

# OREGON CROP WEATHER



**NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE**

**USDA, NASS, Oregon Field Office**

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**Weather:** Conditions across the State were cool and wet. All weather stations reported precipitation last week. Seventeen weather stations received over an inch of rainfall. Two of the stations received over three inches of rainfall, Tillamook and Detroit Lake. Eight stations, all in Western Oregon, received over two inches. Seven received over an inch. Hail storms during the week ending 5/21 were reported in Sherman County, while much of the State reported rain. High temperatures were mostly in the sixties and seventies; the highest temperature of 80 degrees was recorded in Hermiston and Ontario. Low temperatures ranged from 30 degrees in Bend to 48 degrees in Astoria/Clatsop and Portland.

**Field Crops:** Much needed moisture was received throughout most of the State last week. However, not all producers were happy with the extra moisture. Hay growers in Douglas County suffered some rain damage to their hay. Yields are expected to be lower than average this year. In other northwest and southwest areas of the State haying was slowed or at a stand still due to the excess rain. At the other side of the spectrum, most grains and field crops benefited from the recent rains. Growth development is gaining momentum. The yield potential for stressed wheat in Morrow County was increased by the abundant rain and cool temperatures received last week. Sherman County on the other hand saw a mini tornado and hail storm damage crops this past week. Thirty percent of the County was impacted. Field operations were virtually shut down except for some minor spraying. Areas not affected did benefit greatly from the rain.

**Vegetables:** Vegetable growers were concerned about the cool temperatures and wet soil causing seeded crops to rot in the fields. Some early plantings of sweet corn were 6 inches tall and beans were 3 inches tall in Washington County. Steckling carrots were all planted in Central Oregon, irrigation begins soon. In southern Oregon, potato planting was nearly complete.

**Fruits and Nuts:** Northern Willamette Valley caneberries continued in bloom. Strawberries were available at roadside stands and farmers markets. Weekend rain made it difficult to find windows of opportunity to spray hazelnut orchards with boron. Grapes were sprayed for mildew prevention. Southern Willamette Valley blueberries continue to size nicely. Strawberries

were setting fruit and showing color. Blackberries and raspberries were flowering. Grapes in some areas were growing slowly with sporadic growth and bloom. Cherries were sizing into a medium crop. Plums/prunes and peaches look to be a small crop with a lot of aphid leaf curl. Asian pears look to be a light, but nice crop. Other pears look to be a nice and moderate crop, depending on location. Apples will need lots of thinning this year. Apples and pears were showing scab damage. Codling moth was slowed due to rain. Wet conditions early in the week resulted in pear scab infection periods throughout the Hood River Valley. On May 26, degree days for first generation codling moth were estimated at 250 at the OSU-MCAREC. Hand thinning of Bartlett pears continued. Cool weather in Wasco County slowed ripening of the cherry crop. It rained off and on all week, but the fruit was still too green to be detrimentally affected. Cherries reached pit hardening and will begin to grow rapidly. The cherry fruit fly emerged early in week; aerial and ground spraying for fruit fly control started at mid-week. Cherry growers are still expecting a good crop this year. Harvest of first "Chelan" cherries will probably occur around June 10-12, and "Bing" harvest around June 22. Cool weather slowed down the fast start for tree fruits, grapes, and berries. Grape growers and orchardists were busy applying fungicide sprays before the rain. Southern Oregon strawberries were available. Apples and pears looked good. Some sprays were applied, but generally it was too wet. Grapes and wild blackberries were in bloom.

**Nurseries and Greenhouses:** Both nurseries and greenhouses were still shipping plant material to retail outlets for sale. Because of the heavy rains last week, no irrigation was required and digging and balling of plants was slowed down. However, new nursery plantings enjoyed the rain and cool temperatures. Likewise, newly planted Christmas trees will benefit from the rain. Iris growers who hosted open houses over the long weekend did not like all the rain.

**Livestock, Range and Pasture:** Precipitation received last week provided a needed boost of moisture to pastures and rangeland. The wide-spread rain across the State helped keep range and pasture grasses green and growing. Livestock were reported in very good condition throughout the State.

