



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

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Washington Crop Weather

Released: May 18, 2009
Week Ending: May 17, 2009
CWP WA-CW1809

Warm Weekend Pushed Grain Seeding Along While the Cherry Set was Full and Very Clean Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.6. Grain growing counties reported wet, cool and windy conditions throughout most of the week, further hampering spraying, but warm, dry weekend conditions pushed late planting along. Walla Walla County reported their winter wheat continued to look very good while green pea seeding was nearly done, dry peas were emerging and the first cutting of alfalfa was going down. In general, the spring planted crops looked good, were emerging and had good moisture conditions. Grant County reported their first cutting was also going down, and most sweet corn and grain corn planting was done. Dry bean planting was expected to begin soon. Christmas tree growers were applying insecticides and fungicides on Douglas fir plantations for the control of Douglas fir Needle Midge and the fungus Swiss Needle cast.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, early in the week as night time lows approached freezing, some growers had to utilize frost protection measures. As the week progressed, temperatures gradually increased with highs approaching 90 degrees on Sunday. Cherry growers in Yakima County started off the season with a full and very clean crop set. Hop yards were being strung up while hop vines began their ascent up the trellis. Scattered showers left a trace of precipitation in a few locations in Yakima County. Whatcom County strawberries were blooming. Chelan County's cool temperatures caused problems with bees pollinating orchards. Snohomish County reported apples, strawberries and blueberries were in full bloom, and raspberry blossoms were about ready to open. In Pacific County, cranberry growers welcomed the warmer conditions, but remained worried about the late blossom time and overall yields.

Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions 10 percent poor, 43 percent fair, 43 percent good and 4 percent excellent. On the west side, grass was being cut for silage in several counties. On the eastside, pastures looked good and most cattle had been turned out, but Stevens County reported slow growth due to cold and wet. In Pacific County, oyster growers set early seed oysters in the bay for hardening.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.6
Last Week	5.1

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	5	12	79	4
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	4	22	69	5
Subsoil	9	34	56	1
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	6	27	65	2
Irrigation Water	0	2	96	2
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	1	4	93	2
Hay & Roughage	0	11	82	7

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

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2008	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	96	85	97	99
Spring Wheat Emerged	77	62	78	85
Winter Wheat Headed	11	1	6	16
Barley Planted	88	78	95	97
Barley Emerged	57	42	72	78
Field Corn Planted	67	47	66	80
Field Corn Emerged	30	11	32	46
Potatoes Planted	95	90	90	94
Potatoes Emerged	39	20	42	62
Dry Edible Beans Planted	69	68	85	84
Proc. Green Peas Planted	95	90	85	94
Dry Peas Planted	70	69	88	95
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	10	NA	4	17

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	7	11	35	40	7
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	2	36	50	12
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	0	51	48	1
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	36	54	10
Barley Dryland	0	0	49	51	0
Barley Irrigated	0	0	54	12	34
Potatoes	0	0	33	61	6
Corn	0	2	81	15	2
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	45	55	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.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clallam/Jefferson: Temperatures continued to be cool, and rain was received during the week. Highs were in the 50s and the lows were in the 40s.

Clark: The weekend was beautiful for all farm activities and marketing.

Grays Harbor: The distant hum of tractors could be heard echoing across the rural landscape as ag producers worked around the clock to finish field cultivation in time for planting cannery peas and sweet corn. Christmas tree growers applied fungicides and insecticides on Douglas fir plantations. Livestock producers were rouging pastures and hayfields to control poisonous hemlock. U-Pick growers were busy preparing fields for sowing warm season vegetable crops. Greenhouse tomato growers reported rapid plant growth due to temperatures approaching 80 degrees.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Damp, cool weather continued to hamper field conditions. Producers were still reporting they were several weeks behind with spring fieldwork.

Mason: Corn and beans were being planted, and vegetable starts were being set out. Nursery sales were slower than usual, and tomatoes were not selling too well this year.

Pacific: Improving weather during the week provided drier conditions for growers to complete a variety of field activities. Green chop operations continued with improving pasture conditions. Christmas tree and small fruit producers were busy with weed control activities. Oyster growers set early seed oysters in the bay for hardening. Cranberry growers welcomed the warmer conditions but remained worried about late blossom time and overall yields this year.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions remained good for this time of year. The good weather helped some crops catch up on growth, though some crops were still one to two weeks behind schedule. There were no reports of any unusual situations and no reports of crop damage due to adverse weather.

