

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending May 12, 2002

WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Cool Weather Early Last Week Slowed Crop and Forage Growth
Unusually Cold Temperatures Last Week Caused Fruit Damage**

FIELD CROPS

Cool weather across the state early last week brought rain and hail to western Washington and snow to eastern Washington. Precipitation was welcomed for proper cereal grain growth. Potato, sweet corn, and carrot planting was in full swing. Christmas tree growers were busy spraying for Cooly Spruce Gall Adelgids. Turf grass growers continued preparing harvested fields for new turf.

LIVESTOCK

Precipitation improved dry conditions, but cool weather slowed forage growth. Dairy producers were bagging green chop and applied liquid manure to forage fields, weather permitting. First cutting of alfalfa was underway. Range and pasture conditions were 3% very poor, 7% poor, 75% fair and 15% good.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Unusually low temperatures for mid-May caused apple and pear damage in central Washington. Asparagus harvest continued. Daffodil and tulip harvest was finishing up. Nurseries reported active sales for Mother's day weekend.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
5.9	6.1

Soil Moisture and Supply				
Soil Type	% Acreage			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	15	84	1
Subsoil	0	19	80	1
Irrigation Water	0	0	100	0
Hay and Roughage	5	40	55	0

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

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2001	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	94	90	98	97
Spring Wheat Emerged	71	65	81	84
Winter Wheat Headed	5	3	6	4
Barley Planted	96	80	92	94
Barley Emerged	76	55	67	77
Potatoes Planted	100	70	98	96
Potatoes Emerged	41	28	50	53
Corn Planted	60	36	63	75
Corn Emerged	5	0	15	12
Dry Peas Planted	76	50	77	85
Dry Edible Beans	17	15	4	4
Proc. Green Peas	58	48	83	57
Alfalfa Hay 1 st Cutting	-	4	-	-

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	9	31	47	12
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	95	5
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	0	68	32	0
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	95	5
Barley Dryland	0	0	72	28	0
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	93	7

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: Frosty conditions reached record breaking low temperatures, which quickly dried soils to nearly ideal conditions for cultivation. Christmas tree growers continued to monitor midge traps. Dairymen were busy harvesting forage fields. Daffodil and tulip flower harvest was nearly completed with only a few late varieties still in bloom. Retail nurserymen reported excellent sales for the Mother's Day weekend.

Jefferson/Clallam: The beginning of the week started with very cold weather, including hail in many areas. Cold and wet weather delayed fieldwork and planting of many crops. There were no reports of damage or prevented planting.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions were poor last week. The temperatures were on the cool side with below normal temperatures at all reported stations. The weather has been a mix of a few dry days followed by very wet days. It hailed in some parts of South Puget Sound. We have received one report of crop damage to radishes and kale.

Snohomish/North King: Temperatures were below normal the first few days of the week. Monday was very unusual with morning snow and hail for a few hours followed by sun then rain. Overnight temperatures were below normal with morning frost the remainder of the week. The weekend was sunny, with temperatures warmer than normal. Fieldwork was being completed but still behind schedule. Pastures were growing rapidly. There were no reports of damage from the weeks weather events.

Thurston: Record breaking low temperatures occurred mid-week. Commercial nurserymen reported temperatures dipped to 27 degrees on Monday and Tuesday night. Fortunately, frost protection was in place to minimize damage. Christmas tree growers were spraying for Cooley Spruce Gall Adelgids and midge on Douglas fir plantations. Retail nurserymen reported strong sales of ornamentals for the Mother's Day weekend. Dairymen continued to harvest "green chop". Direct market vegetable growers were doing field cultivation under nearly ideal conditions. Turf grass growers continued cultivating harvested fields.

CENTRAL

Douglas/Chelan: Low temperatures continued. Damage was reported to area fruit crops. Estimated cherry loss was at 35 percent. Apples and pear losses were at approximately 20 percent. Some moisture was received during the past week. Precipitation to date for the winter wheat crop in Douglas County is just over 6 inches. Pasture conditions were average; however, water for livestock was short due to last year's drought.

Franklin: Temperatures were warmer. Asparagus harvest continued with the first cutting of alfalfa. Most of the potato crop emerged. Carrot planting was nearly complete. Some carrot fields were replanted earlier due to wind damage. Sweet corn planting continued.

Kittitas: Sweet corn and potato planting began.

There were reports of fruit damage due to frost. Range and pasture conditions improved with recent rains.

Okanogan/Ferry: Cold evenings and mornings and excessive winds continued. Pasture conditions were average, with enough water for livestock at this time. With the continued drought, water sources may get low or completely dry up. Fruit growers will know more later on how much damage was sustained from the recent freezes.

Yakima: Average temperatures ranged from 11 degrees below normal to 1 degree above normal, with low temperatures of 26 degrees on May 8. Limited reports of frost damage to fruit and vegetable crops have been received.

EASTERN

Adams: Cold weather continued to slow growth and development of crops. Spring cereals remained in fair condition and winter wheat remained in mostly

fair condition. Precipitation last week was enough to maintain current moisture levels.

