

Crop Weather



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May 11, 2009 – 4 pm

For week ending 5/10/09

Wet, Windy Weather

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending May 10, 2009, there were 4.4 days available for field work across New England. Topsoil moisture was rated 3% short, 72% adequate, 25% surplus. Subsoil moisture was rated 3% short, 73% adequate, 24% surplus. Pasture condition was rated 1% very poor, 1% poor, 11% fair, 74% good, 13% excellent. The past week was rainy and cool across New England. Showers occurred nearly every day, slowing field work and planting. The precipitation was welcomed in most locations, but by the end of the week, some areas were becoming waterlogged. Heavy rain fell on Tuesday and Wednesday. Thunderstorms, heavy winds, and hail blew through the region on Saturday, damaging fruit trees and newly planted fields. Except for some morning sprinkles, Sunday was clear for Mother's Day. Total precipitation for the week ranged from 0.96 to 2.66 inches. Daytime temperatures averaged in the mid-60s throughout the week, average for this time of year. Nighttime temperatures ranged from the low 40s to low 50s, four to ten degrees above average. The cooler temperatures slowed down the accelerated growth from the prior two unseasonably warm weeks. However, sunnier skies and warmer temperatures would help spur the spring planting season along.

FRUIT: Due to most fruit crops beginning to bloom slightly ahead of schedule, producers made sure the bees were out and pollinating between rain showers. Apples and pears were in bud stage to early bloom in Maine and Vermont and early bloom to full bloom elsewhere. Peaches were in full bloom to petal fall in Connecticut and Massachusetts and early bloom to full bloom elsewhere. Blueberries were beginning to bud and producers were still avidly monitoring for Mummyberry disease. All fruit crops were rated in good or good to fair condition at week's end. Fruit growers were busy pruning, fertilizing, spraying protective fungicides and herbicides, and planting new trees, raspberries, blueberries, and strawberries.

VEGETABLES: When the weather allowed, vegetable growers continued planting green beans, peas, summer squash, onions, peppers, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, radishes, and beets. Farmers' markets were well stocked for the Mother's Day weekend with newly harvested fiddleheads, asparagus, and spinach. Sweet corn planting continued and was 15% complete by week's end, on par with last year and normal.

FIELD CROPS: Field work was limited this past week due to daily rain showers. Field corn planting began in earnest and was 10% complete at the end of the week, slightly behind last year, but in line with normal. The crop was rated in good to fair condition. Tobacco farmers were busy preparing fields for transplanting. Oats and barley planting began this past week and were both 5% planted at week's end. Hay producers managed to continue spreading manure and fertilizing fields in preparation for the first cutting of grass.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	0
Short	3	22	8
Adequate	72	72	84
Surplus	25	4	8
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	2	0
Short	3	15	5
Adequate	73	73	85
Surplus	24	10	10

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	Stage	Condition
Apples	Early Bloom/Full Bloom	Good
Peaches	Full Bloom/Petal Fall	Good
Pears	Early Bloom/Full Bloom	Good
Blueberries		
Highbush	Bud Stage/Early Bloom	Good/Fair
Wild	Bud Stage	Good
Cranberries, MA	Dormant	Good
Strawberries	Bud Stage	Good

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2009	2008	5-yr Avg	Condition
--Percent Planted--				
Barley, ME	5	10	20	Good
Oats, ME	5	5	15	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	0	<5	5	N/A
Mass	60	40	50	Good
Rhode Island	N/A	50	50	N/A
Silage Corn	10	15	10	Good/Fair
Sweet Corn	15	15	15	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	0	0	0	N/A
Shade	0	0	0	N/A
--Percent Emerged--				
Sweet Corn	<5	5	5	Good
-- Percent Harvested --				
Dry Hay				
First Cut	0	0	0	Good/Fair

Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics
Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday May 4, 2009
To: Sunday May 10, 2009

