



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: May 1, 2006
Week Ending: April 30, 2006
CWP WA-CW1806

Winter Wheat Good Overall Cattle Being Released to Spring Pasture

Field Crops

Winter wheat and spring wheat were in mostly fair to excellent condition with slight improvement from the previous week due to the weather. Some farmers in Douglas County were deciding whether to re-plant winter wheat due to snow mold damage and Garfield County reported yellow dwarf virus in winter wheat which causes stunting and poor plant health. Fruit continued to bloom. Cabbage was bolted and beet seed and spinach were planted. Christmas tree growers applied post-emergent herbicides.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 2% poor, 29% fair, 66% good, and 3% excellent. Pasture growth increased with the good weather and producers continued to release cattle to spring pastures. Availability of hay continued to be scarce. Livestock producers in the west took advantage of the weather and began making haylage. Some dairy producers were busy emptying lagoons and applying liquid manure to forage crops.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.3
Last Week	6.0

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	1	94	5
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	1	17	78	3
Subsoil	3	10	85	2
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	7	26	67	1
Irrigation Water	0	0	98	2
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	3	10	87	0
Hay & Roughage	21	13	63	3

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

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2005	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	71	53	98	91
Spring Wheat Emerged	47	34	63	63
Winter Wheat Headed	2	1	7	3
Barley Planted	63	43	75	80
Barley Emerged	37	24	44	51
Potatoes Planted	75	65	83	73
Potatoes Emerged	20	4	42	30
Corn Planted	40	15	36	40
Corn Emerged	14	0	7	5
Dry Edible Beans Planted	42	17	41	33
Proc. Green Peas Planted	80	65	91	72
Dry Peas Planted	44	21	69	61
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	5	0	2	2

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	3	17	61	18
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	10	81	9
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	0	53	43	4
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	22	62	16
Barley Dryland	0	0	51	45	4
Barley Irrigated	0	0	8	90	2
Potatoes	0	0	36	64	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.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clark: Over 40,000 folks were expected to attend the Annual Home and Garden Idea Show at the Clark County Fairgrounds this last weekend. The popularity of ornamentals is so high right now that booth space is nearly impossible to come by for this show.

Grays Harbor: A week with no rain resulted in a flurry of field activity as sweet corn growers prepared fields for planting. Christmas tree growers continued applying both post-emergent and pre-emergent herbicides. Growers were putting out midge traps in Douglas fir plantations. Hot house tomato growers reported rapid plant growth due to warmer temperatures. Livestock producers were making haylage. Several nights of below freezing temperatures had home gardeners covering newly emerged vegetable seedlings.

Grays/Lewis/Pacific: Dry weather has spring activity in full swing.

Mason: High temperatures in the mid 70's and little precipitation enabled producers on wetter ground to finally get out and work their fields. Those who got plants and seeds in the ground early saw good growth for early spring. Pastures were in good condition, and many livestock were moved onto spring pasture for the first time.

Mason (2nd Report): Had dry weather until Saturday, April 29. Rototilled fields were ready to plant on Thursday and mowed. Pastures were looking good, the cows were being rotated through for the first rotation and the re-growth was coming along nicely. Apple trees were in full bloom this week and will remain so until the wind comes up. Mild temperatures, but still had brisk mornings. We were expecting the upper 30's this week at night if it stays clear. We are always reluctant to put out frost tender plants until late May because of the unpredictable spring weather here.

Pacific: Continued springtime weather enabled growers to complete various field activities. Cranberry bog maintenance and weed control efforts continued with relatively dry conditions. Pasture soil moisture levels were improving, with some early cutting of green chop.

Shellfish producers continued oyster and clam larvae setting operations, and placed earlier set seed out on intertidal ground for hardening.

Pierce/S. King: Crop conditions were looking good. Some fields were still wet but should be drying out soon with the good weather we have been getting. No report of unusual situations. No report of any crop damage due to a weather event.

San Juan Island: Abnormally cold temperatures with low moisture. The temperatures were 50 degrees for the highs and 42 degrees for the lows.

Skagit: Variable periods and amounts of rain have slowed soil preparation and planting. Cabbage was up and bolted. Beet seed is planted. Spinach was being planted.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: The weather has been mild. Temperatures for the last week have fluctuated from mid 40's to high 60's. Fieldwork has begun. No reports of crop damage.

