

# Crop Progress & Condition



**NEW ENGLAND**  
Agricultural  
Statistics



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Volume 30, Number 24

(Issued weekly on the Internet, May – October)

October 12, 2010 – 4 pm

For week ending 10/10/10

## First Frost for Many

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending October 10, 2010, there were 4.7 days available for field work across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 6% very poor, 19% poor, 42% fair, 32% good, and 1% excellent. The week started out with cloudy conditions in New England. Temperature highs were in the mid 50s to mid 60s. Precipitation passed through the region on Tuesday and Wednesday, with heavy rains in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. As the week continued temperatures were in the high 50s to low 70s with partly cloudy conditions. Many areas across the region reported scattered frost over the weekend. Weekend highs were slightly cooler with temperatures in the mid 50s to mid 60s and partly cloudy conditions. The week's total precipitation ranged from 0.64 to 1.65 inches.

**FRUIT:** For many apple producers, harvest is coming to a close. Pick-your-own apple operations and farm stands were booming this holiday weekend with the enjoyable weather. Varieties being harvested include Cortland, Macoun, Golden Delicious, Honeycrisp, Mutsu, Empire, and Northern Spy. Rhode Island grape harvesting activities continued. Cranberry harvesting continued with most fruit in good condition.

**VEGETABLES:** Pumpkins are in high demand with Halloween around the corner. Other vegetables that are selling are squash, eggplant, tomatoes, cabbage, kale, and brussel sprouts. Many farmers were mowing and tilling their fields and planting winter rye for a cover crop.

**FIELD CROPS:** For those who are still harvesting silage corn, wet fields are making the job difficult. Rivers that flooded into fields left silt and mud. Meanwhile, grain corn harvesting in Vermont is expected to begin in three weeks if the soils dry out. Some hay is still being harvested. In Rhode Island, some potatoes are being put into winter storage.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	1	2	1
Short	9	7	3
Adequate	68	64	80
Surplus	22	27	16
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	3	4	0
Short	14	11	1
Adequate	69	75	85
Surplus	14	10	14

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2010	2009	5-yr Avg
-- Percent Harvested --			
Apples	85	75	80
Pears	95	95	95
Cranberries, MA	65	35	55

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2010	2009	5-yr Avg
-- Percent Harvested --			
Barley, ME	100	100	99
Oats, ME	100	100	99
Potatoes			
Maine	80	70	85
Mass	90	90	85
Rhode Island	75	85	95
Silage Corn	85	70	80
Sweet Corn	99	99	99
Dry Hay			
Second Cut	99	100	99
Third Cut	95	85	85

