



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: June 19, 2006
Week Ending: June 18, 2006
CWP WA-CW2506

Rain Continued to Damage Hay Crop and Delay Field Work

Field Crops

Farmers were beginning to wrap up sweet corn planting. Quality hay continued to be in short supply due to rain damage. Stormy weather damaged both winter and spring wheat in the Palouse area in Whitman County. Overall winter wheat, spring wheat and barley conditions were mostly good to excellent.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 5% very poor, 8% poor, 13% fair, 70% good, and 4% excellent. Pastures were in great condition due to the high amount of moisture. Lambs, calves and weaner pigs were doing well with the warm weather.

Fruit and Vegetables

Strawberry harvest continued. Cherry growers in Chelan, Douglas and Benton Counties reported significant losses due to weather. Greenhouse tomato growers reported an excellent fruit set. Cabbage and brassica crops were in full bloom. The Walla Walla sweet onion harvest has begun.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.5
Last Week	5.8

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	7	86	7
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	4	24	70	2
Subsoil	0	13	85	2
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	4	31	65	0
Irrigation Water	0	0	99	1
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	1	6	93	0
Hay & Roughage	0	16	84	0

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 Headed	38	36	75	57
Winter Wheat Headed	89	84	98	91
Barley Headed	35	31	69	50
Potatoes Emerged	98	97	100	100
Corn Planted	99	98	100	100
Corn Emerged	97	88	96	94
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	10	NA	17	3
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	90	82	89	89
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	5	NA	6	6

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	7	21	54	16
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	8	56	36
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	9	28	52	11
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	20	70	10
Barley Dryland	0	18	23	48	11
Barley Irrigated	0	0	5	70	25
Potatoes	0	3	19	71	7
Corn	0	3	25	72	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	29	51	20

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: Commercial strawberry harvest was going well, with red raspberries coming on soon. Nurseries and garden centers continued to do very well as moderate summer temperatures made garden work pleasant. This week promises nice weather with partly cloudy conditions and seasonally cool temperatures.

Grays Harbor: Cool, wet weather continued to delay sweet corn growth and development. Growers struggled to finish planting corn in between rain showers. Livestock producers were disappointed over weather conditions that were not suitable for harvesting hay. Christmas tree growers were applying insecticides and fungicides to Noble and Grand fir plantations. Greenhouse tomato growers reported excellent fruit set. Strawberry growers were frustrated over less than ideal weather for harvest. Home gardeners reported the lack of heat units is resulting in chlorotic vegetables.

Grays/Lewis/Pacific: Farmers were starting to wrap up sweet corn planting after an arduous battle with showers. Forage producers were hoping the forecast of dry weather is correct so that forage harvest can proceed.

Mason: Pastures were lush and weeds were too. The area received intermittent showers for a total of about 0.25" of rain. Producers were busy spraying fungicide and herbicide once the rain stopped.

Mason (2nd Report): Tree fruit was progressing well, and some producers were beginning to have harvestable cherries. Hay was being cut and baled. Market farmers were very busy as they headed into summer.

Pierce/S. King: Heavy sporadic rains were experienced in the area. Most rains were followed by good winds to dry out foliage, reducing plant disease potential. Expect warmer, drier weather over the next week.

Skagit: We received a few tenths of an inch of rain. It was enough moisture to keep a few tractors out of heavier/wetter soils. It made for quite a predicament for row crop farmers who were trying to get into the fields to cultivate their crops. There were more weedy fields than average, mostly on corn ground. The majority of crops were all emerged, this includes potatoes, peas, spinach seed, and beet seed. The potatoes that were planted early in March were now working on full row closure and the vines will be killed back in about a month from now with harvest taking place in the beginning of August. Cabbage and other brassica crops were in full bloom and beginning to put forth pods that will be harvested for seed in the upcoming months. Many farmers were planning for the weather to get hotter and drier and have begun preparing their irrigation equipment. There was at least one active large gun irrigator currently irrigating a crop of potatoes with more to follow if the weather continues to be hot and dry. The strawberry harvest has begun. The crop was average or above average with lower sugar brix due to overcast conditions. Raspberry harvest is expected to begin in two weeks.

