



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: May 8, 2006
Week Ending: May 7, 2006
CWP WA-CW1906

Spring Activities in Full Swing

Field Crops

Farmers were busy this week taking advantage of the increasingly warm weather. Winter wheat and spring wheat were in mostly fair to excellent condition. Douglas, Chelan and Okanogan Counties reported winter wheat being reseeded to spring wheat due to snow mold. Potato and corn growers continued planting. Fruit continued to blossom while cranberry and raspberry producers continued bog repair and weed control. Oyster growers continued spring harvest.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 3% poor, 10% fair, 79% good, and 8% excellent. Spring pastures were looking good and producers continued to turn out cattle to spring pastures. Availability of hay continued to be scarce.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.2
Last Week	6.3

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	2	91	7
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	2	17	77	4
Subsoil	3	12	83	2
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	7	26	67	1
Irrigation Water	0	0	98	2
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	3	10	88	0
Hay & Roughage	27	18	50	5

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	90	71	99	96
Spring Wheat Emerged	55	47	78	76
Winter Wheat Headed	10	2	13	6
Barley Planted	88	63	89	91
Barley Emerged	52	37	61	68
Potatoes Planted	88	75	92	88
Potatoes Emerged	46	20	51	42
Corn Planted	60	40	44	56
Corn Emerged	32	14	13	12
Dry Edible Beans Planted	59	42	53	41
Proc. Green Peas Planted	90	80	96	82
Dry Peas Planted	64	44	83	76
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	9	5	5	5

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	4	19	59	16
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	20	76	4
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	0	59	41	0
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	28	59	13
Barley Dryland	0	0	60	40	0
Barley Irrigated	0	0	28	72	0
Potatoes	0	0	56	44	0
Corn	0	20	42	38	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	73	27	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

Clallam/Jefferson: The temperature in Chimacum was in the 50's and seemed to be warming up a little, but the temperature was cool at night. Farmers were able to harrow the fields on nicer days. Sequim's temperature has been colder. The first cutting of grass was about ten days later than average.

Clark: Another beautiful spring week.

Grays Harbor: The tapestry of spring color continued to intensify throughout the rural landscape as native big leaf maples and hybrid poplars produced chartreuse colored foliage. Sweet corn growers took advantage of ideal conditions for finishing field cultivation and planting. Christmas tree growers continued herbicide applications. Greenhouse tomato growers reported prolific plant growth in response to warm, sunny days. Livestock producers continued harvesting forage crops with most being made into haylage. Home gardeners continued planting vegetables.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: With two weeks of dry weather, field preparation and spring seeding were in full swing as well as haylage and silage harvesting.

Mason: Dry weather during the week changed to 0.4 inches of rain over the weekend, which was needed for the dry soil. Farmers plan on rotating and fertilizing vacated fields if precipitation continues. Apple trees were in full bloom with some petal fall beginning after high winds on Saturday.

Pacific: Warm spring weather helped producers complete a variety of field activities. Soil tillage and planting were completed by most corn producers, and early green chop operations for dairies were initiated. Cranberry and raspberry producers continued bog repair and weed control, along with fireworm management activities. Oyster growers continued spring harvest with good tidal conditions and set seed for planting later this spring.

Pierce/S. King: Fields were drying out, so producers should be able to get into their fields now. There

were no unusual conditions reported and no reports of any crop damage due to a weather event.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: The climate has been mild, and there has been a flurry of fieldwork. There was no crop damage reported during the week.

Snohomish/N. King: It was a great week for fieldwork! Plowing, disking, and planting continued. The weather changed over the weekend with some areas accumulating an inch or more of rain. Potatoes and corn were being planted. Pasture growth was excellent and new plantings benefitted from the weekend rain. Strawberries, blueberries and apples continued blossoming.

Snohomish/N. King (2nd Report): The weather felt more like spring. Temperatures were in the mid to high 60's during the week, and nights continued to be cool.

Thurston: Spring has sprung across the rural landscape. Ag producers took advantage of dry, sunny days to accomplish a wide variety of farm activities. Livestock producers continued making haylage out of this year's first forage crop harvest. Christmas tree growers finished up on herbicide applications and continued monitoring midge traps in Douglas fir plantations. Commercial blueberry growers were mowing cover crops in established fields and monitoring evening temperatures to determine if sprinklers needed to be activated for frost protection. Organic truck gardeners continued planting vegetable crops and began selling early season vegetables at the Olympia Farmer's Market. Home gardeners were busy planting warm season vegetable crops.

Whatcom: New raspberry and blueberry plants were set out and were springing to life, while established bushes were in complete foliage. Potato planting began despite two days of showers. Chopping of relay crops were in full swing across the county as well as the first cutting of grass for silage.

Central

Benton: Frost protection was used during the week. Rain showers were received.

Douglas/Chelan: No precipitation was received during the week. Very windy conditions were experienced with gusts of up to 53 mph reported. Winter wheat damaged from snow mold was being taken out by some producers and replanted to spring wheat. Several producers do not intend to replant due to high energy and fertilizer costs. Apple trees were in bloom.

Franklin: Temperatures were near normal during the day and cool at night and early morning. The week was mostly sunny with minor showers late in the week and windy over the weekend. It was a solid crop growing week with the first cutting of hay at the south end of the county. All other planted crops and perennials were looking good.

Grant: Winter wheat fields looked very good. Range and pasture conditions were doing well also.

Potato and sweet corn planting continued. Bean planting will begin in the near future.