**Soil Moisture-Week Ending 05/28/06**

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	0	7	81	12
Subsoil	0	11	85	4

**Crop Progress-Week Ending 05/28/06**

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5 year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Winter wheat headed	43	10	71	49
Barley emerged	87	70	91	87
Spring wheat emerged	90	86	93	95
Days suitable for fieldwork	3.3	6.5	-	-

**Crop Condition-Week Ending 05/28/06**

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Winter wheat	1	7	25	64	3
Spring wheat	0	0	20	75	5
Barley	0	0	19	76	5
Range and pasture	0	2	23	56	19

## WESTERN OREGON

**BENTON/LINN/LANE:** Mint growing. Grass seed heading out on many cultivars. Blueberries are a nice crop, sizing nicely. Strawberries are showing setting fruit; will be ready by first of June. First berries turning red. Hope for dry weather after June 1. Blackberries and raspberries beginning flowering and fruiting. Grapes in some areas really slow and sporadic growth and bloom. Cherry bloom; medium crop, sizing. Plum/prune and peaches are a little crop; lots of aphid leaf curl. Pears are a nice crop, moderate crop; varies depending on location. Asian pears are a nice crop, kind of light. Apples almost too big of a crop will need lots of thinning. Apple and pears showing scab damage. Codling moth slowed due to rain. First season plantings going in, lots of planting going on. Good sale down last week due to the rainy weather. This weekend looks wet also. Great spring so far.

**CLACKAMAS:** Million dollar rain! Of course now we are starting to want sunshine again. Some corn still needs planting, Red Clover fields need to be cut for silage, still some garden planting to do. This rain is wonderful though, especially for nursery stock awaiting shipment and recently planted Christmas trees. Spring seedings and pastures received a huge boost. Those lucky enough to get hay made are enjoying the prospect of second cutting grass hay. There were some pretty impressive storms, thunder & lightning beside some really great downpours. Crimson clover fields have lost their color, caneberries are blooming so there is still plenty of work for bees, weather permitting.

**COLUMBIA:** Rain and mist most of week. Only light ground would support any soil work.

**COOS/CURRY:** Temperatures below normal most of the week with rain, heavy at times. Ground conditions became somewhat soft, but the rain was needed for non-irrigated pastures and hay. Pastures improved to mostly good condition. In Brookings, low temperatures for the period was 45.35 degrees. High temperatures for the period was 61.69 degrees. Precipitation for the period was 3.5 inches. Precipitation for Weather year stands at 103.17 inches. In Bandon, low temperatures for the period was 43.3 degrees. High temperatures for the period was 66.32 degrees. Precipitation for the period was 1.22 inches. Weather year precipitation stands at 67.26 inches.

**DOUGLAS:** Rainy week has slowed field work to a crawl. Most areas of the county have had about two inches of rain since last weekend. Grape growers and orchardists were busy putting on fungicides before the rain. Hay crops were beginning to be cut last week and anything on the ground has been damaged. Estimate about 20% of the hay crop was on the ground. About 10% of the hay was baled before the recent rains. Hay yields are about 25% lower than average this year because of the excessively wet winter leaching and compacting soils. Quality hay will be difficult to find this year. Look for the overall hay crop to be down by about 30% from last year. Vegetable growers are a little concerned about the

cool temperatures and wet soil causing seeded crops to rot in the fields. We need sunshine and warmth at this point. This cool period is slowing down the fast start for grapes, tree fruit, and berry crops. Strawberry growers a little worried about mildew and botrytis popping up. The pastures needed the rain and are staying green.

**JACKSON:** Too wet to do hay, and ground too wet to do much of the field work. Fruit crop (apples and pears) looking good, some spraying, but not much, too wet. Wild blackberries now in blooms, grapes are also in blossom. Too wet to do much vegetable garden work. Crops that are planted looking good. Saw some sweet corn already about 10 inches tall. Greenhouses still getting out vegetable and flower starts. Nurseries busy with sales of trees and shrubs. Cattle looking quite good. Lots of good green pastures. Lots of babies in the fields with their mothers; cattle, sheep, and horses. This has been a wet cool week, not much outside field work done. A good week to do maintenance.

