

# WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

Released: May 29, 2001, 1:00 p.m.  
Published Weekly  
CWP Vol 01 No 12



## Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending May 27, 2001

### WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Extremely warm temperatures stressed spring and winter planted cereals  
Sweet corn planting was in full swing**

### FIELD CROPS

Abnormally hot temperatures and lack of precipitation stressed spring and winter planted cereals. Crops planted on shallow ground were the most vulnerable. Early planted varieties began to head out. Dry peas and garbanzo beans were reported making progress. Dry bean planting continued. Christmas tree growers continued applying both insecticides and fungicides for pest problems.

### LIVESTOCK

Warm temperatures and no precipitation held back range and pasture development. Range and pasture condition was 5% very poor, 26% poor, 37% fair, and 32% good. Timothy and alfalfa hay were growing well amid late summer irrigation concerns. Dairy producers continued to harvest silage.

### FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Warmer than normal temperatures last week helped assist in early fruit development. Cherries started to show color while apple and peach fruit were reported between 15 and 30 mm in size. Raspberry producers reported that an earlier frost may have damaged some budding canes but was too early to tell. Strawberries were blooming with berry set in the early stages. Sweet corn planting was in full swing in the western and central parts of the state. Asparagus harvest continued. Broccoli, cauliflower, and pea planting continued.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
6.9	6.0

Soil Moisture	Soil Moisture and Supply			
	% Acreage			
Soil Type	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	2	18	80	-
Subsoil	5	39	56	-
Irrigation Water	-	15	85	-
Hay and Roughage	-	8	92	-

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

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2000	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Emerged	99	92	99	95
Winter Wheat Headed	34	15	41	31
Barley Planted	100	99	100	98
Barley Emerged	98	87	99	93
Potatoes Emerged	90	67	97	83
Corn Planted	96	89	98	96
Dry Beans Planted	41	15	42	34
Dry Peas Planted	100	98	100	98
Pro. Green Peas Planted	100	95	100	40
Alfalfa, 1 <sup>st</sup> cutting	34	13	37	14

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	-	9	32	46	13
Winter Wheat Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-
Spring Wheat Dryland	4	7	47	36	6
Spring Wheat Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-
Barley Dryland	1	2	45	51	1
Barley Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-
Dry Beans	-	-	-	100	-
Corn	-	-	-	100	-
Potato	-	-	-	100	-

VP=Very Poor, P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good, EX=Excellent

\* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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# COUNTY COMMENTS

## WESTERN

**Grays Harbor:** Nearly ideal conditions, throughout the entire week, resulted in a frenzy of sweet corn planting. If the weather holds, county vegetable producers will have sown 1,700 acres of sweet corn. The primary variety is Golden Jubilee, with minor acreage planted to the Chase variety. Seeding was about 10 days ahead of schedule due to dry planting conditions. Only about 100 acres of cannery peas have been sown to date—with not much more expected. Commercial dahlia growers continued planting tubers. Christmas tree growers continued applying both insecticides and fungicides for pest problems. Direct market vegetable producers planted pumpkins earlier than normal due to warm soil temperatures. Dairy producers harvested silage. Home gardeners were busy planting vegetables and bedding plants. The gardeners also complained about record breaking temperatures early in the week.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis:** Planting was mostly on schedule. Grass silage has been taken off without major weather problems.

**King:** Flower and rhubarb harvest continued. Cool season vegetables, such as spinach and radishes, continued. Transplanting of lettuce and cabbage was progressing. Corn, beans, squash and pumpkin planting was underway. Very wet weather on Memorial Day slowed farming activities.

**Pierce/Thurston:** The weather was very good for the farmers in the South Puget Sound area. One or two days may have been too hot, and some crops may have suffered damage that will become apparent later in the year. No report of weather related crop damage since the last report.

**Skagit:** Planting continued for broccoli, cauliflower, potatoes, and peas. Cucumber planting was in its second week. Weather was dry and warm, which was ideal for field operations. Apple growers were hiring

apple maggot coordinator personnel.

