on Wednesday for CT River Valley Counties. Fertilizer prices are very high. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Still plowing under rye for corn fields. Potatoes have all been planted. Watering strawberries to keep off frost. 1.592 inches of rain for the week has helped a lot to get early planted seeds started. Planting early garden crops; radishes, lettuce, spinach, scallions. Cool weather has slowed germination. Beginning to get a good cutting of asparagus. Starting to sell rhubarb. A few nice warm days helped to start crops but now back to cold weather.

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

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