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	43	73	56	+5	122	+82	17	+17	1.24	+0.33	4	3.42	-0.18	10
Bangor_Intl_Arp	43	72	55	+5	93	+67	7	+7	1.61	+0.79	4	4.06	+0.91	10
Bethel	33	73	54	+4	86	+57	6	+6	1.67	+0.85	4	3.84	+0.50	11
Caribou_Municip	33	72	50	+4	47	+29	2	+2	1.75	+1.05	4	3.79	+1.33	13
Dover-Foxcroft	34	73	53	+6	73	+55	7	+7	1.46	+0.62	5	4.04	+0.68	10
Frenchville	32	70	49	+4	30	+21	0	+0	0.87	+0.17	4	2.31	-0.27	11
Houlton	30	72	51	+4	54	+36	3	+3	1.21	+0.48	4	3.73	+1.06	11
Livermore_Falls	34	73	54	+6	88	+70	8	+8	1.45	+0.61	4	3.39	-0.16	10
Moosehead	33	70	50	+6	40	+34	1	+1	1.06	+0.29	4	2.79	-0.19	10
Portland_ME	44	68	55	+6	116	+93	16	+16	2.08	+1.23	5	4.21	+0.51	10
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	39	71	53	+4	87	+42	14	+14	1.60	+0.88	5	3.92	+1.19	11
Berlin_AG	32	73	53	+5	90	+55	11	+11	1.30	+0.53	5	2.94	-0.27	11
Concord	40	74	57	+5	155	+106	39	+39	2.09	+1.39	5	3.84	+1.04	12
Diamond_Pond	36	67	51	+7	43	+33	4	+4	2.11	+1.27	5	4.39	+1.33	11
Keene_AG	35	78	57	+4	141	+65	40	+33	1.35	+0.51	6	2.55	-0.60	13
North_Conway	38	74	55	+5	107	+68	14	+14	1.51	+0.60	4	3.26	-0.55	11
Rochester	43	75	57	+5	135	+75	26	+24	2.35	+1.44	5	4.24	+0.33	9
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	39	73	56	+7	172	+125	39	+37	0.90	-0.11	4	1.54	-2.58	10
Burlington_Intl	40	73	58	+5	160	+92	31	+24	2.71	+2.01	4	3.22	+0.54	15
Island_Pond	31	68	51	+5	70	+47	10	+10	2.65	+1.88	5	4.66	+1.90	15
Montpelier	39	75	55	+6	132	+90	26	+26	1.87	+1.18	4	2.91	+0.45	16
Rochester	33	76	54	+6	96	+60	18	+18	1.68	+0.70	5	3.19	-0.53	13
Rutland_AG	38	76	56	+3	127	+39	27	+16	1.30	+0.54	3	2.54	-0.21	8
Springfield_VT	42	74	58	+7	155	+108	34	+33	1.18	+0.27	5	2.21	-1.43	13
Sutton	36	69	51	+5	60	+41	11	+11	2.09	+1.32	5	3.57	+0.69	15
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	45	76	59	+4	229	+138	59	+59	1.52	+0.75	5	3.02	-0.24	10
Fitchburg	46	76	60	+9	231	+195	64	+64	2.39	+1.62	5	4.13	+0.96	10
Greenfield	38	74	57	+2	158	+68	36	+31	2.19	+1.35	6	3.33	-0.12	12
New_Bedford	46	71	56	+2	154	+60	21	+21	2.53	+1.69	7	4.97	+1.32	14
Otis_AFB	45	75	56	+5	169	+131	23	+23	2.23	+1.38	6	5.16	+1.58	13
Plymouth	45	73	57	+6	169	+125	29	+29	2.15	+1.22	7	4.24	+0.34	16
Walpole	45	74	57	+4	151	+87	33	+33	1.34	+0.54	5	2.93	-0.77	10
Chicopee/Westov	45	76	59	+3	222	+83	57	+46	2.37	+1.46	7	3.56	-0.08	12
Worthington	40	73	54	+4	117	+74	26	+26	2.04	+0.99	6	3.07	-0.94	12
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	46	72	57	+4	183	+107	32	+32	2.23	+1.35	7	4.44	+0.73	12
Woonsocket	45	76	58	+5	184	+124	41	+41	1.36	+0.42	7	3.38	-0.49	12
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	48	70	57	+2	161	+61	26	+19	1.72	+0.81	7	3.15	-0.46	13
Hartford/Bradle	46	76	59	+4	246	+127	66	+55	2.05	+1.14	7	3.68	+0.04	14
Norfolk	43	71	55	+5	148	+109	40	+40	2.57	+1.53	6	3.97	-0.22	12
Thomaston_Dam	46	74	57	+4	173	+99	42	+39	2.46	+1.41	7	3.99	-0.09	12
Willimantic	46	74	59	+6	229	+158	55	+53	1.15	+0.17	6	3.50	-0.42	12

