

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Summary Table: Characteristics of the Ecoregions of New England

58. NORTHEASTERN HIGHLANDS										
Level IV Ecoregions	Physiography	Geology	Soils	Natural Vegetation	Land Cover and Land Use					
Area (km ²)	Elevation / Foot (m)	Soils	Temperature / Precipitation	Climate	Mean Temperature / Precipitation					
Area (mi ²)	Elevation / Foot (m)	Soils	Temperature / Precipitation	Climate	Mean Temperature / Precipitation					
58a. Teonic Mountains	584	Low mountains and high hills, gently rounded to steep slopes. Many valleys. Moderate to high gradient, bedrock, and rubble-belted streams. Some natural lakes. Some grassy and open woods.	600-3616 1900-2400	Quaternary loamy till and sandy loamy till, valley floor, and glacial till. Devonian granite, phyllite, schist, quartzite, and some minor Devonian and Cambrian metamorphic and igneous rocks.	Inceptisols (Dystrapsols)	Taconic, Monckton, Berwick, Dunsmuir, Newnam, Pittsford	Frigid / Udic, some Aquic	38-64	100-140	10.28; 46.79
58b. Western New England Marble Valleys	732	Dissected high and low mountains, terraces, and rolling to hilly terrain. Low to moderate gradient, bedrock, and rubble-belted streams. Numerous springs, streams, and reservoirs.	500-1900 1600-2000	Devonian silurian to contact granite, sand, and silt. Limestone and quartzite. Devonian and Ordovician volcanic rocks, and some Devonian and Cambrian metamorphic and igneous rocks.	Inceptisols (Entisols), Dystrapsols, Entisols (Udentsols)	Annora, Pittsford, Farmington, Southbridge, Dunsmuir, Gile, Colgate, Conant, Winooski, Hatley, Linneux, schist.	Mesic / Udic, some Aquic	36-46	130-145	11.31; 58.82
58c. Green Mountains/Berkshire Highlands	3416	Low mountains and open low mountains, gently rounded to steep slopes. Moderate to high gradient, bedrock, and rubble-belted streams. Some natural lakes, mostly small ponds and larger reservoirs.	600-1369 600-2000	Quaternary till and discontinuous sandy loam till. Ordovician and Cambrian schist, phyllite, gneiss, mica-schist, and amphibole. Ultramafic bedrock. In southern part, Precambrian gneiss, quartzite, and amphibole.	Spodosols (Haplobleps)	Lymon, Marlow, Pers, Tanglebridge, Berkshire	Frigid / Udic, some Aquic	38-70	90-135	5.26; 53.75
58d. Lower Berkshire Hills	439	Open low mountains, gently rounded to steep slopes. Moderate gradient, bedrock, and rubble-belted streams. Some natural lakes and ponds.	800-2112 600-1000	Quaternary sandy loam till. Precambrian and lower Cambrian gneiss, granite, schist, amphibole, and quartzite.	Inceptisols (Dystrapsols), Spodosols (Haplobleps), Entisols (Udentsols)	Bece, Millboro, Ashford, Westford, Newnam, Marlow, Lymon, Berkshire, Royceon	Frigid / Udic, some Aquic	48-54	140-155	12.29; 58.78
58e. Berkshire Transition	836	Hills and open low mountains, gently rounded to steep slopes. Moderate to high gradient, bedrock, and rubble-belted streams. Some natural lakes and ponds, and a few larger reservoirs.	400-1700 600-1000	Quaternary sandy loam till, some ice-contact sand and silt. Devonian schist, quartzite, mica-schist, calcareous granitoid, quartzite, marble, amphibole, and mica-schist. Precambrian gneiss and schist.	Inceptisols (Dystrapsols), Spodosols (Haplobleps)	Woodbridge, Hollis, Shelburne, Millboro, Lymon, Berkshire	Mesic, some Frigid / Udic	45-51	130-165	14.34; 59.81