**JOSEPHINE:** Very mild temperatures with rain most of week. Some moderate winds. Beautiful weather for working outside as long as the rain wasn't coming down. Local strawberries are on and available right now. Truck gardeners are gearing up. Should have all the frost tender plants in now. Haying is still delayed because the fields are too wet to get into. Seed heads on all grasses are ripe and ready to blow. Beautiful spring. Spring flowers lasted a long time due to cool, overcast days with enough moisture to keep them fresh.

**MARION:** A couple inches of rain fell in the areas giving needed moisture. Some wheat is heading and pollinating. Barley yellow dwarf virus is affecting stands in several of the grass species. Rust is beginning to show up in some grass seed fields.

**POLK:** Heavy rainfall the last week. Over an inch and a half in areas.

**WASHINGTON:** Red clover beginning to bloom where cutting was stopped by rain. Field corn growing well. Lodging in winter wheat and grass. Strawberries at roadside stands and farmers markets. Spraying grapes for mildew prevention. Sweet corn 6 inches tall in some early plantings and beans 2-3" high. Spraying ornamentals, morning potted plants in rotation shipping balled shrubs and trees. Wet ground with fast growing grass. Rain, wind, hail at times. High temperature 77 degrees, low 47 degrees, rain 3.8". Average per day 0.54" - high 1.0", low 0.2", humidity - high 88%, low 74%.

**YAMHILL:** This week's cool rainy weather has slowed the degree day accumulation for insect pest development. It has also made it difficult to find windows of opportunity to spray hazelnut orchards with boron.

## EASTERN OREGON

**CROOK/JEFFERSON/DESCHUTES:** Peppermint is 8 to 12 inches tall, no spider-mite or rust outbreaks so far. Kentucky bluegrass is 25 percent headed out, 50 percent in the boot stage, and 25 percent still vegetative. Black grass bugs have been in a few fields of wheat in Jefferson County. Clover mites have been found in at least two fields of orchardgrass in Jefferson County. Expect hay to start coming down in Jefferson county, maybe some in Crook County, and a little in northern Deschutes County. Steckling carrots are all planted and will begin to be irrigated soon. Conditions this week have been cool with rain showers in all 3 counties. Most crops are still 2 to 3 weeks behind normal development.

**GILLIAM/WHEELER:** Gilliam County has received a lot of rain this week. The temperature has been warm as well, allowing things to put on some good growth.

**HARNEY:** Good widespread rain helping keep range grasses growing. Most cattle out and doing very well.

**HOOD RIVER:** Wet conditions early in the week resulted in pear scab infection periods throughout the Hood River Valley. On May 26, degree days for first generation codling moth were estimated at 250 at the OSU-MCAREC. Hand thinning of Bartlett pears continued.

**KLAMATH:** Much cooler temperatures throughout the week. Scattered rain and some snow showers. Some first cutting alfalfa has been dropped. Potato planting nearly complete and most grain planting complete. Irrigation continues, other crops continue to look good.

**LAKE:** Received some rain and snow storms throughout the week. Sprinkle irrigation has begun in the north end of the County. Planting is still underway.

**MALHEUR:** The week started with showers and ended with showers. Approximately 0.25" rain on Monday and Tuesday and a trace of rain on Sunday. No significant disruption of farming activity. Farmers busy cultivating fertilizing, spraying, and irrigating. Hay down everywhere.

**MORROW:** Abundant rain and cool temperatures, during the previous week, increased the yield potential of wheat that was stressed from record breaking high temperatures and depleted soil moisture.

