



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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Crop Weather

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For week ending 6/2/02

Thunderstorms and Frost Hit New England

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending June 2, 2002, there were 5.5 days suitable for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 1% very short, 14% short, 73% adequate, 12% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 5% very short, 25% short, 68% adequate, 2% surplus. Pasture condition was rated as 0% very poor, 3% poor, 13% fair, 72% good, 12% excellent.

Warm, dry conditions prevailed at the beginning of the week, but then wet weather arrived and interrupted planting. Once again heavy frost hit parts of New England, damaging fruit crops in particular. Near week's end, hail from thunderstorms caused localized damage. Germination has improved with warmer weather. Major farm activities included: planting field corn, vegetables, sweet corn, tobacco, potatoes, oats and barley; harvesting spinach, asparagus and rhubarb; cutting hay; spreading manure; applying fertilizer; liming and disking fields; irrigating orchards and cranberry bogs for frost protection.

FRUIT: Frost damage to fruit crops has been observed throughout the region, as well as localized damage caused by hail that arrived with last week's thunderstorms. Strawberries, cranberries and fruit tree crops were affected by the harsh weather conditions. Peaches and pears are both in petal fall stage, with apples not too far behind. Wild blueberry growers applied sprays to control spanworm populations; blight has also been a problem this spring due to the recent wet conditions. Frost damage occurred to some cranberry beds in Massachusetts last week. Cranberry weevil counts are high in some areas.

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

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

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

VEGETABLES: The planting of sweet corn, tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, peppers and other vegetables was active during the week. Warmer weather arrived for at least part of the week, improving germination in vegetable fields. Some progress was made with the planting of sweet corn, and the crop was 35 percent emerged as of June 2. Asparagus, spinach, and rhubarb were harvested during the week.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
	-- Percent --		
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	1	1	3
Short	14	8	12
Adequate	73	80	64
Surplus	12	11	21
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	5	5	0
Short	25	22	27
Adequate	68	69	64
Surplus	2	4	9

FIELD CROPS: Harvest of first cut haylage and dry hay is now well underway throughout the region. Favorable weather at the start of the week allowed Maine farmers to make good progress with planting potatoes, oats and barley. Emergence of potatoes in Massachusetts and Rhode Island is now past the half-way mark. Farmers continued to plant field corn when the weather permitted. Tobacco growers set their plants out in the fields last week; broadleaf transplanting is about on schedule, while shade transplanting is well behind both last year and normal.

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2002	2001	5-yr Avg	Percent Emerged	Condition
	-- Percent Planted --				
Barley, ME	90	99	85	45	Good
Oats, ME	90	99	85	40	Good
Potatoes					
Maine	85	95	80	<5	Excellent/Good
Mass	95	95	99	55	Good
Rhode Isl	100	100	95	70	Excellent/Good
Silage Corn	70	90	75	30	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	65	75	65	35	Good/Fair
Tobacco					
Shade	55	85	85	--	Good
Broadleaf	30	30	35	--	Good/Fair
Dry Hay	-- Percent Harvested --				
First Cut	20	10	20	--	Good

