



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507
(360) 902-1940 Fax (360) 902-2091

Washington Crop Weather

Released: May 19, 2003, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: May 18, 2003
CWP WA-CW2003

Wind, Hail, and Cold Temperatures Reported Across State Stripe Rust Continued to be Monitored in Palouse

Field Crops

Palouse growers continued to monitor closely for stripe rust in susceptible grains. In Adams County, stripe rust was widely reported in winter and spring cereals and limited improving crop conditions. Warmer temperatures are also needed to further improve crop conditions. Potatoes were emerging in the central basin. Western Washington experienced heavy rain, hail, and cold temperatures later in the week. Christmas tree growers monitored Midge and Swiss Needle Cast.

Livestock

Dairy producers in western Washington continued harvesting green chop and applying manure to harvested fields. Most spring pasture conditions were good due to the spring rains. Livestock producers in Douglas and Chelan Counties reported water shortages in streams and lakes. Range and pasture conditions were 1% poor, 51% fair, 46% good, and 2% excellent.

Fruits and Vegetables

Apple trees and strawberries were in blossom around Snohomish and northern King Counties. Sweet corn was being planted in Grays Harbor County and also in Franklin County. Greenhouse tomato growers in Grays Harbor reported early fruit set on vines. Conditions around the Yakima Valley remained too cold for ideal crop development and frost protection was still required. The Douglas and Chelan County cherry crops were expected to be average in the lower elevations and above average in the higher elevations. Pear crop in the region also appeared above average. In Benton County, first cover sprays were being applied on tree fruit and hops were being strung. Asparagus harvest continued.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.3
Last Week	6.4

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	8	79	13
Subsoil	0	9	88	3
Irrigation Water	0	0	100	0
Hay & Roughage	0	9	91	0

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

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2002	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	99	98	97	99
Spring Wheat Emerged	90	84	88	92
Winter Wheat Headed	12	5	6	11
Barley Planted	99	98	99	99
Barley Emerged	93	85	90	90
Potatoes Planted	99	99	100	100
Potatoes Emerged	62	48	63	65
Corn Planted	87	75	69	82
Corn Emerged	40	27	9	24
Dry Edible Beans Planted	49	45	28	16
Proc. Green Peas Planted	97	97	67	52
Dry Peas Planted	98	97	85	94
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	22	13	15	9

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	7	20	51	20
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	2	82	16
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	0	40	39	21
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	100	0
Barley Dryland	0	0	32	39	29
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	100	0
Potatoes	0	0	8	59	33
Corn	0	0	1	99	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	4	44	52

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.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clallam: Snow pack was about 70 percent of normal, and therefore an irrigation water shortage is expected. However, water may be leased from DOE, which should help overcome the shortage of irrigation water.

Grays Harbor: Ag producers continued field cultivation and planting sweet corn until rainfall in the middle of the week prevented field activity. Greenhouse tomato growers reported early fruit set on vines. Dairy producers continued harvesting green chop. Christmas tree growers continued monitoring Midge in Douglas fir plantations.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: Farmers were gradually getting fields tilled. Some planting occurred between rain showers. The outlook is for warmer, drier weather so spring planting can be pursued in earnest next week. Cool, showery weather put a damper on forage production.

Jefferson: The weather was very dry and sunny. Limited tilling occurred.

Pierce/S. King: The weather was not good to crop growers. It has been cold! There were reports of hail, strong winds, frost and heavy rain. Reports of damage are expected from field crops and vegetable growers.

Skagit: The weather was mostly mild. Mid-week, Skagit County experienced rainstorms with some hail. No crop damage was reported. Most of the spring planting was completed.

Snohomish/N. King: Mostly good weather with some heavy rain was received on Saturday, May 17. There was also some snow in the foothills. Some lightning damage was sustained. Pastures were growing well and fieldwork continued as weather permitted. Apple trees and strawberries were in blossom.

