



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: June 4, 2007
Week Ending: June 3, 2007
CWP WA-CW2307

Dry Weather Excellent for Cutting and Baling Hay Grain Growers in Need of Measurable Precipitation as Grain Crops Stressed Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork last week were 7.0. In general, crops looked good but needed moisture. Hot, dry weather was good for drying cut alfalfa and hay activity throughout the state, but grain growers were in real need of moisture. Several reports of stressed winter wheat and spring seeded grain crops were reported. In Walla Walla County nearly all of the first cutting of alfalfa was complete, baled and in good condition. Lack of moisture stressed peas. Winter wheat was quickly heading out, and cultivation of field and sweet corn continued. Christmas tree growers continued insecticide applications for the control of aphids on Noble and Fraser fir.

Fruits and Vegetables

Unseasonably hot temperatures occurred over the past week, but no new crop losses were reported. Tree fruit continued to develop well while hand thinning was still the main focus of growers. Bing cherries were showing good color development and fresh strawberries from Skagit County were expected to be coming on soon. In the northern part of the state, newly planted raspberries and blueberries appeared healthy and earlier planted potatoes were in bloom. Commercial peony growers reported fields were in full bloom.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 1% very poor, 3% poor, 18% fair, 74% good and 4% excellent. In general, pastures continued to look good but lack of moisture pushed some areas to early maturity. Mountain range pastures continued to look good, but rain was needed to keep pastures growing

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	7.0
Last Week	6.4

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	10	30	57	3
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	1	16	77	6
Subsoil	10	25	64	1
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	3	20	75	2
Irrigation Water	0	1	97	2
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	3	5	92	1
Hay & Roughage	4	24	70	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 Emerged	99	98	99	99
Spring Wheat Headed	21	3	10	19
Winter Wheat Headed	65	40	55	55
Barley Emerged	99	96	99	99
Barley Headed	21	1	10	14
Potatoes Planted	98	95	100	100
Potatoes Emerged	88	83	93	95
Corn Planted	98	95	96	97
Corn Emerged	83	75	83	74
Dry Edible Beans Planted	98	97	97	83
Proc. Green Peas Planted	96	93	100	100
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	65	54	55	66

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	10	33	48	7
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	1	4	74	21
Spring Wheat Dryland	3	13	43	38	3
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	2	4	83	11
Barley Dryland	3	9	33	52	3
Barley Irrigated	0	9	12	75	4
Potatoes	0	0	28	72	0
Corn	0	0	20	72	8
Dry Edible Beans	0	5	14	66	15

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: Temperatures during the week were in the 60's and 70's with lows in the 40's.

Clark: Commercial strawberry harvest began in southwest Washington.

Grays Harbor: Pea and sweet corn growers were irrigating recently planted fields. Christmas tree growers were applying both fungicides and insecticides. Livestock producers continued to make haylage and baled hay under ideal conditions. Commercial strawberry farms opened fields for U-Pick clientele on Friday. Commercial peony growers reported fields were in full bloom.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: A week of warm to hot weather brought out the haying equipment as planting operations were being completed.

Mason: The weather was warm and dry all week. Pastures looked good, but rain was needed. Hay was cut and baled late in the week.

Pierce/S. King: Crop conditions remained strong in the South Puget Sound area. Most of the corn has been planted. The grass fields were looking good. Rain was needed as it has been dry and hot. There were no reports of any unusual situations or crop damage due to a weather event.

San Juan: Weather conditions were good, but crops were behind schedule for haying.

Skagit: The high temperature for the week averaged 72 degrees. With most farmers in Skagit Valley getting the majority of their crops in the ground, the emphasis switched from prepping and planting to week control, cultivation, and in some cases irrigation—which is very unusual for this time of year. With temperatures expected to reach 80 degrees this week and no rain last week, some farmers began irrigating.

Typically, in the Skagit Valley irrigation is done on a supplemental basis with big guns. In other words, farmers only irrigate when they do not receive rain for an extended period of time.

Skagit/Island/San Juan: The weather has been dry and warm.

Snohomish/North King: Temperatures were in the 70's and 80's all week with lows in the 40's and 50's. Farmers planted sweet corn and seed crops.