For the Week Ending Sunday, June 2, 2002

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		BASE -60F		TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL		DFN	DAYS
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN				INCHES	DFN		
MAINE															
Augusta_ME	45	81	64	+5	220	+20	39	+17	0.35	-0.49	1	2.97	-0.44	9	
Bangor	40	80	60	+3	170	+13	19	+7	0.29	-0.50	3	1.97	-1.28	9	
Bethel	37	82	62	+5	201	+32	35	+19	0.68	-0.19	3	3.60	+0.26	10	
Caribou	43	79	60	+4	122	+4	21	+12	0.62	-0.08	5	3.30	+0.50	17	
Dover-Foxcroft	34	77	58	+3	99	-22	6	-2	0.35	-0.49	2	1.52	-1.74	8	
Frenchville	41	78	58	+4	93	+2	20	+20	1.39	+0.69	5	3.50	+0.67	17	
Houlton	35	79	61	+6	157	+37	28	+18	1.20	+0.43	4	3.32	+0.26	15	
Livermore_Falls	38	83	62	+6	177	+55	31	+23	0.99	+0.08	2	3.88	+0.45	10	
Moosehead	35	80	59	+5	100	+26	6	+6	1.61	+0.77	4	3.31	+0.16	14	
Portland_ME	46	83	62	+5	202	+57	27	+21	0.60	-0.17	2	3.85	+0.65	8	
NEW HAMPSHIRE															
Benton	42	85	64	+7	225	+36	63	+40	1.12	+0.28	6	3.69	+0.53	17	
Berlin_AG	41	81	63	+7	198	+31	37	+18	1.10	+0.21	4	4.03	+0.75	15	
Concord	48	84	67	+8	358	+137	117	+86	0.70	-0.04	5	3.64	+0.80	13	
Diamond Pond	34	76	59	+6	100	+24	10	+10	3.30	+2.31	4	5.97	+2.31	16	
Keene_AP	50	82	66	+5	355	+61	111	+54	1.67	+0.80	5	4.35	+0.92	14	
North_Conway	46	82	66	+7	256	+62	67	+42	0.85	-0.06	3	3.92	+0.29	11	
Rochester	49	85	67	+7	318	+64	88	+46	0.98	+0.14	4	4.51	+1.04	10	
VERMONT															
Burlington_VT	41	81	68	+7	331	+63	112	+61	0.71	-0.05	4	3.33	+0.47	12	
Montpelier	37	78	64	+7	256	+72	79	+57	0.33	-0.48	4	2.93	-0.09	15	
Pownal	44	80	64	+6	260	+65	70	+43	3.63	+2.58	7	7.48	+3.34	19	
Rochester	39	86	64	+7	217	+49	61	+42	1.30	+0.34	4	5.20	+1.30	13	
Rutland_AG	38	82	65	+4	262	-45	73	+6	1.39	+0.57	4	4.43	+1.24	14	
Sutton	38	80	63	+8	189	+70	46	+35	2.45	+1.53	5	5.36	+2.00	17	
Townshend_Lake	45	82	66	+6	308	+61	89	+46	0.96	+0.19	5	5.09	+1.89	15	
MASSACHUSETTS															
Ashburnham	50	80	66	+8	324	+143	90	+72	0.95	+0.13	5	4.73	+1.53	12	
Boston	54	86	68	+6	450	+127	134	+89	1.03	+0.32	3	4.69	+1.79	10	
Greenfield	48	85	66	+4	375	+49	110	+51	1.65	+0.74	6	5.70	+2.17	17	
New_Bedford	55	82	66	+5	404	+82	101	+57	1.58	+0.74	3	5.68	+2.36	9	
Otis_AFB	52	77	66	+7	335	+145	70	+55	0.61	-0.18	3	3.97	+0.66	8	
Plymouth	54	81	67	+7	358	+148	95	+75	1.03	+0.19	3	5.16	+1.64	11	
Walpole	51	84	67	+6	407	+151	129	+94	1.25	+0.46	4	5.74	+2.63	12	
Westover	55	86	69	+6	471	+55	170	+79	0.75	-0.23	6	4.10	+0.36	15	
Worthington	47	80	64	+7	285	+95	79	+56	2.42	+1.44	6	6.72	+2.59	17	
RHODE ISLAND															
Providence	56	84	67	+7	436	+149	125	+87	0.44	-0.37	3	4.50	+1.15	11	
Woonsocket	52	85	68	+8	409	+157	130	+102	0.64	-0.27	3	5.16	+1.51	10	
CONNECTICUT															
Bridgeport	56	80	66	+4	437	+99	117	+51	0.69	-0.15	3	4.42	+0.90	11	
Hartford_AP	55	88	69	+6	506	+120	183	+99	1.74	+0.83	4	4.86	+1.13	12	
Norfolk	49	83	66	+8	329	+143	97	+77	0.96	-0.09	4	4.50	+0.36	11	
Thomaston_Dam	50	84	68	+8	405	+133	131	+88	1.41	+0.43	3	5.09	+1.10	13	
Willimantic	52	85	67	+7	432	+159	144	+102	0.89	-0.02	4	4.69	+0.93	12	

STATE WEATHER SUMMARY
For the Week Ending Sunday, June 2, 2002

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	Air Temperatures				Precipitation	
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI
ME	32	86	61	+5	0.00	2.40
NH	32	86	64	+6	0.59	3.30
VT	34	86	64	+7	0.26	3.63
MA	46	87	66	+6	0.19	2.42
RI	52	85	65	+6	0.33	0.64
CT	49	88	67	+5	0.34	2.30

Prepared by AWIS, Inc.