**Snohomish:** A dry week allowed fieldwork to continue. Silage making was underway and green chopping continued. Pastures were growing well. Tree fruit blossom was over, but blueberries, raspberries, and strawberries were still blossoming.

**Thurston:** Record breaking high temperatures, early in the week, quickly dried soils. Turfgrass growers began irrigating fields. There was some concern in the county, that low groundwater levels will significantly reduce hay and forage crop yields in non-irrigated fields. Christmas tree growers reported bowlegged aphids on Grand fir trees. Organic truck farmers reported brisk sales for asparagus, spinach, leeks, and other early season vegetables at the Seattle area Farmer's Markets. Dairy producers continued harvesting green chop and applying liquid manure to forage fields. Blueberry growers reported their crop looked good.

**Whatcom:** Most of this year's silage corn has been planted, though some fields were still being worked. Corn silage fields, that were planted earlier in the month, began to show. Fields that have normally been too wet to plant were being used this year. There were a few wet spots that hindered normal planting. Some producers began taking the second cutting of grass silage, earlier than normal. The weather has been very good for the grass silage and the quality continues to be good. Raspberry producers reported that some frost, earlier this month, may have damaged some of the budding cane. This could effect this year's production, though the extent of damage won't be known until after harvest. Strawberries were blooming and the berries began to set. Harvest could start in 2-3 weeks, if the weather holds. Potato planting continued, with about 60 percent completed.

## CENTRAL

**Benton:** Weed control, irrigation, and cover sprays were major farm activities. Some crops were beginning to show the effects of the water shortage. Asparagus cutting continued.

**Chelan/Douglas:** Fertilizer was available, but the cost was one and one half times the normal price. Dry, windy conditions continued. Temperatures fluctuated from hot to cold. Pasture and range forage losses due to drought were a continuing problem.

**Grant:** Alfalfa hay was going up quickly due to good drying weather and no rain. Sweet corn planting continued.

**Kittitas:** Water shortages will be evident in the KRD, which serves 60,000 acres. Notices of crop losses were being submitted to the county office. Sweet corn planting was underway. The first cutting of alfalfa will begin in 10 days. The first cutting of timothy hay will begin in 3-4 weeks. Pasture and range conditions remained in okay condition. Orchardists continued to care for trees in the normal manner, but were concerned that the lack of irrigation water will create some serious problems.

**Kittitas (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Cattle and sheep were turned onto rangeland leases. Cool temperatures and light precipitation have been good for pastures. Timothy hay and alfalfa hay were growing well, but there was concern about the lack of irrigation water around July.

**Okanogan/Ferry:** Dry, windy conditions continued. Spring pasture conditions were very poor. Some cattle were still being fed hay.

**Yakima:** Temperatures averaged from 2 to 16 degrees above normal. On May 23, .01 inch of rain was received. Crop stress due to the hot weather and lack

of rain were reported on the Roza Irrigation System.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Extremely warm temperatures during the week, encouraged fruit growth and development. The cherry crop was starting to show some color. Apple and peach fruit was between 15 to 30 mm in size.

## **EASTERN**

**Adams:** Hot days and warm nights pushed the wheat crop faster than producers wished, with lighter soils beginning to show signs of stress. Earlier varieties of wheat began to head out, throughout the county. The weather suited alfalfa growers; however, producers were in all stages of putting up the first cutting of hay. Canola bloom peaked.

**Adams (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Hot, dry conditions persisted throughout the week. Winter wheat conditions were mostly fair to good, but cooler temperatures with precipitation are needed to maintain current conditions. Spring wheat and barley conditions continued to remain mostly fair, but cooler temperatures and precipitation are needed.

**Asotin:** Hot, dry weather and temperatures 15-20 degrees above normal stressed grain crops during the past week. Crops on shallow soils suffered the most. Additional rain is needed for proper crop development. Range conditions deteriorated on shallow rangeland soils.

**Lincoln:** The warm weather gave all crops a boost. However, some stress was noted in winter wheat planted on the shallow ground. Spring grain seeding wrapped up in the northern part of the county.

Rangeland pasture was drying up.