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, May 10, 2009

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	24	76	53	+5	0.74	2.26
NH	28	78	54	+5	1.00	2.50
VT	27	79	54	+5	0.79	3.56
MA	38	77	57	+5	1.34	2.88
RI	45	76	57	+4	1.36	2.23
CT	39	76	57	+3	1.15	2.78

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: Planting of sweet corn, green beans, peas, and field corn continues. This week was cool, cloudy and between one and two inches of rain fell. Sweet corn under row cover has emerged and appears to be doing well. Farmers markets with flowering and bedding plants, greens, rhubarb, asparagus, and green house cucumbers make for bright displays. Shade tobacco fields getting prepared for transplanting. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Rain kept the corn planters parked most of the week. Orchardgrass is flowering even though it is barely 12-16" tall! **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** This week has continued the rainy pattern from last week. We have reports that some summer squash and peppers managed to find their way into the ground in between the scattered showers. The weekend was expected to bring some warm sunny days which should bring out the buyers to the greenhouse operations in time for Mother's Day. **Marsha Jette (FSA), New London:** We have experienced heavy rains, wind and cool temperatures this past week. Producers trying to get field corn, sweet corn and some vegetables in the ground. **Joyce Meader (Ext), Windham:** Great corn planting conditions. Great grass growing conditions. Too bad the milk price so low. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** A cool, breezy week, with both heavy rains and sunshine. Bees are at work and blueberries are blossoming. Maple syrup production was good this year. Farmers are planting corn and getting ready to chop first cutting of grass.

MAINE - Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook: A few roadside stand farmers planted crops for early harvest. Broccoli planting is happening. Some oats, barley and canola being planted. A few farmers started to plant a few fields of potatoes. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The weather has been cool with frequent rainy periods. There has been enough dry periods between the rains for apple producers to spray fungicide. The apple bloom is early this year. Bees are out when the weather allows them to pollinate. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Lots of rain this weekend. You could almost see the grass growing! Small grains are pretty much planted and fields in rotation have been reseeded to hay. Corn planting is underway. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock /Penobscot/Piscataquis** May 3 - 9 was rainy and windy with four days of possible field work. Some fields have been tilled and fertilizer applied. Early corn has started to be planted but heavy rains may have done damage. The need for rain has passed and now some sun will help germinate fields and planting could continue. Trees are starting to bud as well as blueberry plants. Pollination of blueberries is on track. **Maria Granger (FSA), Kennebec:** We had rain on several days over the past week but there were enough breaks to allow for field activities with several good spray windows for spring sprays. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Wet weather put a damper on most field activities this past week. Reports of approximately three inches of rain fell in the mid-coast area bringing most outside activities to a halt. Most of the bees are in blueberry fields and velpar has been applied. Blueberry growers are finishing up fungicide applications and will start fertilizing fields this week. The apple crop is looking good with the hopes that full bloom will occur within the next week. The strawberry crop is currently a little ahead of schedule. Some no-till seeding of sweet corn occurred this week. The hay crop is green and growing, but fields are wet right now. Sunshine and warm weather are needed but the week is sounding a bit unsettled. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County received some much needed rain showers last week and then a very severe rain and lightning storm hit Saturday night. Farmers have been busy the past couple of weeks preparing the ground and spreading manure and fertilizer. Sweet corn, peas, potatoes, grain corn, oats and other small vegetables are some of the crops being planted now. Pastures and hay fields are getting green. Apple trees winterized very nicely here in Oxford County. Apple orchards were sprayed twice last week with all the rain showers. Apple orchards are in the pink stage depending on variety and location. Fences are being repaired and the bugs are out! Fiddleheads and dandelions are being harvested. Greenhouses are full of spring flowers, just in time for Mother's Day Weekend. **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis:** Continued plowing, tilling, spreading manure and some planting. Pastures are greening

up. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Rain slowed field work last week but was welcomed. Good weather this week should enable spring tasks to move full speed ahead. **Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** Producers have started planting corn. Rained throughout the week with thunderstorms and heavy rains over the weekend. The week ended very cold. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Some beneficial rain last week slowed down field work. Lots of manure and field preparation. More winter injury is evident in sensitive crops (peaches, grapes) and alfalfa. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries; Fields being pruned by mowing and burning. Fertilizer and herbicides are being applied to pruned fields. Monitoring for disease indicates Mummy berry cups are actively producing spores in Waldo, Hancock, Penobscot, and Washington Counties. Fungicides to protect the plants from infection are being applied. Current results of the monitoring may be viewed at <http://mainewildblueberries.blogspot.com/>

MASSACHUSETTS - Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire: Farmers spent the workable days tilling and seeding in cool temperatures. Weather was rainy a couple of days which slowed things a bit then a serious wall of thunderstorms passed through Saturday evening bringing colder temps and an inch of rain with some damage to farms. Farmers markets and nurseries opened with busy Mother's Day traffic. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Rain last week was much needed. Transplanting of cabbage, broccoli etc has started. Planting of sweet corn continues. **Ted Smiarowski, Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** This week was cloudy, rainy, and cool. Dairy farmers are spreading manure and plowing. Vegetable growers are planting potatoes, carrots, peas, lettuce, cabbage and sweet corn. They are also harvesting fiddleheads, asparagus, and spinach. Orchardists are applying a protective fungicide spray on their fruit trees. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: A very wet week. With cooler temperatures, plant development slowed down. Growers are very pleased how the vines look coming out of the winter. Possible frost incident Sunday into Monday, although the winds probably helped move the air around. The rain put a slowdown on many activities. There appears to be a fair amount of fungal leaf spot this spring from infections that occurred in 2008.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Amy Ouellette (Ext), Belknap: Farmers are busy with field preparation. Early direct seeded crops like peas, beans, radishes and beets have been planted. Orchards are being protected from apple scab. Wind didn't keep customers away from garden centers over Mother's Day weekend. **Tina Savage (Ext), Carroll:** More normal spring conditions returned this week, weather was cooler and wetter. Fruit trees and ornamentals still in a rush to bloom with forsythia and lilac on track to be in bloom at the same time. Pastures and hay fields green and growing well, plenty of grass available. Many folks getting an early start on planting outdoors gambling that there will be no more frost. Let's hope they're right. Sales of chicks, both meat birds and egg layers off the charts this year as more folks have their own small flocks. Many planning a home vegetable garden as well, sales of seeds and supplies definitely up this year. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** A couple of rainy days helped alleviate what was turning out to be a bit of a dry spell. Farmers have been making progress finishing up field prep and starting to plant field corn. Hay and pasture is growing well - orchardgrass starting to head out. Planting is going well on vegetable operations. Farmers' markets offering lots of greens. Orchards and berry operations have finished pruning and are keeping up with spraying schedules. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** A cool, rain filled week leaving inches of rain, waterlogged fields and ponding in some cornfields. Rivers are running high. Many fields had fertilizer and manure spread and disked in, but appears corn planting will be delayed until soils dry out. Meadows greening up and growing well. Some pasturing, but sodden fields limit this. Cold, wet soils slowing things down. Hard to spray for apple scab protection. Greenhouses and nurseries all open; well-stocked and ready for business. Looks like more vegetable plants to meet expected

