



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

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Washington Crop Weather

Released: May 27, 2008
Week Ending: May 25, 2008
CWP WA-CW1908

Grain, Chickpeas, Dry Beans, Dry Peas and Other Crops Look Good but Significantly More Rain is Needed Field Crops

Days suitable for field work were 6.2. Spring rains brought some relief to grain growers, and winter wheat looked good at the moment but adequate moisture concerns dominated grain growing counties. Whitman County reported some winter wheat was heading out and producers were applying herbicides to spring crops. Walla Walla County reported that peas and garbanzo beans had sprouted and some hay had been cut. In Skagit County, very wet conditions continued to delay planting of seed potatoes. Christmas tree growers were applying insecticides to control Cooley Spruce Gall Adelgids in Douglas fir plantations.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, no new crop losses due to frosts were reported. Early summer radishes and lettuce were being harvested. Hops were waist-high on the trellises. Apples in the lower Valley were between 20 to 25 mm in diameter. Chelan County reported that pear and apple crops looked normal but stone fruit production will be lower than last year. Strawberry bloom had begun. In northern counties blueberries and raspberries were moving along quickly due to the recent warm weather and rain.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 3% very poor, 12% poor, 46% fair and 39% good. On the west side, cattle producers were seeing heavy grass growth. Cattle were on pasture and dairy producers were making haylage. On the east side, heavy rains in some counties gave beef producers a needed break as pasture growth improved. Cattle producers placed cattle on summer range.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.2
Last Week	6.1

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	4	19	71	6
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	2	16	77	5
Subsoil	7	28	64	1
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	5	21	72	2
Irrigation Water	0	0	91	9
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	4	93	1
Hay & Roughage	38	16	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	100	98	100	100
Spring Wheat Emerged	89	81	98	96
Spring Wheat Headed	NA	NA	2	5
Winter Wheat Headed	18	6	34	33
Barley Planted	99	97	100	100
Barley Emerged	89	74	95	93
Barley Headed	NA	NA	1	2
Field Corn Planted	85	70	94	92
Field Corn Emerged	55	35	74	64
Potatoes Planted	93	91	94	93
Potatoes Emerged	69	44	83	80
Dry Edible Beans Planted	95	89	97	80
Proc. Green Peas Planted	90	88	93	98
Dry Peas Planted	99	92	100	100
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	20	4	48	44

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	4	11	38	42	5
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	4	10	64	22
Spring Wheat Dryland	1	11	57	29	2
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	4	13	56	27
Barley Dryland	1	7	61	31	0
Barley Irrigated	0	5	12	48	35
Potatoes	0	0	27	73	0
Corn	0	6	65	29	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	4	25	71	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

Grays Harbor: Sweet corn growers took advantage of nearly ideal conditions to cultivate fields and plant. Commercial greenhouse tomato growers reported fruit set on early bearing varieties. Christmas tree growers were applying insecticides to control Cooley Spruce Gall Adelgids in Douglas fir plantations. Livestock producers took advantage of nearly a week with no rain to make haylage. Commercial potato growers were busy cultivating fields in preparation for planting. Organic vegetable growers were kept busy cultivating fields for weed control. Home gardeners reported slow growth on newly germinated vegetables due to unseasonably cool temperatures.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: The area enjoyed the recent nice weather. The crops were planted, however, some planting had been delayed. Livestock were grazing.

Mason: Two tenths of an inch of precipitation fell with cool, windy weather. Conditions were a little drier.

Mason (2nd Report): The weather seemed to level out and get back to normal. Market gardeners were still a couple of weeks behind, but started to harvest some spring crops. There was lots of rhubarb, greens and asparagus at the Farmer's Markets. Nurseries started to see sales pick up as home gardeners were ready to start planting. Livestock producers saw fantastic grass growth and were forecasting surplus forage.

Pacific: Improving spring weather was a welcome change for producers. Drier soil conditions allowed tillage and planting operations to proceed. Weed control for cranberries and raspberries continued, along with oyster harvest and processing activities. Initial green chop operations were completed with improved pasture conditions.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions remained good in the South Puget Sound area. There were no unusual situations to report. There were no reports of any crop damage due to a weather event.

Skagit: High temperatures averaged 62 degrees. There was .08 inch of precipitation recorded at the WSU North West Research and Extension Center in West Mount Vernon. The tulip fields had all been topped and were being cultivated one last time to keep the weeds down and loosen the soil before harvesting bulbs in July. The wheat crop was showing signs of stress from all the wet weather.