**SHERMAN:** After a week of yield robbing heat, the county was hit late Friday (5/19) pm of last week by a mini tornado and hail

storm. The hail storm laid waste to about 5000 acres of wheat and/or barley, either shredding it or pounding the heck out of it! Hail ranged from size of golf balls to pencil eraser sized but cut a huge swath across the county instead of being localized like it usually might. About 30 percent of the county was impacted by hail, some crop totally destroyed. Have received showers since with extreme variation for the region. Thursday night last week had places with 1 inch in 45 minutes to less than 2/100 of inch in 24 hours. Friday reports of 85/100 in 13 minutes during peak of hailstorm. Totals for the last seven days ranging from low of .80 of inch to 2.2 inches. Field operations virtually shut down except for minor spraying. Areas not hammered by hail benefited greatly from drink of water and cooler temperatures although still some yield reduction from earlier heat. Insurance adjusters busiest in the fields. Storm was unique. Many trees down, power lines down in Grass Valley. Semi truck picked up and laid over. Motorcycle and driver tossed 20 feet off road. Not enough cows to take advantage of new feed sources that normally would have been harvested for grain.

**UNION:** Crop and range conditions are greatly improved after 2+ inches of precipitation over the last week. Some scattered hail damage from thunder showers.

**WALLOWA:** A good week as far as moisture, which has most farmers and ranchers smiling, especially those with livestock. Range conditions are improving due to the wet weather and spring crops are also benefiting. Most spring crops have been seeded.

**WASCO:** It rained part of the first four days of week. Temperatures ran below average all week. Grain producers were held up on weed spraying. The few wheat growers that moldboard plowed last year's stubble under were fighting the weather to get done. The current precipitation was welcomed by all the grain producers. Cool weather this past week has slowed the ripening of the cherry crop. Rain off and on all week, but fruit is still too green to be detrimentally affected. Cherries have reached pit hardening and will begin to grow rapidly. However, cherry orchardist's starting to get nervous as cherries starting to size. The cherry fruit fly emerged early in week and arial and ground spraying for fruit fly control started at mid-week. Cherry growers are still expecting a good crop this year. Harvest of first "Chelan" cherries will probably occur around June 10-12. "Bing" harvest around June 22. Crop appears to be moderately large, but not huge. Alfalfa growers were challenged with all the rain showers and cool temperatures. Cattle and sheep continued to do well on range and pastures. Home strawberry picking was producing quite well.

Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: May 28, 2006 (as of 11:00 am) <sup>1</sup>