Garfield/Asotin: Snow and cold temperatures early last week halted fieldwork for a short time. The snow provided very little moisture for crop use. By the weekend the temperatures were above 70 degrees. Crops were in good condition throughout the area, but rain is needed in many areas for continued crop development. Rangeland in the lower elevations appeared to be drying up earlier than normal due to lack of moisture and cold spring temperatures.

Lincoln: A snowstorm last week provided enough moisture to maintain current levels in both the surface and subsoil. Freezing conditions continued to slow growth and development of both winter and spring cereals.

Stevens: Pasture and range conditions were currently in very poor condition. The last crop weather report indicated that Colville moisture was 3.64 inches behind normal. The lack of rainfall, combined with many nights below freezing, have limited forage

growth to nearly a standstill. The forage situation this spring appeared to be similar to last year's disastrous conditions.

Walla Walla: The weather conditions were extremely cold earlier in the week. Snow, hail, and rain was received on May 7. Later in the week temperatures warmed up but were still very cool in the evenings. Crops are in very good condition at this point. Asparagus harvest was slow due to cold conditions.

Whitman: Late season snow hit the county with minimal accumulations. Spring seeding operations were wrapping up. Winter wheat and spring crops looked generally good; however, moisture was needed in the western part of the county and warmer temperatures were needed countywide to bring growth along. Hay and pasture growth have been limited due to cool spring temperatures.

WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS
May 13, 2002

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		
WEST															
Bellingham	33	74	47	-6	8	-12	0	0	0.06	-0.48	1	29.66	-0.67	98	134
Everett	34	77	49	-5	14	-9	1	1	0.35	-0.21	2	28.84	-1.48	95	141
Hoquiam	30	75	47	-7	9	-12	0	0	0.07	-0.70	2	60.51	-0.71	99	152
Kelso	32	82	50	-4	19	-8	3	3	0.29	-0.28	2	38.26	-2.22	95	135
Olympia	26	80	47	-6	10	-7	0	0	0.15	-0.36	2	55.13	9.46	121	145
Seattle-Tacoma	35	78	50	-4	17	-11	2	2	0.09	-0.33	1	34.99	2.18	107	127
Shelton	28	80	47	-7	13	-19	0	0	0.06	-0.52	2	67.28	7.67	113	142
Tacoma	32	79	48	-7	13	-17	0	0	0.00	-0.48	0	27.16	-8.01	77	107
Vancouver	33	83	50	-4	18	-10	3	3	0.07	-0.49	2	34.09	-2.14	94	132
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	25	73	47	-7	15	-12	0	0	0.02	-0.06	2	6.14	-1.24	83	70
Omak	23	77	49	-4	17	-7	0	0	0.09	-0.26	1	7.87	-3.15	71	60
Stampede Pass	23	59	36	-4	1	1	0	0	0.06	-0.77	2	69.80	-2.86	96	139
Wenatchee	33	75	52	-6	26	-25	1	-6	0.00	-0.12	0	4.73	-2.03	70	50
Yakima AP	26	77	48	-7	11	-28	0	0	0.00	-0.07	0	5.51	-1.04	84	50
NORTHEAST															
Colville	25	77	47	-6	10	-13	0	0	0.30	-0.12	1	12.74	-3.76	77	70
Deer Park	21	70	42	-11	1	-22	0	0	0.24	-0.12	3	18.73	4.04	128	103
Spokane AP	24	72	44	-9	7	-15	0	0	0.16	-0.12	2	11.40	-1.51	88	92
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	28	78	51	-8	27	-31	0	-7	0.00	-0.08	0	4.64	-1.16	80	50
Moses Lake	27	78	50	-9	16	-42	0	-7	0.03	-0.05	2	4.72	-1.08	81	55
Quincy	31	75	49	-8	13	-36	0	-5	0.00	-0.12	0	5.57	-0.78	88	50
Ritzville	26	69	43	-11	4	-20	0	0	0.14	-0.07	2	8.67	-0.61	93	66
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	33	77	52	-10	25	-55	0	-18	0.00	-0.09	0	4.85	-0.58	89	44
Pasco	29	82	51	-9	22	-45	0	-12	0.01	-0.13	1	4.12	-2.07	67	45
Pullman	28	71	43	-9	3	-13	0	0	0.32	-0.03	3	15.36	-1.70	90	95
Walla Walla AP	32	78	50	-8	19	-34	1	-6	0.24	-0.11	2	12.31	-3.85	76	88
Whitman Mission	30	72	48	-8	6	-38	0	0	0.11	-0.17	2	10.21	-0.95	91	80
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A'AP	25	66	42	-12	0	-29	0	0	0.79	0.36	3	16.15	-4.28	79	100
Lewiston ID	34	70	49	-9	10	-37	0	-4	0.12	-0.16	3	8.07	-0.83	91	82

Summary based on NWS data.
 Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2001
 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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