**Weather Summary for New England Agricultural Statistics**

For the Period: Monday October 4, 2010  
 To: Sunday October 10, 2010

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				CUM SINCE MAR 1 GROWING DEGREE DAYS				1-WEEK PRECIP			4-WEEK CUM PRECIP		
	-----				BASE-50F		BASE-60F		-----			-----		
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
-----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_State_A	41	66	52	+1	2600	+529	1109	+363	0.51	-0.29	2	3.46	+0.42	11
Bangor_Intl_Arp	37	67	51	+1	2552	+668	1091	+469	0.69	-0.01	2	3.59	+0.53	12
Bethel	35	67	51	+0	2215	+364	837	+241	1.05	+0.25	3	5.14	+2.03	12
Caribou_Municip	31	66	47	+1	2055	+608	800	+422	0.82	+0.12	2	5.12	+2.12	14
Dover-Foxcroft	30	66	47	-1	1983	+391	735	+283	0.89	+0.05	2	4.69	+1.15	13
Frenchville	28	64	45	-2	1770	+427	648	+325	0.77	+0.00	2	5.52	+2.30	15
Houlton	29	67	46	-2	1969	+457	753	+329	0.68	-0.02	2	4.44	+1.33	15
Livermore_Falls	30	67	50	+2	2166	+606	838	+409	0.62	-0.22	2	3.90	+0.64	12
Moosehead	33	65	45	-2	1629	+313	523	+213	1.09	+0.32	3	6.35	+3.10	14
Portland_ME	32	71	54	+3	2624	+706	1117	+480	1.58	+0.80	1	3.27	+0.27	9
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	33	66	48	-3	1941	+250	715	+239	0.88	+0.18	4	7.97	+5.15	13
Berlin_AG	33	66	48	-1	1996	+305	720	+223	0.82	+0.05	3	5.54	+2.56	12
Concord	33	74	54	+4	2846	+777	1335	+596	0.87	+0.17	1	3.52	+0.91	8
Diamond_Pond	31	66	44	-2	1063	-54	230	+25	0.98	+0.14	3	8.45	+4.97	15
Keene_AG	29	73	52	-2	2605	+270	1129	+213	1.02	+0.32	1	6.56	+3.84	8
North_Conway	35	68	52	+3	2309	+407	899	+266	0.80	-0.05	2	5.50	+2.27	11
Rochester	36	73	53	+0	2920	+681	1391	+539	0.77	-0.10	2	3.58	+0.41	13
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Bennington_AP	29	68	53	+3	2567	+756	1119	+567	1.05	+0.23	4	5.72	+2.32	13
Burlington_Intl	31	66	51	+1	2793	+594	1304	+463	0.91	+0.28	3	5.68	+2.88	13
Island_Pond	28	74	48	+2	1892	+505	675	+350	0.85	+0.15	3	7.33	+4.46	22
Montpelier	32	68	50	+2	2257	+535	908	+396	0.67	+0.04	3	7.39	+4.86	13
Rochester	34	70	50	+2	2127	+413	810	+306	1.41	+0.57	3	7.62	+4.23	11
Rutland_AG	29	70	50	-3	2394	+86	994	+94	0.75	+0.07	2	6.83	+3.82	10
Springfield_VT	29	70	52	+4	2661	+793	1181	+585	1.31	+0.54	2	7.72	+4.59	12
Sutton	28	72	47	+2	1847	+455	642	+305	1.04	+0.31	3	7.60	+4.65	15
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	46	73	57	-1	3507	+748	1820	+596	1.89	+1.19	4	3.40	+0.60	12
Fitchburg	34	73	54	+5	3359	+1489	1717	+1119	1.27	+0.57	3	5.29	+2.57	11
Greenfield	32	72	53	-3	2734	+202	1229	+179	0.79	+0.02	4	7.25	+4.17	13
New_Bedford	34	72	57	-2	3197	+386	1575	+311	1.33	+0.59	4	3.52	+0.55	9
Otis_AFB	37	66	56	+2	2812	+553	1262	+397	1.66	+0.82	4	3.93	+0.68	10
Plymouth	37	72	57	+3	3402	+1096	1760	+857	2.39	+1.51	4	4.36	+0.67	10
Walpole	34	72	55	+2	3188	+891	1588	+694	2.05	+1.21	4	3.92	+0.56	11
Chicopee/Westov	28	74	55	-3	3187	+267	1596	+252	1.24	+0.47	5	6.27	+3.08	12
Worthington	31	69	51	-1	2364	+503	952	+377	1.78	+1.01	5	9.41	+6.12	13
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	40	73	58	+2	3512	+887	1795	+664	1.78	+1.01	4	3.56	+0.42	11
Woonsocket	36	72	55	+2	3188	+928	1564	+718	1.74	+0.87	4	5.21	+1.75	11
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	41	73	59	+1	3571	+716	1876	+555	0.23	-0.43	4	3.83	+1.05	13
Hartford/Bradle	36	75	56	+2	3542	+769	1847	+606	0.97	+0.17	5	5.74	+2.35	13
Norfolk	33	65	50	+1	2532	+681	1077	+504	1.89	+1.04	4	10.20	+6.54	13
Thomaston_Dam	35	72	54	+1	3080	+821	1483	+638	1.02	+0.16	4	8.26	+4.67	13
Willimantic	30	72	54	+1	3179	+873	1557	+681	0.97	+0.06	5	3.60	-0.06	14

