



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: May 29, 2007
Week Ending: May 27, 2007
CWP WA-CW2207

First Cutting of Alfalfa Looks Very Good Cattle on Summer Range and Pasture Field Crops

There were 6.4 days suitable for fieldwork. A timely rain throughout some of the major grain growing areas provided much needed moisture while in other areas some producers continued to report lack of adequate soil moisture. Winter wheat was in the boot and heading out while peas continued in bloom. Some counties reported significant amounts of first crop alfalfa were down and off the fields. Christmas tree growers continued with insecticide and fungicide applications on Grand Fir.

Fruits and Vegetables

Tree fruit bloom was over and apples had begun to show some size. Hand thinning of Bartlett pear and apples was the main orchard effort at this time. Sweet cherries were showing a red blush, raspberry bloom continued, and strawberries had set fruit. Greenhouse tomato growers reported rapid plant growth due to the warm sunny days with less cloud cover. Commercial blueberry growers were mowing cover crops between rows in established plantations.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 4% very poor, 4% poor, 15% fair, 74% good and 3% excellent. Range weed control was in full swing. On the east side of the Cascades, pastures were recovering slowly from winter due to late frosts. On the west side of the Cascades, livestock producers continued making haylage and livestock were fattening on pasture grasses. Shellfish growers harvested oysters and clams and finished seeding operations.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

| Week | Days |
|-----------|------|
| This Week | 6.4 |
| Last Week | 6.1 |

Moisture and Supply

| Item | Percent | | | |
|---------------------------|---------|----|----|---|
| | VS | SH | AD | S |
| Topsoil | 4 | 20 | 74 | 2 |
| Topsoil 5 Yr Avg | 1 | 14 | 80 | 5 |
| Subsoil | 7 | 24 | 68 | 1 |
| Subsoil 5 Yr Avg | 3 | 19 | 76 | 2 |
| Irrigation Water | 0 | 0 | 99 | 1 |
| Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg | 2 | 4 | 93 | 1 |
| Hay & Roughage | 9 | 12 | 76 | 3 |

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 Emerged | 98 | 97 | 94 | 97 |
| Spring Wheat Headed | 3 | NA | 4 | 7 |
| Winter Wheat Headed | 40 | 19 | 36 | 37 |
| Barley Emerged | 96 | 92 | 87 | 95 |
| Barley Headed | 1 | NA | 3 | 4 |
| Potatoes Planted | 95 | 93 | 98 | 100 |
| Potatoes Emerged | 83 | 82 | 79 | 81 |
| Corn Planted | 95 | 92 | 89 | 91 |
| Cor Emerged | 75 | 70 | 64 | 56 |
| Dry Edible Beans Planted | 97 | 96 | 83 | 71 |
| Proc. Green Peas Planted | 93 | 92 | 100 | 98 |
| Dry Peas Planted | 100 | 99 | 100 | 100 |
| Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting | 54 | 34 | 38 | 48 |

Crop Condition*

| Crop | % Acreage | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|----|----|----|----|
| | VP | P | F | G | EX |
| Winter Wheat Dryland | 2 | 8 | 32 | 50 | 8 |
| Winter Wheat Irrigated | 0 | 2 | 8 | 66 | 24 |
| Spring Wheat Dryland | 2 | 10 | 37 | 48 | 3 |
| Spring Wheat Irrigated | 0 | 2 | 13 | 78 | 7 |
| Barley Dryland | 2 | 4 | 39 | 52 | 3 |
| Barley Irrigated | 0 | 13 | 20 | 67 | 0 |
| Potatoes | 0 | 0 | 37 | 63 | 0 |
| Corn | 0 | 0 | 39 | 52 | 9 |
| Dry Edible Beans | 0 | 4 | 28 | 60 | 8 |

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 temperatures were warmer throughout the area. Sequim and Port Townsend reported high's in the 60's and lows in 40's.

Grays Harbor: An entire week with no rain resulted in unseasonably dry soil conditions. U-Pick strawberry growers were predicting ripe berries by June 1. Christmas tree growers were spraying Douglas fir plantations for Swiss Needle cast and Grand Fir for tip aphids. Livestock producers continued making haylage. Greenhouse tomato growers reported rapid plant growth due to the warm sunny days with less cloud cover. Home gardeners were harvesting radishes, lettuce and green onions.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Favorable weather helped farmers make progress toward getting spring crops planted. Haylage and first cutting silage was also under way.

