



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service  
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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: June 1, 2004, 1:00 p.m.  
Week Ending: May 30, 2004  
CWP WA-CW2204

## Hail Storms Damage Fruit Crop Wet Weather Mixed Blessing Across State

### Field Crops

Growers tried to spray spring grains, but had troubles with rain and wind. Adams County producers reported isolated hail damage to wheat fields. Several counties reported that the first cutting of alfalfa is of very poor quality, and much of the crop that was cut has been destroyed from rains and no drying days.

### Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 1% very poor, 21% poor, 35% fair, and 43% good. Range and pasture conditions have improved with recent rains. Livestock producers continued to make green chop.

### Fruits and Vegetables

Strawberry harvest started a couple of weeks earlier than normal. Scattered storms, hail, and wind plagued tree fruit growers, with reports of hail damage to apples, cherries, and pears, with some growers suffering significant losses. Some cherry growers applied sprays and used helicopters for split control. Blueberry growers predict an excellent crop with heavy fruit set. Recent rainfall across the state has caused sweet corn and other vegetables to rapidly emerge

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	4.8
Last Week	4.6

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	17	76	7
Subsoil	4	19	76	1
Irrigation Water	0	2	98	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 Planted	100	100	100	100
Spring Wheat Emerged	100	100	98	98
Spring Wheat Headed	13	4	9	6
Winter Wheat Headed	58	27	32	32
Barley Planted	100	100	100	100
Barley Emerged	99	99	97	99
Barley Headed	4	2	3	5
Potatoes Emerged	98	83	89	88
Corn Planted	95	93	98	96
Corn Emerged	74	59	74	47
Dry Edible Beans Planted	99	99	65	51
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	77	30	63	40

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	8	26	55	9
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	11	86	3
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	5	40	49	6
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	5	93	2
Barley Dryland	0	4	36	52	8
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	87	13
Potatoes	0	0	3	96	1
Corn	0	0	1	99	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	3	96	1

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:** The rural landscape became a tapestry of brilliant color as newly germinated corn plants produced ribbons of vibrant green across dark chocolate soils. Native conifers, with their chartreuse flush of new growth, combined with the pastel green of hybrid poplar trees, added to the myriad of colors which dominate the valley floors and hillsides. Almost all ag producers celebrated a week of copious rainfall which resulted in the rapid emergence of sweet corn and other vegetable crops. Greenhouse tomato growers harvested their first ripe tomatoes of the season. Strawberry growers reported the beginning of harvest was only a few days away, as berries were rapidly ripening. Livestock producers continued making green chop. Home gardeners took advantage of the three day holiday weekend to finish planting warm season vegetable transplants and flowering annuals.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** The first significant rain since late winter should help alleviate immediate drought concerns. With most spring plantings complete, crop farmers welcomed the rain. Grass hay growers indicated that some of the crop had gone down.

**Kitsap:** Vegetable production was still ahead of normal. Early crops were being sold at area Farmer's Markets.

**Pierce/S. King:** The recent rains helped turn a dry May into a wet May. Crop conditions remained good. There was damage to a barn in Thurston County due to a tornado. There were no reports of any crop damage due to the weather.

**San Juan:** Overall crop and pasture conditions have improved with the recent rains. Those who were considering cutting hay early have postponed.

**Skagit/San Juan/Island:** Rain continued to fall. There was no apparent crop damage reported.

**Skagit:** The rains finally arrived in a big way, bringing well over 2" for the week. The month ended with total precipitation considerably above normal. Strawberry growers were concerned about botrytis with

all the moisture. Apple growers were glad they have been keeping up on scab sprays. Potato growers finished planting for the season. Vegetable seed companies were wrapping up grower contracts in preparation for pinning fall-planted seed crops.

**Snohomish/N. King:** Heavy rains mid-week were welcomed. Some areas of the county received 4 plus inches during the last half of the week, slowing fieldwork. Pasture growth looked good. Grass harvest and silage bagging continued as weather permitted. Strawberry harvest was underway early this year. Raspberry blossom was over and the plants have set fruit. Apples have set an excellent crop.

