

# Crop Progress & Condition



NEW ENGLAND  
Agricultural  
Statistics



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For week ending 5/22/11

## Rain, Rain Go Away

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:** For the week ending May 22, 2011, there were 2.2 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture conditions were rated 2% poor, 23% fair, 50% good, and 25% excellent. Monday through Wednesday temperatures were slightly cooler across New England, mostly in the low 50s to low 60s with a light rain. Thursday and Friday warmed slightly to temperatures in the high 50s to mid-70s. Conditions were foggy and cloudy with isolated cases of heavy rain, some with thunderstorms. More scattered showers were experienced on Saturday, with temperatures in the mid-60s to mid-70s. Cloudy skies on Sunday gave way to very little rain as temperatures were modestly below average for many in the mid-50s to low 70s. Total rainfall for the week ranged from 0.23 to 3.76 inches across the region.

**FRUIT:** Fruits are either starting to bloom or are already in full bloom across New England. There were great concerns that with the cold, wet weather bees were not coming out to pollinate. Orchardists applied a protective fungicide spray on their fruit trees when it was possible. Strawberries will be in question soon with much moisture putting them at risk of mold and decay before picking.

**VEGETABLES:** Some farmers were planting sweet corn, beets, cabbage, potatoes, lettuce and other vegetables where they are able to get into fields. Asparagus harvesting continued along with spinach, lettuce, and rhubarb. Farmers who seeded sweet corn, peas, and beans are worried about seed rotting in the wet soil.

**FIELD CROPS:** Corn for silage planting came to a halt this week for many because of the frequent rain and/or sopping wet fields. Very few plants have emerged. There's fear that some newly planted seeds are rotting in the ground. Tobacco was transplanted for the first time this season in select locations of the Connecticut River Valley. Shade tobacco fields, on average, are almost half planted by this time of the year. Some farmers were able to plant potatoes this week, mostly in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Hay fields are growing well and are ready to be cut in some areas, but moist conditions have prevented field entry.

### SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	7
Short	0	2	29
Adequate	39	59	62
Surplus	61	39	2
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	0	0	5
Short	0	1	17
Adequate	44	63	74
Surplus	56	36	4

### FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

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

### FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2011	2010	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				
Barley, ME	25	95	70	
Oats, ME	25	85	70	
Potatoes				
Maine	10	85	60	N/A
Mass	65	99	95	
Rhode Island	95	100	90	
Silage Corn	20	55	50	
Sweet Corn	30	45	45	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	<5	<5	5	Fair/Good
Shade	10	65	45	Fair/Good
-- Percent Emerged --				
Barley	<5	75	30	Good
Oats	5	65	30	Good
Potatoes				
Maine	0	10	<5	
Mass	<5	75	40	Good
Rhode Island	20	60	30	N/A
Silage Corn	<5	10	10	Fair/Good
Sweet Corn	20	20	10	Good/Fair
Dry Hay				
-- Percent Harvested --				
First Cut	<5	10	<5	Good/Fair