Island/San Juan/Skagit: Weather conditions were mild.

Lewis: Spring was well underway. Soil was still a little cool, causing slow germination.

Mason: The week's weather report ended with a rain event which brought a total of .8 of an inch of precipitation, which was gladly received. Pastures looked great and the grass had finally taken off, especially in regrowth areas.

Pacific: Dry and warm conditions gave producers a chance to complete a variety of activities. With improving pasture conditions, farmers finished early haying and green chop operations. Cranberry and small fruit producers continued weed and insect control programs. Shellfish growers harvested oysters and clams, and finished seeding operations. Livestock was on pasture forage, and early irrigation activities were underway.

Pierce/S. King: Crop conditions looked real good in the South Puget Sound area. No unusual situations to report. No report of any crop loss due to a weather event.

Skagit: High temperatures for the week averaged 63 degrees. There was no precipitation recorded at the WSU North West Research and Extension Center in West Mount Vernon. In two words the valley can be described as "popping up". With most producers finishing planting in the next few weeks crops have begun to pop up all around the valley.

Snohomish/King: The weather began to warm up with some days in the 70's. Farmers were out in the fields plowing and planting.

Snohomish/King (2nd Report): The area received scattered showers at beginning and at the end of the week. Field work was progressing and most planting was done. Pastures were growing well and looked in good condition. Manure spreading and grass harvest continued. Raspberry bloom continued and strawberries had set fruit. Tree fruit bloom was over and fruit was beginning to show some size. Christmas trees were putting on lots of new growth.

Thurston: A week with no rain found turfgrass growers scrambling to get irrigation on newly planted fields. Christmas tree growers continued with insecticide and fungicide applications on Grand Fir. Livestock producers continued harvesting haylage under nearly ideal conditions. Organic vegetable growers took advantage of the drier soils to cultivate fields for weed control. Commercial blueberry growers were mowing cover crops between rows in established plantations.

Thurston (2nd Report): The area does not have enough pasture growth due to a cold spring. Cattle were being fed haylage cut three weeks ago.

Whatcom: First cuttings of grass and alfalfa were reported to have some of the highest tonnage in years. Hotter temperatures along with light rain Saturday evening gave sprouted plants a welcomed growing spurt. Blueberries were still in bloom. Undamaged raspberries were bushing out nicely. The majority of corn and potato crops were seeded down over the long weekend, due to good farming conditions.

Central

Benton: Conditions remained fairly normal for this time of year.

Chelan: Hand thinning of Bartlett pears and apples was the main orchard effort. While a good crop is anticipated for sweet cherries and apples, both of those crops did not set a harvestable crop in a number of orchards in this region due to poor weather.

Chelan/Douglas: Scattered precipitation was received at the beginning of the week, consisting of rain and some snow. In the Badger Mountain area of Douglas County some producers were reporting damage to their winter wheat, which was bent over from the snow cover. Extent of damage, and whether or not it will continue to mature was unknown. Fruit crops were progressing. First cutting of hay was down in some areas.

Kittitas: Cattle were on range pastures. Moisture was decent, and irrigated pastures and hay fields were at full tilt.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 2 degrees below normal to 7 degrees above normal, with no precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Yakima (2nd Report): The apple crop was progressing nicely with fruit size ranging from 25-30 mm in the mid Yakima Valley. Crews were hand thinning green apple fruit in some blocks. Sweet cherries were showing a red blush now and growers were getting bird management aids in place. Hop plants were climbing and stand between hip and waist high on the trellis.

Eastern

Adams: Dry conditions persisted with little or no measurable precipitation being recorded. Soil moisture conditions continued to move toward short and very short supply. Winter wheat remained in mostly good/fair conditions but continued hot dry weather has reduced yield potential. Spring wheat and barley conditions continued to move from fair condition to poor and very poor condition. This trend will continue with current weather pattern.

Asotin/Garfield: Another week passed with little precipitation. Crops were in need of rain in all areas. Temperatures remained cool most of the week, but the forecast is for temperatures to be above normal in the coming week.

Ferry: Range weed control was in full swing. The area experienced scattered thunderstorms. Ranchers were reporting that soil was drying up fast and creeks and rivers were already going down early.

