



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service  
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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: May 17, 2004, 1:00 p.m.  
Week Ending: May 16, 2004  
CWP WA-CW2004

## Wheat and Barley Conditions Improve Range and Pasture Conditions Deteriorate

### Field Crops

Precipitation allowed winter wheat and spring cereal conditions to improve. Leaf-feeding sawflies were spotted on wheat in Adams County. Field corn in Grays Harbor County was being irrigated due to lack of moisture. Planting of corn was still in full swing in Snohomish, King, and Whatcom Counties. Thurston County Christmas tree producers reported tip aphid infestations in Grand firs. Harvesting of grass silage continued in Snohomish and King Counties, and Whatcom County started its second harvest. Turfgrass growers in Thurston County were irrigating all fields and green chop was harvested. Hay was cut in Walla Walla and Adams Counties, but remained wet due to recent rains.

### Livestock

In Kittitas County, cattle were out on pasture. Range and pasture conditions were 18% very poor, 19% poor, 35% fair, and 28% good. Douglas and Chelan Counties reported that livestock water supplies continued to be a problem. Dairies in Snohomish, King, and Grays Harbor Counties were busy applying liquid manure to fields.

### Fruits and Vegetables

Beehives have been placed in Whatcom County raspberry fields. Strawberries were blooming and some harvesting has begun in the Southwest. In Yakima County, apple, pear, cherry, and soft fruit growers were all reporting good to very good fruit set. Asparagus harvest continued at a slow pace. Grant, Franklin, and Kittitas Counties were planting sweet corn.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

| Week      | Days |
|-----------|------|
| This Week | 5.7  |
| Last Week | 6.4  |

### Moisture and Supply

| Item             | Percent |    |    |   |
|------------------|---------|----|----|---|
|                  | VS      | SH | AD | S |
| Topsoil          | 8       | 39 | 52 | 1 |
| Subsoil          | 5       | 23 | 67 | 5 |
| Irrigation Water | 0       | 8  | 92 | 0 |
| Hay & Roughage   | 0       | 3  | 97 | 0 |

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

### Crop Progress

| Crop/Activity            | Percent Completed |           |      |            |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------|------|------------|
|                          | This Week         | Last Week | 2003 | 5 Yr. Avg. |
| Spring Wheat Emerged     | 96                | 91        | 88   | 88         |
| Spring Wheat Headed      | 1                 | 0         | 0    | 1          |
| Winter Wheat Headed      | 10                | 7         | 10   | 8          |
| Barley Emerged           | 97                | 92        | 91   | 87         |
| Barley Headed            | 1                 | 0         | 0    | 0          |
| Potatoes Planted         | 100               | 98        | 99   | 100        |
| Potatoes Emerged         | 70                | 56        | 58   | 59         |
| Corn Planted             | 92                | 84        | 84   | 78         |
| Corn Emerged             | 40                | 28        | 36   | 18         |
| Dry Edible Beans Planted | 99                | 97        | 48   | 20         |
| Proc. Green Peas Planted | 100               | 99        | 97   | 70         |
| Dry Peas Planted         | 100               | 99        | 98   | 91         |
| Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting  | 15                | 8         | 19   | 11         |

### Crop Condition\*

| Crop                   | % Acreage |   |    |     |    |
|------------------------|-----------|---|----|-----|----|
|                        | VP        | P | F  | G   | EX |
| Winter Wheat Dryland   | 2         | 8 | 34 | 51  | 5  |
| Winter Wheat Irrigated | 0         | 0 | 7  | 93  | 0  |
| Spring Wheat Dryland   | 0         | 5 | 50 | 40  | 5  |
| Spring Wheat Irrigated | 0         | 0 | 17 | 83  | 0  |
| Barley Dryland         | 0         | 5 | 45 | 44  | 6  |
| Barley Irrigated       | 0         | 0 | 20 | 80  | 0  |
| Potatoes               | 0         | 0 | 7  | 93  | 0  |
| Corn                   | 0         | 0 | 0  | 100 | 0  |
| Dry Edible Beans       | 0         | 0 | 42 | 58  | 0  |

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

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

# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Grays Harbor:** Field corn growers began irrigating newly planted fields to compensate for the lack of moisture. Christmas tree growers began spraying Douglas fir fields for cooley spruce gall adelgids. Greenhouse tomato growers reported rapid plant development with some plants already laden with green fruit. U-Pick vegetable growers were planting warm season vegetable crops. Livestock producers continued harvesting green chop and applying liquid manure to forage fields. Home gardeners took advantage of the local Home and Garden Show over the weekend, to purchase vegetable transplants and bedding plants. Vendors at the show reported sales volume substantially increased over last year.