58f. Vermont Piedmont	1619	Hills and open low mountains. Some rolling to hilly terrain. Moderate to high gradient, bedrock, and rubble-belted streams. Some natural lakes and ponds, and a few larger reservoirs.	300-3150 1000-1500	Quaternary sandy loam till, some ice-contact sand and silt. Devonian schist, quartzite, mica-schist, calcareous granitoid, quartzite, marble, amphibole, and mica-schist. Precambrian gneiss and schist.	Inceptisols (Dystrapsols, Entisols)	Woodstock, Colrain, Beckton, Vermont, Shelburne, Millboro, Lymon, Berkshire, Paxton, Woodbridge	Frigid, some Mesic / Udic, some Aquic	36-50	100-130	6.27; 52.80
58g. Worcester/Monadnock Plateau	2338	Rolling plateau with hills and mountains. Numerous ponds, lakes, and reservoirs. Moderate to high gradient, bedrock, and rubble-belted streams. Some natural lakes and ponds, and a few larger reservoirs.	500-2279 1000-1500	Quaternary sandy loam till, some ice-contact sand and silt. Devonian schist, quartzite, mica-schist, calcareous granitoid, quartzite, marble, amphibole, and mica-schist. Precambrian gneiss and schist.	Inceptisols (Dystrapsols, Entisols)	Woodstock, Colrain, Beckton, Vermont, Shelburne, Millboro, Lymon, Berkshire, Paxton, Woodbridge	Frigid, some Mesic / Udic, some Aquic	36-50	100-130	6.27; 52.80
58j. Upper Montane Alpine Zone	1073	Glaciated rocky peaks, high mountains with steep slopes, high ridges. High gradient, bedrock, and rubble-belted streams. Some natural lakes and ponds, and a few larger reservoirs.	2000-4258 1000-1500	Quaternary sandy loam till, some ice-contact sand and silt. Devonian schist, quartzite, mica-schist, calcareous granitoid, quartzite, marble, amphibole, and mica-schist. Precambrian gneiss and schist.	Inceptisols (Hemisteps, Haplobleps), Entisols (Udentsols)	Enclon, Saddleback, Buckland, Ricker, Gibe, Mt. Ascutney, Benning, Mt. Ascutney, Benning	Cryic, Frigid / Udic, some Aquic	52-86	40-70	3.13; 44.56
58k. Green Mountain Foothills	643	Hills and open low mountains. A few ponds and lakes. Moderate gradient, bedrock, and rubble-belted streams. Some natural lakes and ponds, and a few larger reservoirs.	300-1000 1000-1500	Quaternary sandy loam till, some ice-contact sand and silt. Devonian schist, quartzite, mica-schist, calcareous granitoid, quartzite, marble, amphibole, and mica-schist. Precambrian gneiss and schist.	Inceptisols (Dystrapsols, Hemisteps, Entisols)	Lymon, Marlow, Pers, Tanglebridge, Berkshire, Royceon	Frigid / Udic, some Aquic	38-48	125-135	5.26; 56.80
58l. Northern Piedmont	1569	Hills and open low mountains. Some rolling to hilly terrain. Moderate to high gradient, bedrock, and rubble-belted streams. Some natural lakes and ponds, and a few larger reservoirs.	2500-496 1000-1500	Quaternary sandy loam till, some ice-contact sand and silt. Devonian schist, quartzite, mica-schist, calcareous granitoid, quartzite, marble, amphibole, and mica-schist. Precambrian gneiss and schist.	Inceptisols (Dystrapsols, Entisols)	Beckton, Colrain, Cabot, Beckton, Vermont, Shelburne, Millboro, Lymon, Berkshire, Paxton, Woodbridge	Frigid / Udic, some Aquic	36-50	100-140	2.74; 56.81
