



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

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Washington Received Above Average Temperatures Across the State Early Cherry Harvest Began

Field Crops

Above average temperatures received across the State of Washington last week provided nearly ideal conditions for advancing winter grains through the heading stage and emerging spring crops. Warmer weather had many turfgrass growers and crop producers irrigating. Skagit County found barley yellow dwarf in winter wheat fields and potato growers reported high levels of flea beetles. Most potato and pea planting was complete. Christmas tree growers continued to check for aphid infestation and commented that the hot weather could cause some scorch damage to new growth.

Livestock

Hay producers were in full swing harvesting the season's first cutting. Grass silage harvest continued. Dryland pastures were beginning to show signs of moisture stress. Most cattle have been turned out to summer pastures. Range and pasture conditions were 45% fair, 49% good, and 6% excellent.

Fruits and Vegetables

Strawberry and caneberry crops were showing stress due to warm temperatures. Blueberry producers continued to battle aphid infestations. Sweet corn planting in central Washington began to wind down. Sweet corn, spinach, and raspberry growers were beginning to irrigate. Berry growers in Skagit County were having problems with root weevil and fruit worm infestation. Nursery and fruit producers continued to struggle with tent caterpillars. Strawberry harvest was a little behind schedule compared with previous years. Early cherry harvest began. Asparagus harvest continued.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	7.0
Last Week	6.5

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	3	29	67	1
Subsoil	0	18	80	2
Irrigation Water	0	0	100	0
Hay & Roughage	0	1	99	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 Emerged	99	98	100	100
Spring Wheat Headed	14	12	34	25
Winter Wheat Headed	66	37	47	68
Barley Emerged	99	97	100	100
Barley Headed	5	4	31	0
Potatoes Emerged	99	94	99	98
Corn Planted	99	98	96	99
Corn Emerged	78	77	64	87
Dry Edible Beans Planted	94	71	67	76
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	81	68	63	64

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	3	8	15	44	30
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	7	78	15
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	0	29	38	33
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	2	98	0
Barley Dryland	0	0	13	44	43
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	100	0
Potatoes	0	0	3	66	31
Corn	0	0	0	100	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	1	53	46

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

Clark: Extremely hot temperatures during the week stressed the strawberry and caneberry crops.

Grays Harbor: Another week of unseasonably warm temperatures was rapidly depleting soil moisture. Sweet corn growers were busy setting irrigation systems in place on newly planted fields. Hay producers continued forage harvest under nearly ideal conditions. Christmas tree growers continued to monitor fields for aphid infestations. Blueberry growers continued to battle aphid infestations. Home gardeners reported rapid growth of warm season vegetables.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: There were four days with record hot temperatures during the week.

Island: Unseasonably warm weather has not substantially affected crops. Soil moisture remained adequate, but those who have irrigation began to irrigate.

Kitsap: Record temperatures resulted in vigorous crop growth. Irrigation required was used by most producers to protect fruit and vegetables from a week.

Pierce/South King: The weather was very good for all producers. The temperatures were good and producers were able to get out into their fields to work. There were no reports of unusual situations or crop losses due to the weather.

Skagit: Precipitation since May 24 has totaled .12 inches. This fact, combined with temperatures close to 90 degrees created a shortage of soil moisture, particularly for early planted crops such as spinach seed. Raspberry growers had

traveling gun irrigation systems in operation. Planting was finished up for peas and potatoes. Potato growers saw high levels of flea beetles. Berry growers experienced problems with root weevil and fruit worm infestations. Barley yellow dwarf appeared in winter wheat. Strawberry harvest was about two weeks away.

Snohomish/North King: Though it is still officially spring, record breaking temperatures made it feel more like late summer over the past week. Highs were in the 80's and 90's and broke record two or three days in a row. Most crops were responding to the heat with rapid growth. The heat spell was terrific weather for making hay. The Farmer's Markets were doing great business selling vegetables and cut flowers. Strawberries were ripening a little behind schedule.

Thurston: An extended period of unseasonably warm temperatures quickly depleted soil moisture. Turfgrass growers were racing to keep up with irrigation requirements on production fields. Blueberry growers were irrigating as well. Livestock producers were happy as they continued to harvest hay under nearly ideal conditions. Christmas tree growers were monitoring fields for insect infestations and also expressed concern that the very warm temperatures may have resulted in scorch damage to new growth. Non-irrigated pastures showed signs of moisture stress on lighter soils.

Whatcom: The temperatures were very hot, into the 80's and 90's. Irrigation was used on the crops. The potatoes and corn emerged with the help of the weather. Grass silage harvest continued. Strawberry harvest is just around the corner.

Central

Benton: Cherry harvest began. Asparagus harvest wound down. Irrigation and cover sprays were major activities.

Benton (2nd Report): Temperatures in the high 90's continued in the county. No calls were received about crop damage on crops.

Douglas/Chelan: Early cherry harvest began. Warm temperatures were being experienced. The wheat crop was in need of moisture, and a timely June rain would significantly improve its condition.