**State Weather Summary**

For the Week Ending Sunday, October 10, 2010

Summary based on NWS data.  
 DFN = Departure from Normal (Using 1971-2000 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	27	71	49	+0	0.16	1.58
NH	17	74	50	+1	0.13	1.53
VT	24	74	50	+1	0.46	2.18
MA	28	74	55	+1	0.79	2.39
RI	36	73	57	+1	0.92	1.78
CT	30	75	55	+0	0.23	1.89

**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:** Showers midweek totaled up to about 2 inches. Nice Columbus holiday weekend for leaf peepers, harvest celebrations, and farm stand sales. For many vegetable crops the season has come to a close with mixed results depending on if your crops had irrigation available. Vegetable farmers were pulling up plastic mulch and seeding rye cover crop. Some dry hay put in although more grass silage was put up. Scattered frost in outlying areas, however, none along the Connecticut River. It was a good week to take tobacco down. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** Pumpkins, cornstalks, and other decoration items seem to be all that are selling at farm stands in the area. A few squash, eggplant, and tomatoes are still for sale but they aren't the big movers. Silage harvest is over. The last farm had planned to finish by the end of the weekend. Some grain corn remains in the field to dry - but that harvest will not start for a month or two at the earliest. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** Rainy and cool mid-week, beautiful fall weather for the weekend. Most vegetables are completely harvested along with silage corn and hay. Lots of people visiting orchards and farm stands during the beautiful long weekend. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Combining corn, prices have been good. Rye is growing well with the recent rains. Cooler temperatures. First frost this weekend. It was a sunny, warm three days for Columbus Day apple picking and harvest festivals.

**MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** High winds over the weekend helped dry the ground. By Monday harvest crews were at full speed again. Many of the operations will finish this week if weather permits. Pastures still look good. There has been some hay movement as people prepare to feed their animals for winter. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Farmers continued to harvest potatoes. A few days of rain slowed harvest for a couple of days. Broccoli harvest continued in the area. Plowing fields that are already harvested. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Scattered frost in some areas this morning. The apple and cranberry harvest is continuing. Other crops have been harvested. Most are reporting good crops, except for apples and strawberries that had damage from the June freeze. Drought in August also reduced hay yields. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** There has still been no major killing frost! Some hay is still being harvested. Conditions are excellent for spreading manure. **Megan McDonough (FSA), Kennebec:** Parts of Kennebec County have experienced frost advisories. Pumpkins and winter squash have been harvested. Season temperatures and rain made up the bulk of last week's notable weather news. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** We can say the harvest is almost complete here. Apple harvest will be complete by the end of the week with approximately a 20% loss overall, which is great compared to earlier predictions. Some chopping of grass continues and pumpkins continue to be harvested. We have had a beautiful fall season here. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** More widespread frost in many areas. PYO and harvests are finishing up and field work, cover crops, and fall manure spreading on-going. **Elaine S. Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Beautiful fall weather. Cooler temperatures and rain in the forecast.

**MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** We had a rainy week, seemed strange. Things cleared up by the holiday weekend which was cool, breezy and sunny. This was perfect for orchards, farmstands and farmers markets. Not much work was done in the field last week due to the rain. Three nights of scattered frost has ended the growing season for most folks. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** More rain during the week was very welcome. Producers are preparing fields for the winter by planting cover crops. Great weather on the holiday weekend brought out tourists to harvest festivals and farm stands. No shortage of pumpkins for Halloween this year! Silage harvest is almost complete and way ahead of schedule. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** It was another week with rain showers. These showers

