



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

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Washington Crop Weather

Released: June 1, 2009
Week Ending: May 31, 2009
CWP WA-CW2009

Hot Conditions Push Winter Wheat Heading Along as Hay Goes Down and Cherry Production Looks Good Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 7.0. Grain growing counties warmed up very quickly with hot, dry weather. Whitman County reported most operations had finished spring seeding. Reports indicated the hot weather was quickly pushing winter wheat heading along. Walla Walla and Adams Counties reported shallow rooted winter wheat was suffering from heat stress and had a slight bluish tint, a result of lack of moisture. Walla Walla County also reported early planted peas were in bloom. Garfield County reported an infestation of Haanchen Barley Mealy Bug. Irrigated hay acres were being laid down at an accelerating pace due to the heat and dry weather. Christmas tree growers were busy applying insecticides for the control of aphids on Grand and Fraser fir.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, growers experienced a gradual warming trend over the past week starting off with night time lows in the mid-40s and ending with mid-day highs in the mid-90s. No precipitation was reported. The vegetable labor force had been busy weeding young fields. Tree fruit producers removed and stored away orchard heaters for the season. Cherry growers laid down color-up fabrics and in the warmer areas of Yakima County, sweet cherries started to show color. Hops were growing up the trellis and in some yards height was between hip to shoulder high. Chelan County reported tree fruit crops in the northern half of the State were progressing exceptionally well.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 7 percent poor, 48 percent fair, 41 percent good and 4 percent excellent. On the western side, the first cutting of hay was taken and most of it turned into haylage. Wahkiakum County reported most of their cattle herds had been transported back for summer range. On the east side, cattle were still being moved to summer pasture. Pasture conditions were still good at the moment. Shellfish farmers continued late season harvest of oysters and clams, along with seeding operations. Cold water temperatures had delayed natural seed set in local waters.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	7.0
Last Week	6.6

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	5	21	70	4
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	3	19	71	7
Subsoil	8	44	47	1
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	6	24	69	1
Irrigation Water	0	0	97	3
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	3	4	91	2
Hay & Roughage	0	8	78	14

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 Emerged	97	88	96	98
Spring Wheat Headed	1	NA	3	12
Winter Wheat Headed	30	15	40	54
Field Corn Planted	95	90	90	95
Field Corn Emerged	75	64	76	76
Barley Planted	100	99	100	100
Barley Emerged	93	74	94	97
Barley Headed	NA	NA	1	7
Potatoes Planted	98	96	95	98
Potatoes Emerged	88	72	80	87
Dry Edible Beans Planted	95	70	99	94
Proc. Green Peas Planted	99	96	93	97
Dry Peas Planted	96	79	100	100
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	60	39	38	59

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	8	14	34	32	12
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	4	58	19	19
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	5	27	65	3
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	38	43	19
Barley Dryland	0	6	35	57	2
Barley Irrigated	0	0	27	12	61
Potatoes	0	0	45	45	10
Corn	0	5	57	35	3
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	50	50	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

Clark: The weather was beautiful for all farm activities.

Clark/Skamania/Cowlitz/Wahkiakum: There were several reports in the Ridgefield area of oat, raspberry and strawberry crop failure due to excessive moisture. Some berries were taken out due to root rot. Pumpkins were planted and strawberries were two weeks from ripening. Carrots were doing well, and the wheat crop looked great. Processing beans were being planted, and peas had emerged. Some producers took their first cutting of hay, and round bale silage was being made. Manure was hauled onto fields. Many Wahkiakum cattle producers went to eastern Oregon or Washington where they have wintered their herds, and transported them back to Wahkiakum.

Clallam/Jefferson: Producers were spraying crops. Silage and haylage were being harvested. The pastures were greening up.

Grays Harbor: A week of sunny, warm weather provided nearly ideal conditions for livestock producers to harvest hay. Christmas tree growers were applying fungicides and insecticides to Grand fir. U-Pick vegetable farms were planting cucumbers and pumpkins. Peony growers reported many cultivars were in full bloom. Greenhouse tomato growers reported rapid plant growth due to the increased heat units. Home gardeners were setting sprinklers.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Producers reported considerable moisture in the soil, but the warmer, drier weather will help. Many producers harvested the first cutting of grass.

Mason: Unseasonably warm, sunny weather caused producers to scramble to get crops planted. Water scheduling began.

Pacific: Warm spring weather allowed producers to complete a variety of field activities. Shellfish farmers continued late season harvest of oysters and clams, along with seeding operations. Cold water temperatures delayed natural seed set in local waters. Cranberry growers were hopeful that early season delays in bloom time and fruit development would be overcome with warmer temperatures.

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

San Juan: Cool, dry weather prevailed during the week.

