

Crop Progress & Condition



A field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

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Volume 33, Number 3 (Issued weekly on the Internet, May – October) May 13, 2013 – 4 pm

For week ending 5/12/13

Welcomed Rain

GENERAL CONDITIONS: For the week ending May 12, 2013 there were 5.6 days available for fieldwork across New England. Pasture condition ratings improved from last week to 4% poor, 35% fair, 49% good, and 12% excellent. Clear, sunny skies prevailed early in the week but late week showers and scattered thunderstorms gave all six New England States needed precipitation. Amounts ranged from 0.20 inch to 3.04 inches. Statewide average temperatures for the week ranged from 58 to 61 degrees, with mostly warm days and cool nights. Lack of precipitation early in the week allowed planting to progress at a fast pace. Rains in the last half of the week slowed progress but gave planted crops moisture needed to germinate and improved pasture and hay conditions.

FRUIT: The warm weather continued to push tree fruit development with some early fruits reaching petal fall. Orchardists made sure the bees were out to pollinate. Orchardists were active pruning, monitoring for pests, fertilizing and applying protective fungicide sprays. Some were preparing frost protection equipment in anticipation of freezing temperatures. Strawberry growers continued to plant new beds for next year's harvest. Cranberry growers were applying herbicide applications, weed removal, ditch and drainage maintenance, and insect scouting. In Maine, wild blueberry growers applied fungicides to control mummy berry infections.

VEGETABLES: Ideal planting conditions had vegetable growers out in full force. Growers planted sweet corn and an array of vegetable crops including beets, lettuce, cabbage, spinach, peas, greens and onions. Harvest of greens, rhubarb, fiddleheads, parsnips and asparagus was underway in southern states by week's end. Broccoli planting continued in Aroostook County, Maine.

FIELD CROPS: Planting progress continued ahead of the 5-year normal for all major New England field crops. Field corn planting ranged from 15 percent north to close to 60 percent south. Potato planting and small grain seeding continued to make rapid progress in Aroostook County, Maine. Massachusetts and Rhode Island potato growers were nearing completion. First crop hay growth and condition are expected to improve from the recent precipitation. Other field activities included field tillage, spreading manure, tilling corn fields, applying fertilizers and herbicides.

SOIL MOISTURE ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Soil Rating	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
-- Percent --			
Topsoil			
Very Short	2	11	0
Short	25	47	6
Adequate	71	40	73
Surplus	2	2	21
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	5	1
Short	24	27	7
Adequate	71	65	80
Surplus	4	3	12

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

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

FIELD CROP DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NEW ENGLAND

Crop	2013	2012	5-yr Avg	Condition
-- Percent Planted --				
Barley, ME	80	45	30	N/A
Oats, ME	80	45	30	N/A
Potatoes				
Maine	50	35	20	N/A
Mass	95	95	70	N/A
Rhode Island	90	99	70	N/A
Silage Corn	40	20	15	
Sweet Corn	35	30	25	
Tobacco				
Broadleaf	0	0	0	
Shade	0	0	<5	
-- Percent Emerged --				
Barley	<5	10	10	
Oats	<5	10	10	
Potatoes				
Mass	20	20	10	Good
Rhode Island	10	55	20	Good/Exc
Silage Corn	10	<5	<5	Good
Sweet Corn	10	15	10	Good
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 6, 2013
 To: Sunday May 12, 2013