Ferry/Okanogan: Many of the farmers were in the process of baling, as most of the first cutting of alfalfa hay was cut. Temperatures were in the low to mid-90's during the day.

Franklin: High temperatures were received during the past

week. Asparagus harvest and the first cutting of alfalfa continued. Cherry harvest was nearly ready to begin.

Grant: Stripe rust was still appearing in the wheat crop. Sweet corn planting continued. Some pea fields were tilled under due to root rot infection.

Kittitas: The first cutting of alfalfa was underway. Warm weather was welcomed by most ag producers. Sweet corn planting wound down. Potato planting was finishing up. Range and pasture conditions were good. Irrigation water supply was adequate.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 4 to 14 degrees above normal, with a high temperature of 94 degrees on June 7. There was no measurable precipitation received. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams: Warm sunny skies prevailed throughout the week, advancing winter grains through the heading stage in all parts of the county. Pastures and all dryland crops began to show a need for rain.

Stevens: Warm temperatures spurred crop growth into high gear. Alfalfa and grain crops were both looking good due to the warm weather. Hay farmers began swathing and baling the first cutting. A thunderstorm Sunday afternoon, June 8, brought some additional moisture.

Spokane/Pend Oreille: Conditions during the week were good for growing. The temperature was above average and the sunshine was around most of the week. Producers were spraying their spring seeded crops and hay producers began harvesting the first cutting in some areas. Winter wheat

began to head out and most cattle were turned out onto pastures. Overall, crops looked pretty good. Rain will be needed in the near future.

Whitman: Warm temperatures and plenty of sunshine moved crop development along, and crop conditions continued to look quite good. Field spraying progressed well throughout the week with the favorable conditions and low wind speed.

Whitman (2nd Report): Hot temperatures and dry conditions prevailed during the week as summer finally began on the Palouse. Many producers were out spraying spring crops or tending to summer fallow operations, taking advantage of the warm, dry weather. Crops conditions looked very good.

Weekly Weather Statistics

May 27, 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	43	84	63	6	89	40	25	18	0.00	-0.45	0	24.33	-7.85	76	132
Everett	47	86	65	8	108	53	43	36	0.00	-0.54	0	23.86	-8.53	74	135
Hoquiam	43	89	62	7	88	45	26	26	0.00	-0.56	0	59.59	-4.10	94	146
Kelso	46	97	67	10	121	64	52	42	0.00	-0.56	0	23.19	-19.41	54	97
Olympia	38	93	65	9	104	57	39	32	0.00	-0.42	0	36.44	-10.89	77	140
Sea-Tac	50	90	68	10	128	65	58	49	0.00	-0.40	0	30.70	-3.54	90	130
Shelton	39	94	65	7	106	43	41	27	0.00	-0.46	0	54.08	-7.39	88	138
Tacoma	41	93	65	6	103	40	38	28	0.00	-0.46	0	25.88	-10.95	70	123
Vancouver	46	98	69	11	135	74	66	53	0.00	-0.45	0	33.96	-4.18	89	132
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	43	92	66	7	117	48	47	29	0.00	-0.14	0	7.80	0.11	99	79
Omak	41	92	67	9	124	60	55	39	0.00	-0.35	0	11.68	-0.71	94	58
Stampede Pass	36	82	60	15	77	70	27	27	0.00	-0.77	0	57.28	-18.34	76	137
Wenatchee	52	92	72	9	156	58	86	52	0.00	-0.14	0	8.64	1.41	120	71
Yakima AP	44	94	69	8	134	50	64	39	0.00	-0.14	0	7.98	0.94	113	58
NORTHEAST															
Colville	40	93	67	9	119	55	49	33	0.16	-0.26	1	16.42	-1.80	90	67
Deer Park	38	85	61	3	76	14	15	1	0.00	-0.34	0	19.99	3.91	124	91
Spokane AP	42	87	64	6	100	36	33	17	0.00	-0.35	0	14.68	0.44	103	98
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	53	91	72	7	154	45	84	41	0.00	-0.14	0	7.56	1.22	119	54
Moses Lake	46	92	69	4	136	27	66	23	0.00	-0.14	0	7.87	1.53	124	72
Quincy	52	90	70	7	140	46	70	38	0.00	-0.14	0	6.03	-0.86	88	50
Ritzville	42	89	65	6	105	38	38	22	0.00	-0.18	0	10.91	0.87	109	79
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	51	94	72	5	158	29	88	29	0.00	-0.07	0	8.00	2.21	138	67
Pasco	45	96	69	3	133	18	63	15	0.00	-0.14	0	7.07	0.34	105	70
Pullman	37	81	61	4	76	26	16	6	0.00	-0.35	0	9.43	-8.99	51	84
Whitman Miss.	40	93	66	4	111	22	41	13	0.00	0.21	0	14.32	2.24	119	114
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	37	84	61	2	80	9	18	1	0.00	-0.50	0	17.75	-4.58	79	96
Lewiston ID	48	89	67	4	123	27	53	21	0.00	-0.35	0	12.13	2.00	120	104

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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