**Clark/Cowlitz/Skagit/Wahkiakum:** Strawberry harvest began three weeks early in southwestern Washington due to abnormally warm, dry weather. Other berry crops were ahead of schedule as well.

**Pierce/S. King:** Crop conditions remained good for the South Puget Sound with timely rain and sunshine. No unusual weather conditions or crop damage were reported.

**San Juan:** Minimal rain lead to very dry crop and pasture conditions. The cutting of hay may begin early this year because of the dry weather.

**Skagit:** The county had another dry week, with no measurable precipitation in sight. Irrigation was running in some areas. The spinach seed crop in some fields could use more precipitation. Planting operations were going well. Grass silage harvest continued.

**Skagit/San Juan/Island:** The weather continued to be dry. Even with the rain from last week, it has not been enough to offset water needs for non-irrigated crops. Most crops have been planted.

**Snohomish/N. King:** Temperatures returned to normal with precipitation still falling behind for the season. Dairies were busy finishing the first grass harvest and spreading manure on fields. Corn planting was a little ahead of schedule for most areas. Pastures were still lush green for spring livestock grazing.

**Thurston:** Ag producers continued to be concerned about the unseasonably dry weather. Although rainfall was frequently in the weather forecast, very little arrived. Turfgrass growers were irrigating all fields to compensate for the lack of moisture. Livestock producers continued to harvest green chop under nearly ideal conditions. The dry soil conditions have made field cultivation much easier. Christmas tree growers reported tip aphid infestations in Grand fir. Plant development continued to be at least two weeks ahead of schedule due to the warmer than average spring temperatures. Ornamental plant nurseries continued to report brisk bedding plant sales. A golden glow continued to radiate from the Scotch broom infested rural landscape.

**Whatcom:** A couple of days of light showers were received. Temperatures were warmer than normal and a few nights were cool. Bee hives were in raspberry fields. Strawberries were blooming. Corn planting was in full swing. Grass silage began the second cutting. Producers were getting into wet fields early this year.

## Central

**Benton:** Recent rain improved soil moisture but caught some hay down. Asparagus harvest continued at a slow pace. Cover and thinning sprays, irrigation, and weed control were other activities.

**Benton (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** A little rain was received during the week, with temperatures in the 50's and 60's, with very windy conditions.

**Grant:** Rain curtailed some fieldwork. Sweet corn planting continued. Crops damaged by winds two weeks ago were largely recovering.

**Franklin:** Rain caused delays with alfalfa cutting, while asparagus harvest continued. Potato planting was complete. Sweet corn planting continued.

**Kittitas:** Business as usual . . . irrigation continued and cattle were on pastures. Farmers with sweet corn contracts planted seed. Two days of relatively steady rain alleviated very dry condition on non-irrigated ground. Range conditions were not so good except at higher elevations. Pre-rain soil was very dry down to at least 5-6".

**Kittitas (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Rain received over the weekend was badly needed. Normal spring fieldwork activities continued. Potato planting began. Range and pasture conditions will improve with recent rains. Sweet corn planting continued.

**Okanogan/Ferry:** Precipitation was received in portions of the counties.

**Yakima:** The weather in Yakima Valley was cool and overcast most of the week, with scattered showers in the area over the weekend. Night time temperatures were cool, but there were no frost concerns for the month of May. Apple, pear, cherry and soft fruit growers all reported good to very good fruit set. Most fruit growers initiated an aggressive fruit thinning program earlier this season.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Average temperatures varied from 4 degrees below normal to 2 degrees above normal, with 0.21" of precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to weather conditions reported.

## Eastern

**Asotin/Garfield:** Rain early in the week provided some relief from drought conditions. Crops benefitted greatly from the rain. Some areas received up to 1.25", but other areas only received 0.3". Areas with the lower amount of accumulation will need more timely rains for continued crop development. Pastures and rangeland have been suffering greatly due to drought. While the rain will help in some areas, lower elevation and shallow soil pastures will not recover this year.

