

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending May 6, 2001

WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Crop conditions continue to improve as mild weather and timely precipitation are beneficial
Fruit trees were in post bloom stage with adequate pollination conditions**

FIELD CROPS

Rainfall last week brought a halt to most spring fieldwork activities. Mild temperatures coupled with precipitation helped to improve spring seeded cereals and winter wheat condition. Potato planting was underway on the western side of the state. Christmas tree growers were spot spraying fields to control weeds and monitoring midge traps. Tulip growers were busy topping plants.

LIVESTOCK

Mild temperatures coupled with precipitation continued improving range and pasture condition. Range and pasture condition was 5% very poor, 20% poor, 45% fair, and 30% good. Pasture growth was improved, however; producers continued to worry about short hay supplies. Dairy producers continued applying liquid manure to fields of green chop.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Fruit trees were in post bloom stage with mild weather producing adequate pollination conditions. Chemical thinning activities and fire blight protection continued for apples. Raspberry growers were cane burning. Garbanzo bean planting was underway. Asparagus harvest continued. Hot house tomato growers were busy planting tomatoes. Sweet corn planting continued. Retail nurseries reported strong sales for vegetable transplants.

| Days Suitable for Fieldwork | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| This Week | Last Week |
| 5.4 | 5.4 |

| Crop Progress | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-----------|------|------------|
| Crop/Activity | % Completed | | | |
| | This Week | Last Week | 2000 | 5 Yr. Avg. |
| Spring Wheat Planted | 91 | 80 | 96 | 88 |
| Spring Wheat Emerged | 67 | 51 | 78 | 69 |
| Barley Planted | 82 | 68 | 94 | 83 |
| Barley Emerged | 47 | 29 | 78 | 61 |
| Potatoes Planted | 84 | 67 | 98 | 91 |
| Potatoes Emerged | 32 | 21 | 52 | 44 |
| Corn Planted | 41 | 23 | 88 | 60 |
| Dry Beans Planted | - | - | 4 | 1 |
| Dry Peas Planted | 55 | 45 | 89 | 62 |
| Pro. Green Peas Planted | 73 | 66 | 100 | 39 |
| Alfalfa, 1 st cutting | - | - | - | 1 |

| Soil Moisture | Soil Moisture and Supply | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|----|----|---|
| | % Acreage | | | |
| | VS | SH | AD | S |
| Topsoil | - | 11 | 85 | 4 |
| Subsoil | 5 | 33 | 62 | - |
| Irrigation Water | - | 20 | 80 | - |
| Hay and Roughage | - | 1 | 99 | - |

VS=Very Short, SH=Short, AD=Adequate, S=Surplus

| Crop Condition * | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|---|----|-----|----|
| Crop | % Acreage | | | | |
| | VP | P | F | G | EX |
| Winter Wheat Dryland | - | 3 | 25 | 62 | 10 |
| Winter Wheat Irrigated | - | - | - | 100 | - |
| Spring Wheat Dryland | - | 3 | 50 | 45 | 2 |
| Spring Wheat Irrigated | - | - | - | 100 | - |
| Barley Dryland | - | 6 | 25 | 69 | - |
| Barley Irrigated | - | - | - | 100 | - |

VP=Very Poor, P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good, EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

WESTERN

Grays Harbor: Ag producers were frustrated with unseasonably wet weather, which prevented field cultivation. Christmas tree growers were spot spraying fields for weed control. Raspberry growers were cane burning. Hot house tomato growers finished planting tomatoes for this year's crop. Asian pear producers expressed concern that last week's frost may have resulted in significant damage to fruit blossoms. Livestock producers were turning cattle out on new pastures. Dairy producers continued applying liquid manure to fields of green chop.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: The outlook for dry weather in the coming week is welcome, as it is getting close to the May 15 target date for getting spring crops planted. Most fields have been too wet for planting.

Pierce/Thurston: Crop conditions were good for the area. Some fields have been planted, though some fields were too wet to cultivate. Pastures were growing well and looked good. There were no reports of crop damage due to weather conditions.

Skagit: Potato planting was underway. Tulip growers finished topping plants. Apple growers sprayed for scab between rains. Hay was cut. Beet bulbs were planted for beet seed.

Snohomish/Clallum: Fieldwork was progressing. Green chop activity increased. Fruit trees were in full bloom or finished blooming. Raspberries were leafing out. Pastures were growing well due

to the warmer weather. Spring calves were enjoying the sunshine during the week. A few spring showers were received during the week, but the weather was generally warmer and drier than the previous week.