Snohomish/N. King: A great week for fieldwork. Temperatures hit 76 degrees on Monday. Lots of plowing and disking going on as fields were being prepared for planting. Fruit trees and blueberries were in bloom. Raspberries and strawberries were getting ready. Heavy rains on Saturday slowed fieldwork.

Thurston: Ag producers took advantage of a week of sunny weather with no rain to continue field cultivation. Livestock producers took advantage of nearly ideal weather to make haylage. Dairy producers were emptying lagoons and applying liquid manure to forage crops. Blueberry producers were applying fungicides. Christmas tree growers took advantage of the dry weather to apply post-emergent herbicides. Home gardeners with fruit trees in full bloom expressed concern over several nights of below freezing temperatures. Turf grass growers continued mowing, fertilizing and harvesting in order to keep up with strong demand for instant lawns.

Central

Chelan: All tree fruit bloom occurred during good weather. There was very little frost to date. Apples were in or near full bloom in most of north central Washington. Most growers were busy with blossom spray thinning.

Douglas/Chelan: Several winter wheat producers were making the decision to re-plant due to damage from snow mold. Wheat in some areas of the county was snow covered 150 days. Other wheat producers cannot afford the operations due to high fuel and fertilizer costs. Many farmers were using chemical operations on their summer fallow, again due to high fuel costs. Apple trees were beginning to blossom. Weather conditions were warming up. High winds continued to be experienced. Livestock producers continued to release their cattle onto early spring pastures.

Franklin: A good week for growing. Most days were sunny and normal to warmer temperatures. Several days

were windy drying out the ground pretty quickly. There were spotty short lived showers this past Saturday. Most of the potato acreage in the county had been planted. Asparagus harvest continued. Fieldwork was heavy throughout the week in all areas, both dry land and irrigated.

Kittitas: Spring like conditions continued in the valley. Forecast for the week predicted spring like weather, high 70's to low 60's with possible chance of showers.

Klickitat: Unseasonably hot weather followed by severe winds and cold temperatures.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from normal to nine degrees above normal, with a trace of precipitation. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams: Warm but windy days kept grain crops moving forward, but made spraying difficult. Pastures really grew in the past week.

Asotin/Garfield: Warm, dry weather allowed farmers to continue planting spring crops and complete other fieldwork. Spring planting was still a couple of weeks behind normal. Farmers in all areas except the very highest elevations have been able to get to the fields. The warm weather provided good growth on rangelands as grass grew rapidly.

Garfield: A lot of barley yellow dwarf virus in winter wheat caused stunting and poor plant health throughout region. Many say "so what?" I say "reduced yields." Removal of dead and dying trees from School Fire area of 2005 continued. No grazing this year. Extra moisture and cool weather helped.

Lincoln: The majority of the winter wheat remained in good to excellent condition and will remain as long as moisture continues in adequate supply.

Lincoln (2nd Report): A rain shower over the weekend for part of the county was a boost to an already good winter wheat crop. Fieldwork was in full swing for much of the county in preparation of planting Spring crops. Pasture and range conditions as well as water supplies are improved from previous drought years.

Pend Oreille: Temperatures were 72 degrees for the highs and 28 degrees for the lows with 0.2 inches of precipitation. Warm weather brought up pasture and hay fields. Livestock had been moved to pasture lands with minimal supplements of hay. Field preparation for planting was almost complete.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: A week of fairly nice weather. Temperatures were up in the mid 60's but lows in the evenings were at freezing. Residents woke up Sunday morning to snow in parts of Spokane County. Fieldwork was progressing pretty well. Days have had a fair amount of wind and some were having difficulty getting some of

the larger winter wheat sprayed. The tractors continued to find those wet draws and were getting stuck. Pasture grew pretty good this week with the sunshine and without the moisture. Cherry trees were blooming and other stone fruits were starting or just finishing up blooming.

Stevens: All cattle were on pasture. Top soil was drying out rapidly, but 0.59 inches of rain on Saturday, April 29 moistened it all nicely.

