



# Washington Crop Weather

Released: May 23, 2005  
Week Ending: May 22, 2005  
CWP WA-CW2105

## Rainfall Benefitted Crops and Rangeland Early Summer Disease on Winter Wheat and Spring Wheat

### Field Crops

A week of wet weather was welcomed in most areas of the state. However, it temporarily delayed field activities, such as spraying summer fallow and seeding the remaining spring wheat. Some hail was received in Pend Oreille, Spokane, and Yakima Counties causing some crop damage and erosion to occur. A large amount of alfalfa hay that was cut was rained on in many areas. Winter wheat began to head out. Striped rust in winter wheat and spring wheat crops was a big concern in Asotin, Whitman, and Franklin Counties. Christmas tree growers were concerned about the fungus Swiss needle cast which thrives under wet conditions.

### Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 3% very poor, 20% poor, 22% fair, 53% good, and 2% excellent. Growers continued weed control activities as weather permitted. Pacific County shellfish growers continued harvest operations for both oysters and clams, along with seed planting and transplanting activities. Many livestock producers delayed forage harvest due to wet conditions.

### Fruits and Vegetables

Most tree growers were unable to make any fungicide or insecticide applications due to the persistent rain. Rain also delayed home plantings of vegetables and ornamental bedding plants. Strawberry harvest began in Clark, Cowlitz, and Lewis Counties. Raspberry and blueberry fields in Snohomish and King Counties were in bloom. Asparagus harvesting continued. In Mason County, rain delayed transferring greenhouse plants.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

| Week      | Days |
|-----------|------|
| This Week | 3.5  |
| Last Week | 4.6  |

### Moisture and Supply

| Item                      | Percent |    |    |    |
|---------------------------|---------|----|----|----|
|                           | VS      | SH | AD | S  |
| Topsoil                   | 1       | 8  | 78 | 13 |
| Topsoil 5 Yr Avg          | 3       | 18 | 76 | 4  |
| Subsoil                   | 7       | 32 | 60 | 1  |
| Subsoil 5 Yr Avg          | 2       | 24 | 74 | 1  |
| Irrigation Water          | 5       | 10 | 85 | 0  |
| Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg | 0       | 3  | 96 | 1  |
| Hay & Roughage            | 2       | 22 | 73 | 3  |

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

### Crop Progress

| Crop/Activity                       | Percent Completed |           |      |            |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|------|------------|
|                                     | This Week         | Last Week | 2004 | 5 Yr. Avg. |
| Spring Wheat Emerged                | 97                | 82        | 99   | 95         |
| Spring Wheat Headed                 | 6                 | 4         | 4    | 2          |
| Winter Wheat Headed                 | 35                | 29        | 25   | 20         |
| Barley Planted                      | 99                | 96        | 100  | 100        |
| Barley Emerged                      | 87                | 69        | 99   | 95         |
| Barley Headed                       | 4                 | 2         | 2    | 1          |
| Potatoes Planted                    | 99                | 97        | 100  | 100        |
| Potatoes Emerged                    | 69                | 56        | 81   | 77         |
| Corn Planted                        | 80                | 73        | 93   | 90         |
| Corn Emerged                        | 48                | 35        | 56   | 31         |
| Dry Edible Beans Planted            | 63                | 60        | 99   | 46         |
| Proc. Green Peas Planted            | 100               | 98        | 100  | 94         |
| Dry Peas Planted                    | 100               | 93        | 100  | 98         |
| Alfalfa Hay 1 <sup>st</sup> Cutting | 19                | 18        | 28   | 26         |

### Crop Condition\*

| Crop                   | % Acreage |   |    |    |    |
|------------------------|-----------|---|----|----|----|
|                        | VP        | P | F  | G  | EX |
| Winter Wheat Dryland   | 0         | 3 | 23 | 60 | 14 |
| Winter Wheat Irrigated | 0         | 0 | 4  | 76 | 20 |
| Spring Wheat Dryland   | 0         | 1 | 28 | 64 | 7  |
| Spring Wheat Irrigated | 2         | 1 | 11 | 78 | 8  |
| Barley Dryland         | 0         | 1 | 23 | 71 | 5  |
| Barley Irrigated       | 0         | 0 | 10 | 83 | 7  |
| Potatoes               | 0         | 0 | 11 | 66 | 23 |
| Dry Edible Beans       | 0         | 1 | 4  | 92 | 3  |

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

**Clark/Skagit/Cowlitz/Wahkiakum:** The week was rainy and the news media reported the drought was officially declared to be over. Stream flows were near normal, and lakes were full. According to weather reports for Vancouver, 4.2 inches of rainfall was received for the month of May and 3.5 inches was received for April.

