

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending May 19, 2002

WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Germination Slow for Spring Seeded Crops; Forage Production Two Weeks Behind Normal
Rain and Warm Weather Required in Eastern Washington to Help Crops**

FIELD CROPS

Cool weather continued to have an impact on crops. Germination was slow for spring seeded crops and forage production was two weeks behind normal. Warm days and nights, along with precipitation, are needed to bring crops and forage along. Growers took advantage of several warm, sunny days in the west to make applications of fungicides and insecticides. Generally across the state, there were no reports of crop damage or unusual situations. Benton County had a few reports of crop damage.

LIVESTOCK

In western Washington, livestock producers were rotating pastures to take advantage of rapid forage growth. Dairywomen continued to apply liquid manure to forage fields. Lack of moisture and continued cold nights had pasture and hay growth behind normal by about two weeks in eastern Washington. Range and pasture conditions were 5% very poor, 12% poor, 60% fair and 23% good.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Daffodil and tulip growers were plowing under green manure crops in fields to be planted this September. Commercial blueberry growers continued to report extensive damage to plantations as a result of deer grazing. Farmers were busy planting corn, pumpkins, and other vegetables. Organic truck gardeners continued planting warm season vegetable crops.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
6.5	5.9

Soil Moisture and Supply				
Soil Type	% Acreage			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	21	79	0
Subsoil	0	20	79	1
Irrigation Water	0	0	100	0
Hay and Roughage	8	32	60	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	97	94	100	100
Spring Wheat Emerged	91	71	91	92
Spring Wheat Headed	5	0	0	0
Winter Wheat Headed	6	5	14	13
Barley Planted	99	96	98	98
Barley Emerged	92	76	85	89
Potatoes Emerged	67	41	65	65
Corn Planted	70	60	86	88
Corn Emerged	10	5	26	23
Dry Peas Planted	86	76	96	96
Dry Edible Beans	30	17	14	13
Proc. Green Peas	68	58	94	59
Alfalfa Hay 1 st Cutting	17	6	12	6

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	11	32	46	9
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	3	93	4
Spring Wheat Dryland	1	5	66	28	0
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	4	90	6
Barley Dryland	0	0	66	34	0
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	91	9
Potatoes	0	0	4	96	0

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

* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and

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COUNTY COMMENTS

WESTERN

Grays Harbor: A plush carpet of brown soil was rolled across valley floors throughout the county, as ag producers cultivated fields in preparation for nearly 3,000 acres of corn. The deep tones of brown were augmented by multiple shades of chartreuse from recently harvested forage fields to create a spectacular tapestry of spring color throughout the rural landscape. Christmas tree growers were applying both fungicides and insecticides. Daffodil and tulip growers were plowing under green manure crops in fields to be planted this September. Livestock producers were rotating pastures to take advantage of rapid forage growth. Commercial raspberry growers were applying herbicides to control a proliferation of primocanes. Commercial blueberry growers continued to report extensive damage to plantations as a result of deer grazing. Home gardeners continued to plant warm season vegetable crops in response to record breaking 80 degree F. temperatures over the weekend.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: Cool weather continued to have an impact on crops. Germination was slow for spring seeded crops and forage production was two weeks behind normal.

Jefferson/Clallam: Mild spring weather was enjoyed most of the week. Farmers were busy catching up on fieldwork. Spring crop planting was well underway but a few weeks behind normal. There were no

reports of crop damage or prevented planting.

Pierce/South King: The weather remained on the cool side. Row crops were still about two weeks behind normal. There were no reports of crop damage or unusual situations.

Snohomish/North King: Daytime temperatures were normal to colder than average for May. The higher elevations received morning frost several days during the week. Fieldwork was complete for some spring crops but was still 2-3 weeks behind normal. Farmers were busy planting corn, pumpkins, and other vegetables. Nurseries were very busy with their spring business at it's peak.

Thurston: Turfgrass farms were a beehive of activity, as fields were being fertilized, mowed and harvested. In addition, field cultivation continued on recently harvested fields in preparation for seeding. Christmas tree growers reported prolific infestations of Cooley Spruce Gall Adelgids on Douglas fir. Most growers took advantage of several warm, sunny days to make applications of fungicides and insecticides. Dairymen continued applying liquid manure to forage fields. Organic truck gardeners continued planting warm season vegetable crops.

CENTRAL

Benton: The cold weather continued to impact the development of crops. The very dry and cold temperatures hit the dry land and pasture crops. There was limited precipitation, but more was needed. There were reports of crop damage.

Douglas/Chelan: Some growers reported extremely dry conditions in their winter wheat fields, due to last year's drought, and lack of significant precipitation through the winter and spring. Other wheat looked good at this point in the growing season. Cattle producers were still concerned about the possibility of the lack of livestock water later this summer or fall.

Grant: Dry bean planting continued.

Franklin: There were periods of rain and wind during the week. Temperatures were mild. Asparagus harvest went slowly. The first cutting of alfalfa continued.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 6 degrees below normal to 6 degrees above normal, with .5 of an inch of rain. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

EASTERN

Adams: Conditions were unchanged from the previous week. Winter wheat continued to be in fair to good condition, and spring planted cereals were in fair condition.