**Weather Summary For New England Agricultural Statistics**

Prepared By AWIS.com

For the Period: Monday, May 16, 2011  
 To: Sunday, May 22, 2011

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	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS
	---	---	---	---	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	---	---	INCHES	---	---
<b>MAINE</b>														
Augusta_State_A	40	70	52	-4	116	+10	0	-6	3.16	+2.32	5	3.83	+0.31	12
Bangor_Intl_Arp	41	68	54	-1	126	+50	3	+2	1.59	+0.77	5	3.74	+0.49	14
Bethel	42	65	53	-3	99	+15	1	-3	3.47	+2.63	7	5.65	+2.34	16
Caribou_Municip	36	75	53	+2	74	+19	12	+12	0.32	-0.38	3	3.22	+0.52	13
Dover-Foxcroft	38	64	50	-3	52	-4	0	+0	1.80	+1.01	7	4.50	+1.24	20
Frenchville	36	72	51	+0	46	+9	4	+4	0.54	-0.16	4	3.39	+0.65	14
Houlton	34	70	51	-2	76	+21	6	+6	1.42	+0.65	5	5.45	+2.52	19
Livermore_Falls	41	68	52	-1	92	+36	0	+0	2.55	+1.71	7	4.96	+1.53	17
Moosehead	38	66	49	-2	22	-6	0	+0	1.66	+0.89	7	5.26	+2.20	18
Portland_ME	44	67	52	-3	106	+36	0	+0	3.27	+2.48	6	4.21	+0.80	13
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>														
Benton	39	70	55	+1	111	+6	9	-3	2.92	+2.15	7	5.67	+2.73	15
Berlin_AG	43	71	55	+2	102	+15	10	+2	1.79	+0.98	6	3.89	+0.73	13
Concord	46	76	56	+0	206	+85	29	+18	3.35	+2.65	7	4.60	+1.80	14
Diamond_Pond	39	64	51	+2	51	+17	0	+0	1.17	+0.26	4	4.93	+1.58	13
Keene_AG	48	74	58	-2	191	+20	27	+2	2.44	+1.60	5	3.89	+0.59	13
North_Conway	43	64	52	-4	103	+1	2	-7	2.77	+1.87	7	5.37	+1.69	19
Rochester	45	76	55	-3	199	+57	19	+3	3.00	+2.15	7	4.74	+1.07	16
<b>VERMONT</b>														
Bennington_AP	50	74	61	+7	259	+151	52	+38	2.64	+1.59	6	4.88	+0.74	14
Burlington_Intl	45	76	59	+2	227	+72	48	+25	2.48	+1.78	6	9.72	+6.94	14
Island_Pond	45	75	59	+7	128	+67	24	+24	1.43	+0.58	5	5.74	+2.64	13
Montpelier	46	74	58	+4	165	+64	30	+19	2.05	+1.28	7	5.52	+2.75	16
Rochester	46	75	57	+4	135	+45	22	+14	2.74	+1.76	7	6.36	+2.48	15
Rutland_AG	47	75	59	+1	178	-7	30	-2	1.86	+1.07	7	6.34	+3.34	15
Springfield_VT	48	74	59	+4	235	+121	48	+35	2.45	+1.54	5	4.41	+0.77	12
Sutton	43	76	58	+7	116	+58	11	+11	2.39	+1.55	6	6.81	+3.74	15
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>														
Boston/Logan_In	48	65	53	-6	249	+58	35	+23	1.57	+0.87	5	2.99	-0.07	12
Fitchburg	48	76	56	+1	272	+177	49	+45	1.74	+0.94	6	2.70	-0.46	16
Greenfield	47	73	56	-4	196	+3	20	-3	3.96	+3.06	7	5.02	+1.52	18
New_Bedford	49	75	61	+2	298	+104	38	+25	3.16	+2.36	5	4.20	+0.81	14
Otis_AFB	46	72	57	+2	167	+69	10	+9	1.60	+0.76	5	2.43	-1.03	11
Plymouth	48	71	58	+2	262	+151	33	+30	1.62	+0.72	6	3.12	-0.62	17
Walpole	47	71	56	-2	215	+70	21	+11	1.97	+1.20	6	3.65	+0.36	15
Chicopee/Westov	48	75	59	-4	293	+29	60	+20	3.18	+2.27	5	4.20	+0.56	12
Worthington	45	70	54	-2	154	+51	18	+9	3.40	+2.35	7	4.75	+0.58	15
<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>														
Providence	47	73	58	-2	257	+91	29	+21	2.02	+1.18	5	3.12	-0.37	13
Woonsocket	47	75	57	-1	247	+106	30	+23	1.70	+0.79	5	2.56	-1.19	14
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>														
Bridgeport/Siko	51	67	59	-1	282	+78	20	-7	3.78	+2.88	6	4.95	+1.32	11
Hartford/Bradle	49	77	59	-3	309	+71	57	+19	3.09	+2.12	5	3.72	-0.01	10
Norfolk	45	68	54	-2	170	+71	19	+12	3.57	+2.52	7	4.94	+0.80	15
Thomaston_Dam	48	75	59	+2	264	+104	53	+36	3.59	+2.61	7	4.65	+0.55	14
Willimantic	49	75	58	+1	288	+130	46	+30	3.70	+2.77	7	4.32	+0.45	15