**Grays Harbor:** Another week of persistent rain showers resulted in further delays of spring planting. Ag producers were unable to do any field cultivation due to super saturated soils. Sweet corn growers, pumpkin growers, and vegetable truck gardeners were all bemoaning the fact that the last several weeks of wet weather may have a major impact on this year's crops if we get an early fall frost. The delayed planting dates may not allow the crops to reach full maturity. Strawberry growers were also anxious for the rain to stop, as berries were beginning to turn pink with harvest scheduled for early June. Christmas tree growers expressed concern about the fungus, Swiss needle cast, which thrives under wet conditions. Most tree growers were unable to apply fungicides or insecticides due to the persistent rain. Home gardeners expressed frustration as the rain continued to delay vegetable planting. Livestock producers complained about the wet conditions continuing to delay forage harvest.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** Rains continued to interrupt spring planting. The first cutting of forage was poor quality due to the excessive moisture. Warm, dry weather is needed to facilitate planting and forage harvest.

**Mason:** Weather conditions were wet, wet, and more wet, with thunderstorms on top of drizzle. Precipitation received was 2.25 inches throughout the week. Not much work was possible due to the soggy weather. Pastures grew vigorously.

**Mason (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Relentless rain and cool temperatures slowed the growing season, and local CSA and vegetable growers were in a holding pattern. Greenhouse plants were doing well, but plants will have to wait to be planted. Pastures were producing well but were hard to get out on due to saturated soils.

**Pacific:** Dramatic weather during the week kept producers guessing through heavy showers, lightning, and sunshine. During drier moments, growers were able to continue insect and weed control efforts, as well as soil preparation and planting. Pasture conditions improved over the last several weeks with the warm, wet weather. Shellfish growers continued harvest operations for both oysters and clams, along with seed planting and transplanting activities.

**Pierce:** Light to moderate rains continued to improve hay and pasture conditions.

**Pierce/South King (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Some producers were experiencing trouble planting due to recent rain which caused wet fields. Corn planting was going to be a little later than normal in the South Puget Sound area due to the wet conditions. Producers reported that the plants getting planted were doing well. There were no reports of crop damage due to a weather event.

**Snohomish/King:** Rain, occasionally very heavy, slowed fieldwork. Pastures were growing well. Most crops have been planted. Raspberries and blueberries were in bloom. Grass silage was being cut and bagged as weather permits.

**Thurston:** Heavy rainfall throughout the week continued to delay field cultivation. The rainfall was so heavy and frequent that the majority of soils remained super saturated, and local streams and rivers rose. Forage producers complained the wet weather delayed harvest several weeks, leaving fields beyond the optimum stage of maturity for harvest. Christmas tree growers complained of being several weeks behind in applying insecticides and fungicides. Truck gardeners were forced to postpone planting late season vegetables due to the saturated soils. Home gardeners were unhappy with the unseasonably wet, cold weather that has delayed planting vegetables and ornamental bedding plants. One commercial bearded iris grower reported a high percentage of his rhizomes were infected with rot due to the ongoing wet conditions.

**Thurston (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Heavy rains continued to keep the soil too wet for fieldwork. There was no May hay this year. Producers were considering using round bales wrapped in white plastic. Cattle were getting fat on good pasture growth. Good grape set, both on Pinot Noir and Reisling. Kale was already being harvested and garlic was very large.

**Whatcom:** Several rain showers during the week hampered fieldwork. Spring tillage and planting activities were noted in the western portion of the county, and moved into the county's lower ground areas as conditions allowed. Pastures were lush. Raspberries looked very good. With 1.01 inches of rain falling during the week, May's precipitation is 48 percent of normal to date. Daytime highs averaged 4 degrees cooler than normal at 62 degrees. Night time lows remained 4 degrees warmer than normal, averaging 50 degrees for the third week of May.

## Central

**Benton:** Frequent rains eased drought problems. Asparagus cutting continued. Weed control, cover sprays, and apple thinning were other activities.

**Franklin:** Rain fell for most of the week, allowing only Sunday to be a full workday. Much of the hay that was down will be sun bleached with regrowth beginning to grow into the windrow. There were some reports of cereal leaf beetle, along with stripe rust in wheat.

