



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: May 26, 2009  
Week Ending: May 24, 2009  
CWP WA-CW1809

## Walla Walla County Wheat in Mostly Good Condition First Cutting of Hay Continued Across the State Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.6. Grain growing counties reported winter wheat was heading out as day time temperatures increased. Whitman County reported an unusually high number of producers were not able to plant due to wet conditions. Winter wheat in Walla Walla County continued to look good and early planted peas were in bloom while late planted peas had emerged. Several counties reported very active weed control activities. Franklin County reported field corn planting continued but was winding down and the potato crop looked promising. The first cutting of alfalfa continued across the State. Christmas tree growers were spraying Norway spruce for White Pine Weevil control.

### Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, night time temperatures dipped into the mid 30s at the beginning of the week, but warmed to day time highs of mid to upper 80s. Apple growers were busy with insect cover sprays and chemical fruit thinners. Cherry growers were busy with disease cover sprays as cherries were finally starting to put on some size and hang from their stems. Labor forces were active in thinning peaches and nectarine crops. Hand weeding activities were noted in vegetable crops. Klickitat County reported grape shoot thinning had started. Whatcom County reported rapid growth of raspberries and were preparing for pre-bloom applications of fertilizer. Snohomish County reported raspberry blooms were opening in the warmer areas, and the bumblebee population was good.

### Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 5 percent poor, 45 percent fair, 44 percent good and 6 percent excellent. On the west side, haylage was being put up. On the east side, Walla Walla County reported cattle continued to be moved toward summer pasture and snow remained in higher elevations. Many counties reported improving pasture conditions. Klickitat County reported tall fescue and bluegrass was heading out.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.6
Last Week	5.6

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	5	13	79	3
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	3	19	72	6
Subsoil	9	35	53	3
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	7	26	65	2
Irrigation Water	0	2	95	3
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	1	5	91	3
Hay & Roughage	2	9	79	10

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	100	96	100	100
Spring Wheat Emerged	88	77	88	94
Spring Wheat Headed	NA	NA	NA	3
Winter Wheat Headed	15	11	16	30
Barley Planted	99	88	99	99
Barley Emerged	74	57	87	90
Barley Headed	NA	NA	NA	2
Potatoes Planted	96	95	93	97
Potatoes Emerged	72	39	65	76
Dry Edible Beans Planted	70	69	94	88
Proc. Green Peas Planted	96	95	90	96
Dry Peas Planted	79	70	98	99
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	39	10	18	33
Field Corn Planted	90	67	83	89
Field Corn Emerged	64	30	52	60

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	6	11	28	42	13
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	3	50	30	17
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	1	35	60	4
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	31	54	15
Barley Dryland	0	1	48	48	3
Barley Irrigated	0	0	24	20	56
Potatoes	0	0	34	50	16
Corn	0	5	46	44	5
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	40	60	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/Skamania/Cowlitz/Wahkiakum:** The first cutting of hay was completed.

**Grays Harbor:** Agricultural producers took advantage of an entire week of dry weather to complete field cultivation for vegetable crops. Dairy producers continued to harvest green chop for haylage under nearly ideal conditions. Christmas tree growers continued applying fungicides and insecticides to Douglas fir plantations. Organic vegetable growers continued harvesting lettuce for sale at Farmer's markets in Seattle. Home gardeners continued weeding and mowing.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** Producers were behind with field work. Warmer and drier conditions should be helpful for getting caught up.

**Jefferson:** It has been an unusually sunny and dry spring. Farmers were already using water on crops. There was good winter production in the demonstration dry wheat project being done collaboratively with researchers and farmers.

**Mason:** Warm weather following last week's rain created ideal growing conditions for grass and vegetable/fruit crops. Producers who got crops in the ground early were finally reaping the rewards. Those who could not plant early started planting in earnest. Most had completed tilling and ground preparation. Greenhouse producers saw increased sales of vegetable plants and annual bedding plants over the holiday weekend. The ideal weather had home gardeners out in droves ready to plant their own gardens. Greenhouse crops (tomatoes, basil, peppers and the like) were being planted with the promise of good weather for several days in a row.

**Mason (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Temperatures were unseasonably warm, but nice. There were no cool nights which pushed vegetable garden planting along. Summer seemed to be coming quickly.

**Pierce/South King:** Crops looked very good for the area. No unusual situations were reported. There were no reports of any crop damage due to a weather event.