58m. Quebec-New England Boundary Mountains	1567	Low to high glaciated mountains, moderately dissected, with gentle to moderate slopes. Moderate to high gradient, bedrock, and rubble-belted streams. Some natural lakes and ponds, and a few larger reservoirs.	900-3419 600-1000	Quaternary sandy loam till, some ice-contact sand and silt. Devonian schist, quartzite, mica-schist, calcareous granitoid, quartzite, marble, amphibole, and mica-schist. Precambrian gneiss and schist.	Spodosols (Haplobleps), Entisols (Udentsols), Hemisteps, Entisols (Udentsols)	Plaisir, Howland, Rawsonville, Marlow, Pers, Tanglebridge, Berkshire, Royceon	Frigid / Udic, some Aquic	36-54	85-123	-3.21; 52.76
58n. White Mountain Foothills	897	Rolling to rugged plateau with foothills, low mountains, and hills. Moderate to high gradient, bedrock, and rubble-belted streams. Some natural lakes and ponds, and a few larger reservoirs.	500-2340 600-1000	Quaternary sandy till and sandy loam till. Devonian schist, quartzite, mica-schist, calcareous granitoid, quartzite, marble, amphibole, and mica-schist. Precambrian gneiss and schist.	Spodosols (Haplobleps), Entisols (Udentsols), Hemisteps, Entisols (Udentsols)	Marlow, Pers, Tanglebridge, Berkshire, Royceon	Frigid / Udic, some Aquic	36-50	115-133	5.26; 54.79
58o. Northern Connecticut Valley	295	Deep to shallow valleys with glacial floodplain and terraces in basin. Moderate to high gradient, bedrock, and rubble-belted streams. Some natural lakes and ponds, and a few larger reservoirs.	300-1000 50-300	Quaternary sandy till and sandy loam till. Devonian schist, quartzite, mica-schist, calcareous granitoid, quartzite, marble, amphibole, and mica-schist. Precambrian gneiss and schist.	Inceptisols (Dystrapsols, Entisols)	In north, Adams, Orundia, Potters, Romney, Goshen, Shelburne, Millboro, Lymon, Berkshire, Paxton, Woodbridge	Frigid / Udic, some Aquic	36-40	100-150	4.26; 52.78
58p. White Mountains/Blue Mountains	2029	Low to moderately high glaciated mountains, gently dissected, with moderate to high gradient, bedrock, and rubble-belted streams. Some natural lakes and ponds, and a few larger reservoirs.	1000-3475 1000-2400	Quaternary sandy loam till, some ice-contact sand and silt. Devonian schist, quartzite, mica-schist, calcareous granitoid, quartzite, marble, amphibole, and mica-schist. Precambrian gneiss and schist.	Spodosols (Haplobleps), Entisols (Udentsols), Hemisteps, Entisols (Udentsols)	Marlow, Pers, Tanglebridge, Berkshire, Royceon	Frigid / Udic, some Aquic	40-62	125-155	6.27; 56.79
58q. Sunapee Uplands	1151	Rolling plateau with hills and mountains. Numerous ponds, lakes, and reservoirs. Moderate to high gradient, bedrock, and rubble-belted streams. Some natural lakes and ponds, and a few larger reservoirs.	400-3165 1000-1500	Quaternary sandy loam till, some ice-contact sand and silt. Devonian schist, quartzite, mica-schist, calcareous granitoid, quartzite, marble, amphibole, and mica-schist. Precambrian gneiss and schist.	Spodosols (Haplobleps), Entisols (Udentsols), Hemisteps, Entisols (Udentsols)	Marlow, Pers, Tanglebridge, Berkshire, Royceon	Frigid / Udic, some Aquic	40-50	95-150	8.29; 55.80
58r. Sebago-Osipee Hills and Plateaus	2315	Glaciated rolling plateau with hills and mountains. Numerous ponds, lakes, and reservoirs. Moderate to high gradient, bedrock, and rubble-belted streams. Some natural lakes and ponds, and a few larger reservoirs.	300-1000 1000-1500	Quaternary sandy loam till, some ice-contact sand and silt. Devonian schist, quartzite, mica-schist, calcareous granitoid, quartzite, marble, amphibole, and mica-schist. Precambrian gneiss and schist.	Inceptisols (Dystrapsols, Entisols)	Marlow, Pers, Tanglebridge, Berkshire, Royceon	Frigid / Udic, some Aquic	38-62	115-125	5.29; 54.80