Thurston: A week of warm temperatures and drying winds with no rain had many ag producers scrambling to begin irrigating cultivated crops. Dairy producers took advantage of the ideal conditions to cut and bale hay. Christmas tree growers continued insecticide applications for the control of aphids on Noble and Fraser fir. Blueberry growers reported excellent fruit set on early bearing varieties like Weymouth. Turfgrass growers were cultivating recently harvested fields in preparation for planting. Home gardeners were kept busy changing sprinklers and pulling weeds.

Thurston: More haylage was put up and wrapped during the weekend.

Whatcom: It was a great week for farming activities. The average daytime temperature was 75 degrees with highs in the 80's. The heat helped dry out the remaining fields which were saturated from the spring rain. A thunder storm rolled in Sunday evening with enough rain to give the topsoil a good soaking. More rain was expected. The rain mixed with sun provided ideal growing conditions. Early planted potatoes were beginning to bloom. Corn was sprouting up. Newly planted, as well as older raspberry and blueberry bushes, appeared healthy. Some producers were on their second cutting of grass for silage.

Central

Benton: The weather was unseasonable during the week. Temperatures of 100 degrees have stressed the winter planted dryland crops. Time will tell what effect this will have on yields. Otherwise, crops in the county looked good.

Chelan: The weather was much warmer than normal during the week. Tree fruit was developing well. The heat was not a problem. Fruit hand thinning continued to be the main activity.

Franklin: Crop activity increased greatly with normal to slightly warmer than normal temperatures. Excellent growing days with very little precipitation have helped the first cutting of alfalfa and timothy hay throughout the county. Potatoes were in the flower stage in all areas. Beans (with reduced acreage this year), sweet and feed corn were being planted. The cherry crop was coming along nicely, and the early varieties will be coming off soon. Sunday evening wind, dust, and a lightning storm caused little if any crop damage.

Grant: Recent hot weather has not helped dryland or irrigated crop conditions. Processing peas have been

stressed considerably, as has the dryland wheat acreage. The first cutting of alfalfa was in full swing. Cultivating field and sweet corn was underway.

Kittitas: The unseasonably hot weather sped hay toward maturity. Some timothy and other grass hay was in windrows.

Okanogan: Like much of the state, the county had hot weather. Temperatures were in the upper 90's in the low elevations. Rivers were running high. The first cutting of hay began. Wheat was heading out. Cherries were starting to turn color.

Yakima: The weather was unseasonably hot during the week, with daytime highs in the 90's. Scattered thunderstorms in the area cooled things off. Bing cherries showed color development even in the later areas.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures varied from 1 degree below normal to 21 degrees above normal, with 0.4 inches of precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to weather conditions.

Eastern

Adams: Hot weather with no precipitation hurt moisture conditions and spring cereal conditions.

Adams (2nd Report): Another dry week capped by weekend temperatures in the 90's made for ideal hay weather, but pushed rangeland to early maturity and sapped grain crops in thin soils and spring plantings. Rain would be welcome.

Asotin: Hot weather has hurt crops and rangeland conditions. Rain was needed in all areas.

Ferry: The continued dry weather was beginning to stop growth in dryland hay fields. Producers were hoping for moisture this week.

Ferry (2nd Report): Most of the first cutting of alfalfa was down and only a small percentage has been baled. Annual crops, as well as pasture grasses, were beginning to suffer due to the lack of rainfall.

Lincoln: Higher than normal temperatures in combination with no precipitation may have an adverse effect on spring grain crops as well as winter wheat and pastures. However, the weather has been mostly good for producers putting up their first cutting of alfalfa.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Hot weather with no precipitation decreased soil moisture conditions and was detrimental to spring cereals.

Lincoln (3rd Report): The near record heat wave during the week took its toll on the winter wheat that was headed and flowering. Winter wheat began dropping lower leaves and the upper leaves were curled and yellowing. Spring wheat was blued in hard pan areas and the maximum yield potential was lost. With the lower than average rainfall in April and May, wheat yields may be average at best.

