



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: May 14, 2007
Week Ending: May 13, 2007
CWP WA-CW2007

Warmer Weather Brings Much Improved Growing Conditions While First Cutting of Alfalfa Has Begun

Field Crops

There were 6.9 days suitable for fieldwork. Warm and dry weather brought good growing conditions for field crops and control efforts for rust in winter wheat wound down. Potato and pea planting continued and the first cuttings of alfalfa and grass hay harvest had begun. Christmas tree growers began applying spray for the control of Cooley Spruce Gall adelgid and Swiss Needle Cast on Douglas fir and Balsam Woolly aphid on Fraser fir.

Fruits, Vegetables and Shellfish

Tree fruit bloom was tapering off and apple growers were spraying for codling moth strawberries and raspberries were in full bloom. Cherries were progressing nicely and no frost was reported for the week. Home gardeners took advantage of the dry weather to plant warm season vegetable crops and apply fungicide sprays to fruit trees. Clam ground enhancement programs were underway and shellfish producers continued seeding and harvest operations as market conditions looked good.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 1% very poor, 1% poor, 16% fair, 78% good, and 4% excellent. On the western side, much needed warmer and dryer weather brought ideal conditions for making haylage. On the eastern side pasture conditions were mixed with some areas reporting rapid pasture growth while other areas were dry and needed moisture.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.9
Last Week	5.5

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	4	16	77	3
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	2	18	76	5
Subsoil	2	22	74	2
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	4	22	72	2
Irrigation Water	0	0	99	1
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	4	94	0
Hay & Roughage	23	17	58	2

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

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2006	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	99	97	95	98
Spring Wheat Emerged	87	65	65	80
Winter Wheat Headed	6	2	15	12
Barley Planted	98	97	90	96
Barley Emerged	80	54	55	77
Potatoes Planted	83	74	92	97
Potatoes Emerged	53	44	58	55
Corn Planted	72	52	77	74
Corn Emerged	47	27	43	29
Dry Edible Beans Planted	95	75	76	60
Proc. Green Peas Planted	82	68	97	90
Dry Peas Planted	98	85	86	90
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	15	2	14	13

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	6	28	55	9
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	1	5	68	26
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	7	39	51	3
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	1	6	84	9
Barley Dryland	0	3	36	58	3
Barley Irrigated	0	9	20	65	6
Potatoes	0	0	35	65	0
Corn	0	0	31	65	4
Dry Edible Beans	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.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clark: The temperature over the weekend was great for gardening and shopping for Mother's Day plants.

Grays Harbor: Ribbons of soil unfurled across the rural landscape creating a tapestry in shades of brown as agricultural producers raced to complete field cultivation. Most of the acreage being cultivated will be planted in cannery peas and sweet corn during the next several weeks. Dairy producers took advantage of the good weather to harvest haylage. Christmas tree growers were finishing fertilizing and began monitoring Douglas fir fields for signs of Colley spruce gall adelgid infestations. Greenhouse tomato growers reported rapid plant growth due to increased heat units. U-Pick strawberry farms expressed concern about the possibility of a late frost now that plants were in full bloom. Home gardeners took advantage of the dry weather to plant warm season vegetable crops and apply fungicide sprays to fruit trees.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Farmers experienced a week without rain and were in full swing with their spring activities.

Mason: There was a trace of precipitation during the week with clear weather throughout the week. Windy conditions dried pastures and topsoil. Moisture is needed.

Pacific: Growers and coastal residents alike enjoyed the long overdue spring weather. Pasture conditions continued to improve, with livestock on field forage. Cranberry growers initiated fire worm control programs and continued weed control efforts. Small fruit producers completed herbicide treatments with dry conditions. Shellfish growers continued seeding and harvesting operations with strong market conditions. Clam ground enhancement programs were underway.

Pierce/S. King: Fields were beginning to dry out, and producers were able to get out on them. Crop conditions remained good. There were no unusual conditions to report.

Skagit: High temperatures for the week averaged 61 degrees Fahrenheit. There was no precipitation recorded at the WSU North West Research and Extension Center in West Mount Vernon. Potato farmers in the valley had about 40 percent of

this year's crop in the ground. There have been limited raspberry plantings this spring due to a lower commodity price last year. However, with antioxidants in the media we have seen a price increase for blueberries. Also, fresh Skagit Valley strawberries are about two to three weeks away. This year's pea planting was about half way complete. With this year's spinach seed crop already in the ground, it was important to educate about rotation.

Snohomish/King: It was a great week for fieldwork as plowing, disking and planting continued. There were a couple of scattered showers during the week. It was rather cool by the end of the week. Strawberries and blueberries were in full bloom. Tree fruit bloom was tapering off. Raspberries were coming into blossom. Pasture growth was excellent. Manure spreading and green chopping continued.

Thurston: An entire week with no rainfall found agricultural producers jubilant as they raced to complete field cultivation for spring planting. Turf grass growers took advantage of the dry weather to apply herbicides for broadleaf weed control. Livestock producers continued making haylage under nearly ideal conditions. Christmas tree growers began applying insecticide and fungicide sprays for the control of Cooley Spruce Gall adelgid and Swiss Needle Cast on Douglas fir and Balsam Woolly aphid on Fraser fir. Dairy producers were applying liquid manure to recently harvested forage fields. Home gardeners took advantage of the good weather to plant warm season vegetable crops and annual bedding plants. Retail nurseries along with vendors at the Olympia Farmers Market reported brisk sales of bedding plants and vegetable transplants.