Snohomish (2nd Report): The weather was mostly sunny, but parts of the county received over an inch of rain during the week. Pasture growth was excellent and green chopping continued. Apples and strawberries were in bloom.

Thurston: Heavy rain showers, early in the week, brought a complete halt to field cultivation. Warmer and drier conditions, at the end of the week, provided ideal conditions for organic vegetable growers to prepare fields for planting. Turfgrass growers had a difficult time keeping fields mowed, due to the rapid grass growth. Christmas tree growers continued monitoring Douglas fir needle midge traps. Retail nurseries reported strong sales for bedding plants, ornamental shrubs, and vegetable transplants.

Whatcom: The first cutting of grass hay continued. More would have been done except for the rain on Friday. Approximately 15 percent of the corn crop was planted. Most of the crop ground, except for potatoes, had some type of preparation started. Crop ground manure applications continued. Berry producers continued to rototill and spray. Apple trees continued to bloom. The Nooksak River was back down.

CENTRAL

Benton: Cool weather was slowing asparagus harvest. Growers were irrigating while they can. The Roza Irrigation District is predicting only 28 percent of the average amount of water will be available during the year.

Franklin: Temperatures during the week were mild. Asparagus harvest progressed slowly. Potatoes and sweet corn planting continued.

Grant: Sweet corn planting continued. Bean planting will begin soon. Turnip seeds were blooming. Chemical thinning continued on pears and apples. Mildew control was applied to apples.

Yakima: Most apples and pears were in postbloom. Conditions for pollination were adequate. Fruit thinning activities began.

EASTERN

Adams: About ½” of precipitation, throughout the county, improved both winter and spring cereal grain conditions, as well as helped maintain current moisture conditions.

Asotin: Winter wheat was in good condition and spring planting continued.

Garfield: Spring planting continued but was late in some areas due to the rain. Winter wheat was in good condition. Some producers were concerned about emergence of spring crops, due to soil crusting problems because of the heavy rain in places.

Lincoln: Both winter and spring cereals were helped by precipitation on Monday.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Rain on Monday varied in the two counties, receiving anywhere from .4 to 1.0 inches of rain. It was a steady rain, but some soil started to move in some areas. Some tractor work was started by Thursday or Friday, with work through the weekend. There was still a lot of work to be done in Spokane County, especially in the Rockford area to the Idaho line. Rain and warmer weather helped pastures and hay grow. Winter wheat was looking pretty good and was ready to be sprayed if the wind stops blowing.

Warm weather, with little or no rain this week, should help get more crops planted and spraying completed.

Stevens: The county experienced warmer weather during the past week, but the nights were still cold, with frost occurring Wednesday and Thursday. Pasture growth was a major concern. Hay supplies were very low and most pastures were still inadequate for grazing. Alfalfa and wheat crops looked good, but were also hampered by cool nighttime temperatures.

Walla Walla: Rains abated. Daytime temperatures increased and the nights were cool. Apples were in bloom. Fieldwork was ongoing. After a slow start, asparagus harvest progressed nicely. Early planted peas appeared to be doing well. Some green peas were yet to be planted at higher elevations for late season harvest. Garbanzo bean planting began. Winter wheat appeared to be doing well.

Whitman: Rainfall early in the week, interrupted fieldwork, but crop conditions continued to improve.



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WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