58s. Western Maine Foothills	1120	Low to moderately high glaciated mountains, gently dissected, with moderate to high gradient, bedrock, and rubble-belted streams. Some natural lakes and ponds, and a few larger reservoirs.	400-1187 400-2000	Quaternary sandy loam till, some ice-contact sand and silt. Devonian schist, quartzite, mica-schist, calcareous granitoid, quartzite, marble, amphibole, and mica-schist. Precambrian gneiss and schist.	Spodosols (Haplobleps), Entisols (Udentsols)	Defford, Marlow, Colgate, Lymon, Skerry, Beckton, Bermap	Frigid / Udic, some Aquic	40-48	145-155	7.27; 57.80
58t. Upper St. John Wet Flats	333	Open to rolling plateau with low mountains and hills. Moderate to high gradient, bedrock, and rubble-belted streams. Some natural lakes and ponds, and a few larger reservoirs.	900-1500 100-300	Quaternary sandy loam till, some ice-contact sand and silt. Devonian schist, quartzite, mica-schist, calcareous granitoid, quartzite, marble, amphibole, and mica-schist. Precambrian gneiss and schist.	Spodosols (Haplobleps), Entisols (Udentsols), Hemisteps, Entisols (Udentsols)	Digby, Annette, Burnham, Winooski, Backport	Frigid / Udic, some Aquic	36-39	90-100	-1.19; 50.77
58u. Moosehead-Churchill Lakes	199	Rolling plateau with low mountains and hills. Moderate to high gradient, bedrock, and rubble-belted streams. Some natural lakes and ponds, and a few larger reservoirs.	300-1000 100-300	Quaternary sandy loam till, some ice-contact sand and silt. Devonian schist, quartzite, mica-schist, calcareous granitoid, quartzite, marble, amphibole, and mica-schist. Precambrian gneiss and schist.	Spodosols (Haplobleps), Entisols (Udentsols), Hemisteps, Entisols (Udentsols)	Annette, Burnham, Digby, Winooski, Backport, Winooski	Frigid / Udic, some Aquic	34-40	95-113	-2.21; 52.78
58v. St. John Uplands	364	Open to rolling plateau with low mountains and hills. Moderate to high gradient, bedrock, and rubble-belted streams. Some natural lakes and ponds, and a few larger reservoirs.	900-1500 100-300	Quaternary sandy loam till, some ice-contact sand and silt. Devonian schist, quartzite, mica-schist, calcareous granitoid, quartzite, marble, amphibole, and mica-schist. Precambrian gneiss and schist.	Spodosols (Haplobleps), Entisols (Udentsols), Hemisteps, Entisols (Udentsols)	Digby, Annette, Ellsworth, Tilton, Thomhill, Chesham, Monks, Chesham, Monks, Knobb Lake	Frigid / Udic, some Aquic	36-46	90-110	-4.21; 51.78
58w. International Boundary Plateau	718	Rolling to flat plateau, some low mountains and hills. Moderate to high gradient, bedrock, and rubble-belted streams. Some natural lakes and ponds, and a few larger reservoirs.	800-1915 200-600	Quaternary loam till, attenuated drift, stagnation. Devonian schist, quartzite, mica-schist, calcareous granitoid, quartzite, marble, amphibole, and mica-schist. Precambrian gneiss and schist.	Spodosols (Haplobleps), Entisols (Udentsols), Hemisteps, Entisols (Udentsols)	Telos, Thomhill, Digby, Chesham, Monks, Knobb Lake, Monks, Monks	Frigid / Udic, some Aquic	35-46	90-110	-5.18; 51.76
