



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

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Washington Crop Weather

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Week Ending: May 18, 2008
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Crop Growing Conditions Turn Hot as Crop Development Moves Rapidly While Grain Showed Stress Field Crops

Days suitable for field work were 6.1. In the eastern grain growing counties, cool conditions came to an abrupt end when temperatures climbed into the 90s. The warmer weather was welcomed for improving crop development and overall growth of winter wheat and small grains in general, but growers were concerned about the lack of moisture. Walla Walla County reported some fields were showing signs of stress due to lack of water. Spring grain seeding was coming to an end in Whitman County. Grant County reported grain corn planting was nearly done, and storage onions were being planted. Skagit County reported beet and spinach seed planting was nearly complete. State wide, the first cutting of alfalfa was delayed due to the weather. Christmas tree growers were busy applying both insecticides and fungicides to Douglas fir plantations.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, apple growers applied the first cover spray for codling moth, and cherries and peaches were in shuck fall or post shuck fall stages. Some fruit growers were concerned about poor pollination conditions last month in addition to the late season frosts. Meanwhile, vegetable crops planted under plastic sheets were showing good growth, and vegetable growers were planting the rest of their fields.

Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 2% very poor, 14% poor, 47% fair and 37% good. On the west side of the Cascades, pasture conditions improved with producers finishing early green chop operations. Weed control for raspberries and cranberries continued. On the east side, Benton, Garfield, and Asotin Counties reported rangeland at lower elevations was in very poor condition. Shellfish growers continued oyster harvest operations and completed initial oyster seed planting.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.1
Last Week	6.4

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	7	26	61	6
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	3	19	72	6
Subsoil	9	33	57	1
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	5	22	71	2
Irrigation Water	0	0	98	2
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	1	4	94	1
Hay & Roughage	25	29	46	0

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

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2007	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	98	91	100	99
Spring Wheat Emerged	81	62	94	89
Winter Wheat Headed	6	4	15	19
Barley Planted	97	86	99	98
Barley Emerged	74	58	89	84
Field Corn Planted	70	41	86	85
Field Corn Emerged	35	16	67	49
Potatoes Planted	91	85	90	96
Potatoes Emerged	44	29	74	68
Dry Edible Beans Planted	89	62	96	77
Proc. Green Peas Planted	88	68	89	97
Dry Peas Planted	92	63	99	98
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	4	2	29	22

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	9	45	41	3
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	5	14	73	8
Spring Wheat Dryland	1	15	67	16	1
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	10	21	59	10
Barley Dryland	0	7	64	29	0
Barley Irrigated	0	21	36	33	10
Potatoes	0	3	24	73	0
Corn	0	15	65	20	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	17	58	25	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: Good weather allowed farmers access to their fields and nurseries.

Clallam/Jefferson: The weather was still too cool for planting, so producers were waiting and watching.

Grays Harbor: The rural landscape transitioned into a carpet of gold as Scotch broom burst into full bloom, due to a thermal blast bringing record breaking temperatures in the low 90s. Livestock producers took advantage of an entire week with no measurable rainfall to make haylage and apply herbicides to pastures. Christmas tree growers took advantage of the dry weather to apply fungicides and insecticides to Douglas fir plantations. Greenhouse tomato growers reported rapid plant development due to the increased heat units. Home gardeners set out tomato and other vegetable transplants.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Farming was in full swing in Lewis, Grays Harbor and Pacific counties. Crops were getting planted, haylage was being harvested and livestock were grazing. Over the weekend, record temperatures helped dry things out.

Mason: Unseasonably warm temperatures kept producers on their toes. Nursery and greenhouse growers struggled to keep their greenhouses cool over the weekend. Summer-like weather had livestock producers tending to watering systems and watching pastures come out of dormancy. Crop producers were utilizing irrigation systems and welcoming the warm weather to move along crops that have been lagging behind.

Pacific: Unusually warm weather allowed producers to complete a variety of field activities. Shellfish growers continued oyster harvest operations and completed initial oyster seed planting. Pasture conditions improved with producers finishing early green chop operations. Weed control for cranberries, raspberries, and Christmas trees continued.

Skagit: The high temperature for the week averaged 65 degrees with 0.9 inch of precipitation received. Crops were nearly a month behind schedule. Good weather was received over the weekend, and farmers were trying to get

their crops in quickly. Tulip fields have all been topped and were being cultivated to keep the weeds down. Tulip harvest will be in July. The wheat crop was looking good, but there is still a long ways to go until harvest in August. The 2008 cabbage crop was bolting.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: The weather was overcast most of the week, with rain on Tuesday and heavy rains on Wednesday. Temperatures were cool most of the week, with a sudden warming on Friday and very hot on Saturday. There were no reports of crop failures. Planting was delayed due to the past cool, wet weather. However, producers took advantage of the warmer weather with aggressive land preparation and planting.

