

ALASKA'S 2004 CROP AND WEATHER REVIEW

JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Below normal temperatures prevailed statewide in January, but were 5-8 degrees above normal across most of the state in February. Precipitation conditions were dry statewide in both January and February, except for Southeast, which experienced several snow events.

MARCH

Temperatures varied widely during March but generally averaged cooler than normal for the month, while temperatures in April were generally above normal. In March, precipitation was higher than normal in South Central but near normal for Fairbanks. April precipitation varied widely with South Central 50% above normal, and Fairbanks 14% below normal.

MAY

The month was warm and wet, with temperatures averaged 3 to 4 degrees above normal. Fairbanks set a record for precipitation for the month, receiving over three times the normal rainfall. With the exception of Southeast, precipitation was above average in the rest of the state too. Planting was underway in Mat-Su the first week of the month, but started mid month in the Delta Junction area. By month's end barley was 95% planted and 75% emerged. Potatoes were 70% planted, while vegetables were being transplanted into fields around the state.

JUNE

Temperatures were generally quite warm across the state with records being set in several locations. Conditions were dry in the major growing areas. By month's end barley was 25% headed, while the oat crop was 100% in boot. Potatoes were 85% emerged. First cutting hay harvest was 80% complete.

JULY

Temperatures remained above normal in July and conditions remained dry as precipitation was below normal. It was a very active fire season. By month's end barley was 5% ripe and oats were 20% turning color. Potatoes were 65% in bloom and the first cutting hay harvest was virtually complete.

AUGUST

Temperatures remained above normal and conditions remained dry. Conditions were also hazy due to all the fires in the Interior. By month's end, barley was 80% and oats were 60% harvested. Second cutting of hay was only 20% complete as the dry conditions inhibited regrowth on may fields. Potato harvest was 5% complete.

SEPTEMBER

Temperatures were finally cooler than normal, with above normal precipitation. Hard frosts were reported the first week of September in Delta Junction and Kenai. Anchorage received 6" of snow on the 25th with Fairbanks receiving their first snowfall on the 26th. By the end of the month the oat harvest was complete and the barley harvest was 95% complete. Potato harvest was 65% complete. Statewide hay supplies were listed as 10% short, 80% adequate and 10% surplus, with surplus supplies reported in Delta Junction and Upper Kenai Peninsula.

OCTOBER - DECEMBER

Temperatures were higher than normal throughout the state for this three month period. Precipitation varied widely with South Central being dryer than normal in October, but wetter than normal in November and December. The Tanana Valley generally had higher than normal precipitation during this period.

ALASKA PRECIPITATION DATA (Inches)