Snohomish/N. King (2nd Report): The first half of the week had normal spring weather. The second half of the week was Midwest style. Temperatures were well below normal with several unusual weather conditions. Thursday, May 15, hail in the Monroe area totally destroyed "salad mix" crops at an organic farm. Friday evening a storm out of the Gulf of Alaska dumped 4 inches of pea size hail in the Lake Stevens/Everett area. Thunder, lightning, heavy rain, and much colder temperatures lasted through Saturday, May 17. Crop damage was not known. Fieldwork was 10-14 days behind schedule due to the wet, cold spring weather.

Thurston: Ag producers took advantage of beautiful sunny weather, with no rain early in the week, to do field cultivation and begin planting commercial vegetable crops. A light frost was reported in some areas. Turfgrass growers who began irrigating on Monday, May 12, turned the sprinklers off Thursday, May 15, when heavy rainfall occurred. Livestock producers continued forage harvest. Dairy producers continued liquid manure applications on forage fields. Christmas tree growers applied insecticide sprays to new growth on Douglas fir trees for control of Midge and Swiss Needle Cast.

Central

Benton: Asparagus harvest continued under cool conditions. First cover sprays were being applied on tree fruit. Hops were being strung.

Benton (2nd Report): Frost protection was very active this past week. Calls were received with concern about the wheat, and cherry crops.

Douglas/Chelan: A small number of apple growers were reporting tree losses due to last fall's late freeze. The cherry crop was expected to be average in the lower elevation, and above average in the higher elevations. The pear crop looked above average. Frost protection measures continued. Many livestock producers reported water shortages in streams and lakes. Forage in spring pastures were not maturing as needed. Cold temperatures continued to be reported.

Ferry/Okanogan: Windy weather created problems for producers trying to get spraying done.

Ferry/Okanogan (2nd Report): Orchardists continued to use frost protection, as the temperatures were in the high 20's over the weekend. Most spring crops have been planted. Most spring pasture conditions were good due to the spring rains.

Franklin: Asparagus harvest continued as did the first cutting of alfalfa. Cool temperatures and periods of rain slowed there and many other field operations. Sweet corn was being planted.

Grant: Frost was received on Friday, May 16. There was potential damage to peas in bloom and other crops.

Kittitas: Cold temperatures were experienced the past few days. There were no reports received about any new crop damage. Rain helped moisture conditions considerably. Potato planting continued. Irrigation water supply was expected to be adequate for the growing season.

Yakima: Conditions this past week were too cold for ideal fruit development. Frost protection was needed several nights due to scattered hail.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures ranged from

3 degrees above normal to 14 degrees below normal, with a low temperature of 29 degrees on May 16 and 17. There was .09" of precipitation on May 16, including some hail. No new crop damage due to weather conditions was reported.

Eastern

Adams: Warmer weather was needed to improve crop conditions, especially nighttime temperatures that continued to reach near freezing. Winter wheat remained in mostly good to fair condition. Stripe rust on both winter and spring cereals was widespread throughout the county and also limited improving crop conditions.

Adams (2nd Report): Lots of weather, but none particularly good during the week. High winds came mid-week accompanied by light frost on Wednesday, and a heavier one on Sunday night, May 18. A little rain, a little hail. . . is it spring yet? Potatoes began to emerge, and hay cutters were poised to begin as weather moderated.

Asotin/Garfield: Cooler than normal temperatures prevailed during the week. Crop development was slow. There were still a few producers in the higher elevations that had not completed planting. Moisture was good in nearly all areas of the two counties.

Lincoln: Warmer weather was needed to improve crop conditions, especially the nighttime temperatures that continued to reach near freezing. Winter wheat remained in

mostly good to fair condition. Stripe rust on both winter and spring cereals has the potential to be widespread throughout the county and may also limit improving crop conditions.