Station	Air temperature <sup>2</sup>				Growing degree days <sup>3</sup>		Last week precip. <sup>4</sup>			Season cum. precipitation <sup>5</sup>			
	Low	High	Avg.	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Total	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Total inches	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Days <sup>7</sup>	Total inches	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Pct. normal	Days <sup>7</sup>
<b>COASTAL AREAS</b>													
Astoria/Clatsop	48	63	55	+2	34	+8	2.01	1.38	7	73.11	11.86	119	168
Bandon <sup>8</sup>	43	66	54	+2	30	+8	1.22	0.67	7	62.06	6.25	111	132
Crescent City	41	62	54	-1	31	+1	1.68	1.10	7	77.39	15.08	124	140
Florence	40	64	53	-2	24	-6	2.71	1.93	7	78.67	7.11	110	154
Tillamook	42	67	55	+3	38	+17	3.38	2.44	7	89.32	7.64	109	166
<b>WILLAMETTE VALLEY</b>													
Aurora <sup>8</sup>	47	67	55	-2	40	-7	1.79	1.30	7	48.86	11.29	130	145
Corvallis	44	67	55	-2	35	-9	1.92	1.50	7	48.93	9.01	123	145
Detroit Lake <sup>8</sup>	42	66	51	-2	18	-5	3.06	2.36	7	97.61	34.72	155	162
Eugene	42	68	55	-4	36	-16	2.49	2.04	7	44.70	-1.47	97	134
Hillsboro	44	66	55	-2	38	-9	2.34	1.99	7	42.29	7.88	123	141
McMinnville	46	67	56	-2	43	-8	2.02	1.63	7	38.56	-2.22	95	139
Portland	48	66	57	-3	49	-12	2.53	2.11	7	39.05	6.13	119	148
Salem	44	67	55	-2	38	-7	2.34	1.92	7	47.36	11.04	130	139
<b>SW VALLEYS</b>													
Grants Pass	40	67	55	-7	38	-38	1.82	1.60	6	45.13	15.44	152	123
Medford	43	73	58	-4	55	-16	0.66	0.45	5	25.59	8.18	147	101
Roseburg	45	71	56	-4	44	-16	2.18	1.90	7	45.28	14.56	147	137
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>													
Condon	34	70	52	-2	24	-6	0.99	0.71	7	14.66	2.92	125	90
Echo <sup>8</sup>	46	78	58	-4	59	-21	0.77	0.63	5	9.89	2.06	126	90
Heppner	41	73	55	-4	35	-18	1.63	1.35	7	14.61	2.78	123	103
Hermiston	46	80	60	-3	70	-10	0.78	0.64	6	10.13	2.30	129	73
John Day	36	68	53	-4	32	-7	0.41	0.06	5	8.28	-2.06	80	103
Madras <sup>8</sup>	35	69	52	-5	22	-22	0.54	0.33	6	11.59	3.02	135	106
Moro	39	68	55	-1	35	-4	0.65	0.48	6	16.96	7.27	175	85
Parkdale <sup>8</sup>	42	61	52	-7	16	-36	0.71	0.50	4	43.33	14.12	148	144
Pendleton	44	74	57	-5	48	-22	0.35	0.14	5	12.01	1.60	115	95
The Dalles	46	70	58	+2	58	+13	0.59	0.39	5	18.13	7.07	164	93
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>													
Agency Lake <sup>8</sup>	34	60	47	-5	9	-11	0.36	0.11	2	18.83	4.66	133	110
Bend	30	66	49	-3	14	-9	0.43	0.22	3	19.31	9.63	199	77
Burns	35	66	51	-3	15	-10	0.63	0.37	3	14.91	6.93	187	97
Christmas Valley <sup>8</sup>	32	63	47	-9	5	-34	0.06	-0.17	1	7.04	-3.12	69	84
Klamath Falls	32	62	48	-8	7	-30	0.05	-0.16	2	15.59	3.83	133	96
Klamath Falls <sup>8</sup>	32	61	47	-9	7	-30	0.05	-0.16	3	15.19	3.43	129	128
Lakeview	34	66	48	-6	5	-24	0.08	-0.27	1	8.24	-5.18	61	66
Lorella <sup>8</sup>	33	64	48	-8	5	-32	0.05	-0.16	3	17.69	5.93	150	118
Redmond	33	70	51	-3	17	-11	0.47	0.27	5	9.66	2.91	143	85
Worden <sup>8</sup>	31	60	47	-9	3	-34	0.01	-0.20	1	13.28	1.52	113	115
<b>NORTHEAST</b>													
Baker City	36	72	52	-4	23	-11	0.73	0.40	7	8.35	0.53	107	90
Joseph	37	71	52	+4	23	+12	0.76	0.27	6	16.95	-3.99	81	115
La Grande	39	72	54	-3	33	-12	1.13	0.78	5	7.50	-6.81	52	77
Prairie City <sup>8</sup>	37	65	49	+1	12	+4	0.95	0.60	6	13.07	-4.38	75	97
Union	39	77	56	+2	43	+11	0.97	0.56	6	10.72	0.23	102	100
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>													
Ontario	45	80	60	-4	71	-15	0.26	0.05	3	12.69	4.46	154	86
Rome	34	77	53	-6	33	-22	0.58	0.36	4	9.56	3.24	151	83

<sup>1</sup> Summary based on NWS data. Copyright 2006: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

<sup>2</sup> Air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

<sup>3</sup> Growing degree days base-50 degrees Fahrenheit.

<sup>4</sup> Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

<sup>5</sup> Season cumulative precipitation starts September 1, 2005.

<sup>6</sup> DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-1990 normals period).

<sup>7</sup> Precipitation days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

<sup>8</sup> Agri-Met weather stations.