San Juan: Weather was cool and cloudy, but drying out. There was very little hay cut so far due to moisture.

Snohomish/N. King: There were four to five days suitable for field work. The grass was growing fast due to the moisture but it was too wet for haylage.

Thurston: Unseasonably cool temperatures with frequent rains showers provided less than ideal conditions for strawberry harvest. Livestock producers were frustrated that the cool, wet weather further delayed hay harvest to the point that forage quality was over mature. Christmas tree growers continued to apply insecticides and fungicides on Noble and Grand fir plantations. Turfgrass growers were not able to do any field cultivation due to the wet soils. Home gardeners complained that the cool weather was resulting in chlorotic looking vegetables.

Central

Benton: Showers in the area averaged 0.25 to 0.75 inches of precipitation. There were some damages reported especially in the cherry crop in the Kennewick, Finey, Benton City and Roza areas. According to some farmers it was from 25 to 75 percent loss which is the majority of the cherry crop in the county. In addition there were strong winds. Calls reporting some crop damage were received.

Chelan/Douglas: Rain and hail occurred along the Columbia River causing damage to tree fruit. Some cherry growers reported a significant loss because they were close to harvest. Damage to apples and pears was unknown at this time. Temperatures were beginning to warm up. Some winter wheat producers noticed a yellowing of the flag leaf. The cause/affect was unknown, and is being researched.

Franklin: Rain last week was once again tough on many hay growers in the region. Other crops were doing rather well.

Grant: The first cutting of alfalfa was 85 percent damaged by rain. Superior dairy hay and export quality hay were in extremely short supply.

Grant (2nd Report): Most all first cutting alfalfa was damaged due to excessive rains. Reports of damage to cherry orchards were also received. Weather forecast for the next week looks more favorable, with mostly sunny skies expected. Winter and spring grain crops looked really good.

Kittitas: Rain and high winds laid much of the standing mature timothy on the ground all over the county. Sun and continued breezes stood it mostly back up again. Timothy growers were trying to get hay fields swathed. Probably less than 10 percent were in windrows as of Friday. Irrigated pastures exhibited excellent yield this spring due to mild conditions and continued rains.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from five degrees below normal to three degrees above normal, with 0.01 of an inch of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported

Eastern

Adams: Crop and soil moisture conditions remained unchanged.

Asotin/Garfield: Showers early in the week along with cool temperatures benefited all crops and rangeland conditions.

Garfield: The agriculture in the area was doing well. So far rust has not resulted in a need to spray in cereals. Frequent rains with lightning boosted winter and spring wheat. Most of spring wheat is DNS this year. Protein varieties have been selected and extra nitrogen applied. Most cattle were in the mountains on summer pasture.

Lincoln: Although variable, good precipitation was recorded throughout the area as crop and soil moisture remained unchanged.

Pend Oreille: Heavy rains self-irrigated most all crops. Pasture lands were green and keeping up with the grazing. Most livestock were on pasture. Lambs, calves and weaner pigs were growing fast in the warm weather. This season has a good supply of weaner pigs. Little to no hay was used allowing for last season's hay to be stored as surplus. Fruit trees were showing good growth.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: It was another week of very wet conditions. Thunder storms were the norm rather than the exception. Depending on what cloud you were under this week you got an additional inch of rain with some areas receiving more than that. Reports of hail were received. Last week's downpour at Spangle measured 4.0 to 4.5 inches in 45 minutes with hail and high winds. There was a lot of damage

done by this storm. Wheat was starting to yellow in the low areas due to excessive moisture.

The area was wetter now than earlier this spring. Spring grains need sprayed but also need to dry out to avoid getting stuck. Some growers will be looking to cut hay this week with predicted drying weather in the forecast. Bluegrass seed crops are turning color and swathing is not that far away either. Early seed spring grains were just starting to head with lots of weed pressure due to the excessive moisture received.