Snohomish/North King: Rain received mid-week interfered with fieldwork. A heat wave, with temperatures in the 90s at the end of the week, caused heat stress to plants. Blueberries were in bloom, and tree fruit blossom continued. Grass was being harvested for haylage.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report): The weather was still too cold for pasture growth. Producers did not see many crops emerging, which was unusual for this time of year.

Thurston: Ag producers welcomed a week of nearly ideal weather for farm activities. Christmas tree growers were busy applying both insecticides and fungicides to Douglas fir plantations. Livestock producers continued making haylage under nearly ideal weather conditions. Organic truck gardeners were selling early season vegetables at the Olympia Farmer's Market. Turfgrass growers took advantage of the dry weather to begin cultivating recently harvested fields for planting. A thermal blast on Saturday produced record breaking temperatures in the low 90s, forcing home gardeners to bring out the sprinklers.

Whatcom: Over an inch of rain was received during the middle of the week. The wet conditions delayed planting until later in the week when fields dried out due to temperatures reaching 82 degrees.

Central

Benton: Record breaking high temperatures during the week exacerbated the condition of dryland crops. With no appreciable moisture recorded for the past three months, crops were beginning to show signs of stress. Rangelands were beginning to dry out extraordinarily early. Cattlemen may need to resort to supplemental feed. So far, the rapid melt off of the high snow pack in the mountains has not caused rivers to flood.

Franklin: Temperatures went from abnormally cool to near normal the prior week, to hot and above normal temperatures this past weekend. On the dryland side, producers worried about the lack of moisture the past several months and now the extreme temperature swings in the past three weeks. On the irrigated side, like the dryland, all crops planted in the past five weeks and other perennial crops were at least two weeks behind. The first cutting of alfalfa hay should have been hot and heavy, yet there were only a few farms in the cutting stage. Sweet and field corn were still being planted. The last of the potato crop was planted. Irrigators were irrigating full swing to keep up with the heat.

Grant: Grain corn planting was nearing completion. Potato planting continued. High temperatures over the

past few days have stressed the dryland winter wheat crop. Precipitation was greatly needed. The first cutting of alfalfa was behind schedule. Storage onions were being planted. Dry bean varieties will be planted soon.

Klickitat: Very hot weather the past few days caused stress to hay crops and pastures throughout the county.

Yakima: There was no precipitation this past week, but unseasonably hot daytime temperatures in the mid-90s triggered flood warnings throughout the Valley. Apple growers applied first cover sprays for codling moth. Cherries and peaches were in shuck fall or post shuck fall stages. Some fruit growers were concerned about poor pollination conditions last month as well as the late season frosts. Meanwhile, vegetable crops that were planted under plastic were showing good growth, and vegetable growers were planting the rest of their fields.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures varied from four degrees below normal to 18 degrees above normal, with a trace of precipitation. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.



Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: Unseasonably hot temperatures during the week took a toll on crops and rangeland. The hot weather followed a very cool, dry spring which made the crops more vulnerable to the heat. Rangeland in the lower elevations may be in the poorest condition in many years. Rain was needed for proper crop development and to improve rangeland conditions.

Douglas/Chelan: The winter wheat crop was in need of moisture. Weeds were prevalent this year in dry cropland. Apples bloomed later than normal which helped them avoid recent frosts. Area cherry and other soft fruit crops suffered the most damage because of cold temperatures. Wind machines and other frost protection continued to be used occasionally. Warm temperatures, accompanied by winds, were finally experienced late in the week. Pollinating of fruit crops has been a concern.

Ferry: Warm weather finally brought on the spring grasses. Moisture was needed. Spring crops were almost all in the ground.

Lincoln: Temperatures rose considerably during the past week which provided growing weather for crops, but was a concern for some newly planted spring crops. A good rain was needed.

Pend Oreille: The high temperature during the week was 82 degrees and the low was 28 degrees, with a trace of precipitation. Pastures and hay fields were beginning to show major new growth with the warm weather. Livestock completed shedding their winter coats, and calving was nearly complete. Poultry were back to laying the normal amount of eggs.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The last few days of the week brought warm temperatures to the area. There was some high water on small streams and the Spokane river, but no problems have been reported. The hot days with wind really dried up the top soil moisture. One thing positive was that crops showed some growth and were starting to look good.