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	---	---
MAINE														
Augusta_State_A	37	75	58	+7	92	+44	8	+8	1.46	+0.57	3	2.03	-1.57	9
Bangor_Intl_Arp	35	75	58	+8	75	+43	10	+10	0.60	-0.24	4	1.38	-1.79	10
Bethel	31	79	58	+7	89	+53	4	+4	1.14	+0.34	3	1.59	-1.73	5
Caribou_Municip	45	85	62	+14	133	+111	29	+29	0.55	-0.15	3	1.15	-1.35	10
Dover-Foxcroft	34	80	60	+11	89	+67	12	+12	1.01	+0.19	3	1.95	-1.39	9
Frenchville	46	82	60	+15	114	+102	25	+25	0.84	+0.14	3	1.38	-1.24	8
Houlton	41	81	61	+13	104	+82	12	+12	0.42	-0.33	2	0.90	-1.83	8
Livermore_Falls	32	78	58	+10	78	+56	7	+7	1.22	+0.38	4	1.71	-1.82	8
Moosehead	34	84	58	+13	69	+61	5	+5	0.47	-0.30	3	1.08	-1.92	7
Portland_ME	35	69	56	+5	61	+32	1	+1	1.02	+0.18	4	1.35	-2.31	9
NEW HAMPSHIRE														
Benton	36	81	60	+9	117	+64	9	+7	0.87	+0.13	4	1.58	-1.19	7
Berlin_AG	39	85	64	+14	166	+125	32	+32	0.92	+0.15	3	1.38	-1.83	7
Concord	30	81	61	+9	149	+90	23	+22	0.57	-0.13	4	0.99	-1.81	6
First_Conn_Lake	36	79	60	+15	100	+88	8	+8	1.82	+0.98	4	2.56	-0.54	8
Keene_AG	31	83	60	+5	124	+35	12	+3	0.79	-0.05	4	1.48	-1.71	7
North_Conway	35	82	60	+9	119	+72	10	+10	1.71	+0.80	4	1.98	-1.81	10
Rochester	34	78	59	+6	106	+35	11	+7	0.89	-0.02	4	1.38	-2.51	8
VERMONT														
Bennington_AP	36	80	61	+10	173	+118	21	+17	0.50	-0.49	4	2.01	-2.11	8
Burlington_Intl	48	84	66	+13	238	+158	67	+58	0.45	-0.25	3	1.24	-1.46	8
Island_Pond	41	80	61	+13	129	+102	13	+13	1.10	+0.33	4	2.02	-0.78	8
Montpelier	39	81	60	+10	141	+91	11	+10	0.20	-0.50	4	1.03	-1.47	9
Rochester	36	84	59	+9	112	+69	3	+3	1.35	+0.37	4	2.39	-1.37	6
Rutland_AG	37	84	60	+6	140	+38	14	+1	1.29	+0.52	4	2.42	-0.37	6
Springfield_VT	34	81	60	+9	149	+93	15	+12	0.99	+0.08	3	1.61	-2.03	5
Sutton	42	80	62	+14	133	+110	19	+19	0.48	-0.29	4	1.48	-1.42	10
MASSACHUSETTS														
Boston/Logan_In	43	72	59	+3	156	+51	15	+15	1.07	+0.30	4	1.66	-1.58	8
Fitchburg	35	81	62	+11	202	+158	32	+32	1.04	+0.27	4	1.46	-1.71	6
Greenfield	35	80	61	+6	166	+62	18	+11	2.32	+1.48	4	3.17	-0.28	7
New_Bedford	44	78	60	+5	139	+31	17	+16	1.45	+0.61	4	2.16	-1.45	10
Otis_AFB	41	75	59	+7	101	+55	12	+12	0.98	+0.14	2	2.92	-0.64	7
Plymouth	37	76	60	+8	140	+88	22	+22	1.19	+0.28	4	2.07	-1.81	11
Walpole	37	77	60	+6	166	+91	19	+19	0.94	+0.16	4	1.53	-2.09	8
Chicopee/Westov	37	80	62	+4	184	+27	26	+11	0.71	-0.20	4	1.56	-2.08	7
Worthington	30	76	57	+6	82	+31	4	+4	1.71	+0.66	4	2.54	-1.51	7
RHODE ISLAND														
Providence	45	76	61	+7	171	+83	22	+22	0.78	-0.08	4	1.36	-2.31	10
Woonsocket	43	82	63	+9	181	+110	28	+28	0.75	-0.17	4	1.40	-2.45	7
CONNECTICUT														
Bridgeport/Siko	47	76	58	+3	160	+46	13	+4	0.99	+0.08	4	1.26	-2.37	6
Hartford/Bradle	43	81	62	+6	206	+70	27	+13	0.85	-0.06	4	1.74	-1.90	7
Norfolk	33	77	58	+7	104	+57	12	+12	0.72	-0.30	4	1.49	-2.68	6
Thomaston_Dam	34	79	59	+5	123	+37	11	+6	0.84	-0.21	4	1.29	-2.81	7
Willimantic	42	80	62	+8	187	+104	23	+19	1.24	+0.26	4	1.81	-2.11	7