Snohomish/North King: The temperatures have been summer-like, with highs averaging 65 degrees and lows in the 50s. Producers have been planting crops and harvesting hay.

Thurston: Summer weather prevailed throughout the week, with temperatures exceeding 80 degrees. Livestock and dairy producers took advantage of the nearly perfect conditions for making conventional hay and haylage. Christmas tree growers were busy applying insecticides for the control of aphids on Grand and Fraser fir. The warm temperatures expedited bud break on Noble fir. Organic vegetable growers were battling weeds and irrigating vegetable crops on lighter soils. Home gardeners reported rapid growth of warm season vegetable crops due to the increased heat units. Turfgrass growers continued mowing and fertilizing.

Whatcom: Another week of warm temperatures and dry weather provided ideal planting and growing conditions. Corn and potato planting was ongoing.

Central

Chelan: The tree fruit crops were progressing exceptionally well, and the warmer temperatures brought their development back to about average. Apple and pear crop prospects were average or better. Cherry and apricot crops appeared to be of greater volume than usual. Hand thinning continued for apples, pears and stone fruits. The peak cherry harvest should be between June 25 and July 15, and cherry harvest labor needs were expected to be higher than usual.

Douglas/Chelan: Warm, dry conditions continued. Livestock producers were reporting poor pasture conditions due to the lack of moisture, and livestock water supplies were already beginning to dry up.

Klickitat: Daytime highs were in the 70s and 80s and overnight lows were in the 40s and 50s. Shallow soils showed signs of stress, but areas of good subsoil were holding up well. Pastures were maturing due to heat but were still in good shape. Livestock were doing fine. Winter wheat was emerging from the boot stage and beginning to head. Spring wheat had a slow start with the cool spring, but was now blooming. A few hay fields were swathed, but most growers were holding off for another week. Some producers were cutting early for weevil control. Irrigators were running sprinklers and drip lines around the clock. Stream flows were strong. Home

gardeners' asparagus was done. Raspberries were starting to bloom, and strawberries were sizing up.

Klickitat (2nd Report): The weather was hot and dry, and crops were doing well. The first cutting of hay began.

Okanogan: The weather was ideal for hay harvest. Fruit has set in the orchards.

Yakima: The county experienced a gradual warming trend over the past week with nighttime lows in the mid-40s and mid-day highs in the mid-90s. There was no precipitation during the week. The vegetable labor force was busy weeding young fields. Tree fruit producers were removing and storing orchard heaters for the season. In the warmer areas of the county, sweet cherries began to show color. Hops were growing up the trellises, and some yards were from hip to shoulder high.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures were warmer than normal, varying from five degrees to 17 degrees above normal. There was 0.08 inch of precipitation during the week. There were no crop losses due to weather conditions reported.

Eastern

Adams: Warm temperatures in the high 80s revealed short subsoil moisture in the dryland areas, as wheat quickly attained a bluish tint of moisture stress on many fields. On the flip side, hay growers had nice drying weather and optimal conditions to put up the first cutting.

Asotin/Garfield: Above normal temperatures and slightly windy conditions began to stress both winter and spring crops. Crops have been behind normal in terms of maturity for this time of year, leaving them vulnerable to hot, dry conditions. Cooler temperatures and additional rain would benefit crops and rangeland.

Ferry: The weather conditions were dry, which affected the growth of dryland alfalfa in many areas.

Garfield: Hot weather with high winds was received in the lower elevations. Haanchen Mealy bug destroyed some barley acres in the Pataha Flat area.

Lincoln: The above average temperatures with no rain set back the winter wheat crop. The wheat was blue in the hard pan spots, and spring crops were also stressed.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: A week of warm, windy weather showed just how poor the root system was on the winter wheat crop. Stress was showing up

already, and the crop could use some rain. Crops were growing quite well with the warm weather. Spring crops looked good.

Stevens: The first cutting of hay was going down for dairies in need of forage. Most producers were going to green chop. Irrigation systems were being turned on by most producers.

Stevens (2nd Report): High temperatures during the week baked away the last of the surface moisture, causing spring crops to show signs of stress. The prolonged cold temperatures this spring set back pasture growth significantly. Hay crops were beginning to put on growth after an extremely slow start. Cattle herds continued to be moved to pastures.

Walla Walla: The temperature increases occurred too quickly. Some shallow areas in grain fields showed stress. Heat units caused crops to grow rapidly. About half of the winter wheat was headed, and some of the early green peas were in bloom. The first cutting of alfalfa was rolling along. Cattle were headed to mountain summer range pastures.

Whitman: Temperatures heated up, putting stress on newly emerged spring crops. Most operations had finished up spring seeding operations.

Weekly Weather Statistics
May 25 - 31, 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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