**Snohomish/N. King (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Mother Nature made a good attempt to catch up on precipitation during the week. The total precipitation for the month of May was still below average, and the year to date is 5-6 inches below normal. Temperatures were below normal for most of the week. Marysville strawberry harvest began a couple of weeks early.

**Thurston:** Heavy rainfall during the latter part of the week alleviated ag producers concerns about an impending drought. For the most part, growers were jubilant with the added moisture. The only exception were the strawberry growers. Strawberries were already ripening with some growers hoping to begin harvest and opening for U-Pick sales over the Memorial Day weekend. Turfgrass growers were forced to stop field cultivation due to the wet soil condition. Christmas tree growers continued to spray Grand fir for twig aphids and monitor Noble fir plantations for conifer aphids. Livestock producers continued harvesting green chop under less than ideal weather conditions. Blueberry growers continued to predict an excellent crop with early varieties sporting heavy fruit set. Home gardeners continued setting vegetable transplants and weeding.

**Whatcom:** Some much needed rain showers were received during the week. Strawberry harvest began. The corn and potato crops emerged.

## Central

**Benton:** Rain continued to be a concern for hay and cherry growers. Mildew was becoming another concern.

**Benton (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Light rain showers with very windy conditions were received during the week. Cherry producers reported some damage to their crop due to the hot then cooler weather with showers.

**Grant:** Hail on May 29 resulted in crop damage in Quincy, Royal Slope, and Mattawa. About 80 percent of the hay was rained on and some was severely damaged. Sweet corn planting continued.

**Franklin:** Temperatures were mild again with frequent rain. The first cutting of alfalfa was nearly complete. The quality suffered from wet conditions and delays. Asparagus harvest was nearly complete. The potato crop was mostly emerged. Crops generally looked good, but growers were concerned about late blight. Some replanted carrots were just emerging.

**Franklin (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Friday through Sunday (May 28-May30)

were the first three consecutive days without precipitation. Fifty to 60 percent of the county held off on the normal first cutting of hay to avoid rain and stemy, bloomy stand with poor to very poor expected quality. The balance that had been cut was probably 80 percent destroyed from consistent rains and no drying days. Reports of heating stacks and black windrows prevailed during the week. Overall, the cutting will be the worst the county has seen. Several thunderstorms brought hail and damaged apples, asparagus, and cherries. Many of the cherry orchards were applying sprays and using helicopters for split control. Beans were being planted, somewhat stalled by the rains. Corn planting continued.

**Yakima:** Scattered storms, wind and hail continued to plague tree fruit growers. Reports of hail damage to apples and pears were filtering in. While the damage may impact a small percentage of the overall crop, some growers suffered significant crop losses.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Average temperatures varied from 4 degrees above normal to 8 degrees below normal, with a trace of precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to weather conditions to report.

## Eastern

**Asotin/Garfield:** Cool weather and showers were the norm for the week and were beneficial to both crops and pastures. Rains were spotty with some areas receiving much more than others.

**Adams:** The week featured mostly unsettled conditions which didn't produce any beneficial precipitation, but rather a few bad events. Isolated producers reported hail on a few wheat fields and also onions in the Othello area. High winds were also detrimental to fruit trees. Most of the first cutting of hay suffered varying levels of quality loss due to the extended period of poor drying weather surrounding recent rains.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** Scattered showers during the week brought additional moisture depending on where you were. Rainfall totals varied. Crop conditions looked pretty good with the moisture. Warm weather will make things really grow with the precipitation. Growers

were trying to get their spring grains sprayed but had trouble with the wind and rain.

**Stevens:** Rain throughout the week gave crops a much needed boost. Hay producers waited for the window of opportunity to begin the first cutting. Pasture conditions improved after several inches of rainfall.

