



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: May 31, 2005
Week Ending: May 29, 2005
CWP WA-CW2205

A Week of an Ideal Condition for Field Activities Wheat, Potato, and Barley Plantings Completed

Field Crops

Dry and warm temperatures through out the week provided an ideal condition for field activities. Producers took advantage of the nice weather to complete spring wheat, potato, and barley plantings. Dry bean planting continued. Warm temperatures, furthermore, helped slow the development of rust that had affected a significant amount of the wheat acreage in many areas. Some producers sprayed for rust control. Winter wheat was starting to head out. Bluegrass varieties started to bloom in Pend Oreille and Spokane Counties. Some reports of hay damage were received from the Mattawa area due to the rain from last week.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 2% very poor, 19% poor, 27% fair, 50% good, and 2% excellent. Warm weather was favorable for first alfalfa hay cutting. Most of the timothy hay began to head out. Livestock had been rotated on pasture fields.

Fruits and Vegetables

Cherry harvest began in the Tri-City and Paterson areas. Chelan County reported that poor pollination earlier in the season led to poor fruit set in many orchards. Grays Harbor County strawberry producers reported early berry ripening due to the warm temperatures. Also, retail nurseries reported a very busy weekend selling bedding and vegetable transplants. Asparagus cutting continued.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.7
Last Week	3.5

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	2	22	70	6
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	3	19	75	3
Subsoil	8	31	60	1
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	1	25	73	1
Irrigation Water	12	16	72	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	0	3	96	1
Hay & Roughage	5	20	72	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	100	97	100	99
Spring Wheat Headed	14	6	12	7
Winter Wheat Headed	60	35	54	39
Barley Planted	100	99	100	100
Barley Emerged	99	87	99	98
Barley Headed	8	4	4	5
Potatoes Planted	100	99	100	100
Potatoes Emerged	78	69	96	91
Corn Planted	99	80	95	95
Corn Emerged	69	48	72	45
Dry Edible Beans Planted	84	63	99	60
Alfalfa Hay 1 st Cutting	70	19	70	51

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	4	20	53	22
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	6	68	26
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	2	40	54	4
Spring Wheat Irrigated	2	1	16	73	8
Barley Dryland	0	3	34	58	5
Barley Irrigated	0	0	5	94	1
Potatoes	0	0	13	71	16
Corn	0	0	3	88	9
Dry Edible Beans	0	2	22	72	4

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: Weather conditions in Southwest Washington continued to be wet, however, there were several dry days over the last week. Farmers began harvest of early varieties of strawberries, with yields and prices reported to be very good at present. Tree fruit crops suffered damage due to the rainy late spring. Raspberry growers were busy with fumigation to prevent root rot.

Grays Harbor: Ag producers took advantage of nearly an entire week of dry and warm weather to complete spring planting of sweet corn and other crops. Extremely warm temperatures during the latter part of the week provided nearly ideal conditions for forage harvest. Strawberry growers reported early berry ripening due to the warm temperatures. Greenhouse tomato growers reported rapid growth of plants. Commercial gladiola and dahlia growers took advantage of the nearly ideal conditions for planting corms and tubers. Retail nurseries reported a very busy weekend selling bedding and vegetable transplants.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: A week of dry weather had everything happening at once, tilling, planting, forage harvest, etc. It is a time for long hours and very little sleep as farmers try to catch up.

Mason: Warm temperatures and dry weather brought a welcome break to soggy truck farmers. This past week was catching up on chores that were put off during last week's wet weather. Some crops even needed watering. The last of the tilling was finished, and vegetables were growing again. Pastures were dry enough to be out on and hay fields were being cut, some for the first time this season.

Pierce/South King: This past week has been very good weather wise to plant or harvest. Conditions were favorable for producers to get on their fields to plant or harvest. This past week saw a nice mix of sun, warm temperatures and a little rain. No unusual situations to

report. No report of crop damage due to a weather event.

Snohomish/King: Had good weather all week with some record-breaking high temperatures. Grass silage was still being bagged. Pasture growth was good. Blueberry bloom was about over and raspberries were almost done. Unsprayed apple trees were showing lots of early scab.

Thurston: Ag producers were blasted with a heat wave which brought furnace like temperatures throughout the county during the latter part of the week. Temperatures in excess of 90 degrees found the majority of farm owners retreating to the shade. The good news was that the conditions were ideal for forage harvest. Livestock producers took advantage of the warm temperatures to bale the first cutting of hay. Christmas tree growers were reporting some minor heat scorch on the new foliage of Grand Fir Trees. Strawberry growers were delighted that the warm temperatures hastened berry maturity. Turfgrass growers continued mowing rapidly growing fields and began setting out irrigation lines. Commercial forest owners continued to report extensive bear damage to trees.