Adams (2nd Report): The week was capped by some rain and a nice light snow on Sunday night. Another light rain was received Friday morning, which along with fair temperatures, kept crops progressing well and without undue stress. Winter wheat began to head in the earliest areas of the county.

Asotin/Garfield: Dry weather persisted over the area. Winter wheat began to show signs of stress in the lower elevations, especially on shallow soils. Rain was needed soon in most areas for proper crop development. Rangeland conditions continued to decline due to dry conditions.

Lincoln: Conditions remained unchanged from the previous week. Winter wheat remained in mostly fair to good condition. Spring cereals were emerged and in fair condition.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Both counties were dry. Lack of moisture and the continued cold nights had

pasture and hay growth behind normal by about two weeks. Freezing temperatures in past weeks showed damage that was done by the cold weather. The majority of the small grain planting was done. There is a need for rain and warm weather to get the crops growing.

Whitman: Crop and pasture conditions were generally fair to good across the county. Western portions of the county continued to be dry at the topsoil level, as spring rains for the past couple of months, have lagged behind monthly averages. However, pastures have shown improvements in the growth rate over the past week due to warmer conditions.

Whitman (2nd Report): Spring seeding operations were all but complete for wheat and barley. Temperatures were beginning to warm assisting in development of crops, hay, and pasture. Precipitation in the western part of the county was needed. Warm days and nights are needed to bring crops and forage along.

WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS
May 20, 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	35	63	50	-4	6	-19	0	0	1.04	0.55	5	30.70	-0.12	100	139	
Everett	41	65	51	-4	11	-19	0	0	0.29	-0.27	4	29.13	-1.75	94	145	
Hoquiam	36	63	49	-5	1	-26	0	0	0.54	-0.17	3	61.05	-0.88	99	155	
Kelso	36	70	54	-1	29	-3	0	0	0.43	-0.13	4	38.69	-2.35	94	139	
Olympia	33	69	52	-2	14	-9	0	0	0.54	0.08	3	55.67	9.54	121	148	
Seattle-Tacoma	42	66	53	-3	20	-16	0	0	0.33	-0.04	5	35.32	2.14	106	132	
Shelton	33	68	51	-5	12	-27	0	0	0.38	-0.13	4	67.66	7.54	113	146	
Tacoma	36	70	52	-4	16	-21	0	0	0.51	0.09	4	27.67	-7.92	78	111	
Vancouver	36	71	54	-2	31	-3	0	0	0.40	-0.15	4	34.49	-2.29	94	136	
CENTRAL																
Ellensburg	32	70	54	-2	30	-7	0	0	0.08	-0.05	4	6.22	-1.29	83	74	
Omak	34	79	58	4	54	22	6	6	0.03	-0.32	1	7.90	-3.47	69	61	
Stampede Pass	30	57	43	2	0	0	0	0	0.73	-0.04	5	70.53	-2.90	96	144	
Wenatchee	40	73	58	-2	58	-4	7	-2	0.01	-0.06	1	4.74	-2.09	69	51	
Yakima AP	32	72	56	-2	46	-2	5	0	0.03	-0.06	3	5.54	-1.10	83	53	
NORTHEAST																
Colville	33	81	56	2	42	11	2	2	0.31	-0.16	2	13.05	-3.92	77	72	
Deer Park	28	76	53	-2	27	-4	2	2	0.40	0.00	3	19.13	4.04	127	106	
Spokane AP	34	77	54	1	36	6	3	3	0.12	-0.21	3	11.52	-1.72	87	95	
EAST CENTRAL																
Ephrata	38	78	59	-2	67	-4	11	-2	0.04	-0.10	2	4.68	-1.26	79	52	
Moses Lake	34	79	58	-2	61	-10	10	-3	0.03	-0.11	1	4.75	-1.19	80	56	
Quincy	35	74	58	-1	56	-4	5	-3	0.11	-0.03	2	5.68	-0.81	88	52	
Ritzville	34	75	54	0	30	-2	0	0	0.08	-0.13	2	8.75	-0.74	92	68	
SOUTHEAST																
Hanford	35	77	60	-4	72	-20	12	-14	0.00	-0.14	0	4.85	-0.72	87	44	
Pasco	35	80	60	-3	69	-10	10	-8	0.07	-0.07	3	4.19	-2.14	66	48	
Pullman	33	76	54	2	35	13	4	4	0.06	-0.29	1	15.42	-1.99	89	96	
Walla Walla AP	41	76	58	-2	59	-5	3	-7	0.08	-0.27	3	12.39	-4.12	75	91	
Whitman Mission	35	81	57	-1	49	-4	1	-6	0.19	-0.09	3	10.40	-1.04	91	83	
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE																
Coeur D'A'AP	30	79	53	-3	28	-10	0	0	0.14	-0.35	2	16.29	-4.63	78	102	
Lewiston ID	41	78	59	2	69	11	12	5	0.02	-0.26	1	8.09	-1.09	88	83	

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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