**State Weather Summary**

For the Week Ending Sunday, May 22, 2011

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	34	78	52	-2	0.29	4.32
NH	30	76	54	+0	1.04	3.52
VT	37	78	58	+3	1.43	5.48
MA	44	76	56	-1	1.01	3.96
RI	47	75	57	+0	1.70	2.09
CT	45	77	59	+0	2.63	4.73

**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:** It has been a rainy week. Some field corn has been planted. In low lying areas of the fields, corn will drown because of this week's constant rain. **Ross Eddy (FSA), Hartford/Tolland:** A very wet week with some reporting over 6 inches of rain. Field corn planting stopped and along rivers questions loom over the possibility of replanting as soggy fields turn into ponds. Some transplanting of cabbage and other veggies where getting on the land is possible. Transplanting of shade tobacco tried, but a bulldozer was needed to get a transplanter out of the field. Some broadleaf set but very little. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** What can you say? It rained 6 days this week. Little field work was possible. One grower tried planting onion sets in the mud - what a mess. The only thing that really seems to like this weather is dandelions. We always see them in the spring - but this year they are everywhere and have all but taken over entire lawns and fields. Cool season grasses are heading out shortly. **Ann Marie McCard (FSA), New London:** Heavy showers throughout the week curtailed most field activities. **Nancy Welsh (FSA), New Haven:** A terrible rainy week brought field work to a standstill. Severe storm at the end of the week brought torrential downpours and hail ranging in size from pea size to dime size. Rainfall in excess of 3 to 4 inches was recorded. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Harvesting asparagus, spraying fruit trees, and mowing orchards. Wet conditions. Scab is at its height. Behind on field work due to wet weather. Cool temperatures. Bedding plants sales slow due to poor weather.

**MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook:** Rain Sunday-Tuesday kept most operations off the ground until Friday. Wet heavy going made progress slow at the start. Hay fields and pastures are greening up nicely even with cold temperatures. Early grain is emerging. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** After another rainy week, farmers were able to get a few days to plant crops in the fields the later part of the week. With more rain in the forecast for the next week, planting is likely to remain difficult. Farmers are trying to get crops in the ground. Mother Nature is not cooperating. **Steve London, Southern Aroostook:** Potatoes and small grains: We have been having a lot of moisture lately and are behind some in planting. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** The last 8 days have been mostly wet, cold, and gloomy. Most apples are in full bloom, but the bees haven't been able to do much pollinating. Hopefully, the weather will warm up this week and the bees will have a chance to get out and work. Orchards are also concerned with fire blight and scab. The soil temperatures are still very cool, so not much is growing except for grass. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** Too much rain is better than tornados. Pastures would be excellent but they are too wet and are being "punched up" some. The hay growth is off to an excellent start. Last week was basically a "wash" for cultivation and planting. We need some sunshine for fruit tree pollination. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Another week of cold and rainy weather is really putting a stop to the preparing for an early season. Some potatoes have been planted, corn, peas, squash, onions, and hardy crops as well. Berries and apples are starting to have blossoms, but without sun they won't open up. Bees are in the area for pollinating but doesn't look to promising for the upcoming week. Dry fields have had manure spread, but low lying fields are still pretty wet. Hay fields and pastures are nice and green but pretty wet. Current weather conditions are putting a halt on applying fungicides and herbicides. Hopefully this week will bring a little sun and warmer temperatures. **Trudy Soucy (FSA), Knox/Lincoln:** Everything has come to a halt with persistent rain along with abnormally cool temperatures. One farmer reported that this is starting to get serious. No new plantings occurred last week and little to no field work was accomplished. We need sun and heat! A little bit of pollination has occurred to the blueberry crop. Pre-emergent herbicide is being applied to blueberry fields. Hopefully this dismal weather will break soon, maybe by mid-week according to the latest