**Adams:** Precipitation, although spotty, was very beneficial to both winter and spring cereals. Moisture conditions improved, especially topsoil moisture at 75 percent adequate. But additional precipitation is needed to greatly improve subsoil moisture which was estimated at 40 percent short and very short supply. Winter wheat conditions improved with the precipitation, as it began to head out in the southern end of the county. One concern with the crop was the leaf feeding sawflies reported by growers. Spring wheat and barley conditions were improved following the rain.

**Adams (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** A nice rain on Wednesday followed by more showers on the weekend, improved the prospect for grain crops. More and more winter wheat began to separate into very nice (early seeded/emerged) and poor (later seeded/reseeded) categories. Early cutting on hay turned out to be a bad choice with the rains. Pasture conditions had deteriorated significantly before the rains, and much of the annual grasses were burned up, especially in the shallow areas, so the benefit to ranges will be less than hoped for.

**Douglas/Chelan:** Light precipitation received in the past week ranged from 0.4" to 0.05". Any moisture is helpful to the dryland wheat crop. Livestock water supply continued to be a problem, according to some producers. Fruit crops were progressing well.

**Lincoln:** Precipitation measurements were variable last week with farms during one rain event reporting only 0.10" of rain and neighbors 10 miles away getting nearly 1.00" of rain. Despite the variability of precipitation, both surface and sub-surface moisture conditions improved. Winter wheat conditions were also upgraded with 80 percent being in fair/good condition. Spring wheat and barley conditions were greatly improved also, with an estimated 20 percent good, 70 percent fair, and only 10 percent poor. Both spring wheat and barley will need average precipitation to maintain crop conditions and above average precipitation to improve crop conditions.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** Scattered showers during the week and cooler temperatures were very much needed. Rainfall received in the southern part of the county was up to 0.5". The area from Spokane north received very little rain--less than 0.15". That area of the county has been missing the rain pretty consistently and drought stress was beginning to show. Rangeland and pastures were not growing like they should.

**Walla Walla:** The weather was mild and cool with some rain during the week. Hay was down and got wet. Crops overall appeared in better shape than a couple of weeks ago.

**Whitman:** Rain showers made a welcomed return to the Palouse. Many areas reported between 0.50" to 0.75". Cooler weather also brought a frost, which didn't appear to be damaging. More rain was received over the weekend. The cooler, wetter weather pattern will help crop development, which is in need of some fresh topsoil moisture. Producers in the northern areas of the county continued to be concerned about a moisture shortage. Fair and even poor pasture and crop conditions have been reported in the northern part of the county.

