



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

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Week Ending: June 26, 2005
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Moisture Problems in the West Hay Quality Reduced

Field Crop

On and off rain showers benefitted many areas in the state while areas remained dry and warm. Soil moisture was still a concern for Adams and Lincoln County growers as soil moisture levels were still low. Benton County growers tried to figure out how to deal with the reduced water deliveries. Asotin and Klickitat County spring grain crops continued to deteriorate due to lack of moisture. Producers in the Endicott area reported damage from the sawtooth cutter fly in winter wheat. Stripe rust has had a negative effect on some Franklin County wheat fields. Potato harvest began.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 2% very poor, 21% poor, 28% fair, 48% good, 1% excellent. Hay production was down due to the shortage of precipitation. Also, hay quality was reduced since many areas with first hay cutting were rained on.

Fruits and Vegetables

Thurston County greenhouse tomato growers reported delayed fruit ripening due to lower than average temperatures. Also, warm season vegetables appeared to be standing still. Big wind with heavy rain on Tuesday caused damage to hanging fruit in Adams County. Cherry harvest was mostly completed in Franklin County. Strawberry harvest continued. Raspberry and blueberry harvest began.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.5
Last Week	6.2

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	8	29	59	4
Topsoil 5Yr Avg	8	33	57	2
Subsoil	15	45	40	0
Subsoil 5Yr Avg	5	40	54	1
Irrigation Water	12	17	71	0
Irrigation Water 5Yr Avg	0	2	98	0
Hay & Roughage	6	9	80	5

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 Headed	95	77	85	76
Winter Wheat Headed	99	98	99	98
Barley Headed	96	73	80	73
Potatoes Harvested	1	0	0	0
Corn Emerged	100	97	98	99
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	30	20	0	0
Alfalfa Hay 1 st Cutting	96	90	96	95
Alfalfa Hay 2 nd Cutting	22	6	15	20

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	6	22	52	19
Winter Wheat Irrigated	1	2	11	63	23
Spring Wheat Dryland	1	8	35	52	4
Spring Wheat Irrigated	4	4	24	58	10
Barley Dryland	1	8	30	58	3
Barley Irrigated	2	4	9	85	0
Potatoes	0	3	15	61	21
Corn	0	1	12	79	8
Dry Edible Beans	1	2	23	74	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

Clark/Skamania/Cowlitz/Wahkiakum: Strawberry harvest in the area was moving along well, despite problems with a shortage of labor for picking, in this area. Raspberry harvest started during the last week.

Grays Harbor: Sweet corn fields continued to look chlorotic due to the lack of heat units and sunshine. Livestock producers continued to make haylage since the wet weather was not conducive to square bale hay. Strawberry growers were frustrated that the wet weather continued to discourage u-pick sales and also increased botrytis. Christmas tree growers were spot spraying Canada thistle in plantations and continued monitoring for aphid infestations on Noble fir. Greenhouse tomato growers reported delayed fruit ripening due to the lack of heat units. Home gardeners were frustrated that warm season vegetable appear to be standing still due to the lack of heat units. The month of June will go down on record as cold and wet and unfavorable to the growth of most crops, the exception being forage and Christmas trees.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Cool wet weather continued the past week. Hay farmers were looking for warm and dry weather and have not been getting it. With the late planting and cool weather, most corn will not be knee high by the fourth of July.

Mason: Closer to normal temperatures with sufficient rainfall made for a good week for vegetable growers. Pastures were growing well and providing more than adequate feed for livestock. Hay has been harder this month, and some fields barely got the first cut off a month later than usual. Beans and peas were doing well, as were cucumbers and squash.

Mason (2nd Report): Some harvesting of hay began late in the week. Success was hit and miss. Afternoon temperatures were not really high enough in our immediate area and the air was still too damp. Hay will be cut this week if no rain falls. The area received about .25 inches of rain early last week which renewed garden crops and pastures.

Pierce: Many local area farmers tried to rush the harvest of their first cutting of hay. Their efforts were wasted because their hay has now been rained on, in the windrow, twice requiring additional racking which has just turned semi-dry foliage over onto still wet ground. Effectively, this will create poor hay which has lost most of the nutritional value and market value.

Skagit: Strawberries, raspberries, blueberries were currently being harvested. Peas were showing flowers. Some potatoes were flowering as well. Grass harvesting continued either as green chop or for silage. Some have attempted some hay, yet success was marginal.