Garfield: Scattered showers received early in the week relieved drought slightly but prevented field work. Some frost reported in higher elevations. Snow level was down to 3,000 feet. Winter wheat was in boot and headed in some lower parts of the county. Cereal Leaf Beetle infestation was found in winter wheat with damage to flag leaves. Some stripe rust was showing in susceptible varieties.

Lincoln: Precipitation received last week was spotty throughout the area and was enough to maintain current moisture conditions. Winter wheat conditions remained the same. Spring wheat and barley conditions were downgraded in the drier parts of the county and improved in the wetter parts of the county.

Lincoln (2nd Report): A good rain was received during the week, but unfortunately overall it was spotty, and many areas received no rain at all. Those areas deprived of rain were very much in need of it for their crops, and it was reported that some of the winter wheat had a blue green color to it due to the shortage of moisture. Spring grain crops and pasture also need precipitation if they are to progress normally.

Pend Orielle: Temperature high was 72 degrees; the low was 26 degrees, with .65 of an inch of precipitation. Cold nights slowed hay growth down considerably. Pastures were recovering from winter nicely. Livestock were fattening up on pasture grasses.

Pend Orielle/Spokane: A thunder storm rolled through the area and dropped a significant amount of moisture in some areas. The airport received 1.1 inches of rain, but most of the rest of the area got a fairly nice rain of approximately .5 of an inch. For the month the majority of the county has received an inch of rain. This was a very much needed rain and things looked pretty good. Growth of hay and pasture was slow due to earlier frost and lack of heat units. With predicted temperatures in the 80's and 90's this coming week things should grow.

Stevens: The area had heavy rain showers on Saturday which provided short term relief to the moisture situation. Crops and pasture all looked better going in to the new week. First cutting hay will begin soon.

Walla Walla: Crops were still in good condition but need rain soon. Much of the wheat throughout the area was heading out. Peas were in bloom. There was a significant amount of first cutting alfalfa down and off fields.

Whitman: Significant rainfall was experienced during the week. Some areas reported nearly two inches of precipitation from passing storms early in the week. Additional rains came later in the week on Sunday. No reports of crop damage or wash have been received. So far producers seemed pleased with the rains. Winter wheat in the western end of the county was beginning to show stress. Hay producers out west were hoping for improving weather so swathing could begin. Cattle were being moved to summer pastures.