State Weather Summary

For the Week Ending Sunday, May 12, 2013

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				P R E C I P I T A T I O N				
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	DAYS
ME	27	85	58	+10	0.42	2.24	0.93	+0.13	4
NH	29	85	60	+10	0.43	3.04	1.09	+0.25	4
VT	32	86	61	+10	0.20	1.67	0.69	-0.14	3
MA	30	82	60	+7	0.62	2.32	1.06	+0.20	4
RI	43	82	60	+6	0.57	0.78	0.72	-0.15	4
CT	31	82	60	+5	0.49	1.26	0.94	-0.03	4

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 late last week were very helpful for planted crops and pastures. Even though it was not a lot of rain most of it was light and soaked in where it fell. Hay fields are still behind and the native orchard grass is heading out. Greenhouse sales were brisk with Mothers Day hanging baskets a big hit. Field corn is up in many places and the earliest sweet corn under row cover is about 10" tall. **Richard Meinert (Ext), Litchfield:** An inch and a half or so of much needed rain fell this week. Now maybe seeds besides weeds will start germinating. Everything seems to have popped out since the rain. Tree leaves went from pea sized buds to full leaf in 48 hours. Grass is jumping - but it still has a ways to grow to catch up with normal. About half the corn in the area is planted - but soil was too dry for germination. This week should green up those fields too. **Ann McCard (FSA), New London:** The week started out warm and dry; it's been abnormally dry this spring and it had been about 3 weeks with no rain. Activities included more land prep and corn planting. A few showers on Wednesday and Thursday helped a little; more rain over the weekend helped. Farm stands prepared for Mother's Day weekend with a full array of flowers, hanging baskets, etc. **Dawn Pindell (FSA), Windham:** Frost. Rain brought much needed moisture. Corn growing, hay greening up, and vegetables being planted. Greenhouse sales good, but down due to rainy Saturday on Mother's Day Weekend.

MAINE – Larry James (FSA), Central Aroostook: Much needed rain fell over the weekend. All operations were in full swing last week. A few are reporting being almost finished. A few barley and oat fields are emerging. Hay fields and pastures have started to fill in. Soil temperatures passed the fifty degree mark a week to ten days ahead of normal. **Pam Hickey (Ext), Central Aroostook:** Growers are applying fertilizers and planting grains, potatoes and broccoli. We have had a great week with warm weather to get the crops in the ground. However, the rain that we received on Saturday and Sunday was very much needed. Some fields of grain planted have just begun to emerge. **Sandy Truslow (FSA), Cumberland/York:** Much needed rains arrived over the weekend. The grass is noticeably greener. Macintosh apples are in full bloom. Apple bloom is reported as heavy due to last year's light bloom. Frost is forecast for Monday and Tuesday nights. **Gary Raymond (FSA), Franklin:** The rainfall was awesome. It was a good soaking rain at the right time. The hay and grass crops are jumping out of the ground. The growing season and field prep are slightly ahead of normal. **Valerie Porter (FSA), Hancock/Penobscot/Piscataquis:** Much needed rain over the weekend. Moisture levels are back where farmers need them to be. Farmers have started planting potatoes and corn and fields look pretty good. Apple trees are starting to bud out. Most burning and pruning of blueberries has been completed. Strawberries had a little winterkill, but still need time to tell how much. Farmers have started planting early crops and cool nights are keeping some crops from being planted. Hay fields and pastures look nice and green. **Marcia Hall (FSA), Oxford:** Received some much needed rain last week. Crops are being planted daily. Fiddlehead harvesting is underway and they are being sold at local farm markets. Grass is growing strongly since the rains came last week. Spring has sprung! **Donna Coffin (Ext), Piscataquis/Penobscot:** Manure spreading, tilling, and planting continued the first of the week. Weekend rains were welcome to provide needed moisture for crops. **Kathy Hopkins (Ext), Somerset:** Received some welcome rain over the weekend. **Elaine S. Moceus (FSA), Somerset:** Most areas received much needed rain during the later part of the week as producers continued to plant silage corn. The highbush blueberry leaves are starting to come out now and the buds are just forming. The strawberry plants are showing a lot of green right now and by the next sunny day the buds should start emerging from the crown. The dry weather over the last several weeks has slowed the grass and hay down a little, but the hay

should really start growing after the rain that most of this area received last week. Apples are in the pink stage – just beginning to bloom. Threats of frost are in the forecast for the coming week. **Rick Kersbergen (Ext), Waldo:** Dry weather through most of last week had manure spreaders and field prep work very busy. Corn planting was also in full gear. Some fields were getting very dry until the weekend rain brought some much needed relief. Grass crops should really jump now. **Dr. David Yarborough (Ext), Washington:** Wild blueberries: Plant emergence beginning on pruned fields. Herbicide and fertilizer applications are continuing on non-crop fields. Conditions for mummy berry infections have occurred and growers are applying fungicides to prevent infection of the plants.