**Walla Walla:** Lots of rain and wind were received during the week. Those who had hay down expressed great concern about getting the mostly destroyed first cutting off the fields to allow good growth for the second cutting. Crops overall appeared in good condition.

**Whitman:** More rain and cool conditions helped improve spring and winter crop conditions. The moisture was welcomed despite slowing spraying operations.

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Washington Agricultural Statistics Service website: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa>

E-mail: [nass-wa@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-wa@nass.usda.gov)

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# Weekly Weather Statistics

June 1, 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	46	63	55	-2	36	-4	0	-2	2.04	1.55	5	26.82	-4.91	85	130	
Everett	47	71	55	-2	37	-8	2	-2	2.11	1.61	6	26.60	-5.26	83	135	
Hoquiam	46	64	55	0	37	1	0	0	2.41	1.78	6	59.74	-3.39	95	162	
Kelso	46	77	57	1	53	6	2	-5	1.11	0.57	5	30.09	-11.95	72	114	
Olympia	40	76	56	0	39	1	0	0	1.19	0.77	5	43.04	-3.87	92	146	
Sea-Tac	48	73	57	-2	49	-4	2	-3	1.95	1.59	4	32.02	-1.82	95	122	
Shelton	44	74	56	-3	42	-12	1	-6	1.48	1.01	5	60.18	-0.83	99	148	
Tacoma	43	75	57	-2	49	-4	0	-6	1.27	0.85	4	30.35	-6.02	83	128	
Vancouver	46	79	59	2	64	12	5	-2	0.76	0.27	5	28.87	-8.82	77	138	
<b>CENTRAL</b>																
Ellensburg	41	74	57	-2	52	-5	4	-6	0.00	-0.14	0	6.91	-0.86	89	81	
Omak	35	73	56	-2	47	-5	0	-9	0.30	-0.05	3	9.76	-2.28	81	66	
Stampede Pass	33	60	43	-3	2	-2	0	0	4.16	3.40	6	67.21	-7.64	90	149	
Wenatchee	42	75	59	-4	62	-23	4	-20	0.09	-0.05	1	8.26	1.17	117	72	
Yakima AP	34	75	56	-5	45	-26	2	-14	0.00	-0.14	0	5.72	-1.17	83	62	
<b>NORTHEAST</b>																
Colville	38	68	55	-3	33	-17	0	-9	0.41	-0.01	5	8.11	-9.68	46	67	
Deer Park	33	68	53	-5	25	-25	0	-7	0.65	0.30	6	16.47	0.73	105	115	
Spokane AP	39	68	54	-4	32	-19	0	-8	0.15	-0.20	3	12.14	-1.75	87	100	
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>																
Ephrata	39	77	59	-6	64	-31	7	-24	0.08	-0.06	2	4.34	-1.85	70	61	
Moses Lake	40	77	60	-4	73	-22	10	-21	0.02	-0.12	1	4.48	-1.71	72	59	
Quincy	42	75	59	-4	66	-15	7	-16	0.08	-0.06	1	4.93	-1.81	73	57	
Ritzville	36	69	53	-5	25	-28	0	-9	0.04	-0.15	2	9.94	0.08	101	69	
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>																
Hanford	43	76	60	-7	72	-44	11	-35	0.04	-0.04	1	5.68	-0.04	99	61	
Pasco	42	79	63	-2	92	-10	26	-10	0.05	-0.09	2	6.45	-0.14	98	73	
Pullman	37	66	53	-3	21	-18	0	-6	0.59	0.23	4	14.92	-3.15	83	101	
Whitman Miss.	40	76	60	-2	68	-7	8	-11	0.25	0.04	4	15.09	3.21	127	106	
<b>ID PANHANDLE</b>																
Coeur D'A' AP	36	66	54	-6	27	-32	0	-10	1.35	0.86	5	12.77	-9.06	58	93	
Lewiston ID	47	73	60	-2	74	-8	13	-10	0.63	0.28	5	10.14	0.36	104	85	

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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