Thurston (2nd Report): Have had cattle on new pasture the past two weeks. Rotating to third pasture. Grass has been good. Very hot for several days but hay fields still had wet ground. No dry hay for another two weeks, even if the weather holds hot, dry and windy.

Whatcom: There were no unusual situations which occurred this past week. Baling and chopping of grass continued as well as planting of field corn. The last full week of May was a dry one for Whatcom County with 0.03 inches of measurable precipitation. Temperatures for the first half of the week ran slightly below the normal of 66 degrees, but climbed to 84 degrees Thursday and 83 degrees Friday.

Central

Benton: Warmer temperatures have increased water demand. Asparagus cutting continued. Irrigation and weed control were other activities.

Benton (2nd Report): Hot and windy conditions were consistent for the past week. Cherry producers are starting to harvest this coming week in the Tri-City and Paterson area.

Chelan: Cherry crop estimates for this district was dropping, as were the fruit. Poor pollenation early in the season led to poor fruit sets in many orchards. All other fruit crops looked good. Lots of hand thinning of pears and apples. Cherry harvest projected to start by mid-June in this region, and will continue until early August.

Chelan/Douglas: Warmer than normal temperatures were experienced. Wheat was beginning to head out. Pastures were beginning to recover due to May's precipitation. Livestock water was still a problem. Most lakes that supply water were dry this year because of no snow pack and spring runoff. Many producers were beginning to drill wells and dig out springs for emergency water. The earlier estimate of a large cherry crop was changing due to a higher than normal "June Drop". This was being attributed to frost and cold temperatures. Some producers were reporting 50 percent of the crop dropping.

Franklin: Seven days of sunny and hot weather allowed the first cutting of alfalfa hay and excellent drying. Cherries were turning color and maturing rapidly. Potato plants were beginning to bloom. Asparagus harvest continued and may continue into mid June.

Grant: Most hay producers were busy getting the first cutting of alfalfa laid down and baled up. Some reports of rain damaged hay had been received from the Mattawa area. Bean planting continued, and should be wrapped up in a couple of weeks.

Grant (2nd Report): Seven good days of haying weather, lots of sunshine, no rain.

Kittitas: A few weeks of rain followed by beautiful weather this past week had many hay farmers cutting hay. Most of the timothy hay was just beginning to head out, but other grass hay and some early maturing timothy hay varieties were ready. The weather was perfect for drying hay.

Kittitas (2nd Report): For the Kittitas Valley, the week of May 30 through June 5, called for mostly cloudy. A slight chance of showers. Windy, the highs were 59 degrees to 65 degrees. Northwest winds were 15 to 25 mph with gusts to around 35 mph increasing to 25 to 35 mph with gusts to around 45 mph. The chance of precipitation was at 20 percent. For Kittitas County, we have started seeing some early grasses being cut. If weather permits the first cutting of timothy hay will start in a week or two.

Klickitat: Weeks of unseasonably cold, wet weather were followed this week by unseasonably hot weather. Crops should take off now.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from two to eighteen degrees above normal, with no precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams: Settling weather patterns and 80 degree days late last week allowed hay cutters to progress through the first cutting of alfalfa hay, while quickly browning what was left of greenery in rangeland. Grain crops continued to progress nicely.

Asotin/Garfield: Even with above average rain in May, crops began to show signs of stress, especially over Memorial Day weekend. Temperatures at over 90 degrees along with windy conditions stressed crops. The good news, however, the hot temperatures may have slowed the development of rust that was affecting much of the wheat acreage. Several producers have decided to spray for rust control. The upper elevation rangelands continued to improve due to the rains earlier in the month.

Garfield: The rain stopped, hot winds were coming from the East. Need more cool wet weather.

Lincoln: Winter wheat crop conditions looked good at the beginning of the week. The hot dry winds on Saturday and Sunday have made the dry areas show up again. The wheat in the dry spots will show continued stress and yield reduction until the weather cools or we get rain. Leaf rust showed up on Monday in the hard red winter wheat varieties. There was some severe flag leaf damage. Growers flew on Tilt on Wednesday. The susceptible Spring Wheat varieties like Lewjain and Tubbs, showed damage also but not as bad as the hard red wheat. The hot weather slowed the leaf rust but it was still there.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Warmer than usual weather during the week lended itself to favorable growing conditions for crops, but spring crops would need rain soon to maintain their vitality.

