

Crop Weather



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



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For week ending 5/18/08

Variable Weather Conditions

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending May 18, 2008, there were 6.3 days available for field work across New England. Pasture condition was rated as 1% poor, 28% fair, 64% good, and 7% excellent. Connecticut's week began with average temperatures and lots of wind. Temperatures fell throughout the week and were below average by the weekend. Sporadic rain showers slowed field work and made planting difficult. Massachusetts' weather was cold, wet, and windy most of the week, delaying vegetable planting. The weather in Rhode Island, Maine, and New Hampshire was ideal for fieldwork, with mostly average to above average temperatures and rain only on the weekend. Maine nights were still cool with some frost. Many reporters stated warmer temperatures and more rain were needed for pastures to green up and crops to grow. Vermont's weather was ideal in some locations with plenty of warm temperatures and adequate rain, while other areas were cool and dry. Overall in New England, daytime temperatures ranged in the mid-50s to low-70s and nighttime temperatures ranged in the mid-40s to mid-50s. Total rainfall averaged 0.88 inches to 2.20 inches in the southern states and 0 to 1.05 inches in northern states.

FRUIT: Fruit development ranged from bud stage to petal fall and beyond across New England. Apples were in bud stage in Maine and full bloom to petal fall elsewhere. Pears ranged from early bloom to full bloom in New Hampshire to petal fall and beyond in Connecticut. Tree fruit producers were busy mowing orchard floors, applying fertilizers and protective fungicide sprays, and monitoring for pests. Highbush blueberries were in bud stage to early bloom in Maine and Rhode Island and early bloom to full bloom elsewhere. Blueberry growers were hard at work applying fertilizers and herbicides and releasing bumble bees for pollination. Both strawberries and cranberries were rated in good condition by week's end.

VEGETABLES: Sweet corn planting continued to gain momentum and progress was on schedule with normal by week's end. Signs of damage from the May 1 freeze began to show on early planted corn and vegetable crops. Growers harvested early season vegetables including asparagus, fiddleheads, spinach, and rhubarb. Planting of peas, potatoes, tomatoes, onions, cabbage, lettuce, carrots, greens, and cole crops continued throughout the week, with many crops going in well ahead of schedule. Producers laid plastic mulch and drip irrigation tape, fertilized, and plowed fields for planting.

FIELD CROPS: Planting of field corn neared the half-way mark this past week. Maine grain producers took advantage of dry soil conditions to seed oats and barley, and plantings ranged from 35 to 45 percent seeded by May 18. Maine potato planting trailed last year and normal with 10 percent planted at week's end. Potato planting in Massachusetts and Rhode Island shifted into high gear, with most of the crop seeded by the end of the week. Shade and broadleaf tobacco growers were busy preparing fields for planting. Transplanting of both crops remained behind last year and normal. Hay conditions were reported in varying conditions due to the inconsistent weather.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	1	0	0
Short	28	8	1
Adequate	67	84	75
Surplus	4	8	24
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	1	0	0
Short	19	5	1
Adequate	76	85	83
Surplus	4	10	16

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
Wild	EB/FB	Good/Excellent
Cranberries, MA	BS/EB	Good
Strawberries	BS/EB	Good

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

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2008	2007	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Planted--				
Barley, ME	35	15	35	Good
Oats, ME	40	15	35	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	10	20	15	Fair/Good
Mass	95	95	80	
Rhode Island	80	80	75	
Silage Corn	45	40	35	
Sweet Corn	30	40	30	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	0	5	<5	
Shade	0	45	25	
--Percent Emerged--				
Barley, ME	0	0	10	
Oats, ME	0	0	10	
Potatoes				
Maine	0	0	0	
Mass	30	20	15	Good
Rhode Island	10	35	15	Good/Excellent
Silage Corn	<5	5	5	Good
Sweet Corn	15	5	5	Good
-- Percent Harvested --				
Dry Hay				
First Cut	0	0	0	Good