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

CONNECTICUT - Howard Rood (FSA), Fairfield/Litchfield: Heavy frosts during the week may have damaged fruit tree crops and strawberry production. Violent hail storms at the end of the week caused some damage to fruit crops. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** Most have finished planting field corn and starting to chop grass. A few made dry hay on Sunday (6/2). Sweet corn pushing up row cover. New forage seedings taking off. Scattered hail with thunderstorms Friday evening. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Planting corn and vegetables, cutting hay, and fixing equipment to keep planting and harvest going. Light rains made some fields slick, but still very dry subsoil conditions. Bedding and vegetable plants selling well. Wild turkey and crows in corn fields nibbling on insects or seeds? **Nancy Welsh/Karen Lockman (FSA), New Haven:** Hot, humid weather brought up the corn. Rain intermittently, then severe thunderstorms on Friday night. First cutting of hay is in the process along with scouting fields. Warm weather will help sell bedding plants. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Pastures growing quickly, with animals rotating from paddock to paddock to keep up with growth. First cutting orchard grass has headed, with quality appropriate for lower producing animals.

MAINE - Marvin Hedstrom, Northern Aroostook: Potatoes: Rainy weather during the latter part of the week prolonged the planting process with a few growers needing two to three more days to finish. Growers who have completed planting are getting ready for herbicide applications. Due to cold soil temperatures, potatoes are slow to emerge. Seed in the ground looks good. Small grains look very good. Frost predicted for tonight, June 2. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** The beginning of the week was good planting weather. Farmers were able to plant several acres. Some farmers are done planting, while others need a few more warm days to finish. If the chillier weather continues, emergence will be slow. **Steve London (Ext), Southern Aroostook:** Farmers were able to work in the fields Monday through Wednesday. **Albert Dow (NRCS), Piscataquis:** Very windy weather for good pollination. Petals blew off fruit trees early. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Spring is slow in coming. Planting of corn, oats, potatoes and home gardens continues. Need rain (still very dry) and some more warm days. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Good weather continues with only two days of rain. Corn is starting to finally come out of the ground. Some farms almost completed first cutting of grass, while others have yet to begin. Cold rainy Sunday. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** We had a good week for field work. A good portion of silage and sweet corn has been planted. **David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild Blueberries: Cool weather delaying bloom on many clones, so pollination is expected to be uneven. Spanworm at large instar stage with small instars emerging and are wide-spread on the blueberry barrens. Insecticide applications being applied to control the outbreak. Blight symptoms from mummyberry disease severe on many fields despite fungicide applications; the wet weather provided for a long infection period. **Michael Tardy (FSA), Androscoggin:** The mad rush has been on all week. Planting is going full speed ahead. Some producers are still spreading manure. Animals have been turned out on green grass. Weather has been good all week. **Parker Rand (FSA), Cumberland/York:** In spite of the cold, most crops are progressing well. Last week's frost destroyed not only strawberry blossoms but some plants as well. **Laura Rand (FSA), Oxford:** This week was warm and windy! Farmers were busy getting crops in the ground and starting to cut haylage. Manure is being spread and gardens are being planted with a flurry! Orchards are being mowed and spray activities are the norm. Friday's storm of high winds damaged buildings and left trees down.

MASSACHUSETTS - Arthur Williams (FSA), Berkshire: Another wet, cold week. A few dry fields were planted to corn. Some haylage (both round bales with plastic covers and silage in long plastic bags) harvested. Chemicals were getting washed off and more has to be sprayed. Over two inches of rain this week and high winds, blowing away dandelion blossoms. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Lots of pre-hook and hook means that open blossoms will be seen this upcoming week. Some evidence of frost injury last week in some beds. Sprays going out primarily for fireworm, but cranberry weevil counts are off the chart in some spots. Major growth of weeds this past week. Good dose of rain Friday evening. **David Rose (FSA), Bristol:** Farmers continue to plant, some hay being made. Rhubarb being harvested along with asparagus. Re-planting of frost damaged crops. Weather was warmer last week, crops beginning to grow. **John Devine (FSA), Franklin:** People are cutting haylage and straw. Weather too unpredictable to cut baled hay. Corn emerging with warmer weather. Apple crop looks very poor because of late freeze. Asparagus crop has recovered from two periods of hard freeze. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Dairy farmers were harvesting hay and planting corn silage. Vegetable growers were planting cucumbers, winter squash, tomatoes, peppers and many other summer crops. Harvesting rhubarb and asparagus. Tobacco growers started setting their plants out in the fields. The bedding plant and flower growers reported a great sales week. **Gary Guida, Worcester:** Sweet corn planted on May 7 finally emerged. Transplanting summer crops to fields. Another busy sales week with annual, perennial and vegetable plants selling out. Fruit trees here all without fruit, strawberries were in flower when frost hit - many black ones now. Surprise thunderstorm hit on Sunday when farmers were working hay fields. Still plowing fields. I'm about three weeks behind.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Almost all fields have dried enough for planting. Things are about one week behind due to wet field conditions. All frost sensitive crops are being planted. High winds have shredded some spun-bonded row covers over corn. Farm stand and garden center sales are steady. Several reports of frost killed king berries of strawberry plantings. Spraying for apple scab and plum curculio. Pastures green and wet. **Bruce Clement (Ext), Cheshire:** Heavy thundershowers three nights this week limited haylage and hay making. Soils are warming up. Germination has improved. Crops are about 10-14 days behind usual. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Generally good weather for field work early in week with soaking rains by weekend. Still cool temperatures. Field corn looks to be all in at this point, latest seen in a number of years. Some first cut hay being taken for haylage. Beginning to see some growth in early season vegetables. Bee hives being moved to apple orchards and highbush blueberries. **Tom Buob (Ext), Grafton:** Corn planting and first cutting continue between rain events. Grasses continue to flower (head out), but alfalfa just beginning to bud. Excellent quality along with good yields on improved fields. Weather making it more difficult to dry hay. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Weather: Rain on and off for most of the week, along with windy conditions. Thunderstorms on Friday and Sunday produced hail, causing some damage in localized areas. Fruit: Orchardists deciding whether or not to apply thinning sprays to apple orchards. Apple bloom is almost completed. Fruit growers applying sprays for pest control, but is difficult due to windy conditions. Field crops: Planting and weed spraying corn fields. Some farmers starting to make haylage, but is difficult due to wet weather. Vegetables: Finished plowing, disking and fertilizing fields. Planting vegetables and laying plastic mulch and drip irrigation. Planting tomato transplants in fields, harvesting asparagus, rhubarb and spinach.

Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham: Relatively warmer week highlighted by very strong winds, torrential rains and hail on Friday. Scattered showers on Saturday evening and Sunday. A good soaking rain is needed. Harvesting strawberries grown under plastic. Liming, fertilizing and disking vegetable fields. Planting a whole array of vegetables. Weeding and cultivating vegetable fields. Spraying protective fungicides in orchards. Preparing and planting corn fields.

RHODE ISLAND - Karen Menezes (Ext), Newport: Some vine crops being planted and struggling to get some hay in. Potatoes just love this weather; cool nights and some rain. Winds don't seem to be letting up. Planting sweet corn and some summer crops. Strawberries are looking near ready. **Marilu Soileau (FSA), All Counties:** Warm weather this week is helping the potato crop. Rains earlier in the season caused some washouts. Fertilizing with nitrogen to compensate for leaching. Weather damage reports from berry producers keep arriving. Mowing activities taking place in orchards and fields. Manure is selling well when advertised for homeowner use! Farmers markets were busy over the weekend selling vegetable and flower seedlings. The weather was "farmer friendly" this past week. Hopefully that will continue!

VERMONT - John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille: Never seen grass grow so fast as it did last week. Easily doubled in height. First cut harvest also started last week. Corn planting made good progress last week. The month of May brought over five inches of rain to northern areas. **Bill Snow (Ext), Orange:** Haylage harvesting started during the week. Early reports showed yield below normal for the calendar date. Rainfall and high temperatures increased the yield during the last couple of days. Early report of armyworms

found underneath stored round bales. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Landowners were planting corn last week. Most farms have completed planting. Some corn has emerged and looks good. A few farms have begun first cut of hay. A lot of rain over the weekend will help soil moisture levels. **Lynette Hamilton (FSA), Windham:** We have received about two inches of rain over the past week in heavy thunderstorms that rolled through late last week. Farmers are trying to cut haylage, but everyday showers has slowed that progress. Apple producers have had large amounts of frost damage to their crops - some are reporting more than 60% loss. Sweet corn growers report everything looks good. **Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Planting corn, harvesting first hay crop. Rain again. **Richard Noel (FSA), Grand Isle/Franklin:** A wild week in Franklin County. There was four inches of rain in Sheldon, two inches in Highgate and hardly any in Fairfax as of Thursday night. Heavy erosion and washouts acquired. Planting and crop work has come to a halt in some areas, some fields have standing water in them! Some mowing of hay happening on drier ground. We need some sunshine to bring things along. Weather is still pretty cool. Rain in May means barnful of hay, but you have to be able to get it in the barn! **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** It has finally warmed up. Grass is really growing. Most of the corn is in, I have not seen any up yet. Heavy scattered thundershowers on Friday and Saturday. **Sherwin Williams, Rutland:** Still planting late varieties of sweet corn. Many of the vine crops planted last week. Germination on all crops much better with warm weather. Peas look real good. All small vegetables beginning to show in the rows. Warm weather gave a big boost to asparagus, now back to good normal daily cutting. Rhubarb doing great. Just a few very light showers last week. Have a good week.

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