Walla Walla: Heavy rain on Monday, May 12, halted fieldwork. Weather conditions continued to be cool and windy. Range and pasture ground showed the effect of lack of heat unit days and slowed the spring growth. Crops appeared in good condition.

Whitman: Cool temperatures and occasional showers were descriptive of the week. Crop conditions looked good to excellent, but conditions were conducive to foliar plant diseases. Growers continued to monitor closely for stripe rust in susceptible grains. Pastures and grazing conditions were mostly good.

Whitman (2nd Report): Windy conditions limited fieldwork on tillage operations. Winds made it difficult to complete spraying operations on spring crops. Warmer temperatures were needed for crop development. Temperatures remained very cool during the week.

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Weekly Weather Statistics

May 19, 2003

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	36	65	50	-4	13	-11	0	0	0.94	0.45	4	23.45	-7.30	76	125
Everett	39	63	49	-5	9	-20	0	0	0.48	-0.08	4	23.37	-7.43	76	128
Hoquiam	33	65	48	-6	5	-21	0	0	0.68	-0.04	4	59.48	-2.35	96	142
Kelso	34	75	51	-4	19	-12	0	0	0.00	-0.56	0	23.19	-17.77	57	97
Olympia	28	73	49	-5	12	-10	0	0	0.51	0.04	5	36.31	-9.76	79	135
Sea-Tac	37	68	51	-5	16	-18	0	0	0.45	0.07	2	30.44	-2.69	92	124
Shelton	30	73	49	-7	14	-24	0	0	0.34	-0.18	4	54.01	-6.04	90	133
Tacoma	30	72	49	-7	13	-23	0	0	0.13	-0.29	2	25.77	-9.76	73	119
Vancouver	33	76	51	-4	21	-12	0	0	0.57	0.01	4	33.96	-2.75	93	132
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	31	72	49	-7	12	-23	0	0	0.03	-0.09	1	7.77	0.28	104	76
Omak	29	72	51	-4	18	-13	0	0	0.00	-0.35	0	11.56	0.24	102	56
Stampede Pass	27	61	37	-4	0	0	0	0	1.13	0.36	5	56.83	-16.49	78	132
Wenatchee	37	73	55	-4	41	-19	2	-6	0.00	-0.07	0	8.59	1.77	126	69
Yakima AP	29	74	51	-7	24	-22	0	-4	0.09	0.01	2	7.94	1.32	120	56
NORTHEAST															
Colville	32	74	51	-3	28	-2	0	0	0.82	0.36	3	15.90	-1.00	94	64
Deer Park	30	70	48	-7	12	-18	0	0	0.32	-0.09	3	18.94	3.90	126	88
Spokane AP	31	72	49	-5	15	-14	0	0	0.22	-0.10	4	13.45	0.26	102	94
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	29	73	53	-8	31	-38	0	-12	0.16	0.02	2	7.52	1.60	127	52
Moses Lake	37	74	53	-7	31	-38	0	-12	0.17	0.03	2	7.85	1.93	133	71
Quincy	32	72	54	-5	36	-23	0	-7	0.00	-0.14	0	6.00	-0.47	93	49
Ritzville	29	74	50	-5	19	-12	0	0	0.12	-0.09	2	10.63	1.17	112	76
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	35	77	55	-9	38	-52	4	-21	0.10	-0.04	2	7.90	2.35	142	65
Pasco	39	80	56	-6	48	-29	6	-11	0.37	0.23	1	6.95	0.64	110	69
Pullman	33	68	49	-4	14	-7	0	0	0.11	-0.24	2	8.87	-8.49	51	81
Whitman Miss.	39	76	55	-3	39	-13	4	-2	0.34	0.06	3	14.02	2.62	123	112
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	34	72	51	-5	24	-13	0	0	0.28	-0.21	5	16.56	-4.29	79	90
Lewiston ID	39	75	55	-4	40	-16	7	0	0.64	0.36	4	11.48	2.34	126	100

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2002

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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