San Juan: Cool spring weather continued. Rain slowed down some operations.

Snohomish/North King: Some areas received heavy rain early in the week. Lots of fieldwork was done during the week, and green chopping was underway. Apples, strawberries and blueberries were in full bloom. Raspberry blossoms were nearly ready to open. Some varieties were already in bloom. Yellow rust was reported on raspberries. High populations of bumble bees have been reported this spring.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report): The weather was cloudy and rainy and temperatures were cool, with highs in the 50s and lows in the 40s.

Thurston: U-Pick vegetable growers continued field cultivation in preparation for planting sweet corn and other warm season vegetable crops. Christmas tree growers were applying insecticides and fungicides on Douglas fir plantations for the control of Douglas fir Needle Midge and the fungus Swiss Needle cast. Livestock producers were busy making haylage. Organic vegetable growers reported brisk sales of radishes, lettuce, and green onions at the Olympia Farmer's Market.

Whatcom: Most of the week was wet, which slowed planting of corn and potatoes. Warmer temperatures on the weekend allowed for some fieldwork and cutting of grass for silage. Strawberries were beginning to bloom.

Central

Douglas/Chelan: Low temperatures were felt throughout the counties. Fruit growers used frost protection measures as freezing temperatures were predicted. However, temperatures held at just above freezing so no damage was reported to crops. The cool weather caused problems for bees pollinating orchards. Warmer temperatures were finally experienced late in the week. Moisture levels in dry cropland and rangeland were still well below normal.

Franklin: Temperatures at the start of the week were below normal, which continued the trend of unseasonably cool weather. Temperatures warmed up a bit by the end of the week, with weekend temperatures in the high 70s and lower 80s. The entire county received rain on Sunday. The first cutting of alfalfa began mid-week at the south end of the county. More acreage was planted to field corn, while asparagus harvest continued throughout the week.

Grant: The first cutting of alfalfa began. Most sweet corn and grain corn were planted. Dryland wheat acres were in fair condition. Dry bean planting will begin soon.

Klickitat: Cooler temperatures and rain started off the week and changed to warmer and dryer by the weekend, when highs reached the 70s and 80s. Lows during the week were generally in the 30s and 40s, but the Goldendale Valley-Centerville area producers reported a low of 26 degrees. Hay growers feared that the weevil population will wreak havoc as temperatures warm up. Many growers were spraying to try and control it. Tillage for summer fallow and late plantings was underway to break up soils beaten

down by recent rains. The quality of earlier spring plantings was excellent in both seedbed condition and emergence. Irrigation began for field crops. Pastures and higher elevation ranges continued to improve with good growing weather. Cattle looked tremendously better. Blueberries were blooming in home gardens, and early varieties of apples were in petal fall.

Klickitat (2nd Report): The weather was warm, and the crops were really beginning to grow. Producers were finished planting, and they began to work on summer fallow. Pastures were turning brown on the Columbia Hills area.

Yakima: Early in the week as nighttime low temperatures approached freezing, some growers had to utilize frost protection measures. As the week progressed, temperatures gradually increased with daytime temperatures approaching 90 degrees on Sunday. Cherry growers began the season with a full and very clean crop set. Hop yards were being strung up with hop vines just beginning to climb up the trellises. Scattered showers left a trace of precipitation in a few locations in the county.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures were generally cooler than normal, varying from 13 degrees below normal to nine degrees above normal. There was 0.02 of an inch of precipitation during the week. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: Warmer, drier weather allowed most farmers to complete spring planting except in the highest elevations near the mountains. Moisture conditions were good in all areas, and the warmer weather at the end of the week allowed crops to grow more rapidly.

Ferry: The weather was cool with some rain, but began warming up by the end of the week. Cattle were all out on grass.

Lincoln: Some rain was received during the week in parts of the county. Temperatures warmed up near the end of the week, which was good for growing crops. There was concern that the warmer weather might be too fast and too extreme.

Lincoln (2nd Report): The recent rains helped both the winter and spring wheat crops. Pastures looked okay for this time of the year.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Another week of rain and frost frustrated farmers trying to get spring crops planted. The area near the Idaho line was still too wet for seeding. The warm weather on the weekend helped with crop growth and should help dry out fields. Most of the final planting dates for crop insurance have been reached in Spokane County.