Farmers were applying fungicides to control rust. The 2008 cabbage seed crop was bolting. Some of the crop was blown over last week during a wind storm and was re-staked and strung. Beet seed planting was complete but a month and a half behind schedule. Carrots were being grown in the Skagit Valley again. They were in the ground and actively growing. Spinach seed planting was 75 percent complete, potato planting was 35 percent complete, pea planting was 35 percent complete and corn planting was 35 percent complete. The 2008 berry crop looked to be much later than normal this year.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: Half of the week was overcast with one day of heavy rain and some showers in the evenings. The rest of the week was sunny and warm. Farmers were very busy trying to catch up as they were several weeks behind in planting due to the wet, cool weather. There have been no reports yet of prevented plantings on certain crops, but some are expected.

Snohomish/North King: Field work and planting continued as weather permitted. Some rain received mid-week kept crops moist but slowed planting. Apple and stone fruit bloom was complete. Strawberries and raspberries were in bloom. Blueberry bloom continued.

Thurston: Nearly an entire week with no rain had turfgrass growers turning on the sprinklers. Christmas tree growers reported both Fraser and Noble Fir have flushed. Growers were monitoring fields for Balsam Woolly aphids in order to time spray applications for the greatest efficacy. Dairy producers continued making haylage under nearly ideal conditions. Commercial blueberry growers reported good bloom on most varieties with high bee activity. Organic vegetable growers continued planting warm season vegetable crops. Commercial raspberry growers reported bloom on early bearing varieties. Invasive Scotch Broom had reached its peak bloom transforming many parts of the county into a tapestry of gold.

Whatcom: Wet conditions for the better part of the week prevented some of the fields from drying out enough for planting. Blueberries were in bloom. Raspberries showed more growth due to the warmer temperatures; however more sunshine is needed for optimal growth. Second cutting of grass for silage had begun.

Central

Benton: The area was assessing damage to fruit crops as a result of late frosts. Much needed spring rains were received over the last couple of days.

Kittitas: Unseasonable temperature swings and unpredictable rainfall brought a short heat wave and needed rainfall to the area. Timothy hay growth was at its maximum rate. Sweet corn was up. Rangeland forage may benefit from the rain, but the hot spell earlier caused many grasses to put out seed and may limit additional vegetative growth.

Klickitat: The weather cooled and a bit of rain followed on the heels of the previous week's dry, hot weather. Light showers arrived early Friday morning and continued into the weekend. The rainfall helped alleviate dry weather stress on late spring seeded crops. Winter wheat was slow to head out. Agricultural producers ran sprinkler sets and wheel lines on cultivated crops. Continued forecast for showers convinced farmers to abandon any thoughts of an early first cutting. Unstable weather caused some apricot and cherry drop. Overall fruit looked good; though crops

were smaller than normal. Earliest cherry varieties were straw colored and at least 2-3 weeks from ripening. Grapes were doing well but delayed and still two weeks from bloom.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 5 degrees below normal to 9 degrees above normal, with .18 inch of precipitation. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Yakima (2nd Report): Scattered showers throughout the area contributed between 0.12-0.40 inch of precipitation. Crop progress slowed due to cool and overcast weather. Early summer vegetables (radishes, lettuce, etc.) were harvested. Hops were waist high on the trellises. Apples in the lower Valley were between 20 to 25 mm in diameter; while in the upper Valley 15 to 20 mm in diameter. Cherries were in fruit drop stage in the lower Valley.

Eastern

Adams: Precipitation totals last week were low and maintained moisture and crop conditions at best. Additional precipitation will be needed to improve conditions.

Asotin/Garfield: Cool weather and showers came through the area and were beneficial to crops and rangeland. Rain totals were disappointing however, as both crops and rangelands were in need of more rain.

Chelan: Unsettled wet and windy weather slowed the application of pest and disease management products to fruit trees. The early reports indicated a normal pear and apple crop, but the stone fruit crop will be down. There will be a fair to poor crop in some important cherry production areas and a good crop in the far north. Even in the most frosted region, there were orchards or parts of orchards that have a good crop. The over all crop will be significantly lower than last year's record.

Lincoln: Some rain was received during the week, but winds following this precipitation had a drying effect on soil conditions. Significantly more rain is needed for crops and rangeland.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Precipitation totals last week were low and maintained moisture and crop conditions at best. Additional precipitation will be needed to improve conditions.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Rain received during the week helped to provide moisture to crops that needed some assistance after the warm weather the previous weekend. Warm weather and moisture made a big difference in pasture growth. Cattlemen were talking about turning cows out on summer pasture. Hay crop growth was at least two weeks behind schedule. The windy conditions during the week provided little opportunity for spraying winter wheat crops.