Thurston: Livestock producers and dairymen have become increasingly frustrated with the unseasonably cool, wet weather. Those who were not able to make haylage have had to sit and watch as their fields of forage reached maximum nutritional value but still were unable to make hay due to the persistent rain showers. Strawberry growers were quickly reaching the end of the harvest season and were already indicating that the rainy June made this year's harvest far less than desirable (low yields and too much disease pressure). Christmas tree growers meanwhile were pleased that all of the rain appears to be getting this years seedlings off to a very good start and are resulting in better than normal spring growth. Turfgrass growers were also pleased that the additional rainfall has greatly reduced irrigation requirements.

Thurston (2nd Report): Haylage first cutting was complete. Second cutting planned for dry bales around August 1. Reed canary ground still too wet to get tractors on to mow, so haylage bales from reed canary expected around August 1, along with second cutting of dry hay.

Whatcom: The area received some rain and warm temperatures in the low 70's. Raspberry harvest has begun. Another green chopping was taken this past week. Strawberry harvest continued.

Central

Benton: The area received some rain with thunder storms and wind. A few started their second hay cutting. No reports of crop damage received.

Benton (2nd Report): Growers were trying to figure out how to deal with reduced water deliveries. Frost protection was necessary for several days during the past week. Asparagus cutting began.

Franklin: Second harvest of alfalfa was in full swing. Cherry harvest was nearing completion. Asparagus harvest was finished with plants beginning to go to fern. Stripe rust had a negative effect on some wheat fields.

Kittitas: Most of the first cutting for timothy and alfalfa hay was baled and off the fields. The weather was warm and windy.

Kittitas (2nd Report): With a water allocation of 38 percent on junior water users from the Kittitas Reclamation District, many farmers have used this up and were no longer irrigating. Approximately two thirds of the acreage in the valley was irrigated with KRD water. Others generally had more senior

rights and will continue to irrigate. Around 75 to 80 percent of first cutting timothy has been harvested. Ranchers with public or private high elevation range pasture moved cattle up. With the record May rains, forage quantity was very good, especially at higher elevations. However, in areas that didn't receive much winter precipitation and missed out on the larger spring rain, conditions were very dry, with ponds and springs that normally have water in late June sitting dry or nearly dry.

Klickitat: Hay production was down due to water shortfalls. Spring grains were heading out short and early, also due to lack of water. More producers plan to take alfalfa out of production due to alfalfa weevil, so alfalfa production will be reduced even more in the future. Livestock conditions were generally excellent due to late spring rains that helped pasture and range production.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from three degrees below normal to twelve degrees above normal, with .01 of an inch of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: Not much changed as dry weather persisted. Winter wheat looked to be in good condition in both counties, with the exception of recrop winter wheat. Spring grain crops in over half of Garfield County continued to deteriorate due to lack of moisture. Rangeland in higher elevations was in the best condition in several years, while the lower elevation areas were in the poorest condition in several years. Rains earlier this spring were too late to benefit the lower elevations, while the upper elevations benefitted greatly.

Adams: Soil moisture conditions remained a concern for growers as good winter moisture was going to be required to substantially improve overall sub-soil moisture conditions. Winter wheat remained in mostly good/excellent condition.

Adams (2nd Report): The big wind that occurred on Tuesday was the weeks weather story, with heavy sustained winds in the evening reminding us of the value of permanent cover to the landscape. Summer fallow fields dusted off, while bluegrass and hay windrows were scattered to the winds, and damage to hanging fruit was also reported. Otherwise, temperatures remained nearly ideal for assisting in the completion of grain fill.

Ferry/Okanogan: The area received seven days of good weather that allowed producers to be out in the fields. Sunday evening brought close to 0.1 inch of precipitation throughout most of the area. A report of hail damage to cherries on Wednesday in the Loomis area was reported. Temperatures were about normal for this time of year. The spring and winter wheat crops looked good. All spring grains have been planted. Pastures were holding up well as the grass was as good as it ever has been according to some reports from cattlemen. We were still getting a few reports that some water sources were low or not running. The first cutting of irrigated hay has been swathed and baled. Dryland hay crops also looked good.

Lincoln: Dry hot winds dried up the winter wheat in the shallow to marginal soils. Spring wheat suffered greatly this past week in southern Lincoln county.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Soil moisture conditions remained a concern for growers as good winter moisture is going to be required to substantially improve overall sub-soil moisture conditions. Winter wheat remained in mostly good/excellent

condition and spring cereals were also remaining in mostly fair/good condition despite hot and dry conditions last week.

