

# WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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## Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending June 2, 2002

### WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Crops Showed More Signs of Stress Due to Lack of Moisture  
Vegetable Seed Germination Conditions Ideal Due to Early Week Rainfall in West**

### FIELD CROPS

Warm, sunny days for most of the week allowed fieldwork to progress at a rapid pace in the western portion of the state. In Grays Harbor, hybrid poplars continued to produce prolific growth in response to extended daylight. In central and eastern Washington, dry, windy conditions continued to persist and crops showed more signs of stress due to a lack of moisture. In Whitman County, winter and spring crops looked very good, but were in need of precipitation in the west. There were no reports of any crop damage due to weather conditions in the state.

### LIVESTOCK

In the western part of the state, livestock owners continued rotating pastures to take advantage of highly productive forage crops. Spring grass harvest neared completion and dairymen continued liquid manure applications on harvested forage fields. On the eastern side of the state, rangeland continued to suffer due to limited precipitation. Range and pasture conditions were 1% very poor, 10% poor, 68% fair, 20% good and 1% excellent.

### FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Vegetable crops were being planted two to three weeks behind schedule. Direct-market farm owners continued planting warm season vegetable crops, including squash, pumpkins, cucumbers and corn. Rainfall early in the week provided nearly ideal conditions for vegetable seed germination. Frost damage to apple and pear trees became more evident, with reports received indicating 50-75 percent loss. Retail nurserymen continued to report strong bedding plant sales.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
6.4	6.4

Soil Moisture and Supply				
Soil Type	% Acreage			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	2	21	77	0
Subsoil	0	24	76	0
Irrigation Water	0	0	100	0
Hay and Roughage	14	28	58	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 Emerged	99	95	100	99
Spring Wheat Headed	16	6	9	7
Winter Wheat Headed	28	25	41	52
Barley Emerged	99	97	100	99
Barley Headed	29	0	NA	NA
Potatoes Emerged	96	70	93	92
Corn Planted	93	80	98	98
Corn Emerged	40	12	50	57
Dry Edible Beans Planted	46	39	59	55
Proc. Green Peas Planted	100	90	100	NA
Alfalfa Hay 1 <sup>st</sup> Cutting	50	30	49	33

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	11	35	42	10
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	1	93	6
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	5	67	24	4
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	1	93	6
Barley Dryland	0	1	66	30	3
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	91	9
Potatoes	0	0	8	88	4
Corn	0	0	5	65	30

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

**Clallam/Jefferson:** The first cutting of alfalfa hay was complete for most farms in the county. Corn planting was 2-3 weeks late due to cold, wet spring weather. Vegetable crops were being planted 2-3 weeks behind schedule also. There were no reports of prevented planting or crop loss.

**Grays Harbor:** "It's a jungle out there" provides an accurate description of hybrid poplar plantations throughout Grays Harbor County, as the wood fiber yielding trees continued to produce prolific growth in response to extended daylight. Ag producers rejoiced over copious rainfall early in the week, which provided nearly ideal conditions for vegetable seed germination. Eight-five percent of the corn acreage under contract by National Frozen Foods was seeded, with the remainder scheduled for completion early this week. Livestock owners continued rotating pastures to take advantage of highly productive forage crops. Christmas tree growers made fungicide and insecticide applications on Grand fir and started tying bird perches in Noble fir plantation to preserve new leader growth. Commercial blueberry growers cultivated new plantations to suppress Canada thistle infestations. Direct-market farm owners continued planting warm season vegetable crops, including squash, pumpkins, cucumbers, and corn. Greenhouse tomato growers reported rapid plant growth due to warmer temperatures. Dairywomen continued seeding corn for silage.

**Pierce/South King:** There were no unusual weather conditions to report. The week was very good for crops. There were no reports of any crop damage due to weather conditions.

**Snohomish/North King:** Warm, sunny days for most of the week allowed fieldwork to progress at a rapid pace. Spring grass harvest was nearly complete and dairies were spreading manure on fields. Recently planted corn was slow to show growth. Farmers were busy completing vegetable planting. Farmer's Markets opened for the season in many areas. Snohomish County reported a loss on their strawberry crop.

**Thurston:** Heavy rainfall early in the week allowed turfgrass growers to irrigate, at least temporarily. Christmas tree growers continued with fungicide and insecticide applications. Blueberry growers reported good pollination activity, with the addition of bee hives in berry plantations. Dairywomen continued liquid manure applications on harvested forage fields. Ideal growing conditions allowed for the harvest of the second crop of forage for the season on previously harvested fields. Organic vegetable producers continued to plant warm season crops and battle weeds. Commercial strawberry growers were predicting a mid-June harvest. Retail nurserymen continued to report strong bedding plant sales.

## CENTRAL

**Benton:** The dry, windy conditions continued to persist. Some rain was received during the week. The winter wheat continued to show stress, especially in the lower elevations of the county.

**Douglas/Chelan:** Temperatures began to warm up. Lack of moisture continued to be a concern for some dryland winter wheat producers.

**Franklin:** The weather was generally warm and sunny. Asparagus harvest continued as did the first cutting of alfalfa. Most potatoes have emerged. Carrot planting was complete. Dry bean and sweet corn planting continued.