May 6, 2001

| Station | Air Temperature | | | | Growing Degree Days | | | | Last Week Precipitation | | | Season Precipitation | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----|-----|-----|---------------------|-----|----------|-----|-------------------------|-------|------|----------------------|--------|----------|------|
| | LO | HI | AVG | DFN | Base 50F | | Base 60F | | Total | | | Total | | % Normal | Days |
| | | | | | TOT | DFN | TOT | DFN | Inches | DFN | Days | Inches | DFN | | |
| WEST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bellingham | 34 | 57 | 48 | -3 | 0 | -14 | 0 | 0 | 0.49 | -0.07 | 5 | 21.45 | -8.52 | 72 | 120 |
| Everett | 39 | 58 | 48 | -4 | 0 | -19 | 0 | 0 | 0.67 | 0.11 | 5 | 19.06 | -10.88 | 64 | 117 |
| Hoquiam | 37 | 61 | 49 | -3 | 2 | -16 | 0 | 0 | 1.38 | 0.55 | 5 | 36.77 | -24.04 | 60 | 134 |
| Kelso | 36 | 70 | 52 | -1 | 13 | -8 | 0 | 0 | 0.95 | 0.32 | 4 | 17.09 | -23.07 | 43 | 107 |
| Olympia | 31 | 64 | 48 | -4 | 1 | -13 | 0 | 0 | 0.97 | 0.41 | 3 | 25.61 | -19.83 | 56 | 116 |
| Seattle-Tacoma | 39 | 61 | 49 | -4 | 1 | -21 | 0 | 0 | 0.77 | 0.35 | 4 | 19.49 | -13.09 | 60 | 105 |
| Shelton | 32 | 62 | 47 | -6 | 0 | -27 | 0 | 0 | 0.94 | 0.28 | 5 | 34.79 | -24.61 | 59 | 123 |
| Tacoma | 34 | 63 | 50 | -4 | 3 | -21 | 0 | 0 | 1.04 | 0.53 | 4 | 21.00 | -13.90 | 60 | 114 |
| Vancouver | 36 | 69 | 52 | 0 | 20 | -2 | 0 | 0 | 0.65 | 0.09 | 4 | 19.67 | -16.23 | 55 | 119 |
| CENTRAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ellensburg | 25 | 69 | 46 | -6 | 3 | -18 | 0 | 0 | 0.09 | -0.04 | 1 | 5.84 | -1.51 | 79 | 60 |
| Omak | 29 | 72 | 50 | -1 | 10 | -8 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | -0.34 | 0 | 4.36 | -6.39 | 41 | 49 |
| Stampede Pass | 27 | 53 | 36 | -2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3.20 | 2.31 | 5 | 45.55 | -26.76 | 63 | 137 |
| Wenatchee | 34 | 71 | 51 | -5 | 15 | -27 | 1 | -1 | 0.02 | -0.12 | 1 | 4.51 | -2.17 | 68 | 56 |
| Yakima AP | 29 | 74 | 51 | -4 | 17 | -15 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | -0.07 | 0 | 3.66 | -2.85 | 56 | 50 |
| NORTHEAST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colville | 30 | 72 | 50 | -2 | 10 | -8 | 0 | 0 | 0.02 | -0.40 | 1 | 9.36 | -6.83 | 58 | 63 |
| Deer Park | 25 | 70 | 46 | -5 | 3 | -15 | 0 | 0 | 0.33 | -0.02 | 2 | 10.22 | -4.20 | 71 | 89 |
| Spokane AP | 27 | 68 | 47 | -4 | 7 | -9 | 0 | 0 | 0.47 | 0.19 | 1 | 8.09 | -4.62 | 64 | 78 |
| EAST CENTRAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ephrata | 32 | 74 | 51 | -6 | 14 | -32 | 0 | -6 | 0.06 | -0.02 | 1 | 4.13 | -1.62 | 72 | 54 |
| Moses Lake | 30 | 75 | 52 | -5 | 21 | -25 | 0 | -6 | 0.07 | -0.01 | 1 | 5.60 | -0.15 | 97 | 51 |
| Quincy | 32 | 73 | 52 | -3 | 22 | -18 | 0 | -1 | 0.04 | -0.04 | 1 | 4.75 | -1.52 | 76 | 49 |
| Ritzville | 27 | 73 | 47 | -5 | 7 | -12 | 0 | 0 | 0.48 | 0.27 | 1 | 8.26 | -0.88 | 90 | 67 |
| SOUTHEAST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hanford | 34 | 80 | 55 | -5 | 38 | -30 | 4 | -10 | 0.02 | -0.05 | 1 | 4.84 | -0.52 | 90 | 50 |
| Pasco | 30 | 81 | 55 | -4 | 34 | -24 | 1 | -6 | 0.19 | 0.08 | 2 | 6.94 | 0.86 | 114 | 61 |
| Pullman | 28 | 68 | 46 | -4 | 5 | -9 | 0 | 0 | 0.04 | -0.31 | 3 | 11.02 | -5.80 | 66 | 91 |
| Walla Walla AP | 34 | 75 | 51 | -5 | 17 | -28 | 0 | -5 | 0.51 | 0.13 | 3 | 13.14 | -2.76 | 83 | 80 |
| Whitman Mission | 30 | 79 | 52 | -3 | 20 | -17 | 4 | 4 | 0.37 | 0.09 | 2 | 11.55 | 0.60 | 105 | 83 |
| WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Coeur D' A' AP | 30 | 70 | 48 | -4 | 21 | -1 | 2 | 2 | 0.80 | 0.38 | 3 | 11.51 | -8.63 | 57 | 81 |
| Lewiston ID | 35 | 74 | 51 | -5 | 22 | -18 | 4 | 4 | 0.35 | 0.07 | 2 | 9.39 | 0.72 | 108 | 83 |

Summary based on NWS data.
 Season CUMulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2000
 DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
 NA = Data Unavailable

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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