Walla Walla: Hay producers continued to struggle with getting hay baled and off the field without rain. Walla Walla sweet onion harvest began. There was some concern over quality due to excessive moisture and cool weather conditions. Wheat growers remained optimistic for a good 2006 harvest. Crops appeared in good condition throughout the two counties.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): There was finally some weather good enough to get some of the rain on hay off of the fields. Much of the hay was ruined. There were still a few scattered thunderstorms. Grain crops and pasture/range land was in really good shape.

Whitman: Stormy weather caused problems for the Palouse. Hail and heavy rains caused damage in winter wheat and spring crops from Pullman north through Palouse. Rains made it very difficult for alfalfa hay growers to get their hay crop made. The pattern has been rainy and cool and even dry areas of the county such as Hay and Hooper have been wetter than normal this June.

Weekly Weather Statistics

June 19, 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	47	73	60	2	72	12	7	0	0.10	-0.32	3	31.93	-0.85	97	158
Everett	50	73	60	0	72	5	8	-6	0.26	-0.23	4	30.44	-2.65	92	162
Hoquiam	53	65	59	2	63	12	1	-6	0.53	0.04	6	69.51	5.09	108	184
Kelso	54	70	61	2	79	10	9	-6	0.30	-0.20	5	42.17	-1.17	97	153
Olympia	48	71	60	2	72	12	7	0	0.17	-0.24	4	52.03	4.11	109	151
Sea-Tac	52	72	61	0	79	3	10	-7	0.20	-0.15	4	36.35	1.60	105	150
Shelton	49	74	60	-2	70	-5	3	-17	0.13	-0.29	4	67.91	5.84	109	157
Tacoma	48	73	61	0	76	1	9	-7	0.28	-0.14	6	38.46	1.02	103	141
Vancouver	50	73	63	3	91	17	21	1	0.14	-0.26	4	41.71	2.99	108	148
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	43	78	62	0	85	-2	16	-13	0.41	0.27	3	11.99	3.88	148	88
Stampede Pass	41	66	51	4	13	-1	0	0	1.75	1.05	6	68.45	-7.97	90	170
Wenatchee	50	77	64	-4	97	-19	29	-21	0.29	0.15	3	7.18	-0.25	97	65
Yakima AP	42	80	61	-4	81	-21	12	-26	0.01	-0.13	1	9.64	2.40	133	75
NORTHEAST															
Colville	45	74	60	-2	72	-8	8	-17	0.87	0.52	4	19.62	1.23	107	107
Deer Park	41	76	58	-4	60	-21	5	-20	1.51	1.23	4	28.03	11.55	170	126
Spokane AP	46	74	60	-3	68	-16	7	-19	0.64	0.36	3	19.56	4.90	133	114
EAST															
CENTRAL															
Ephrata	44	81	64	-5	99	-30	29	-32	0.43	0.32	2	11.95	5.44	184	90
Moses Lake	50	79	65	-2	105	-6	35	-10	0.10	-0.03	2	11.69	4.61	165	88
Quincy	43	75	59	-4	61	-25	4	-23	0.61	0.47	3	15.16	4.92	148	96
Ritzville															
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	50	84	67	-5	118	-28	48	-29	0.28	0.21	1	6.08	0.21	104	48
Pasco	47	85	66	-4	114	-20	44	-21	0.58	0.51	3	9.61	2.78	141	75
Pullman	41	75	60	0	69	3	9	-10	0.57	0.22	3	13.43	-5.49	71	106
Whitman Miss.	44	79	63	-3	95	-13	25	-19	0.19	-0.02	2	17.05	4.67	138	117
ID															
Lewiston ID	43	75	58	-6	59	-31	9	-19	0.67	0.18	3	10.83	-12.20	47	87
PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	49	81	65	-2	108	-9	38	-12	0.17	-0.11	3	11.42	0.88	108	91

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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