MASSACHUSETTS – Russell Norton (Ext), Barnstable: Temperatures for the past week were good with lows averaging around 50F and highs around 70F. Two rainfall events totaled 1.5 inches for the week. The rain was needed as topsoil moisture levels were getting fairly dry. Harvesting of asparagus is in full swing. Greens and spinach were also being harvested. **Debra Senger (FSA), Berkshire:** Weather has been dry and warm. Producers were concerned with the lack of rain, but it rained Friday, Saturday and some on Sunday. This week we are hearing of a frost for Monday night which would be a concern for orchard producers. **Ted Smiarowski Jr. (FSA), Hampshire/Hampden:** The dry spell finally ended May 8-9th with rain showers across the counties. Vegetable growers were planting beets, beans, peas, cabbage, sweet corn, potatoes and lettuce. Harvesting asparagus, fiddleheads and spinach. Potatoes and sweet corn have emerged from the soil. Sweet corn under plastic is 6 to 8 inches tall. Blueberries are in blossom and strawberries just started to blossom. Frost control measures are in place for these 2 small fruit crops. Growers raising greens under high tunnels are harvesting their crops. Vegetable growers are on the lookout for spinach leaf miner, flea beetles and maggot flies. **Carolyn DeMoranville (Ext), Plymouth:** Cranberries: Cranberry buds have begun to elongate. Growers appreciated fewer nights (1) of frost conditions. Herbicide applications, weed removal, and ditch and drainage maintenance were the primary activities along with first insect scouting of the season. Winter moth has hatched and cranberry weevil are on the bogs. Some growers are treating for these insects.

NEW HAMPSHIRE – Donna Juneau (FSA) Belknap/Merrimack: Continued dry conditions, only light rainfall this week. Producers are in the fields harrowing, spreading manure, and preparing to plant. Producers have reported that field corn seed is a bit harder to come by this year than usual. **Carl Majewski (Ext), Cheshire:** Some much-needed rain at the end of the week, though a little more wouldn't have hurt. Grass greening up nicely and animals are out on pasture now. Field corn planting in full swing. Early veggie crops in and planting of later crops continued. Fruit crops looking good. **Steve Turaj (Ext), Coos:** Field corn planting has begun. Other corn land still being worked up, manure spread. Grass fields beginning to green up and start growing well with moisture levels better after periodic rains this week. Concerns about frost damage with cooler temperatures expected in coming week as apples and blueberries begin flowering. Dandelions in bloom. **Steve Schmidt (FSA), Grafton:** For the weekend of May 11 and 12 we received a half inch of much needed rain. The increase in topsoil moisture gave hay crop a boost. Farmers took advantage of the drier soil conditions and began planting corn at full speed. More than half the corn in the county was planted by the end of the week. Farmers who had been waiting to put down fertilizer on their grass ground moved forward with these plans over the weekend in order to take advantage of the rain showers. **George Hamilton (Ext), Hillsborough:** Very dry soil conditions, showers are helping but "day-long rain" is needed! Fruit: Orchardists made sure bees were in apple orchards. Cherry,

peach and plum were at full bloom to petal fall by the weekend. Apple and pear are king bloom to full bloom in the Hollis area. Fire blight infection potential is very high – many orchardists are applying sprays. Orchardists are fertilizing orchards and are applying protective fungicide sprays on fruit trees. Blueberries are at pink bud stage and mummy-berry spray was applied. Planted fruit trees, grapes, raspberries, blueberries and strawberries. Finishing up pruning blueberries and pruning peach trees. Field Crops: Farmers were fertilizing hayfields; spreading manure, plowing, discing fertilizing, planting corn, and applying herbicides. Vegetables: Continued vegetable planting, along with sweet corn and potatoes. Liming, fertilizing, plowing, disking and getting ready to plant fields. Harvesting asparagus and rhubarb. Irrigating growing crops and newly seeded sweet corn. **Dot Perkins (Ext), Merrimack:** Spring is moving right along, field work is progressing steadily. Most pastures are ready to start grazing. Rain is in the horizon and its promising to be a good season. **Gary Keough (NASS), Merrimack:** Corn planting was getting started late in the week. Rains helped hay fields and pastures. **Nada Haddad (Ext), Rockingham:** Assessing cold injury after localized frost last Sunday (5/5). Mid-week and weekend rain welcomed after about 2 weeks of dry weather. Planting sweet corn, early vegetables, and tomatoes in high tunnels. Harvesting greens. Fertilizing fruit trees and small fruits and spraying protective fungicides in orchards. Spreading manure on hay fields. Pastures growing well. Some farmers markets opened this weekend.