Pend Orielle: The high temperature during the week was 89 degrees and the low was 31 degrees with 0.15 inches of precipitation. The heat wave caused new seeded crops to

sprout. Herbicides along with fertilizers were being applied to crops. Pastures were growing very well and supporting livestock. Supplemental feed has been reduced due to the increase in pasture growth.

Pend Orielle/Spokane: Three days in a row of record high temperatures caused a fair amount of damage to crops that did not have sufficient moisture. All the shallow and light spots in the fields burned up during the weekend. Winter wheat turned a light blue color over the weekend. Hopefully it will recover if significant moisture is received. A few hay producers took advantage of the temperatures to cut some hay, but most of the hay was cut in areas that had cheatgrass in the stands. Significant rainfall is needed to bring all the crops to harvest with average yields.

Stevens: A few hay producers began swathing and baling during the week. Temperatures in the 90's made for excellent forage drying conditions. Grain crops continued to look good.

Walla Walla: Some winter wheat in the earlier areas may have been hurt from hot weather moisture stress. The hot and dry weather has been great for haying. Now the rush is on to get it in before the expected rain.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Crops looked good but needed moisture. Spring crops were especially showing signs of stress. Winter wheat was rapidly heading but looked good. The extreme heat over the weekend caused producers to be concerned for the peas which were in bloom. Nearly all first cutting baled hay was in good condition.

Whitman: Rains have improved crop conditions. Heat came in a big way at the end of the week giving the area an early taste of July. Hay was being cut, and cows were moved to summer pastures. Spraying of spring crops was finishing up. Peas were blooming and winter wheat was headed out. Combines were being prepared for harvest, and chemical fallow and CRP were being sprayed.

Weekly Weather Statistics

June 4, 2007

	Air Temperature				Precipitation			HDD		Days of 32	Days of 28
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	DAYS	TOT	DFN	Cold	Cold
WEST											
Bellingham	39	79	61	5	77.00	34.00	16.00	12	0	0	0
Everett	44	80	62	5	84.00	36.00	22.00	16	0	-1	1
Hoquiam	47	87	59	4	62.00	24.00	9.00	9	0	-1	0
Kelso	41	88	65	9	106.00	55.00	39.00	32	0	-1	0
Olympia	35	88	63	8	89.00	49.00	29.00	27	0	0	0
Sea-Tac	46	87	66	9	111.00	55.00	46.00	39	0	0	0
Shelton	35	87	63	5	90.00	33.00	30.00	21	0	0	0
Tacoma	40	86	62	4	86.00	30.00	25.00	18	0	0	0
Vancouver	43	90	68	11	126.00	72.00	57.00	49	0	0	0
CENTRAL											
Ellensburg	40	99	69	11	139.00	79.00	69.00	57	0	0	0
Stampede Pass	33	84	60	16	80.00	74.00	28.00	28	0	-1	1
Wenatchee	46	97	71	10	152.00	64.00	82.00	56	0	0	0
Yakima AP	40	97	69	9	135.00	61.00	67.00	49	0	0	0
NORTHEAST											
Colville	41	98	67	10	117.00	63.00	54.00	43	0	0	1
Deer Park	32	92	60	3	76.00	23.00	24.00	15	0	0	1
Spokane AP	41	93	65	8	110.00	55.00	53.00	43	0	0	1
EAST CENTRAL											
Ephrata	45	100	72	8	153.00	54.00	83.00	49	0	0	0
Moses Lake	43	100	70	6	140.00	41.00	70.00	36	0	0	0
Quincy	42	95	69	7	134.00	49.00	66.00	41	0	0	0
Ritzville	44	94	67	9	119.00	62.00	51.00	40	0	0	2
SOUTHEAST											
Hanford	42	104	73	7	165.00	45.00	95.00	45	0	0	0
Pasco	39	99	70	6	140.00	34.00	70.00	31	0	0	0
Pullman	39	92	61	6	85.00	43.00	29.00	22	0	0	1
Whitman Miss.	38	98	66	5	113.00	34.00	50.00	28	0	0	0
ID PANHANDLE											
Lewiston ID	41	96	67	5	122.00	36.00	63.00	38	0	0	2

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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