Lincoln (3rd Report): Warmer weather during the week resulted in the ripening of grain crops, and overall this weather was beneficial. A wind storm disrupted electrical power to some irrigation systems watering crops, but this condition was only temporary. Many producers were busy working on their first cutting of hay on their non-irrigated land.

Pend Oreille: Temperature highs were at 88 degrees, lows at 36 degrees, with zero precipitation.

Pastures were starting to show signs of heat damage. Rye was mature and starting to dry. Non-irrigated hay fields were beginning to dry, expect to see large amounts of hay cutting within the next two weeks. Some Non-irrigated hay fields, approximately ten percent were cut over the weekend. The yield appeared to be better than average so far this season.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: A lot of hay was cut over the past week. On Tuesday there was a very high wind that caused damage to trees and some buildings. The high winds also moved around some of the dried hay. Bluegrass swathing started in the early areas up by Valleyford. The rest of the area was not far off from needing to be swathed.

Stevens: Many producers cut hay over the past week.

Walla Walla: Weather throughout the week was dry and windy. Severe wind storm hit most of the area early in week. No known resulting damage reported. Crops turning fast raising concern as to if wheat and barley heads will be well filled. Many anticipate a fast harvest.

Whitman: Warm, dry conditions prevailed through most of the week. Temperatures stayed in the moderate range. Hot temperatures prevailed only a short period at the beginning of the week only to be ended by a cold front that moved through generating high winds and a dust storm. Damage occurred to trees but not much has been reported to crops. Crops generally looked very good particularly in eastern Whitman County. Spring crops in the west end of the county were not doing as well. Producers in the Endicott area reported damage from the sawtooth cutter fly in winter wheat.

Weekly Weather Statistics

June 27, 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	48	7	6	1	2	6	7	8	6.00	0.00	0	3.00	8.00	4	9
Everett	53	7	5	1	1	0	5	3	1.00	7.00	3	4.00	5.00	5	6
Hoquiam	51	7	9	1	3	7	9	0	3.00	9.00	4	2.00	3.00	8	3
Kelso	46	8	4	2	2	0	2	0	1.00	2.00	2	2.00	5.00	0	1
Olympia	44	8	5	1	2	8	8	3	1.00	1.00	4	2.00	7.00	5	8
Sea-Tac	50	7	9	2	0	7	1	9	3.00	1.00	2	3.00	8.00	8	6
Shelton	46	8	7	2	0	9	5	1	3.00	1.00	6	3.00	5.00	3	3
Tacoma	45	8	1	1	1	0	4	1	0.00	5.00	4	2.00	5.00	5	0
Vancouver	51	8	1	5	4	9	5	9	6.00	6.00	7	3.00	3.00	2	2
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	45	9	8	9	6	4	4	4	7.00	0.00	2	0.00	8.00	0	1
Stampede Pass	44	8	0	8	8	7	6	5	5.00	9.00	1	1.00	4.00	3	5
Wenatchee	54	9	5	2	3	3	2	3	0.00	0.00	4	0.00	6.00	5	8
Yakima AP	42	9	5	9	3	4	9	4	6.00	1.00	0	1.00	0.00	9	7
NORTHEAST															
Colville	45	9	7	8	6	6	5	6	4.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	6	1
Deer Park	41	9	3	5	2	4	8	4	1.00	0.00	8	0.00	1.00	7	6
Spokane AP	48	9	4	8	5	5	6	5	8.00	0.00	8	0.00	8.00	4	4
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	53	10	0	2	3	9	6	9	5.00	0.00	7	0.00	2.00	9	2
Moses Lake	48	10	0	1	1	8	5	8	4.00	0.00	7	0.00	5.00	6	7
Quincy	51	9	3	0	3	0	7	0	5.00	0.00	7	0.00	3.00	6	5
Ritzville	45	9	7	7	4	3	2	3	5.00	0.00	4	0.00	9.00	5	9
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	52	10	0	4	2	9	9	9	7.00	3.00	4	2.00	4.00	8	7
Pasco	47	9	9	3	3	3	7	3	6.00	0.00	7	0.00	7.00	5	3
Pullman	40	9	0	3	3	4	5	6	1.00	0.00	2	0.00	0.00	5	9
Whitman Miss.	44	9	6	9	2	3	2	3	0.00	3.00	4	1.00	1.00	4	7
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	46	9	3	6	2	1	9	1	3.00	2.00	0	1.00	2.00	8	5
Lewiston ID	51	10	0	2	4	3	0	3	9.00	0.00	8	0.00	1.00	6	9

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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