Station	2004 Precipitation							2004 Snow	Average Precipitation 1/						
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Year		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Year
TANANA VALLEY															
Fairbanks Ap.	0.03	1.96	0.31	1.13	0.37	1.32	8.49	55	0.27	0.59	1.30	1.87	1.86	1.06	10.53
University Exp. Sta.	na	1.67	0.52	1.14	0.46	1.10	6.81	59	0.25	0.69	1.56	2.10	2.31	1.25	12.24
Eielson Field	0.01	1.80	1.27	1.10	0.50	1.61	10.79	36	0.34	0.75	1.71	2.49	2.31	1.38	13.02
Big Delta Ap.	0.13	1.68	1.21	1.54	0.91	0.81	7.08	na	0.25	0.87	2.25	2.65	1.99	1.09	11.47
MATANUSKA VALLEY															
Anchorage Ap.	0.77	1.02	0.95	0.88	1.17	7.64	19.90	51	0.54	0.67	1.01	1.88	2.64	2.69	15.79
Lazy Mountain	0.35	1.24	0.71	2.39	3.16	1.37	17.15	72	0.42	1.00	1.33	2.08	3.09	2.90	19.02
Matanuska Exp. Sta.	0.15	0.89	0.82	2.19	1.99	1.24	12.55	43	0.45	0.73	1.38	2.21	2.57	2.44	15.36
Sutton 2 E	0.31	0.99	0.83	3.74	2.84	1.26	21.39	78	0.48	0.91	1.40	2.46	2.77	2.94	17.55
KENAI PENINSULA															
Homer Ap.	1.03	0.91	0.54	0.75	0.18	4.84	20.31	na	1.20	1.02	0.97	1.57	2.50	3.03	25.01
Kenai Ap.	1.18	1.08	0.66	1.14	0.59	4.74	17.08	na	0.74	0.93	1.18	1.93	2.64	3.29	19.34
OTHER AREAS															
Kodiak Ap.	9.30	5.40	8.73	6.16	4.34	3.40	86.25	66	5.48	5.69	5.56	4.20	4.53	7.64	77.47
Nome Ap.	0.31	2.95	1.26	1.21	4.56	1.05	18.25	80	0.71	0.72	1.06	2.17	3.34	2.44	16.03
McGrath Ap.	1.11	2.01	1.84	1.30	1.13	2.92	16.53	76	0.70	0.93	1.54	2.28	2.93	2.29	17.35
Juneau Ap.	4.43	0.84	1.30	3.54	2.51	9.00	65.20	76	2.86	3.47	3.08	4.32	5.33	7.33	56.86
Cold Bay Ap.	5.82	4.03	2.32	2.36	4.21	5.36	54.82	61	2.13	2.57	2.47	2.46	3.77	4.30	38.86

1/ Averages based on Historical records from 50 or more years of data, if available.

Source: Climatological Data Annual Summary (Alaska) published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

ALASKA TEMPERATURE DATA

Station	2004 Averages					Historical Averages 1/					Average No. of Freeze Free days 2/	Elevation in Feet
	Year	Jan	Apr	Jul	Sep	Year	Jan	Apr	Jul	Sep		
	Degrees										Days	Feet
TANANA VALLEY												
Fairbanks Ap.	29	-16	35	64	39	27	-10	31	62	45	115	436
University Exp. Sta.	33	11	36	65	39	28	-7	31	61	45	94	475
Eielson Field	35	17	37	66	38	26	-10	31	61	45	108	547
Big Delta Ap.	35	11	36	63	37	28	-3	31	60	44	106	1,268
MATANUSKA VALLEY												
Anchorage Ap.	39	10	37	62	45	36	15	36	58	48	138	114
Lazy Mountain	38	9	36	60	42	35	17	35	56	45	105	728
Matanuska Exp. Sta.	40	8	39	62	44	36	13	37	58	48	111	150
Sutton 2 E	38	10	39	61	43	36	16	37	57	46	84	550
KENAI PENINSULA												
Homer Ap.	41	18	39	58	47	37	23	36	54	47	117	89
Kenai Ap.	37	5	38	59	43	34	13	34	55	47	100	86
OTHER AREAS												
Kodiak Ap.	42	28	38	57	49	41	32	38	55	50	138	111
Nome Ap.	30	5	29	56	40	27	6	19	51	42	78	13
McGrath Ap.	30	-14	36	63	40	26	-7	28	59	44	105	344
Juneau Ap.	44	25	41	60	49	41	24	40	56	50	140	12
Cold Bay Ap.	40	26	35	53	49	38	29	34	51	48	131	90

1/ Averages based on Historical records from 50 or more years of data, if available.

2/ Average based on historical records, number of years used varies by location from 18 to 85 years.