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Hot, dry conditions stressed both spring and winter planted cereals. Spring wheat and barley continued to be in fair condition, but cooler temperatures and precipitation are needed. Winter wheat remained primarily in fair to good condition, but cooler temperatures and precipitation are needed.

**Stevens:** Temperatures in the 80's and 90's spurred pasture and hay growth into high gear. Other crops were progressing nicely. Rain showers were received in some parts of the county, over the weekend.

**Walla Walla:** High temperatures had a negative effect on wheat in some of the local areas. The high temperatures have abated somewhat. Some precipitation would be helpful. Peas and garbanzo beans in the foothills were making progress.

**Whitman:** Higher temperatures stressed late planted spring barley in parts of the county, but scattered thunderstorms followed by cooler weather brought relief late in the week. Windy conditions caused delays in field spraying. Grain crops continued to look good, particularly winter wheat.

# WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

May 27, 2001

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	41	77	59	4	61	28	3	3	0.00	-0.49	0	22.32	-9.16	71	124
Everett	45	78	60	5	72	34	10	10	0.00	-0.53	0	20.35	-11.24	64	122
Hoquiam	42	78	57	3	50	17	6	6	0.00	-0.65	0	39.12	-23.81	62	140
Kelso	45	93	63	8	95	54	26	23	0.00	-0.52	0	17.87	-23.93	43	110
Olympia	38	90	62	8	83	51	19	19	0.00	-0.42	0	27.18	-19.63	58	120
Seattle-Tacoma	47	84	64	8	96	50	27	27	0.00	-0.35	0	20.66	-13.05	61	109
Shelton	41	89	62	6	86	38	19	13	0.00	-0.49	0	37.02	-23.94	61	127
Tacoma	41	86	62	6	88	42	23	22	0.00	-0.42	0	22.29	-13.92	62	118
Vancouver	45	94	67	11	118	74	49	45	0.00	-0.49	0	20.68	-16.81	55	122
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	37	95	67	11	122	74	54	47	0.06	-0.08	1	5.91	-1.79	77	62
Omak	35	96	69	13	130	85	62	56	0.02	-0.35	1	4.85	-6.97	41	53
Stampede Pass	38	79	59	16	63	63	15	15	0.00	-0.77	0	47.56	-27.11	64	143
Wenatchee	48	92	72	12	155	80	85	68	0.01	-0.13	1	4.53	-2.48	65	58
Yakima AP	40	98	70	12	141	79	71	60	0.01	-0.13	1	3.68	-3.14	54	52
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	35	95	69	13	134	92	65	59	0.00	-0.46	0	10.31	-7.24	59	66
Deer Park	31	89	63	8	93	51	31	26	0.00	-0.35	0	11.39	-4.14	73	92
Spokane AP	39	90	67	12	122	81	56	51	0.00	-0.35	0	8.87	-4.81	65	81
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	43	97	72	11	157	72	87	64	0.00	-0.14	0	4.24	-1.88	69	57
Moses Lake	38	97	70	8	141	56	73	50	0.00	-0.14	0	5.69	-0.43	93	54
Quincy	44	94	71	11	146	73	76	60	0.01	-0.13	1	4.85	-1.83	73	52
Ritzville	37	95	67	11	116	72	55	49	0.00	-0.21	0	8.56	-1.21	88	69
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	45	101	75	11	179	72	109	71	0.01	-0.06	1	4.86	-0.81	86	52
Pasco	39	101	72	9	153	61	83	55	0.00	-0.14	0	7.08	0.58	109	63
Pullman	33	89	64	10	100	69	39	38	0.00	-0.35	0	11.15	-6.72	62	92
Walla Walla AP	41	95	72	11	154	76	85	67	0.00	-0.35	0	14.02	-2.93	83	83
Whitman Mission	35	96	68	9	126	60	64	51	0.00	-0.24	0	12.01	0.26	102	86
<b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D' A' AP	36	91	63	6	91	40	33	26	0.97	0.48	1	13.97	-7.59	65	84
Lewiston ID	41	96	70	10	140	68	76	60	0.00	-0.31	0	9.91	0.37	104	85

Summary based on NWS data.  
 Season CUMulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2000  
 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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