Stevens: Rain and warm weather helped crops and trees which were off to a slow start this year. Fruit trees were just in bloom.

Stevens (2nd Report): Rain showers early in the week, followed by warm temperatures at week's end, boosted crop growth. Pasture grasses and alfalfa made tremendous gains under nearly perfect growing conditions. Hay producers were finishing seeding of new stands and rotation grain crops.

Walla Walla: Crops showed definite signs of stress due to lack of moisture. One rain event this past week provided around 0.35 inch of precipitation through most of the area, but rainfall for the month was significantly below normal. Winds continued to create a challenge for producers needing to spray crops. Rainfall was needed.

Whitman: Cooler than normal temperatures throughout the spring came to an abrupt end with temperatures soaring into the 90s. The early season heat wave should be short lived, but does raise some concerns on impacts to recently emerged spring crops. Spring seeding was wrapping up in most of the county, and emergence was improving with the warmer weather. Rainfall was needed as the February to April period was below average.

Weekly Weather Statistics
May 12 - 18 2008

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	PCT		
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES			INCHES	DFN	NORMAL	DAYS
WEST															
Bellingham Intl	40	82	56	+4	50	+25	7	+7	1.21	+0.72	2	23.62	-7.20	77	148
Everett	43	88	58	+5	62	+32	19	+19	0.35	-0.21	2	28.79	-2.10	93	159
Hoquiam	44	92	61	+8	79	+52	32	+32	1.07	+0.36	3	52.04	-9.89	84	172
Kelso	45	93	64	+10	96	+64	41	+41	0.08	-0.48	1	28.93	-12.11	70	120
Olympia	31	91	60	+8	76	+53	25	+25	0.10	-0.36	2	40.52	-5.61	88	150
Seattle-Tacoma	42	90	61	+7	80	+44	29	+29	0.15	-0.22	2	30.73	-2.45	93	146
Shelton	32	89	59	+5	72	+33	22	+22	0.17	-0.34	2	52.91	-7.21	88	149
Tacoma WA AP	36	92	60	+5	74	+37	22	+22	0.05	-0.37	1	28.80	-6.79	81	134
Vancouver WA	45	96	66	+12	116	+82	59	+59	0.14	-0.41	2	32.87	-3.91	89	138
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	42	96	65	+11	105	+68	44	+44	0.00	-0.13	0	5.49	-2.02	73	57
Omak AP	34	91	64	+11	102	+70	45	+45	0.00	-0.35	0	5.60	-5.77	49	50
Stampede Pass	29	78	51	+11	44	+44	10	+10	1.00	+0.23	3	63.84	-9.59	87	165
Wenatchee	44	94	67	+9	124	+62	60	+51	0.00	-0.07	0	3.95	-2.88	58	40
Yakima AP	33	98	65	+9	109	+61	50	+45	0.00	-0.09	0	5.38	-1.25	81	50
NORTHEAST															
Colville	41	92	62	+9	89	+58	38	+38	0.19	-0.28	3	13.58	-3.38	80	98
Deer Park	32	87	58	+4	63	+32	18	+18	0.06	-0.34	2	17.27	+2.18	114	117
Republic	36	89	63	+12	90	+73	36	+36	0.04	-0.31	1	9.01	-2.45	79	83
Spokane AP	36	88	62	+9	86	+56	38	+38	0.09	-0.24	2	14.22	+0.98	107	104
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	44	94	67	+8	122	+51	63	+50	0.00	-0.14	0	3.86	-2.07	65	59
Moses Lake	43	94	66	+7	113	+42	53	+40	0.00	-0.14	0	3.92	-2.01	66	56
Quincy	44	94	66	+8	115	+55	55	+47	0.00	-0.14	0	5.77	-0.71	89	58
Ritzville	35	91	59	+6	69	+37	29	+29	0.09	-0.12	1	8.19	-1.30	86	77
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	44	99	70	+7	140	+48	76	+50	0.00	-0.14	0	3.06	-2.51	55	38
Pasco	39	98	67	+6	118	+39	60	+42	0.03	-0.11	1	5.44	-0.89	86	58
Pullman	37	86	60	+9	79	+57	33	+33	0.29	-0.06	2	14.17	-3.24	81	97
Walla Walla Rgn	41	94	67	+8	118	+54	61	+51	0.26	-0.09	2	11.16	-5.35	68	90
Whitman Mission	34	96	61	+5	81	+28	34	+27	0.29	+0.01	3	9.96	-1.49	87	96
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	39	95	63	+5	92	+34	43	+36	0.15	-0.13	3	5.90	-3.28	64	78

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2007

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/2008/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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