58x. Teonic Foothills	127	Hills and open low mountains, gently rounded to steep slopes. Moderate to high gradient, bedrock, and rubble-belted streams. Some natural lakes and ponds, and a few larger reservoirs.	300-1000 50-300	Quaternary sandy loam till, some ice-contact sand and silt. Devonian schist, quartzite, mica-schist, calcareous granitoid, quartzite, marble, amphibole, and mica-schist. Precambrian gneiss and schist.	Inceptisols (Dystrapsols, Entisols)	Bece, Millboro, Ashford, Westford, Newnam, Marlow, Lymon, Berkshire, Royceon	Mesic, some Frigid / Udic, some Aquic	36-39	135-140	10.30;

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59. NORTHEASTERN COASTAL ZONE										
Level IV Ecoregions	Physiography	Geology	Soils	Natural Vegetation	Land Cover and Land Use					
Area (km ²)	Elevation / Foot (m)	Soils	Temperature / Precipitation	Climate	Mean Temperature / Precipitation					
Area (mi ²)	Elevation / Foot (m)	Soils	Temperature / Precipitation	Climate	Mean Temperature / Precipitation					
59a. Connecticut Valley	1459	Level to rolling plains with some high hills and ridges. Some ponds, lakes, and reservoirs. Low to moderate gradient, bedrock, and rubble-belted streams. Some natural lakes and ponds, and a few larger reservoirs.	100-1000 20-800	Devonian silurian to contact granite, sand, and silt. Limestone and quartzite. Devonian and Ordovician volcanic rocks, and some Devonian and Cambrian metamorphic and igneous rocks.	Inceptisols (Dystrapsols)	Fairfax (Fairfax), Fairbanks (Fairbanks), Fairbanks (Fairbanks), Fairbanks (Fairbanks), Fairbanks (Fairbanks)	Mesic / Udic, some Aquic	38-52	135-180	10.55; 59.82
59b. Lower Worcester Plateau/Eastern Connecticut Upland	895	Open low hills, rolling, irregular hills. Moderate to high gradient, bedrock, and rubble-belted streams. Some natural lakes and ponds, and a few larger reservoirs.	400-1015 100-500	Quaternary sandy loam till, some ice-contact sand and silt. Devonian schist, quartzite, mica-schist, calcareous granitoid, quartzite, marble, amphibole, and mica-schist. Precambrian gneiss and schist.	Inceptisols (Dystrapsols)	Windsor, Paxton, Hallowell, Shelburne, Millboro, Lymon, Berkshire, Paxton, Woodbridge	Mesic / Udic	40-50	130-160	11.32;
59c. Southern New England Coastal Plains and Hills	3920	Irregular plains with some low hills. Numerous glacial drifts. Ponds, lakes, and reservoirs. Low to moderate gradient, bedrock, and rubble-belted streams. Some natural lakes and ponds, and a few larger reservoirs.	100-1050 100-400	Quaternary sandy till; ice-contact gravel, sand, and silt; sandy loam till. Devonian schist, quartzite, mica-schist, calcareous granitoid, quartzite, marble, amphibole, and mica-schist. Precambrian gneiss and schist.	Inceptisols (Dystrapsols), Entisols (Udentsols)	Schmitt, Montak, Canton, Woodbridge, Paxton, Hallowell, Shelburne, Millboro, Lymon, Berkshire, Paxton, Woodbridge	Mesic / Udic, some Aquic	46-52	150-180	15.35; 61.82
59d. Boston Basin	407	Flat to irregular plains, coastal areas with estuaries, bays, islands, and peninsulas. Low gradient streams and some larger rivers; a few ponds and reservoirs.	0-374 20-200	Quaternary marine silt and clay; sand and silt; Devonian schist, quartzite, mica-schist, calcareous granitoid, quartzite, marble, amphibole, and mica-schist. Precambrian gneiss and schist.	Inceptisols (Dystrapsols), Entisols (Udentsols), Hemisteps, Entisols (Udentsols)	Windsor, Paxton, Newport, Hallowell, Shelburne, Millboro, Lymon, Berkshire, Paxton, Woodbridge	Mesic / Udic, some Aquic	44-48	210-220	22.36; 65.82