Kittitas: The weather was finally warm with plenty of sunshine which resulted in good growth and excellent soil moisture. Irrigation supplies were good, and farmers were busy with weed control.

Kittitas (2nd Report): Spring crops looked good in the valley. Moisture was still being received. Irrigation was at 100 percent, so crops were looking better.

Okanogan/Ferry: Traces of precipitation were received in areas of the county. Most cattle were turned out on spring pastures. Some of the winter wheat sustained snow mold and was being torn up and reseeded.

Yakima: The average temperature varied from five degrees below normal to three degrees above normal, with no precipitation. There were no crop losses due to weather conditions.

Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: Dry weather allowed producers to continue spring planting in most areas. Conditions were still very wet in the higher elevations, while the lower country was looking for more rain.

Ferry: The warmer weather lead to an increased level of range grass growth which had been slow growing because of the cool weather.

Garfield: Much virus (Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus) was found in the winter wheat. Cattle were moved to the mountains for summer pasture.

Pend Oreille: The week ending May 7 had a high temperature of 68 and a low of 20 with three days of precipitation. Hay fields were greening and growing nicely. Livestock lost their winter coats. Planting of grain crops began as the ground warmed up.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The weather was fairly good throughout the week except for the wind. The wind really blew and dried out the topsoil and also made it difficult for producers to spray. A large amount of seed went into the ground during the week. One more week and things should be pretty well seeded. Rain on Sunday slowed down fieldwork for the day. Pasture areas were growing pretty good, and a few cattlemen turned livestock out on rangeland for the summer.

Stevens: Heavy rainfall over the weekend slowed fieldwork at the beginning of the week. Cool temperatures the rest of the week provided slow growing conditions for hay and pastures. Several areas reported frost mid-week.

Walla Walla: The weather was good during the week. Seeding was in full swing and winding down. Spring pastures looked good. The soil will dry out quickly if the weather turns hot.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Crops looked good throughout the county. Producers were finished or very close to finished with spring planting. Spraying was still being delayed by frequent winds. Range and pastures looked good.

Whitman: With the much welcomed spring weather farmers were finishing their spring seeding.

Whitman (2nd Report): Seeding operations were wrapping up. Many producers complained about the heavy winter rains leaching fertilizer and requiring the addition of expensive fertilizer this spring. Conditions remained cool but have dried out somewhat. Rains brought precipitation to the area on Sunday, but conditions have been very windy over the past few days.

Weekly Weather Statistics

May 8, 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	32	70	50	-2	12	-3	0	0	0.68	0.12	3	29.53	-0.42	99	140
Everett	37	68	51	-2	17	-3	0	0	0.25	-0.31	1	27.63	-2.29	92	139
Hoquiam	35	77	52	0	19	0	1	1	0.38	-0.44	3	65.62	4.95	108	161
Kelso	32	79	52	-1	17	-5	0	0	0.40	-0.22	2	37.44	-2.64	93	133
Olympia	29	76	51	1	15	1	0	0	0.34	-0.22	1	48.37	3.05	107	136
Sea-Tac	39	74	54	2	32	9	1	1	0.03	-0.39	1	33.02	0.51	102	131
Shelton	28	76	51	-3	14	-14	0	0	0.39	-0.26	1	65.54	6.33	111	141
Tacoma	33	75	52	-2	17	-8	0	0	0.09	-0.41	1	36.05	1.22	104	125
Vancouver	33	77	54	3	33	10	0	0	0.18	-0.38	1	38.04	2.21	106	131
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	32	77	53	2	22	0	0	0	0.00	-0.13	0	9.98	2.65	136	72
Stampede Pass	29	63	43	6	5	5	0	0	0.71	-0.17	3	63.01	-8.86	88	144
Wenatchee	36	74	55	-1	39	-5	0	-2	0.00	-0.14	0	5.37	-1.31	80	50
Yakima AP	31	75	52	-3	19	-14	0	0	0.00	-0.07	0	8.15	1.65	125	61
NORTHEAST															
Colville	28	72	50	-2	12	-7	0	0	0.00	-0.42	0	15.51	-0.34	98	84
Deer Park	23	72	47	-5	0	-19	0	0	0.02	-0.33	2	23.18	8.75	161	105
Spokane AP	29	71	49	-2	8	-9	0	0	0.01	-0.27	1	15.39	2.68	121	97
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	36	74	54	-3	32	-16	0	-6	0.00	-0.07	0	8.25	2.51	144	63
Moses Lake	33	73	53	-5	24	-24	0	-6	0.01	-0.06	1	9.81	4.07	171	75
Quincy	36	73	54	-2	29	-13	0	0	0.00	-0.07	0	9.68	3.43	155	75
Ritzville	29	72	49	-3	10	-10	0	0	0.00	-0.21	0	12.75	3.62	140	83
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	34	79	56	-5	41	-29	1	-13	0.00	-0.07	0	4.59	-0.75	86	40
Pasco	31	80	55	-4	38	-21	1	-6	0.04	-0.07	1	7.64	1.55	125	64
Pullman	28	72	49	-1	9	-5	0	0	0.05	-0.30	1	9.90	-6.91	59	89
Whitman Miss.	27	78	52	-4	22	-16	0	0	0.03	-0.25	1	14.13	3.17	129	100
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	30	72	49	-4	13	-10	0	0	0.00	-0.42	0	8.58	-11.54	43	73
Lewiston ID	32	76	54	-2	34	-7	3	3	0.02	-0.26	1	8.43	-0.27	97	73

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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