weather forecast. We can only hope. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Oxford County received rain every day last week. Soils are saturated all around the county. Field work came to a standstill. Need sunshine!! **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** A few farmers were able to get out for a few hours on Sunday to do some tillage. The rains have slowed most farm operations. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Never ending rain is having a serious impact on field work. With fruit trees in bloom we really need some sun so the bees can get out and get pollinating. **Elaine Moceus/Janet King (FSA), Somerset:** The wet weather continues, with a forecast calling for more rain in the coming week. Some producers have been able to plant a few acres. Temperatures remained cool over the past week. Hay is growing fast with the rain. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** The rain needs to go away for a while! Cold and wet throughout the week. Not much field work possible. Apples starting to bloom. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Several infection periods occurred last week for mummyberry disease but rain has continued to hamper timely applications of fungicides. In most fields the mummyberry cups are now no longer active, so no more fungicide application are needed for mummyberry disease prevention. Flowers are opening and pollination occurring throughout the state but the cool wet conditions have limited the bee's activity.

**MASSACHUSETTS – Aimee Thayer (FSA), Berkshire:** This was a cloudy gray week which started with a substantial rain event of 2-3 inches in the county. Growers report crop emergence to be slow as soil temps are still cool. More sun and warmer temps would also be helpful for the orchards, who as bloom season is winding down need more pollinator activity. The cool temps have kept bees at bay. **Lori Carver (FSA), Franklin:** Another rainy week. Crop planting is behind schedule. Transplants that are in the ground are not growing, seeds in the ground are not germinating. Asparagus harvest continues. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** Very wet soil conditions with cool temperatures. Harvesting asparagus, spinach, lettuce, and rhubarb. Planting sweet corn, beets, cabbage, potatoes, and lettuce. Orchards are applying a protective fungicide spray on their fruit trees. **Frank Caruso (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: A very wet week, with three inches of rain in many locations. As for the previous week, it was difficult to apply herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides and with wet vines, nearly impossible to sweep net for insects. Growers continued to do what they could with the wet and humid conditions. The positive thing was no frost nights. Vines continue to green up and produce the first upright growth. Wet conditions and puddling will certainly favor Phytophthora infections. I expect a lot of leaf spot and blight to show up this week on many plants in the area. We certainly need a drying out period.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE – Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Rain every day except Sunday. Wet weather has really slowed down field work. Grass looks great and is ready to harvest as soon as conditions allow it. Producers behind on planting corn. Vegetable operations are able to continue some with transplanting in between showers, but some are also a bit behind. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Unsettled weather throughout the week, scattered rainstorms, windy, but not too much rainfall accumulation. Low lying fields along rivers too wet for planting after last weekend's rains. Field corn planting, field prep, and manure spreading continues as soil conditions permit. Meadows growing well, no signs of winter damage to alfalfa. Orchard grass about at boot stage. Dandelions in full bloom. Flower buds and wintering perennials seem to have had a good winter. Blossoms on highbush blueberries, apple trees, etc., quite spectacular this spring. Wet conditions may make for apple scab difficulties. Increased activity on vegetable operations, peas up on some, high tunnel tomato planting continued. First farmers market opened in Lancaster with greens, rhubarb, bedding plants, fiddleheads, and even some asparagus offered. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the week ending May 21st, we had rain every