59e. Narragansett/Bristol Lowland	1207	Flat to gently rolling terrain, coastal areas with estuaries, bays, islands, and peninsulas. Low gradient streams and some larger rivers; a few ponds and reservoirs.	0-344 20-210	Quaternary ice-contact sand and gravel, silt, and clay; sand and silt; Devonian schist, quartzite, mica-schist, calcareous granitoid, quartzite, marble, amphibole, and mica-schist. Precambrian gneiss and schist.	Entisols (Udentsols)	Windsor, Paxton, Hallowell, Shelburne, Millboro, Lymon, Berkshire, Paxton, Woodbridge	Mesic / Udic, some Aquic	46-48	160-200	19.37; 63.82
59f. Gulf of Maine Coastal Lowland	1991	Flat to irregular plains, with some low hills and ridges. Some ponds, lakes, and reservoirs. Low to moderate gradient, bedrock, and rubble-belted streams. Some natural lakes and ponds, and a few larger reservoirs.	100-200 20-200	Quaternary marine silt and clay; sand and silt; Devonian schist, quartzite, mica-schist, calcareous granitoid, quartzite, marble, amphibole, and mica-schist. Precambrian gneiss and schist.	Inceptisols (Dystrapsols, Entisols), Hemisteps, Entisols (Udentsols)	NH, MA, Unadilla, Windsor, Shelburne, Millboro, Lymon, Berkshire, Paxton, Woodbridge	Mesic / Udic, some Aquic	42-45	155-165	15.55;
59g. Long Island Sound Lowland	742	Flat to irregular plains, coastal beaches, bays, and tidal flats. Low gradient streams and some larger rivers; a few ponds and reservoirs.	0-373 20-200	Quaternary sandy till; silt, loam, and clay; sand and silt; Devonian schist, quartzite, mica-schist, calcareous granitoid, quartzite, marble, amphibole, and mica-schist. Precambrian gneiss and schist.	Inceptisols (Dystrapsols), Entisols (Udentsols)	Hallowell, Shelburne, Millboro, Lymon, Berkshire, Paxton, Woodbridge	Mesic / Udic, some Aquic	44-48	170-220	20.38; 63.82
59h. Gulf of Maine Coastal Plain	2709	Rolling plains with hills and some high hills. Moderate to high gradient, bedrock, and rubble-belted streams. Some natural lakes and ponds, and a few larger reservoirs.	100-200 20-200	Quaternary sandy till; silt, loam, and clay; sand and silt; Devonian schist, quartzite, mica-schist, calcareous granitoid, quartzite, marble, amphibole, and mica-schist. Precambrian gneiss and schist.	Inceptisols (Dystrapsols, Entisols), Hemisteps, Entisols (Udentsols)	Windsor, Paxton, Hallowell, Shelburne, Millboro, Lymon, Berkshire, Paxton, Woodbridge	Mesic / Udic, some Aquic	37-48	180-160	12.33;

82. ACADIAN PLAINS AND HILLS

Level IV Ecoregions										
Area (km ²)	Physiography	Geology	Soils	Natural Vegetation	Land Cover and Land Use					
Area (mi ²)	Elevation / Foot (m)	Soils	Temperature / Precipitation	Climate	Mean Temperature / Precipitation					
Area (mi ²)	Elevation / Foot (m)	Soils	Temperature / Precipitation	Climate	Mean Temperature / Precipitation					
82a. Aroostook Lowlands	896	Flat to rolling plains with some low hills and ridges. Some ponds, lakes, and reservoirs. Low to moderate gradient, bedrock, and rubble-belted streams. Some natural lakes and ponds, and a few larger reservoirs.	100-200 20-200	Quaternary sandy till; silt, loam, and clay; sand and silt; Devonian schist, quartzite, mica-schist, calcare						