**Grant:** All of the first cutting of alfalfa has received rain. The damage varies.

**Grant (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** More rain was received during the week. Dryland operators indicated enough moisture was now present to bring the crops to harvest with above average yields expected. Pasture conditions were also normal to above normal. Hay growers were beginning the first cutting.

**Kittitas:** Rain and cool temperatures slightly boosted water supplies for the Kittitas Reclamation District, allowing it to operate into August. The District's supply went from 34 percent of normal to 38 percent. The 34 percent supply level or 66 percent cut was set by the Bureau for March through early May due to serious drought conditions. The Water

District has met the need for water to get good growth on the first cutting of timothy hay where some varieties may begin cutting in about two weeks. Precipitation at the five reservoirs from May 1-18 was nearly 17 percent above average, though the month of May was nearly 17 percent below average in the water year, which runs from October 1, 2004 to September 30, 2005.

**Okanogan/Ferry:** The counties received about six days of good weather that allowed producers to be out in the fields. Portions of the county received up to 0.5 inches of precipitation. Temperatures were close to normal for this time of year. Fruit crops looked good and there were no reports of damage. The winter wheat crop continued to look good. Spring grain plantings were nearly complete, but there were some higher elevations yet to be planted. Some cattle producers reported this as one of the better grass years they have seen. Cattlemen reported water sources are low or not running. Irrigated hay crops looked good. Dryland hay crops also looked good with the recent rains.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures varied from 9 degrees below normal to two degrees above normal, with 0.4 of an inch of precipitation. A few producers reported crop damage due to isolated hail storms.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Unsettled weather delayed some hay cutters, while continuing to benefit all dryland crops. Winter wheat began to head out in the earlier areas.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Another week of cool temperatures and showers benefitted both crops and rangeland. Rust in winter wheat was becoming a concern. Several producers were spraying for control.

**Garfield:** Rains supplied moisture to spring cereals and pastures. Winter crops were damaged from previous drought conditions. Most cattle were moved to summer ranges.

**Lincoln:** Recent rain and cool weather turned the crops around. Some winter wheat fields were showing signs of nitrogen deficiency. The summer fallow moisture was improving greatly.

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Additional rain received during the week continued to improve pasture conditions and supplement the development of grain crops which already looked good.

**Pend Oreille:** During the week, the high was 62 degrees and the low was 30 degrees, with 2.6 inches of precipitation. Fields have adequate water with grass hay above average for this time of the year. Cool weather was slowing alfalfa growth.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** Weather during the week was mostly rain with periods of sunshine. Local cloud bursts with some hail caused some slight crop damage and erosion to occur. For the most part, crops looked good and pastures looked pretty good. Growers would like to received some warm weather. Spokane County received over an inch of rain.

**Stevens:** The county received several days of precipitation during the week. Pastures and crops all looked good. Cattle continued being moved to pastures.

**Whitman:** The weather has been unusually wet and the diseases (e.g., stripe rust, leaf rust, and possible ascochyta) were out in full force. Be prepared for early summer disease management.

**Whitman (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** More rainfall benefitted crops and pastures on the Palouse. Fieldwork slowed with the rainfall, but any delay in spraying was welcomed in exchange for the much needed rains. Crop conditions looked excellent in most areas. Runoff was experienced in places, and rust was showing up in winter and spring wheat; but generally things were in excellent shape given the dry conditions earlier this spring.