Weekly Weather Statistics
May 29, 2007

| STATION | AIR TEMPERATURE | | | | GROWING DEGREE DAYS | | | | LAST WEEK PRECIP | | | SEASON CUM PRECIP | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|---------------------|-----|----------|-----|------------------|-------|------|-------------------|--------|-----|--------|------|
| | LO | HI | AVG | DFN | BASE-50F | | BASE-60F | | TOTAL | DFN | DAYS | TOTAL | DFN | PCT | NORMAL | DAYS |
| | --- | --- | --- | --- | TOT | DFN | TOT | DFN | INCHES | --- | --- | INCHES | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| WEST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bellingham Intl | 39 | 69 | 55 | -1 | 33 | +0 | 0 | +0 | 0.61 | +0.12 | 3 | 32.85 | +1.47 | 105 | 147 | |
| Everett | 44 | 70 | 54 | -2 | 34 | -4 | 0 | +0 | 0.62 | +0.09 | 4 | 29.94 | -1.55 | 95 | 145 | |
| Hoquiam | 45 | 71 | 56 | +2 | 42 | +9 | 0 | +0 | 0.03 | -0.62 | 2 | 66.31 | +3.63 | 106 | 165 | |
| Kelso | 41 | 77 | 57 | +2 | 54 | +13 | 4 | +1 | 0.27 | -0.25 | 1 | 38.21 | -3.43 | 92 | 124 | |
| Olympia | 38 | 74 | 55 | +1 | 39 | +7 | 0 | +0 | 0.12 | -0.30 | 2 | 53.60 | +6.99 | 115 | 149 | |
| Seattle Tacoma | 45 | 75 | 57 | +0 | 50 | +4 | 3 | +3 | 0.68 | +0.33 | 3 | 41.88 | +8.30 | 125 | 139 | |
| Shelton | 39 | 75 | 55 | -3 | 37 | -11 | 0 | -6 | 0.04 | -0.45 | 2 | 72.70 | +12.02 | 120 | 156 | |
| Tacoma WA AP | 40 | 72 | 55 | -2 | 38 | -8 | 0 | -1 | 0.24 | -0.18 | 2 | 37.87 | +1.80 | 105 | 139 | |
| Vancouver WA | 42 | 78 | 59 | +3 | 64 | +20 | 10 | +6 | 0.23 | -0.26 | 2 | 35.87 | -1.47 | 96 | 128 | |
| CENTRAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ellensburg | 38 | 82 | 60 | +3 | 69 | +21 | 11 | +4 | 0.14 | +0.00 | 1 | 7.80 | +0.13 | 102 | 73 | |
| Omak AP | 36 | 82 | 60 | +4 | 68 | +23 | 11 | +5 | 0.01 | -0.36 | 1 | 7.58 | -4.21 | 64 | 54 | |
| Stamper Pass | 31 | 62 | 45 | +3 | 6 | +6 | 0 | +0 | 0.66 | -0.11 | 2 | 93.17 | +18.86 | 125 | 159 | |
| Wenatchee | 42 | 80 | 62 | +2 | 87 | +12 | 23 | +6 | 1.51 | +1.37 | 1 | 8.53 | +1.54 | 122 | 49 | |
| Yakima AP | 35 | 82 | 60 | +2 | 71 | +9 | 11 | +0 | 0.15 | +0.01 | 1 | 6.70 | -0.10 | 99 | 55 | |
| NORTHEAST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colville | 36 | 79 | 57 | +2 | 54 | +12 | 6 | +0 | 0.73 | +0.27 | 4 | 12.85 | -4.65 | 73 | 93 | |
| Deer Park | 28 | 74 | 51 | -6 | 17 | -25 | 1 | -4 | 0.40 | +0.05 | 4 | 16.07 | +0.58 | 104 | 102 | |
| Republic | 32 | 77 | 54 | +2 | 32 | +7 | 0 | +0 | 0.33 | -0.05 | 2 | 11.92 | +0.03 | 100 | 68 | |
| Spokane AP | 37 | 74 | 55 | -2 | 42 | +1 | 4 | -1 | 1.14 | +0.79 | 3 | 13.51 | -0.13 | 99 | 92 | |
| EAST CENTRAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ephrata | 42 | 82 | 61 | -2 | 81 | -4 | 18 | -5 | 0.31 | +0.17 | 1 | 6.51 | +0.41 | 107 | 61 | |
| Moses Lake | 38 | 81 | 60 | -3 | 73 | -12 | 12 | -11 | 0.07 | -0.07 | 1 | 5.36 | -0.74 | 88 | 59 | |
| Quincy | 41 | 80 | 61 | +1 | 79 | +6 | 17 | +1 | 0.43 | +0.29 | 1 | 7.19 | +0.54 | 108 | 47 | |
| Ritzville | 42 | 80 | 57 | +2 | 54 | +10 | 6 | +0 | 0.15 | -0.06 | 2 | 9.52 | -0.21 | 98 | 76 | |
| SOUTHEAST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hanford | 42 | 88 | 64 | -2 | 100 | -7 | 33 | -5 | 0.18 | +0.11 | 1 | 4.23 | -1.43 | 75 | 46 | |
| Pasco | 38 | 86 | 62 | -2 | 89 | -3 | 23 | -5 | 0.12 | -0.02 | 1 | 6.57 | +0.08 | 101 | 67 | |
| Pullman | 32 | 73 | 53 | -2 | 28 | -3 | 0 | -1 | 0.61 | +0.26 | 3 | 15.17 | -2.64 | 85 | 98 | |
| Walla Walla Rgn | 45 | 82 | 62 | +2 | 86 | +8 | 27 | +9 | 0.09 | -0.26 | 2 | 16.01 | -0.90 | 95 | 86 | |
| Whitman Mission | 37 | 83 | 59 | -1 | 65 | -1 | 13 | +0 | 0.13 | -0.11 | 4 | 11.56 | -0.16 | 99 | 91 | |
| WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lewiston ID | 45 | 80 | 59 | -3 | 64 | -8 | 15 | -1 | 0.50 | +0.19 | 3 | 7.79 | -1.74 | 82 | 74 | |

Summary based on NWS data.
Season CUMulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2006
DFN = Departure From Normal.
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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