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# Weekly Weather Statistics

May 17, 2004

| 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    |          |      |
| <b>WEST</b>         |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |        |          |      |
| Bellingham          | 41              | 66 | 53  | 0   | 24                  | 1   | 0        | 0   | 0.14                    | -0.35 | 2    | 24.58                | -6.10  | 80       | 122  |
| Everett             | 47              | 65 | 55  | 1   | 33                  | 5   | 0        | 0   | 0.17                    | -0.39 | 4    | 24.14                | -6.59  | 79       | 126  |
| Hoquiam             | 40              | 63 | 54  | 2   | 30                  | 5   | 0        | 0   | 0.05                    | -0.68 | 2    | 56.89                | -4.84  | 92       | 152  |
| Kelso               | 43              | 70 | 56  | 3   | 45                  | 15  | 0        | 0   | 0.00                    | -0.56 | 0    | 28.75                | -12.13 | 70       | 107  |
| Olympia             | 36              | 70 | 54  | 2   | 29                  | 8   | 0        | 0   | 0.04                    | -0.44 | 2    | 41.56                | -4.45  | 90       | 139  |
| Sea-Tac             | 46              | 69 | 55  | 1   | 35                  | 2   | 0        | 0   | 0.17                    | -0.22 | 2    | 30.02                | -3.06  | 91       | 117  |
| Shelton             | 39              | 70 | 55  | -2  | 34                  | -3  | 0        | 0   | 0.42                    | -0.11 | 3    | 58.43                | -1.55  | 97       | 141  |
| Tacoma              | 39              | 70 | 54  | -2  | 29                  | -6  | 0        | 0   | 0.16                    | -0.27 | 1    | 28.80                | -6.67  | 81       | 122  |
| Vancouver           | 40              | 70 | 56  | 2   | 43                  | 11  | 0        | 0   | 0.05                    | -0.51 | 3    | 27.81                | -8.82  | 76       | 130  |
| <b>CENTRAL</b>      |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |        |          |      |
| Ellensburg          | 37              | 74 | 56  | 2   | 41                  | 8   | 0        | 0   | 0.40                    | 0.29  | 4    | 6.47                 | -1.00  | 87       | 77   |
| Omak                | 30              | 74 | 55  | 2   | 35                  | 5   | 1        | 1   | 0.00                    | -0.35 | 0    | 7.77                 | -3.50  | 69       | 59   |
| Stampede Pass       | 33              | 57 | 42  | 2   | 0                   | 0   | 0        | 0   | 0.41                    | -0.37 | 3    | 62.23                | -10.98 | 85       | 139  |
| Wenatchee           | 41              | 71 | 57  | -3  | 49                  | -10 | 0        | -7  | 0.39                    | 0.32  | 3    | 7.75                 | 0.94   | 114      | 65   |
| Yakima AP           | 34              | 73 | 54  | -3  | 32                  | -13 | 0        | -3  | 0.21                    | 0.14  | 2    | 5.55                 | -1.04  | 84       | 60   |
| <b>NORTHEAST</b>    |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |        |          |      |
| Colville            | 35              | 68 | 51  | -3  | 17                  | -12 | 0        | 0   | 0.16                    | -0.29 | 2    | 6.53                 | -10.29 | 39       | 58   |
| Deer Park           | 28              | 68 | 49  | -6  | 7                   | -22 | 0        | 0   | 0.05                    | -0.36 | 2    | 14.23                | -0.76  | 95       | 102  |
| Spokane AP          | 38              | 67 | 51  | -3  | 11                  | -16 | 0        | 0   | 0.47                    | 0.16  | 3    | 9.62                 | -3.52  | 73       | 91   |
| <b>EAST CENTRAL</b> |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |        |          |      |
| Ephrata             | 38              | 72 | 55  | -5  | 39                  | -28 | 0        | -11 | 0.13                    | 0.00  | 3    | 3.89                 | -2.00  | 66       | 55   |
| Moses Lake          | 35              | 72 | 54  | -6  | 27                  | -40 | 0        | -11 | 0.13                    | 0.00  | 2    | 4.14                 | -1.75  | 70       | 54   |
| Quincy              | 39              | 71 | 57  | -2  | 48                  | -9  | 0        | -7  | 0.42                    | 0.28  | 3    | 4.23                 | -2.21  | 66       | 50   |
| Ritzville           | 38              | 68 | 52  | -3  | 16                  | -14 | 0        | 0   | 0.59                    | 0.38  | 3    | 8.17                 | -1.26  | 87       | 63   |
| <b>SOUTHEAST</b>    |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |        |          |      |
| Hanford             | 38              | 76 | 57  | -6  | 53                  | -35 | 4        | -20 | 0.38                    | 0.24  | 2    | 5.29                 | -0.24  | 96       | 56   |
| Pasco               | 35              | 76 | 57  | -5  | 50                  | -25 | 0        | -16 | 0.16                    | 0.02  | 2    | 5.79                 | -0.50  | 92       | 65   |
| Pullman             | 33              | 72 | 47  | -6  | 6                   | -15 | 0        | 0   | 0.65                    | 0.30  | 4    | 13.76                | -3.55  | 79       | 93   |
| Whitman Miss.       | 33              | 74 | 54  | -4  | 30                  | -21 | 0        | -5  | 0.50                    | 0.22  | 3    | 13.97                | 2.60   | 123      | 96   |
| <b>ID PANHANDLE</b> |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |        |          |      |
| Coeur D'Alene AP    | 36              | 68 | 50  | -5  | 12                  | -23 | 0        | 0   | 0.06                    | -0.42 | 1    | 9.38                 | -11.40 | 45       | 81   |
| Lewiston ID         | 39              | 72 | 54  | -4  | 32                  | -22 | 0        | -7  | 0.95                    | 0.67  | 4    | 8.00                 | -1.10  | 88       | 74   |

Summary based on NWS data.  
 Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2003  
 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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