**Pierce/South King (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Fantastic weather over the past couple of days kept folks busy. Higher soil temperatures combined with a backlog of planting resulted in good acreage planted to warmer season crops.

**San Juan:** The area experienced cool and dryer conditions.

**Snohomish/North King:** Heavy rain received early in the week slowed field work but most fields dried quickly. Planting continued and some haylage was made. Pasture growth was good. Apple blossom was close to completion and blueberries were in full bloom. Raspberry blossoms were open in the warmer parts of the County. Good populations of bumblebees in most areas should improve pollination.

**Thurston:** An entire week with no precipitation resulted in a flurry of activity among agricultural producers who took advantage of the dry weather to catch up on field cultivation. Organic vegetable growers continued planting warm season crops including cucumbers, squash and corn. Blueberry growers were busy mowing cover crops between rows. Christmas tree growers were spraying Norway spruce for White Pine Weevil control. Livestock producers took advantage of nearly ideal conditions to cut forage for haylage. Home gardeners continued harvesting lettuce, green onions and radishes.

**Whatcom:** The dry, warm weather facilitated quicker growth for the raspberries, as the plants were struggling to recover from winter damage and a cold spring. Most of the crops were planted except for the bottom ground fields that were still in the process of drying out.

## Central

**Douglas/Chelan:** The winter wheat crop began to show stress due to recent warm temperatures combined with the lack of winter/spring moisture.

**Franklin:** Temperatures were slightly higher than normal the first half of the week moderating to the later half with no measurable precipitation received. There was a moderate wind Tuesday with light breezes off and on the remainder of the week. Overall it was a good growing degree weather week. Field corn planting continued with a limited number of acres left that will follow initial planted crops. Second cutting hay was going down throughout most of the county, particularly the south half. Normal weed and pest control activities continued.

**Kittitas:** Corn planting was completed and some was coming up. Timothy fields looked good and were still in vegetative growth. Range forage was beginning to catch up. Hopefully the area will receive late spring rains and prolong the growing period and recover yield lost due to the late spring.

**Klickitat:** Agricultural producers were self described as "busy, busy, busy" with a lot of field work underway. The week brought just a couple days of relatively cool weather early on with highs in 50s-60s and overnight lows in the 30s. Very fine, warm temperatures were seen the rest of the week. Daytime highs were in the 70s and overnight lows were in the 40s. Winter grain and hay crops showed great growth and weed control remained a priority. Spring plantings were nearly fully emerged. Tall fescue and bluegrass had headed out. Livestock was in good condition. Orchardists reported a full crop of peaches and nectarines and a very large crop of cherries, especially compared to last year but with some sizing problems. Grapes reported to be of good quantity and

quality. Orchard and vineyard irrigation continued, as did spray applications for weed and powdery mildew control. Peach thinning was nearly completed. Grape shoot thinning had started. Harvest of early cherries was expected to begin in two weeks; normally the crop would be ready now. There were no problems experienced due to weather. Rapid development of wind machine sites in the county changed the look of rangeland across the Columbia Hills, but does not seem to be interfering with cattle or crops. Potatoes were up in home gardens and early lettuce and spring onions were ready for salads.

**Klickitat (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The weather was warm and great for growing crops. The pastures were drying up.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures were generally warmer than normal, varying from 5 degrees below normal to 13 degrees above normal, with no precipitation. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Yakima County experienced a gradual warming period over the past week. Nighttime temperatures dipped into the mid 30s at the beginning of the week, but warmed to daytime highs of mid to upper 80s. No precipitation was reported. Apple growers were busy with insect cover sprays and chemical fruit thinners. Cherry growers were busy with disease cover sprays as cherries were finally starting to put on some size and hang from their stems. Labor forces were active in thinning peaches and nectarine crops. Hand weeding activities were noted in vegetable crops.

## Eastern

**Asotin:** Warm, dry weather provided good growing conditions for winter wheat and spring seeded crops. Pasture conditions improved due to adequate moisture and warm weather.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Dry weather allowed most farmers to complete spring seeding except for a few in the higher elevations. Crops and rangeland were growing well with the warmer dry weather.

**Ferry:** Dry hot weather with winds had dried out the ground in some area which usually had spring intermittent ponds.

**Garfield:** Alternating hot and cool days confused crops and people.

**Lincoln:** The warm weather helped crops catch up to normal maturity after the cold spring. Rain will be needed after the warm trend to replenish topsoil moisture.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** A week of warmer weather made crops grow. The majority of the field work was completed with a few exceptions. Warm weather following the rains made for good growing conditions and pasture growth took off. Apple trees were in full bloom. A lot of the winter wheat was sprayed or being sprayed with some of the early seeded spring wheat almost ready for spraying.