Thurston (2nd Report): Some areas have had no grass growth, due to cold.

Whatcom: Finally, with drier and warmer temperatures, fieldwork went into high gear. The temperature reached 70 degrees on Monday. Approximately 25 percent of potatoes and corn were planted. Early Potato planting was at least a week behind schedule. The majority of grass for silage, was cut and bunkered.

Central

Benton: Alfalfa and grass hay harvests were in full swing. Conditions have been good for fieldwork.

Benton (2nd Report): Overall things looked good to very good in the county. Total crop damage from weather related conditions are unknown at this time. For the most part, all spraying for control of rust in the winter wheat crop has been completed with the last being done in eastern portions of the county.

Franklin: Normal weather conditions. One minor thunder cell moved through parts of the county, causing little to no crop damage and provided limited precipitation to the dry

land wheat crop. Farmers were gearing up for the first cutting of hay and bean planting.

Yakima: Apple growers throughout the county were in the midst of chemical fruit thinning and spraying for codling moth. Cherries were progressing nicely. Cherry crops may be light in some areas, but it looks like there will be plenty of good quality cherries this season.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures varied from three to fourteen degrees above normal, with a trace of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: Dry weather conditions prevailed last week with temperatures well above normal on some days. Moisture was needed in most areas for continued crop growth and development. Pasture and rangeland were also in need of rain.

Ferry: Grass was late coming on due to spring cold weather, but last week's warmth brought rapid growth.

Lincoln: High temperatures for part of the week promoted growing weather for crops, but rain was needed as dry soil conditions were prevalent. Fields continued to be sprayed for weeds.

Pend Orielle: The high temperature was 74 degrees with the low at 34 degrees and 0.01 inch of precipitation. Oats and Barley have emerged. Most land has been prepared, with fertilizer and herbicides applied. Livestock were feeding on new grass shoots and fattening up well. Sows were piggy with some already delivering litters. Fowls were laying and most chicks have hatched and doing well.

Pend Orielle/Spokane: A week of warm weather was good and bad for crops. Good for the growth but bad because no moisture was received as predicted. Things were really dry

and rain was needed to make these crops grow. Hill tops that were seeded to spring grain have yet to emerge due to lack of moisture. Pasture was looking pretty good where there was moisture. The drier sites were already burning up due to lack of moisture. Apple trees were blooming and it appeared most of the fruit trees made it through with very little damage by frost. Bluegrass fields were headed out and should start pollinating in the next couple of weeks.

Stevens: Weather conditions this past week were warm, dry and sunny with high winds and a few showers during the weekend. Seeding was progressing at a good pace. Dry conditions have slowed crop and pasture growth.

Walla Walla: Crops continued to show great promise. Hay growers have first cutting down in areas. Rain soon will be helpful.

Whitman: Some passing storms have brought very limited amounts of rain. The first thunderstorm hit the Palouse last week and brought high winds and power outages but no relief in the form of significant rains. Crops were still looking good but rain will be needed.

Weekly Weather Statistics

May 14, 2007

	Air Temperature				Precipitation			HDD		Days of 32	Days of 28
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	DAYS	TOT	DFN	Cold	Cold
WEST											
Bellingham	37	68	52	0	21.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	1
Everett	43	68	53	-1	23.00	-1.00	0.00	0	0	0	1
Hoquiam	38	68	53	0	22.00	1.00	1.00	1	0	-1	1
Kelso	37	79	55	2	36.00	8.00	6.00	6	0	-1	0
Olympia	32	74	54	2	28.00	10.00	3.00	3	0	-1	0
Sea-Tac	44	73	57	4	48.00	19.00	4.00	4	0	0	0
Shelton	34	76	54	-1	30.00	-3.00	3.00	3	0	-1	0
Tacoma	33	75	54	-1	28.00	-3.00	4.00	4	0	0	1
Vancouver	43	80	58	5	54.00	26.00	8.00	8	0	-1	1
CENTRAL											
Ellensburg	39	87	61	9	80.00	51.00	18.00	18	0	0	0
Stampede Pass	30	66	46	8	9.00	9.00	0.00	0	0	-1	2
Wenatchee	45	84	63	7	96.00	44.00	30.00	23	0	0	0
Yakima AP	43	90	62	8	87.00	47.00	19.00	19	0	0	0
NORTHEAST											
Colville	38	82	61	9	75.00	51.00	9.00	9	0	0	1
Deer Park	31	82	55	3	34.00	10.00	0.00	0	0	0	1
Spokane AP	43	83	60	8	74.00	51.00	16.00	16	0	0	0
EAST CENTRAL											
Ephrata	44	87	63	5	91.00	31.00	23.00	16	0	0	1
Moses Lake	38	88	62	5	85.00	25.00	19.00	12	0	0	0
Quincy	46	81	63	7	95.00	44.00	25.00	19	0	0	0
Ritzville	36	86	60	8	74.00	49.00	14.00	14	0	0	0
SOUTHEAST											
Hanford	47	94	67	6	118.00	37.00	48.00	29	0	0	0
Pasco	41	93	63	4	94.00	25.00	24.00	11	0	0	1
Pullman	43	82	59	9	63.00	46.00	8.00	8	0	0	2
Whitman Miss.	40	93	63	8	93.00	48.00	23.00	22	0	0	1
ID PANHANDLE											
Lewiston ID	50	93	67	10	118.00	69.00	48.00	43	0	0	0

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2006

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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