Stevens (2nd Report): The past week was dry and sunny with thunderstorms and high winds Saturday night. The rain was welcome as the upper soil profile had dried out quite rapidly after several days of wind. The dry conditions allowed grain producers to perform tillage operations in preparation for spring crops. Cattle producers began turning cows out on spring pastures.

Walla Walla: Beautiful Spring weather. Farmers were finally able to get in most fields. Grass was coming on rapidly. Bulbous bluegrass and downy brome have headed in the Walla Walla Valley. Summer is just around the corner.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Favorable weather of last week allowed many to catch up on spring seeding and spraying. Crops looked good throughout the county.

Whitman: The weather had warmed up allowing fields to dry. Temperatures were in the 70's for a few days. Wheat and pastures were really growing with the warmer temperature and good soil moisture. Farmers were busy doing their Spring seeding and other Spring work.

Whitman (2nd Report): Operations continued to work toward getting the Spring 2006 crop seeded. Much of the western end of the county was completed. Central areas were wrapping up and eastern areas were working toward completion. If the weather holds much of the crop should be seeded by the end of the week. Rain showers hit on Saturday night. No reports yet of crusting, but that may create a problem in some areas.

Weekly Weather Statistics

May 1, 2006

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	36	68	51	2	15	3	0	0	0.42	-0.19	3	28.85	-0.54	98	137
Everett	37	69	52	2	22	8	0	0	0.39	-0.17	2	27.38	-1.98	93	138
Hoquiam	39	69	52	2	16	2	0	0	0.09	-0.79	2	65.24	5.39	109	158
Kelso	34	75	54	4	33	14	0	0	0.17	-0.52	1	37.04	-2.42	94	131
Olympia	29	79	52	3	26	16	0	0	0.12	-0.51	1	48.03	3.27	107	135
Sea-Tac	37	73	54	4	34	17	1	1	0.58	0.12	2	32.99	0.90	103	130
Shelton	31	76	53	2	27	6	0	0	0.08	-0.66	1	65.15	6.59	111	140
Tacoma	32	75	52	1	23	4	0	0	0.34	-0.22	2	35.96	1.63	105	124
Vancouver	36	81	56	6	43	23	4	4	0.18	-0.38	1	37.86	2.59	107	130
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	34	83	57	8	53	37	8	8	0.00	-0.11	0	9.98	2.78	139	72
Stampede Pass	30	70	48	12	10	10	0	0	0.21	-0.77	3	62.30	-8.69	88	141
Wenatchee	38	79	60	7	70	36	12	6	0.00	-0.14	0	5.37	-1.17	82	50
Yakima AP	30	82	56	5	46	20	8	8	0.00	-0.07	0	8.15	1.72	127	61
NORTHEAST															
Colville	37	75	55	7	37	23	1	1	0.20	-0.16	1	15.51	0.08	101	84
Deer Park	31	77	52	4	20	6	0	0	0.24	-0.11	1	23.16	9.08	164	103
Spokane AP	36	75	54	6	30	16	3	3	0.41	0.13	1	15.38	2.95	124	96
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	36	80	57	3	52	14	6	-1	0.00	-0.10	0	8.25	2.58	146	63
Moses Lake	34	80	56	2	41	3	4	-3	0.30	0.20	2	9.80	4.13	173	74
Quincy	35	81	58	6	58	26	7	1	0.03	-0.08	1	9.68	3.50	157	75
Ritzville	33	77	53	4	21	7	0	0	0.00	-0.21	0	12.75	3.83	143	83
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	37	86	59	2	66	10	14	4	0.00	-0.07	0	4.59	-0.68	87	40
Pasco	36	86	58	2	55	6	9	2	0.00	-0.14	0	7.60	1.62	127	63
Pullman	35	77	53	6	26	16	1	1	0.16	-0.19	2	9.85	-6.61	60	88
Whitman Miss.	33	81	56	3	40	9	3	3	0.01	-0.25	1	14.10	3.42	132	99
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	36	75	53	4	26	10	0	0	0.04	-0.38	1	8.58	-11.12	44	73
Lewiston ID	39	79	58	5	56	22	7	6	0.37	0.09	1	8.41	-0.01	100	72

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2005

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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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2006/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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