**Weekly Weather Statistics**  
**May 23, 2005**

| 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          | 47              | 65 | 56  | 2   | 41                  | 13  | 0        | 0   | 0.64                    | 0.15  | 6    | 34.84                | 3.71   | 112      | 132  |
| Everett             | 46              | 64 | 55  | -1  | 35                  | 2   | 0        | 0   | 1.04                    | 0.48  | 4    | 23.66                | -7.56  | 76       | 129  |
| Hoquiam             | 46              | 61 | 54  | 1   | 32                  | 4   | 0        | 0   | 1.59                    | 0.89  | 7    | 52.41                | -9.71  | 84       | 156  |
| Kelso               | 43              | 64 | 55  | 1   | 40                  | 4   | 0        | 0   | 1.73                    | 1.17  | 6    | 26.11                | -14.87 | 64       | 109  |
| Olympia             | 39              | 64 | 53  | -1  | 26                  | 0   | 0        | 0   | 2.02                    | 1.59  | 6    | 36.63                | -9.88  | 79       | 138  |
| Sea-Tac             | 45              | 64 | 55  | -2  | 34                  | -5  | 0        | 0   | 1.84                    | 1.49  | 6    | 28.99                | -4.47  | 87       | 118  |
| Shelton             | 40              | 63 | 53  | -4  | 22                  | -21 | 0        | -1  | 2.52                    | 2.03  | 7    | 50.73                | -9.88  | 84       | 131  |
| Tacoma              | 43              | 66 | 54  | -2  | 31                  | -9  | 0        | 0   | 1.30                    | 0.88  | 6    | 24.94                | -10.34 | 71       | 107  |
| Vancouver           | 44              | 66 | 56  | 2   | 46                  | 8   | 0        | 0   | 2.11                    | 1.59  | 7    | 26.75                | -10.39 | 72       | 128  |
| <b>CENTRAL</b>      |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |        |          |      |
| Ellensburg          | 37              | 68 | 54  | -3  | 32                  | -8  | 0        | -2  | 0.21                    | 0.07  | 5    | 6.49                 | -1.11  | 85       | 74   |
| Stampede Pass       | 35              | 57 | 45  | 4   | 0                   | 0   | 0        | 0   | 1.70                    | 0.93  | 6    | 56.28                | -17.84 | 76       | 146  |
| Wenatchee           | 40              | 68 | 55  | -5  | 39                  | -28 | 0        | -12 | 0.12                    | 0.02  | 2    | 5.10                 | -1.81  | 74       | 58   |
| Yakima AP           | 35              | 68 | 54  | -5  | 31                  | -22 | 0        | -7  | 0.43                    | 0.31  | 5    | 5.61                 | -1.11  | 83       | 72   |
| <b>NORTHEAST</b>    |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |        |          |      |
| Colville            | 33              | 72 | 56  | 2   | 43                  | 8   | 3        | 2   | 0.81                    | 0.32  | 5    | 15.89                | -1.24  | 93       | 83   |
| Deer Park           | 36              | 64 | 53  | -3  | 22                  | -13 | 0        | 0   | 1.15                    | 0.78  | 5    | 16.12                | 0.94   | 106      | 97   |
| Spokane AP          | 40              | 63 | 52  | -4  | 16                  | -17 | 0        | 0   | 1.77                    | 1.42  | 4    | 11.81                | -1.62  | 88       | 84   |
| <b>EAST CENTRAL</b> |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |        |          |      |
| Ephrata             | 39              | 69 | 56  | -6  | 42                  | -34 | 0        | -16 | 0.29                    | 0.15  | 4    | 4.90                 | -1.12  | 81       | 53   |
| Moses Lake          | 45              | 70 | 57  | -5  | 52                  | -24 | 0        | -16 | 0.30                    | 0.16  | 5    | 5.23                 | -0.79  | 87       | 52   |
| Quincy              | 42              | 67 | 55  | -5  | 35                  | -30 | 0        | -11 | 0.21                    | 0.07  | 3    | 5.25                 | -1.23  | 81       | 46   |
| Ritzville           | 37              | 67 | 53  | -3  | 22                  | -15 | 0        | -1  | 1.13                    | 0.92  | 5    | 8.02                 | -1.60  | 83       | 55   |
| <b>SOUTHEAST</b>    |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |        |          |      |
| Hanford             | 41              | 73 | 58  | -7  | 59                  | -38 | 3        | -27 | 0.23                    | 0.11  | 4    | 3.31                 | -2.15  | 61       | 41   |
| Pasco               | 45              | 75 | 61  | -2  | 76                  | -7  | 11       | -11 | 0.33                    | 0.19  | 4    | 4.45                 | -1.95  | 70       | 56   |
| Pullman             | 41              | 64 | 52  | -2  | 15                  | -10 | 0        | 0   | 0.20                    | -0.15 | 4    | 5.27                 | -12.35 | 30       | 62   |
| Whitman Miss.       | 43              | 74 | 59  | 0   | 62                  | 4   | 5        | -3  | 0.99                    | 0.71  | 5    | 9.34                 | -2.19  | 81       | 85   |
| <b>ID PANHANDLE</b> |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |        |          |      |
| Coeur D'A' AP       | 41              | 66 | 53  | -4  | 24                  | -19 | 0        | -2  | 0.52                    | 0.03  | 6    | 10.34                | -10.87 | 49       | 69   |
| Lewiston ID         | 46              | 72 | 58  | -1  | 59                  | -3  | 5        | -5  | 0.79                    | 0.51  | 6    | 9.63                 | 0.32   | 103      | 81   |

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2004

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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