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

For the Period: Monday May 12, 2008
To: Sunday May 18, 2008

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F TOT	DFN	BASE-60F TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS
MAINE														
Augusta State A	38	71	55	+0	129	+43	11	+8	0.00	-0.84	0	4.57	+1.02	8
Bangor Intl Arp	37	72	54	+2	97	+37	4	+4	0.11	-0.73	1	4.54	+1.30	9
Bethel	35	72	54	+0	69	+2	1	+0	0.00	-0.83	0	2.80	-0.51	7
Caribou Municip	33	71	53	+2	34	-9	0	+0	0.00	-0.70	0	2.29	-0.35	7
Dover-Foxcroft	32	71	51	-1	52	+8	0	+0	0.00	-0.77	0	4.89	+1.62	9
Frenchville	34	69	53	+4	29	+1	0	+0	0.00	-0.70	0	2.85	+0.14	7
Houlton	28	71	51	+0	33	-10	0	+0	0.00	-0.77	0	2.15	-0.72	8
Livermore Falls	33	72	53	+2	84	+40	3	+3	0.00	-0.84	0	4.36	+0.90	7
Moosehead	30	72	49	+1	13	-7	0	+0	0.00	-0.77	0	3.26	+0.20	8
Portland ME	38	70	53	+0	93	+38	7	+7	0.02	-0.80	1	4.06	+0.56	7
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	35	72	53	-2	91	+4	3	-6	0.01	-0.76	1	3.05	+0.14	9
Berlin AG	35	73	54	+2	97	+26	2	-3	0.00	-0.78	0	2.43	-0.73	7
Concord	35	75	55	+0	145	+45	17	+9	0.03	-0.67	2	3.11	+0.31	10
Diamond Pond	33	69	50	+3	45	+19	0	+0	0.02	-0.87	1	2.68	-0.61	8
Keene AP	34	75	54	-1	140	+54	10	+4	0.20	-0.71	2	2.64	-0.68	8
North Conway	37	74	54	+0	103	+20	3	-3	0.00	-0.90	0	4.14	+0.43	8
Rochester	33	73	54	-3	121	+3	11	+0	0.15	-0.73	3	3.94	+0.21	9
VERMONT														
Burlington Intl	39	79	57	+1	213	+83	31	+14	0.13	-0.57	2	1.47	-1.30	9
Island Pond	32	75	53	+3	75	+26	0	+0	0.00	-0.84	0	2.53	-0.48	8
Montpelier	36	75	55	+1	128	+45	10	+2	0.18	-0.56	2	2.10	-0.58	12
Pownal	37	76	55	+1	152	+62	7	-4	0.56	-0.49	3	3.19	-0.95	13
Rochester	33	77	53	-1	86	+12	0	-5	0.01	-0.97	1	3.30	-0.55	9
Rutland AG	36	78	55	-4	138	-19	14	-12	0.02	-0.75	1	1.78	-1.15	6
Springfield VT	35	76	55	+0	147	+53	13	+3	0.03	-0.88	1	2.71	-0.93	7
Sutton	35	73	53	+3	75	+29	1	+1	0.01	-0.80	1	3.00	-0.01	10
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan In	46	73	56	-3	176	+14	32	+25	0.69	-0.03	2	2.92	-0.20	11
Fitchburg	38	74	56	+3	200	+123	32	+31	0.75	-0.02	1	3.61	+0.45	11
Greenfield	39	75	56	-4	184	+21	11	-6	0.71	-0.16	4	3.35	-0.13	14
New Bedford	33	73	53	-6	114	-51	14	+6	0.81	-0.01	1	4.62	+1.17	13
Otis AFB	39	70	51	-4	67	-13	1	+1	1.07	+0.23	2	5.09	+1.60	14
Plymouth	37	71	52	-4	110	+20	14	+14	0.70	-0.21	2	4.27	+0.49	12
Walpole	37	72	54	-3	166	+45	21	+14	0.63	-0.14	1	3.39	+0.01	11
Chicopee/Westov	36	77	56	-5	202	-27	25	-6	1.02	+0.11	3	3.87	+0.23	13
Worthington	36	74	53	-2	115	+30	3	-3	1.07	+0.02	3	4.38	+0.24	13
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	42	75	57	-1	222	+83	32	+27	0.57	-0.27	1	3.96	+0.43	11
Woonsocket	37	72	55	-3	172	+55	18	+14	1.06	+0.15	2	4.13	+0.35	12
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	46	75	58	-1	226	+52	31	+10	0.80	-0.11	3	3.84	+0.20	11
Hartford/Bradle	39	77	58	-2	263	+59	49	+20	0.80	-0.18	2	3.29	-0.42	11
Norfolk	40	74	53	-2	127	+46	4	+0	0.88	-0.14	1	3.61	-0.53	10
Thomaston Dam	39	74	55	-2	183	+48	11	-1	0.75	-0.23	1	3.69	-0.41	11
Willimantic	37	75	56	-1	228	+95	28	+17	0.37	-0.59	2	3.22	-0.68	11

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, May 18, 2008

State	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	L	HI	AV	DF	LO	HI
ME	27	76	53	+1	0.00	0.15
NH	19	79	53	+0	0.00	0.42
VT	29	79	54	+0	0.00	0.56
MA	32	81	54	-2	0.25	1.50
RI	37	75	56	-2	0.57	1.06
CT	37	78	56	-2	0.32	1.02