Pend Oreille: The temperatures for the week were highs 81 degrees, lows 28 degrees and precipitation was at zero. Alfalfa hay and orchard grass was planted and it will need irrigation if no rain within the next few

days. Pasture was still growing, livestock was moved to other pastures to allow pasture recovery. Anticipating an early hay cutting season.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: A week of warm weather made everything grow and things look good. Temperatures were in the mid 80's which moved crops along quickly. Some people were even thinking about cutting hay but with showers anticipated during this week, most were holding off. Winter wheat and triticale were starting to head out. Bluegrass varieties were starting to bloom. Pasture and hay looked good.

Stevens: Roadside weed spray was carried out this week.

Stevens (2nd Report): Warm weather returned to the area with highs near 90 degrees over the weekend. A few hay producers began swathing first cutting. Pasture, grain, and hay crops all looked good at this time.

Walla Walla: Weather was mild through the week turning very warm over the weekend. Hay growers were busy cutting hay. Crops looked good throughout the county. Peas were beginning to bloom.

Whitman: Warm dry conditions prevailed through the week. Warmer temperatures gave a boost to growing conditions. Towards the end of the week temperatures soared into the 80's and low 90's. Some spraying for rust and aphids on peas continued. Crops looked very good with some feeling winter wheat was a week or two ahead in maturity. The good growing conditions were bringing on growth in all plants, including unwanted weeds such as mustards and thistles.

Whitman (2nd Report): This past week was warm and approximately half of the wheat was headed out. The wheat yields should be above normal this year. Heat units have initiated flag leaf in barley.

Weekly Weather Statistics May 31, 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			
WEST																
Bellingham	41	84	60	5	70	33	15	15	0.00	-0.49	0	34.84	3.22	110	132	
Everett	47	83	62	6	84	44	26	25	0.00	-0.51	0	23.66	-8.07	75	129	
Hoquiam	44	89	61	7	80	45	27	27	0.01	-0.62	1	52.42	-10.33	84	157	
Kelso	41	93	63	8	95	51	35	30	0.01	-0.51	1	26.12	-15.38	63	110	
Olympia	36	92	60	6	73	39	22	22	0.00	-0.42	0	36.63	-10.30	78	138	
Sea-Tac	44	89	64	7	97	48	36	34	0.00	-0.35	0	28.99	-4.82	86	118	
Shelton	38	91	61	4	77	26	22	15	0.00	-0.49	0	50.73	-10.37	83	131	
Tacoma	40	90	61	4	79	30	23	20	0.00	-0.42	0	24.94	-10.76	70	107	
Vancouver	39	94	64	8	99	53	37	31	0.00	-0.49	0	26.75	-10.88	71	128	
CENTRAL																
Ellensburg	41	93	65	8	105	53	40	33	0.00	-0.14	0	6.49	-1.25	84	74	
Stampepe Pass	35	84	58	15	66	65	25	25	0.13	-0.63	1	56.41	-18.47	75	147	
Wenatchee	43	93	67	6	123	44	57	38	0.00	-0.14	0	5.10	-1.95	72	58	
Yakima AP	34	95	64	5	100	34	41	28	0.00	-0.14	0	5.61	-1.25	82	72	
NORTHEAST																
Colville	35	95	60	4	75	30	22	15	0.00	-0.44	0	15.89	-1.68	90	83	
Deer Park	33	87	58	3	60	15	17	10	0.08	-0.27	2	16.20	0.67	104	99	
Spokane AP	40	86	61	5	81	36	29	22	0.02	-0.33	1	11.83	-1.95	86	85	
EAST CENTRAL																
Ephrata	40	94	66	4	117	28	53	28	0.00	-0.14	0	4.90	-1.26	80	53	
Moses Lake	41	95	65	3	110	21	45	20	0.00	-0.14	0	5.23	-0.93	85	52	
Quincy	41	92	65	5	110	34	47	29	0.00	-0.14	0	5.25	-1.37	79	46	
Ritzville	35	88	59	3	67	20	26	19	0.00	-0.21	0	8.02	-1.81	82	55	
SOUTHEAST																
Hanford	44	98	70	5	144	33	76	35	0.00	-0.07	0	3.31	-2.22	60	41	
Pasco	40	96	66	3	116	20	50	19	0.00	-0.14	0	4.45	-2.09	68	56	
Pullman	34	84	59	5	68	34	21	18	0.00	-0.35	0	5.27	-12.70	29	62	
Whitman Miss.	37	94	61	2	78	9	26	10	0.02	-0.20	1	9.36	-2.39	80	86	
ID PANHANDLE																
Coeur D' A' AP	34	86	57	-1	57	4	17	10	0.01	-0.48	1	10.35	-11.35	48	70	
Lewiston ID	43	91	63	3	93	17	37	19	0.28	-0.05	1	9.91	0.27	103	82	

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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