RHODE ISLAND – Paul Brule (FSA), All Counties: We had some rain over the weekend, it helped a lot. Probably about an inch in most places. Potato growers are almost done planting. The early potatoes are breaking ground. A lot of silage corn was planted last week. Sweet corn - still planting some each week. Some corn has emerged. Apple trees are in complete petal fall for the early apples. The early strawberries already have green berries on them. There are a lot of small crops planted but everybody is holding their breath for tonight. We are expecting 28 degrees as a low in most of the state. A few of the apple growers are setting irrigation pipes today to water the trees to keep the frost off of them tonight. So this week, if we can make it through this frost, we'll probably be okay through the rest of the year. Otherwise we're going to have a lot of damage and replanting. Stay tuned for next week's update!

VERMONT – Jeff Carter (Ext), Addison: Early start to corn planting this year. Early corn emergence is excellent and nearly one-half all fields are planted or in the process. Soil conditions excellent for spring tillage even on clay soils. No-till planting of

new seedings, clover in hay and pasture, no-till corn. New seeding hay fields mostly completed, little growth yet. Dry soil conditions allowing tillage in normally wet areas. Pasture growth good, lilacs in full bloom. Manure spreading, fertilizer and lime, primary and secondary tillage and planting in full swing. **Kevin Kaija (NRCS), Bennington/Rutland/Windham/Windsor:** Due to dry weather, many fields are dry and accessible. Hadley and Windsor soils allowed planting of corn to begin. Some cover crop rye fields are at a foot high, others planted late did not do so well. Many of the hay land areas at low elevation have a water deficit as everyone knows. No soil solution...no nutrient uptake and growth. Consequently the hay crop will be behind unless the weekend rains are significant. They seem spotty. In areas like SW Windham County at high elevation pastures have just started to grow. They are behind schedule as well in many parts of the south meaning feed bills are unexpectedly high. Apple trees beginning to blossom. Good weather for pollination. Few frosty nights, if any. Talk of spotted Wing Dryopilla is worry for cane and berry fruit growers. That is quite an early discussion at this point. Some are preparing for monitoring this pest. Expect most planting of corn silage as well as vegetable crops to continue. Irrigation management and systems to cut costs along those lines are on the minds of many. **Paul Stanley (CCA), Franklin:** Another super week in Franklin County. Much dust generated by corn planters, however, very good conditions for getting over fields with little compaction. Flowering fruits are at their full bloom providing some dramatic aesthetics. Pastures are doing great with many cows and heifers going out to graze on them this week, giving some relief to tight forage supplies. Seeing some corn emerged, which is a welcome site for concerns of dry conditions delaying germination. Grasses are looking fair so far for the first harvest. Rain over the weekend has helped, however, weather in the next 2 weeks will make a big difference. **Dave Blodgett (NRCS), Orleans:** Last week was warm and dry. The warmer temperatures have pushed forage growth. A lot of cows are now out on pasture. The dry weather has allowed farmers to get ahead on corn planting. Forage growth is coming along well but not to the point of harvest yet. Some rain at the end of the week was welcomed. Apple trees are loaded with blossoms, however, temperatures have gotten fairly cold. Hopefully there will be enough bee activity for good pollination. **Jennifer Zaleski (FSA), Windham:** The first half of the week was marked by warm temperatures and sunny skies. Farmers kept busy planting/transplanting vegetables and some more field corn was planted. Welcomed rain arrived mid-week and roughly 1 to 1.5 inches of precipitation fell over the course of 4 days. Despite the rain, farm stands and garden centers were busy during Mother's Day weekend selling starter vegetable plants and flowers.

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