caused many great tobacco dumps for growers to take down their crop hanging in the barns. Sunday morning brought the counties' first killing frost. Growers continued harvesting grain corn, potatoes, apples, nursery stock, pumpkins, and hay. Farmers are removing row covers from fields, spreading lime and seeding a winter cover crop. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: A very wet week. Water harvesting proceeded as usual, but dry harvesting for fresh fruit was impossible to do except for one, maybe two days. This is the peak of the harvest. Great weather during the long weekend for the cranberry festivals. Crops are good size, but rot/scald continues to be a major issue for some growers. Many growers are picking early as a result.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE – Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** The landscape has greened up a bit with recent rains, temps cooler now, with a couple frosts. Silage corn all done, a few farms attempting a late third or fourth cut on hayfields. Fall crops dominating farmstands. PYO apple operations still busy, but season is beginning to wind down. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Flood waters subsided but many acres of corn along low lying fields of river were underwater silted. Silage corn harvest continues where possible but some areas difficult to access as soils are quite wet. Cold, wet, and windy week, not the best for farm activities. A cold end of the week and hard frost to pretty much close out the growing year. Potential field corn losses from flooding. Late variety apples and cider at stands and PYO's, root crops, pumpkins, squash and other end-of-the-season veggies at market. Manure spreading on fields and garden cleanups. **Heather Bryant (Ext), Grafton:** First hard frost of the season hit the northern part of the county on October 10th. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending 10-9-10 we had over an inch of rain. Soils are saturated on many fields. Some fields are still too wet to harvest. Producers are struggling to put up the last of their haylage crop. Harvesting of silage corn is nearly complete except for the fields that are still too wet to chop. With over seven inches of rain in the last two weeks, things remain wet. Some flood damage to field crops along some lower river bottom fields was apparent. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Fruit: Pick-your-own apple and farm stand operations had a good Saturday and Sunday. Apple harvest is almost completed, completing Cortland and Macoun apple harvest and working on Golden Delicious apples. Fall raspberry and pear harvests are over. Vegetables: Great weather. Harvesting a wide array of vegetables including: cabbage, kale, Brussel sprouts, winter squash and pumpkins along with the tail end of warm season crops. Good demand for all vegetables continues. Farmers kept busy disking, cleaning up and planting cover crops on harvested fields. Field Crops: Silage corn harvest completed while second and third cuts of hay and haylage continues. Planting cover crops on harvested fields. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** No sign of frost yet. Farmers continue to clean up fields, spread lime and work on seeding for winter crops in high tunnels. For apples; Honeycrisp, Mutsu, Empire, Golden Delicious and Northern Spy are popular right now. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Nice weather on Columbus Day week-end brought crowds to PYO apple operations. Picking fall raspberries and green vegetables. Hay and haylage was done. Spreading manure and fertilizer. Planting cover crops. A heavy downpour of rain mid-week. Cool nights reaching about 35 degrees Fahrenheit. **Geoffrey Njue (Ext), Strafford:** Mild weather suitable for field work most of the week. Fruit growers continued to harvest apples. Pick your own growers had a busy Columbus Day weekend with customers coming out in large numbers to pick apples. Some growers continued to harvest day neutral strawberries. Vegetables growers were harvesting cool season crops, such as cole crops and sweet snap peas. The season for most other crops is winding down and growers were mowing the fields, tilling them and planting winter rye cover crop. Garden centers and farm stands were busy selling mums, pumpkins and other fall decorations. Poinsettia crop is growing well and on target for most growers.

**RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** Another week of mostly cool damp weather. Harvesting was hampered by a couple of days of rain. Just starting to put potatoes into winter storage. Small vegetables are still in abundance. It was a very good weekend at the farm stands. Pumpkins, squash and mums were selling. Livestock are doing well. Pastures have seen some more rain this week, but still need more rain. The subsoil is still dry. We've seen a little bit of frost in the northern part of the state this week. The southern part is still real good. Grape harvesting is still in full swing in RI.

**VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Rain and wet soils slowed corn silage harvest. Still some harvest but deep tracks in fields and mud on the roads. Corn maturity mostly near black layer, fast drydown without any frost yet. A little fall plowing has been done, some winter rye seeding cover crop in corn fields. Hay crop harvest complete for year, good regrowth going into fall. Soybean plants yellow to brown with leaves dropping and seeds shrinking bit still up around 18 to 20% moisture. Harvest dry shell corn and soy anticipated in three weeks if weather dries out. **Dennis Kauppila (Ext), Caledonia:** Corn silage harvest just about finished now. There was some mud this week to contend with, I do not think there

will be very much corn actually left in the field- but there may be some. Still some late season hay harvest- chopping and round baling. Some manure going out onto fields. Widespread frost on Saturday night pretty much finished the growing season. **Heather Darby (Ext), Franklin:** Corn harvest continues between rain showers. The heavy rains last week flooded several fields of corn, soybeans, and sunflowers. Winter wheat is up and growing rapidly. Some folks still finishing 4th cut hay. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Much moisture in Franklin County is now making corn harvest a muddy job. Some of the river bottom flood prone corn that has been harvested is silty and tough on choppers. Will need some caution at feed out also. Apples are getting down to the drops. Weather has kept some folks away from the pick your own status. Gardens are in clean up phase. It's best to move as much of the vines and leftover produce to another site so it does not infest next year's crop with any unknown problems that were in this year's crop. Cover crops on corn will be very difficult to spread, incorporate and get to germinate with the very wet conditions. It is best to do a "wait and see" if weather conditions change to enhance germination. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** A wet week and cooler. Corn is almost all harvested, what is left standing should be cut this week if the fields dry out enough.

**September 2010 CROP WEATHER SUMMARY:** Weather conditions were generally mild with scattered showered darting across New England throughout the month. Average high temperatures ranged from the upper 60s to upper 70s and low temperatures ranged from the upper 40s to lower 60s. The month began with several areas reporting record high temperatures in the 80s and 90s. On the evening of Friday, September 3, Hurricane Earl threatened Cape Cod and Nantucket. The damage was minimal thanks to the cool ocean waters forcing Earl to downgrade to a tropical storm by the time it reached our coastline. Precipitation ranged from zero to over an inch and a half. Sunny to partly cloudy conditions continued until September 7, when scattered showers moved across the region. Pleasant conditions returned Thursday and lasted for the rest of that week. A stretch of cooler, cloudy weather returned for the third full week in September. Temperature highs ranged from lower 60s to lower 70s. The sun crept into sight on September 20. Temperatures ranged from 60s and 70s at the beginning of the week and later turned warmer with highs in the 80s for most of New England. Cooler, autumn weather returned for the remainder of the month with temperatures staying in the lower to mid 70s. The cranberry harvest began for some Massachusetts operations during the second week of September with an average fruit size and in good condition. Fruit rot and scald showed up in cranberries as the month progressed which pushed operators to harvest at a more accelerated rate. Blueberry harvesting wrapped up around Labor Day. Apples and pears were harvested throughout the month along with peaches that completed harvest around the end of the month on schedule. Vegetables that were being harvested included beans, beets, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, kale, onions, peppers, pumpkins, radishes, sweet corn, squash, tomatoes, and zucchini. Powdery mildew killed pumpkin vines at some locations. Growers also noted an increase in the number of squash vine bo03rer insects and cucumber beetles adversely affecting pumpkins and winter squash in New Hampshire. In Vermont, there were reports of cabbage, onion, beet, turnip, and lettuce crop losses due to extremely dry conditions. Some producers found the need to irrigate their fall crops. Oats and barley were fully harvested by September 26. Corn for silage yields were reportedly low in some areas due to a lack of moisture during the growing season. Potato conditions remained between fair to excellent.

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