**Stevens (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Warm weather improved crop and pasture growth. Cattle producers continued moving cows and calves to pasture. The wide spread hard frosts received two weeks ago damaged the top four inches of orchard grass and set back growth in many grasses. Growth was at least two weeks behind normal.

**Walla Walla:** The area finally received some heat units. Grain crops looked great. Early green peas were close to blooming. Most late seeded green peas had emerged. First cutting started to pick up steam. Cattle started to move towards summer pastures. There was lots of snow still in the high country.

**Whitman:** Warming weather helped crops develop and grow. Winter wheat was heading in the far west of the county and other areas were finally seeing root development hit nitrogen. The warm temperatures also helped dry out wet spots and bring on emergence of recently planted spring crops.

**Weekly Weather Statistics**  
**May 18 - 24, 2009**

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F TOT	BASE-50F DFN	BASE-60F TOT	BASE-60F DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham Intl	38	68	54	+0	33	+3	0	+0	0.65	+0.16	2	27.86	-3.41	89	122
Hoquiam	38	60	51	-4	11	-19	0	+0	0.37	-0.31	2	53.27	-9.39	85	141
Kelso	39	72	56	+2	48	+10	1	+1	0.35	-0.20	1	33.91	-7.68	82	117
Olympia	37	73	54	+0	32	+3	0	+0	0.42	+0.00	3	41.40	-5.23	89	135
Seattle-Tacoma	45	71	57	+1	51	+9	0	+0	0.57	+0.22	2	31.39	-2.17	94	132
Shelton	33	72	54	-3	32	-13	0	-3	0.14	-0.35	1	56.00	-4.75	92	132
Tacoma WA AP	36	71	54	-3	30	-13	0	+0	0.46	+0.04	2	32.28	-3.75	90	126
Vancouver WA	45	80	61	+6	77	+37	15	+14	0.42	-0.08	1	26.09	-11.19	70	127
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	34	84	60	+4	72	+28	20	+16	0.00	-0.14	0	6.57	-1.07	86	63
Omak AP	35	85	61	+6	80	+41	20	+17	0.00	-0.36	0	7.09	-4.57	61	74
Stampede Pass	36	66	50	+8	21	+21	0	+0	1.17	+0.40	2	71.97	-2.37	97	140
Wenatchee AP	41	85	63	+3	89	+19	34	+20	0.00	-0.12	0	3.67	-3.28	53	50
Yakima AP	35	87	61	+4	81	+24	24	+16	0.00	-0.14	0	5.85	-0.91	87	56
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	35	86	60	+6	71	+33	18	+15	0.06	-0.43	1	13.46	-3.91	77	86
Deer Park	29	79	55	-1	39	+1	0	-2	0.00	-0.35	0	15.65	+0.27	102	94
Republic	37	82	60	+9	73	+51	17	+17	0.04	-0.31	1	8.60	-3.13	73	75
Spokane AP	37	80	58	+4	62	+25	14	+12	0.00	-0.35	0	13.20	-0.33	98	99
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	43	86	65	+4	106	+26	40	+22	0.00	-0.14	0	3.33	-2.73	55	55
Moses Lake	35	86	62	+0	84	+4	23	+5	0.00	-0.14	0	4.45	-1.61	73	58
Quincy	40	87	64	+5	99	+32	38	+25	0.00	-0.14	0	8.23	+1.61	124	57
Ritzville	35	84	59	+4	63	+24	18	+15	0.00	-0.21	0	10.15	+0.47	105	73
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	40	92	65	+1	105	+4	44	+12	0.00	-0.10	0	4.78	-0.86	85	50
Pasco	33	92	62	-1	86	-1	23	-1	0.00	-0.14	0	6.34	-0.10	98	66
Pullman	36	79	56	+3	46	+19	4	+4	0.05	-0.30	1	19.27	+1.55	109	103
Walla Walla Rgn	42	84	63	+3	93	+20	30	+15	0.06	-0.29	1	16.21	-0.59	96	86
Whitman Mission	32	88	62	+3	83	+23	27	+17	0.10	-0.17	1	14.62	+2.96	125	92
<b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b>															
Lewiston ID	40	87	64	+6	102	+36	43	+31	0.13	-0.15	2	9.41	+0.02	100	74

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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