Stevens: Heavy rain received last Tuesday gave hay and grain crops a boost. Most crop producers wrapped up seeding operations. Pasture conditions were improving with warmer temperatures and better moisture conditions. Beef producers had cattle out on pasture.

Walla Walla: Some little drinks of rain kept the winter wheat looking pretty good, but it was still right on the edge of really going downhill due to lack of moisture. First cutting had begun. New seeding of peas and garbanzo beans look good. Cattle were on spring pastures with late and less growth.

Whitman: Rain showers brought relief to newly emerged spring crops and developing winter wheat. Winter wheat had started to head in the west. Producers applied herbicides to spring crops.

Weekly Weather Statistics

May 27, 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	44	73	56	+2	44	+12	1	+1	0.29	-0.20	2	23.91	-7.40	76	150
Everett	45	72	56	+1	45	+8	8	+8	0.49	-0.05	6	29.28	-2.15	93	165
Hoquiam	41	74	55	+0	35	+3	3	+3	0.48	-0.18	4	52.52	-10.07	84	176
Kelso	46	81	56	+1	47	+7	9	+7	0.49	-0.04	4	29.42	-12.15	71	124
Olympia	45	79	56	+3	45	+14	5	+5	0.25	-0.17	4	40.77	-5.78	88	154
Seattle-Tacoma	46	77	58	+2	56	+11	10	+10	0.59	+0.24	4	31.32	-2.21	93	150
Shelton	42	79	56	-2	44	-3	6	+1	0.23	-0.26	4	53.14	-7.47	88	153
Tacoma WA AP	45	77	57	+1	49	+4	5	+5	0.72	+0.30	5	29.52	-6.49	82	139
Vancouver WA	49	84	59	+3	61	+18	13	+10	1.08	+0.59	5	33.95	-3.32	91	143
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	44	86	60	+4	74	+28	18	+12	0.70	+0.56	2	6.19	-1.46	81	59
Omak AP	34	79	60	+5	73	+30	14	+9	0.02	-0.35	1	5.62	-6.12	48	51
Stampede Pass	33	64	45	+3	12	+12	0	+0	1.19	+0.42	6	65.03	-9.17	88	171
Wenatchee	48	85	63	+3	91	+18	28	+12	0.31	+0.17	3	4.26	-2.71	61	43
Yakima AP	37	88	62	+4	82	+22	23	+13	0.15	+0.01	3	5.53	-1.24	82	53
NORTHEAST															
Colville	40	84	60	+5	72	+32	13	+8	0.44	-0.03	5	14.02	-3.41	80	103
Deer Park	33	81	56	-1	45	+5	7	+3	0.49	+0.14	5	17.76	+2.32	115	122
Republic	38	82	60	+8	71	+47	17	+17	0.27	-0.10	3	9.28	-2.55	78	86
Spokane AP	39	82	57	+2	51	+12	10	+6	0.75	+0.40	5	14.97	+1.38	110	109
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	47	84	64	+3	100	+17	31	+10	0.07	-0.07	2	3.93	-2.14	65	61
Moses Lake	43	86	64	+2	96	+13	27	+6	0.11	-0.03	3	4.03	-2.04	66	59
Quincy	47	84	64	+4	96	+25	29	+14	0.28	+0.14	3	6.05	-0.57	91	61
Ritzville	36	86	57	+2	52	+10	18	+13	0.09	-0.12	2	8.28	-1.42	85	79
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	45	93	64	-2	103	-2	37	+1	0.23	+0.15	3	3.29	-2.36	58	41
Pasco	45	92	64	+2	102	+12	32	+6	0.27	+0.13	3	5.71	-0.76	88	61
Pullman	35	79	55	+1	37	+7	7	+7	0.61	+0.26	4	14.78	-2.98	83	101
Walla Walla Rgn	46	87	61	-1	79	+3	20	+3	0.70	+0.35	4	11.86	-5.00	70	94
Whitman Mission	44	91	62	+4	88	+24	32	+20	0.63	+0.38	4	10.59	-1.11	91	100
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	46	93	64	+4	100	+30	40	+25	0.43	+0.13	3	6.33	-3.15	67	81

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/2007/summary/weth1606.pdf>
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