Stevens: The area received some rain during the week. Warmer temperatures gave crops a much needed boost. Crop and pasture growth was nearly 2-3 weeks behind schedule.

Walla Walla: The first hay went down. Green pea seeding was complete. Dry peas have emerged, and the grain crops looked great. Early rangeland was beginning to dry up, and other pastures were finally starting to grow and look good.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Early in the week, conditions were cold and windy. Between 0.2 and 0.4 inches of rain was received. By Friday, temperatures began to warm up, and the weekend was warm and calm. Winter wheat looked very good overall, and spring crops were beginning to emerge. All crops still had good moisture, and the warm weekend really gave them a boost. The first cutting of alfalfa was late this year due to the cold, wet weather.

Whitman: Weather conditions improved toward the end of the week, but rain and cool conditions were still causing problems on finishing spring work. Rain and wind has been hampering herbicide applications. Most spring seeding was wrapping up.

Weekly Weather Statistics
May 11 - 17, 2009

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	39	73	53	+0	25	+2	1	+1	1.64	+1.15	4	27.21	-3.57	88	120
Hoquiam	40	70	51	-3	17	-8	0	+0	1.26	+0.53	4	52.90	-9.08	85	139
Kelso	37	82	55	+1	44	+14	6	+6	1.04	+0.48	3	33.56	-7.48	82	116
Olympia	35	79	52	-1	25	+4	1	+1	1.23	+0.75	4	40.98	-5.23	89	132
Seattle-Tacoma	40	74	54	-2	31	-2	2	+2	0.87	+0.48	4	30.82	-2.39	93	130
Shelton	36	78	51	-5	25	-12	3	+3	1.38	+0.85	4	55.86	-4.40	93	131
Tacoma WA AP	37	76	53	-3	26	-9	0	+0	0.92	+0.49	4	31.82	-3.79	89	124
Vancouver WA	40	84	57	+3	55	+23	8	+8	0.65	+0.09	4	25.67	-11.11	70	126
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	34	88	54	+0	37	+4	6	+6	0.01	-0.10	1	6.57	-0.93	88	63
Omak AP	28	85	55	+2	39	+9	4	+4	0.15	-0.20	2	7.09	-4.21	63	74
Stampede Pass	30	70	47	+8	21	+21	3	+3	1.53	+0.75	5	70.80	-2.77	96	138
Wenatchee AP	37	86	56	-3	49	-10	13	+6	0.15	+0.08	2	3.67	-3.16	54	50
Yakima AP	30	89	54	-3	38	-7	6	+3	0.02	-0.05	1	5.85	-0.77	88	56
NORTHEAST															
Colville	30	86	54	+0	32	+3	4	+4	0.35	-0.10	4	13.40	-3.48	79	85
Deer Park	27	79	49	-5	13	-16	0	+0	0.62	+0.21	3	15.65	+0.62	104	94
Republic	31	82	53	+4	30	+15	2	+2	0.36	+0.01	2	8.56	-2.82	75	74
Spokane AP	33	78	52	-2	27	+0	3	+3	0.44	+0.13	1	13.20	+0.02	100	99
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	35	86	56	-5	46	-21	8	-3	0.00	-0.13	0	3.33	-2.59	56	55
Moses Lake	36	86	56	-4	48	-19	6	-5	0.15	+0.02	1	4.45	-1.47	75	58
Quincy	34	84	56	-3	46	-11	6	-1	0.00	-0.14	0	8.23	+1.75	127	57
Ritzville	29	75	50	-5	17	-13	0	+0	0.55	+0.34	2	10.15	+0.68	107	73
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	36	91	59	-5	64	-24	17	-7	0.01	-0.13	1	4.78	-0.76	86	50
Pasco	34	90	59	-3	64	-11	12	-4	0.11	-0.03	2	6.34	+0.04	101	66
Pullman	34	79	52	+0	27	+6	4	+4	0.79	+0.44	3	19.22	+1.85	111	102
Walla Walla Rgn	40	86	59	+0	64	+4	13	+5	0.54	+0.19	2	16.15	-0.30	98	85
Whitman Mission	35	80	55	-2	39	-12	2	-3	0.36	+0.08	3	14.52	+3.13	127	91
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	39	78	57	-1	54	+0	7	+0	0.21	-0.07	3	9.28	+0.17	102	72

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2008

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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