Source: Climatological Data Annual Summary (Alaska) published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

WEEKLY PAN EVAPORATION AND PRECIPITATION, 2001 - 2004 GROWING SEASON

Month/Week

	2001				2002				2003				2004			
	Evap	Total	Precip	Total	Evap	Total	Precip	Total	Evap	Total	Precip	Total	Evap	Total	Precip	Total
May-Week 1	0.04	0.04	0.35	0.35	0.60	0.60	0.06	0.06	1.21	1.21	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.16	0.01	0.01
Week 20.56	0.56	0.60	0.36	0.71	0.09	0.69	0.33	0.39	0.16	1.37	0.35	0.35	1.12	1.28	0.01	0.02
Week 3	0.75	1.35	0.12	0.83	0.97	1.66	0.15	0.54	0.22	1.59	0.52	0.87	0.56	1.84	0.14	0.16
Week 4	0.61	1.96	0.15	0.98	1.30	2.96	0.00	0.54	0.75	2.34	0.02	0.89	0.77	2.61	0.20	0.36
June-Week 1	1.17	3.13	0.03	1.01	0.70	3.66	0.30	0.84	1.10	3.44	0.00	0.89	0.28	2.89	0.32	0.68
Week 2	0.39	3.52	0.34	1.35	0.54	4.20	0.26	1.10	1.31	4.75	0.01	0.90	0.99	3.88	0.07	0.75
Week 3	0.43	3.95	0.48	1.83	1.00	5.20	0.01	1.11	0.41	5.16	0.00	0.90	0.92	4.81	0.00	0.75
Week 4	1.30	5.25	0.00	1.83	0.74	5.94	0.17	1.28	0.62	5.78	0.10	1.00	0.52	5.32	0.15	0.90
Week 5	1.20	6.45	0.12	1.95	1.14	7.08	0.17	1.45	0.91	6.69	0.00	1.00	1.30	6.62	0.00	0.90
July-Week 1	-1.36	5.09	1.85	3.80	0.54	7.62	0.18	1.63	1.09	7.78	1.09	2.09	0.38	7.00	0.11	1.01
Week 2	-0.55	4.54	0.97	4.77	1.09	8.71	0.00	1.63	1.27	9.05	0.00	2.09	1.38	8.38	0.00	1.01
Week 3	0.35	4.89	0.26	5.03	1.20	9.91	0.38	2.01	1.22	10.27	0.00	2.09	1.46	9.84	0.00	1.01
Week 4	0.01	4.90	0.52	5.55	-0.30	9.61	0.81	2.82	0.12	10.39	0.58	2.67	0.75	10.59	0.39	1.40
August-Week 1	-0.04	4.86	0.55	6.10	1.25	10.86	0.00	2.82	0.56	10.95	0.44	3.11	0.36	10.95	0.45	1.85
Week 2	0.84	5.70	0.00	6.10	-1.38	9.48	1.93	4.75	1.04	11.99	0.05	3.16	na	10.95	0.00	1.85
Week 3	-0.05	5.65	0.59	6.69	0.03	9.51	1.04	5.79	-0.70	11.29	1.08	4.24	1.07	12.02	0.00	1.85
Week 4	0.57	6.22	0.06	6.75	-1.26	8.25	1.45	7.24	0.16	11.45	0.58	4.82	1.05	13.07	0.74	2.59
Sept-Week 1	0.32	6.54	0.10	6.85	-0.10	8.15	1.06	8.30	0.17	11.62	0.28	5.10	0.03	13.04	1.63	4.22
Week 2	0.81	7.35	1.73	8.58	-0.34	7.81	0.30	8.60	-0.30	11.32	0.01	5.11	0.19	13.23	0.28	4.50
Week 3	0.53	7.88	0.00	8.58	0.07	7.88	0.18	8.78	0.02	11.34	0.61	5.72	0.47	13.70	0.00	4.50
Week 4	0.30	8.18	0.13	8.71	0.14	8.02	1.30	10.08	-0.60	10.74	0.02	5.74	0.43	14.13	0.34	4.84
Week 5	0.26	8.44	0.00	8.71	-1.16	6.86	0.00	10.08	-0.50	10.24	0.41	6.15	-0.77	13.36	0.93	5.77
Seasonal Totals		8.44		8.71		6.86		10.08		10.24		6.15		13.36		5.77

NOTE: Weekly evaporation and precipitation (in inches) data is collected and provided by UAF, Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, located on Trunk Road in Palmer, Alaska.