**Grant:** Dry beans, lima beans, and sweet corn planting continued.

**Kittitas:** Sweet corn and potato planting continued. The first cutting of alfalfa began. Frost damage to apple and pear trees became more evident, with reports received indicating 50-75 percent loss. Range and pasture conditions were good. Irrigation water supply will be adequate for the 2002 crop year.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures ranged from 7 degrees above normal, with .13 inches of precipitation. There were no new crop losses reported due to weather conditions.

## EASTERN

**Adams:** Crops remained in fair to good condition. Measurable precipitation is needed to enhance crop conditions.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Crops showed more signs of stress due to lack of moisture. Thankfully, the weather has not become too hot yet. Rain is needed soon as winter wheat begins to head. Rangeland continued to suffer due to lack of precipitation.

**Lincoln:** Crops need more precipitation, but they remained in mostly fair to good condition.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** Warm weather and previous rain improved crop conditions. The warm weather helped get the grass and hay growing, as well as the pasture. Some spring grains were sprayed, so crops were progressing a little behind normal. Winter wheat was starting to head out in Spokane County. Livestock producers in Pend Oreille County were finally able to turn out livestock onto summer pastures. Additional rain is needed to help the new seedings of perennial grass and alfalfa hay continue

to get established.

**Stevens:** Recent rains and warm temperatures improved pastures and hay crop conditions. Grain crops were in good shape at this time.

**Walla Walla:** Rain is still needed in some areas more than others. Pea fields suffered from aphids and many fields were hammered by pea leaf roll virus. Depending on the variety, symptoms ranged from none to severe.

**Whitman:** Rainfall and warmer conditions benefitted most of the county. Crop and grazing conditions were improved.

**Whitman (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Warmer temperatures and passing showers aided in crop development. Winter wheat was beginning to head on lighter soils. Winter and spring crops looked very good, but the western part of the county was still in need of additional precipitation.

**WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS**

June 3, 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			
<b>WEST</b>																
Bellingham	42	71	58	3	60	19	3	0	0.12	-0.37	3	31.27	-0.53	98	146	
Everett	47	68	57	1	53	7	0	-5	0.04	-0.47	3	29.37	-2.56	92	152	
Hoquiam	46	63	55	0	38	1	0	0	0.75	0.13	3	62.13	-1.08	98	162	
Kelso	43	70	59	3	66	17	5	-2	0.69	0.14	3	39.58	-2.54	94	144	
Olympia	39	71	57	2	51	12	0	-1	0.81	0.39	3	56.75	9.78	121	155	
Seattle-Tacoma	47	69	58	1	59	5	0	-6	0.31	-0.05	2	35.98	2.09	106	138	
Shelton	43	71	57	-2	48	-7	0	-8	0.37	-0.10	3	68.14	7.06	112	151	
Tacoma	43	70	58	0	59	5	1	-6	0.50	0.08	2	28.44	-7.99	78	117	
Vancouver	43	74	61	4	79	26	15	8	0.65	0.16	3	35.46	-2.30	94	142	
<b>CENTRAL</b>																
Ellensburg	43	75	61	3	77	18	10	-1	0.12	-0.02	3	6.74	-1.05	87	80	
Omak	44	81	63	7	96	43	26	16	0.17	-0.18	1	8.51	-3.58	70	67	
Stampede Pass	38	59	48	5	3	-2	0	0	0.41	-0.35	2	72.03	-2.93	96	150	
Wenatchee	51	80	65	4	108	21	38	13	0.07	-0.07	2	4.94	-2.17	69	56	
Yakima AP	42	80	63	4	94	21	24	7	0.14	0.00	2	6.20	-0.72	90	56	
<b>NORTHEAST</b>																
Colville	44	82	64	7	98	46	28	18	0.29	-0.13	1	14.18	-3.68	79	77	
Deer Park	42	74	59	3	65	13	6	-2	0.31	-0.04	3	19.86	4.07	126	113	
Spokane AP	46	76	61	5	81	28	12	3	0.11	-0.24	3	12.15	-1.79	87	103	
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>																
Ephrata	48	81	66	2	112	15	42	10	0.13	-0.01	2	4.88	-1.34	78	57	
Moses Lake	49	80	65	2	107	10	37	5	0.14	0.00	1	4.92	-1.30	79	58	
Quincy	49	80	65	3	103	20	33	9	0.09	-0.05	2	5.78	-0.99	85	55	
Ritzville	40	79	60	2	71	16	8	-2	0.10	-0.09	1	9.05	-0.84	92	71	
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>																
Hanford	50	83	67	0	119	1	49	1	0.00	-0.08	0	4.85	-0.88	85	44	
Pasco	45	83	67	2	119	15	49	11	0.19	0.05	2	4.42	-2.19	67	51	
Pullman	43	74	59	4	64	24	6	-1	0.54	0.18	3	16.10	-2.02	89	102	
Walla Walla	52	82	66	4	110	21	40	13	0.58	0.25	2	13.38	-3.81	78	95	
Whitman Mission	46	84	65	5	108	31	38	18	0.62	0.41	2	11.31	-0.59	95	89	
<b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b>																
Coeur D'A'AP	46	75	61	2	76	16	11	0	0.45	-0.04	2	17.89	-4.01	82	109	
Lewiston ID	48	82	65	4	109	25	44	20	0.37	0.02	4	8.56	-1.27	87	91	

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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