day. Soils remained saturated and most fields were too wet for equipment access. Friday brought very heavy cloudburst activity to east Haverhill and areas of Piermont. State and local roads were damaged and disturbed areas washed out. Many corn fields remain unplanted. First cut hay is ready to go on the better soils, but most fields are too wet for heavy equipment. The sandy loam soils are the exception. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Concern about constant cloudy, wet weather that is occurring. Many growers/orchardists are worried about pollination of all fruit crops that are blooming. Other farmers cannot get into fields to plant crops. Fruit: Apples are at petal fall and determining if they should thin apples. Blueberries are at full bloom. Strawberries are in bloom to full bloom. Orchardists are applying protective fungicide sprays on fruit trees and blueberries. Vegetables: Continued planting vegetables, along with successive planting of sweet corn in dried fields. Laying plastic mulch and drip irrigation tape. Harvesting asparagus. Field Crops: Farmers are plowing, discing, fertilizing, planting corn, and applying herbicides to fields dry enough to get on. Pastures and hayfields starting to look good. Early planted corn has emerged and new seedlings are up and growing. **Amy Ouellette (Ext), Merrimack:** It's rained every day since apple trees first bloomed (about Friday the 13th) so orchardists are very concerned about pollination. Farmers who have seeded corn, peas, and beans are worried about seed rotting in wet soil. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Sun peaked on Saturday. A wet, cloudy, and cold week. Fields are wet. Working in high tunnels harvesting greens, planting tomatoes. Pastures are green. Newly planted crops in field are not growing. Some newly planted seeds are rotting in the ground. **Jenn Zaleski (FSA), Sullivan:** It was another week of unsuitable conditions for field work. Many days were rain free, but showers over night kept low lying areas of fields wet and unworkable throughout most of the day. Fields that had dried out during the previous week once again became wet and waterlogged. There are many acres of field corn left to plant. Farmers are concerned about the crop that has already been planted. They are worried about seed rot and the need to replant once fields dry out again. Many report that with the abundance of moisture, hay is ready to be cut.

**RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties:** Rain and cloudy skies all week. Not much planting going on as the fields are too wet. Hope for some sun and warmer temps this week.

**VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison:** Rain prevented field tillage and planting this week. Some drying at end of week to allow manure spreading. Lilacs are in bloom and orchard grass is heading

out. First cut haylage will start as soon as weather permits, coinciding with corn planting. Soil temperatures still cool and surface water ponding on planted corn fields. Pasture growth good, but hoof damage in wet soils evident. **Daniel Hudson (Ext), Caledonia:** I am very concerned that farmers have been prevented from planting their silage corn. The time of year is such that farmers are probably going to work hard to plant regardless of soil conditions. This likely will reduce yields due to compaction, sidewall smearing, etc. First cut hay should be cut soon, but conditions are certainly past prime for quality. The 10-day weather forecast looks more favorable than it did last week, but drying conditions will not be great and there is a moderate chance for rain. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Another wet week here in Franklin County. This is beginning to sound like a broken record (in more ways than one). Corn planting is still the real problem in the ag world. No planting done last week and fields are still very wet with standing water. Corn that has been planted is at large risk of seed rot before germination, being ten days out from when the last planting session happened. Flowering fruits have come to life this week with apples, lilacs, and all others at their peak. Strawberries will be in question soon with much moisture putting them at risk of mold and decay before picking, still a long way to go here. Grass is king right now with most at 12" to 15". However, timothy and orchard grass are heading out which will bring down quality along with lack of sunshine. Harvest is not even close to the radar screen with wet fields. Pasture is great if the animals can get there to enjoy the lush grass. **Heather Mateja (FSA), Lamoille/Washington:** Another wet week. Fields are too wet to work, planting is delayed. Grass is growing well, if the weather breaks first cut could be great. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** So far this spring has been cool, cloudy, and very wet. The lack of sun has delayed hay growth so that yields will be affected. The cloudy and cool weather may also affect the protein content of the hay crop. So far no reports of farmers starting first crop haying. Farmers are struggling to plant corn due to the wet conditions. Compared to last year the farmers are behind schedule. Of the corn planted, I haven't seen any that has emerged yet. Pastures are growing and most farms have their cattle out on it. Growth is slow due to lack of sun but should really take off once the weather changes. Apples are in full bloom now and the trees are loaded with blossoms. Strawberries are coming, but the wet, cool weather is a concern for good fruit development. A week of sun and warm temperatures would be most welcomed. **Julie Jacque (FSA), Windham:** Cool, wet weather resulted in little to no field work accomplished this week. Fields are saturated. Grazing paddocks have an adequate stand for animals to be put out on rotations.

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