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

CONNECTICUT - Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland: Sunny and warm early part of week, then much cooler for the second half of the week. Scattered showers throughout the week amount to about one inch. Most dairy farmers are now planting field corn; sweet corn is emerging and looking good. Some grass silage made in the form of wrapped round bales, mostly due to low feed volumes on hand. Shade and broadleaf tobacco fields are getting ready for transplanting. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Peaches and Pears going past full bloom, apples approaching or in full bloom, frost damage evident in pears and peaches, extent unknown. Twenty five acres of asparagus frosted, initial crop lost, new growth good and sales are good at about \$3.00 wholesale. Blueberries are blooming, peas, potatoes, sweet corn are up, mowing orchards, bumble bees are busy, they are good for blueberries aggressively pursuing nectar deep in the blossom and pollinating along the way, they are welcome in the orchards as honeybee issues continue. Corn planting progressing well. **Jude Boucher (Ext), Tolland:** Some row cover and uncovered sweet corn damaged by May 1 freeze. **Richard Meinert (Ext), CT Cooperative:** Orchard grass is blooming. First cut haylage is coming in. Corn is being planted. Rain shows up every four days or so just to make scheduling a challenge.

MAINE - Maria Granger (FSA), Kennebec: It was a good week weather wise. Monday and Tuesday were too windy to spray. Temperatures were in the 60's and low 70's throughout the week with rain in the am on Saturday. So far there hasn't been much rain this spring. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Farmers have been busy working the land this week. Silage corn has been planted and manure continues to be spread on fields. Peas have emerged and the crop looks good. Conditions are ideal right now for all farming activities in the mid-coast area. Bees are out on all blueberry fields now. Herbicide is being applied to control weeds, and fertilizer and sulfur are being applied on non-cropping blueberry fields. The strawberry crop looks good. It has been another good week to farm in the mid-coast area. A little rain over the weekend would be beneficial. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** The weather was great for some early vegetable plantings last week. Producers are busy spreading manure and fertilizer. Crop fields preparation and planting of row crops underway. Farm stands are now open for business and most have fresh fiddleheads and dandelion greens. Pastures are looking green. **Laura Rand (FSA), Penobscot:** Blueberry producers have been busy burning, setting up hives. Hancock County berry producers are looking for a good year at this time. Berries are starting bloom. Penobscot County producers have been busy spreading manure, planting corn, oats and potatoes. Some sweet corn is in the ground. Small vegetables are being planted and spring seedlings are being displayed at stands. Cool nights, some frost in places, warm days have been the routine. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** This has been a dry week. A lot of field activity including spreading manure, plowing and tilling. Corn planting has started. **Jane Harden (FSA), Sagadahoc:** Ground and air temperatures are cooler than normal. Topsoil and subsoil moisture is drier than normal. This has delayed some planting. Alfalfa looks good. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Corn planting has commenced. Early vegetables are being harvested. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Dry weather continues as does planting and cultivating. We actually could use some rain. Apples beginning to bloom as is high bush blueberries and strawberries that were under row covers. Manure spreading and corn planting has begun in earnest. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Blight symptoms very light, well timed fungicide applications and dry weather have resulted in minimal infection. Bees are being brought into fields for pollination. Plant growth is normal.

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Field conditions were dry at the start of the week, kicking up dust when being tilled and planted. One and a half inch of rain at the end of the