high demand. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** The week ending May 10 brought a mixed bag of weather. Rain in the middle of the week provided adequate soil moisture for the better drained river bottom soils, while limiting access on the less well drained upland soils. More rain at the end of the week slowed things down over the weekend. Total rain fall for the week was over 1.5 inches. Temperatures remain cool. Some river bottom fields are being planted to corn. Field work (plowing, harrowing, manure spreading) is in high gear. Extensive winterkill on alfalfa and some mixed forage stand has resulted in significant changes to crop rotation plans and considerable additional cost to the farmers affected. Farmers with severe winterkill are dealing with both the high cost of re-seeding and the likely reduction in their 2009 forage production. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Vegetables: Continue early season vegetable planting (peas, lettuce, greens, cole crops), along with sweet corn and potatoes. Liming, fertilizing, plowing, disking and getting ready plant fields. Harvesting asparagus. Fruit: Orchardists made sure bees were in apple orchards. Cherries, peaches and plums were at full bloom to petal fall over May ninth weekend. Apples and pears are at king bloom to full bloom in the Hollis area. Blueberries are at pink bud stage. Orchardists are fertilizing orchards and are applying protective fungicide sprays on fruit trees and blueberries. Planting fruit trees, raspberries, blueberries and strawberries. Finishing up pruning blueberries and pruning peach trees. Field Crops: Farmers are fertilizing hayfields; spreading manure, plowing, disking fertilizing, planting corn, and applying herbicides. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** Peas and beans and some early season extension crops are in the ground. Orchardists have sprayed apple trees to protect them from primary scab inoculum. Pastures and hay crops are off to a good start. Windy conditions over the weekend. Heavier soils may be water-logged. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Fertilizing and spraying for protective fungicides in fruit orchards and blueberry fields. Preparing vegetable fields. Planting early green leaf vegetables, peas and radishes and transplanting tomatoes in high tunnels. Planting blueberries, raspberries, and strawberries. Pastures are lush green. Field work had to be postponed due wet fields from heavy rainfall; also this week we had on more than one occasion of severe gusty wind. Some farmers' markets opened this week-end. Garden centers and greenhouse operations were relatively busy for Mother's Day week-end. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Rain showers most of the days in the week. Grass on pastures and hay fields growing well due to the rains and cool temperature. Vegetable growers preparing fields for planting, weeding cool season crops such lettuce

and peas, and planting corn and other vegetable crops. Fruit growers were busy spraying protective fungicides for scab and rust diseases. Other growers were weeding their strawberry fields. Greenhouses and garden centers had a busy week preparing for the Mother's Day weekend.

VERMONT - Jeff Carter, (Ext), Addison: Good drying weather has allowed fields to be tilled and planted early this year. Most new seedings of hay are complete and many are up. Corn planting is under way with a good start. Weed control spraying and fertilizing Nitrogen on grass hay fields. Soil is working up nicely for good seed beds. Lime applications to fields. Continue some spreading manure on fields and tillage to incorporate. The dandelions are in full blossom and lilacs are just starting to bloom. Crab apples in full bloom for Mother's Day. Hay fields seem slow to grow tall, but some grasses in boot stage already. Pastures are vigorous, but now many reports of winterkill in alfalfa fields. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Kind of a wet week, which was welcomed. Farmers spreading manure, preparing corn ground for planting and fixing fences. Some heifers out. Tulips blooming, some asparagus is ready to eat. They are looking for snow showers tonight. Heavy rain, thunderstorms, and some hail on Saturday evening. Report of a tornado in Orange County, next county south of here. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Franklin County has gone from dry to wet in a hurry. Four inches of rain in the last three days has made this happen. No flooding, however, streams have come to full bank. It will be awhile before corn planting resumes. Sun is out this AM and temps on the cool side with frost on the car windshield. This will slow down growth and budding, however, tree leaves have really come along with the moisture. Corn that is planted should be OK if the long range forecast stays true with sun to the end of the week. **John St. Onge (FSA), Lamoille:** The dry spring conditions disappeared last week with a big dump of rain on the weekend. This will slow the progress of fieldwork and planting but will give the grass crop a big boost. Most people have been holding back on grazing but pastures will pick up growth quickly now. Manure spreaders were very busy last week. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** The cropping season is just beginning here. Fields are being disked on the lighter soils fields. With last week's rain the grass is growing fast and it looks like there will be a lot of quantity on this first cut. **Julie Jacque, (FSA), Windham:** Continued vegetable plantings like onions, broccoli, lettuces and greens. Cool temps for most of week, periodic showers, and cloud cover with limited sunlight. Still dry enough for equipment to be on fields to plant corn.

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