week was welcome. Temps have been 40's at night, 60's during the day. Tent caterpillars are evident but light so far. Farmer's markets are busy with good turnouts. Spring greens, asparagus and transplants are selling along with annual flowers and other bedding plants. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** It was a dry and cool week with a good soaking rain at the end of the week. Farmers were very busy planting field and sweet corn, potatoes, onions, cabbage, lettuce, parsnips, beets and carrots. Early potatoes are emerging and sweet corn under plastic is 10-12 inches tall. Harvesting asparagus, fiddleheads, spinach, and rhubarb. Orchardists are mowing and applying a fungicide spray. **Janice Barnes, Franklin:** Cold, windy first part of the week. Warmer weather came Wednesday. Friday brought light rain with cool temps. Showers and cool temps continued Saturday and Sunday. A number of acres of field corn was put in this week. Livestock showing up in more pastures. Bees working fruit blossoms. Apple trees everywhere in blossom! **Tom Monahan (NRCS), Hampden/Worcester:** Cool and wet waiting for weather to clear to put in veggies. Covering apples for scab and watching Plum Curc. Plant bugs have been heavy in strawberry and stone fruit.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll: Apples, pears and blueberries in full bloom. Pastures and hay fields are growing well, but could use more moisture. Lawns that appeared to be recovering from snow mold have relapsed due to a lack of rain. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Dry, sunny weather for the first part of the week, and despite occasional showers later on, it's a little dry out there. Pastures and hayfields have greened up nicely, but they're growing a little slowly. Weather conditions are ideal for corn planting, and earliest planted fields just starting to emerge. Lots of planting also going on at vegetable operations. Orchards are in full bloom. Garden centers having lots of business. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Good week for field activities. Corn planting, spreading manure, fertilizer and fence repairs. Meadow growing, and greening up well in response to weather conditions. Dandelions are now in bloom. Hi funnels on vegetable operations being put in, some planted to tomatoes. Fairly dry compared to some previous years; showers at end of week have helped a little. Apple blossoms still holding back about at pink now, concerns of frost otherwise, ticks abundant, black fly season has begun. Garden centers doing brisk business, nice flowering for Mothers Day, seems more people interested in gardening this year. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending May 18, weather remained relatively dry, but cooler than normal. The well drained soils along the river bottom need rain. The poorly drained upland soils and some poorly drained bottom soils are still too wet. Pastures are behind normal in many areas. Those soils that are excessively wet are the most behind. The well drained Hadley and similar soils seem to be doing the best. Manure is being spread, and corn is being planted, along the river bottom. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruits: Cherry, peach and plum were at petal fall to fruit set. Apple and Pear are at full bloom to petal fall in the Hollis area. Blueberry is at blooming. Orchardists are fertilizing orchards and are applying protective fungicide sprays on fruit trees and blueberries. Planting fruit trees, raspberries, blueberries and strawberries. Field Crops: Farmers are spreading manure, plowing, discing fertilizing and planting corn. Vegetables: Continue early season vegetables (peas, lettuce, greens, cole crops) planting, along with sweet corn and potatoes. Liming, fertilizing, plowing, discing and getting ready to plant fields. Starting to lay plastic mulch and drip irrigation tape. Harvesting of asparagus. **Dorothy Perkins (Ext), Merrimack:** The warm weather has pushed the pastures and hay along nicely. Animals are out and grazing and it won't be long before first cut hay will be ready to harvest. The apples are blooming and the weather has been conducive to pollination. A little more rain would be nice but we aren't suffering yet. Cabbage butterflies are searching for early Brassica crops. The cherries are full of caterpillar webs. A few growers have put their sweet corn under plastic to get a jump on the

season. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Planted crops growing slowly. Need some warmer temperature and nights are still cold. Bee activities also slow. Rain is needed for some fields. Apples in bloom. Mowing orchards and monitoring pests. Planting vegetables, sweet corn potatoes and tomatoes. Finishing pruning blueberries. Planting small fruits. Pastures look good. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** A great week for field work. Vegetable growers preparing fields and planting early crops like lettuce, peas and greens. Other producers were busy plowing and harrowing fields and spreading manure in preparation for planting corn and other crops. Fruit growers were applying fungicides and insecticides as needed. Some were pulling out some varieties and planting different fruit tree varieties. Greenhouses and garden centers had a busy Mother's Day weekend selling annuals, hanging baskets and others plant and gift items.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Strawberries showing some good activity, lots of field work this week. Planting potatoes, some starting to show some color in the fields. Mowing rye. Crops under Remay coming along well and has helped with some good rain later in the week. Roadside stands very busy and now all we need is a little heat.

VERMONT – Jeffrey Carter (Ext), Addison: Continue planting corn, new seeding of hay. Spreading manure on fields to be planted. Fertilizer on hay fields. Weed control spray on planted corn. Soil

conditions very dry, grass growth slow. **Paul Stanley, Franklin:** Great week of weather. The first planted corn is up with rows visible. Apple and lilac trees are in their splendor. Gardens are being planted way ahead of the usual Memorial Day. Hay crop is amazing with grass in some fields near the hips. Moisture is getting a little short, however this has allowed a lot of corn to be planted. The mowers had better be ready to go. A lot of fields have timothy heading out and are going to begin to go down hill on quality. It would pay to walk (not check from the pick up window) your fields and start to make some harvest decisions. Raining here now and this will get the grass maturing even faster. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** Much needed rain has been elusive in this area despite predictions of showers for the end of last week. The dry weather has kept field work moving along at a brisk pace. Spring plantings of various crops are ahead of normal but grass growth is lagging behind normal. Pastures are also looking weaker than normal for this time of year. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Great week to work the land and plant three-quarters of fields with rye plowed and harrowed real good crop of rye to plow under. Applying commercial fertilizers to row crops as planted. Dry week great time to get all fields in shape. Early crops corn, peas, lettuce are already up with good emergence. Now for some gentle rain to get them growing. Have a good week. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Winds have kept the air temps cool and the soils dried out. Showers moved in late in the week with cool temps. Some farmers waiting until soil temp improves before putting corn in the ground.

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