



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service  
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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: June 14, 2004, 1:00 p.m.  
Week Ending: June 13, 2004  
CWP WA-CW2404

## Rain Affects Cherry Harvest Excessive Rains Caused Significant Damage to Walla Walla Sweet Onions

### Field Crops

Grain crops throughout the state continued to show the benefits of recent rains. Franklin County producers reported that some of the early spring planted dryland wheat may be the best in years. Potato plants looked healthy considering the cool temperatures. In Thurston County, Christmas tree growers continued placing bird roosting sticks in Noble fir fields.

### Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 12% very poor, 15% poor, 33% fair, and 40% good. In Grant County, wool was shipped. Many Kittitas County cattle producers had yearlings on pasture and had feed hay down. Oyster and clam seeding operations continued in Pacific County, along with transplanting of oysters to fattening grounds for the upcoming summer season. Klickitat County reported infestations of alfalfa weevil in alfalfa hay, those who did not spray for it had at least a 50% loss of quantity. Hay harvest and quality continued to be affected by the unusually large amounts of precipitation.

### Fruits and Vegetables

Cherry producers statewide reported damage due to rain. The reports varied from minimal in Yakima County to severe in Benton and Walla Walla Counties. Strawberry harvests continued at a rapid pace and there were reports of blueberries showing color. Vegetable crops were doing well in home and commercial gardens. Hot house tomato growers in Grays Harbor County continued a limited harvest of their tomato crops.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.2
Last Week	6.1

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	10	89	1
Subsoil	0	15	84	1
Irrigation Water	0	7	93	0
Hay & Roughage	1	4	94	1

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

### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2003	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Headed	50	29	28	39
Winter Wheat Headed	91	69	80	79
Barley Headed	49	15	18	37
Potatoes Emerged	99	98	100	100
Corn Planted	99	99	100	100
Corn Emerged	91	86	84	92
Dry Edible Beans Planted	99	99	98	92
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	86	78	84	80
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	3	0	4	2

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	0	10	23	52	15
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	3	94	3
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	6	30	54	10
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	7	90	3
Barley Dryland	0	1	26	55	18
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	80	20
Potatoes	0	0	3	96	1
Corn	0	0	2	98	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	3	96	1

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

**Grays Harbor:** Cool, cloudy conditions continued to limit plant development. The rural landscape was dotted with chartreuse colored corn fields due to the lack of sunshine. Livestock producers continued to complain that the delay in the first cutting of hay for the season will result in a poor yielding second crop. Christmas tree growers were spraying aphids in Noble Fir plantations. Hot house tomato growers continued a limited harvest of plump, juicy ripe flavorful fruit. Home gardeners were munching on onions, snap peas and lettuce. Concern over a predicted dry summer and drought conditions had all but disappeared after the past several weeks of unseasonably cool conditions and copious rainfall.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** Cool wet weather, while alleviating the drought-like conditions experienced in April and May, delayed forage harvest. A week of hot dry weather is needed as grass fields are beginning to ripen.

**Pacific:** Cool, wet springtime weather continued to affect field operations. Light rainfall kept some producers from cutting hay that was fully mature and ready to harvest. Cranberry producers continued their weed and disease control efforts. Raspberry producers were preparing for the beginning of harvest later this month. Oyster and clam operations continued seeding, and the transplanting of oysters to fattening grounds for the upcoming summer season.

**San Juan:** Continued cool weather with intermittent showers forced hay producers to postpone cutting their hay.

**Skagit:** The weather was mild, with a few scattered showers. Most plantings were complete, and growers were taking a breather while they readied equipment for harvest. In general, crop development continued to be two to three weeks ahead of schedule. Strawberry harvest was going strong, and the berries

looked good.

**Snohomish/N. King:** Slightly cooler temperatures were prevalent. Precipitation for the month was a little above normal to date. Strawberries were very sweet and plentiful. Early varieties of raspberries looked good. Grass crops and pastures were doing well with the cool temperatures and recent rain. Vegetable crops and flowers were doing well in home gardens and commercial gardens.

**Snohomish/King:** The occasional rains were good for crop and pasture growth. Raspberry and strawberry harvests were underway. Apples have put on a good crop, but scab was showing up on unsprayed fruit. Blueberries were showing some color and it looked like a good crop. Grass harvest continued and was being bagged for silage. Honeybee populations were doing well, as there were many swarms over the last couple of weeks.

**Thurston:** Unseasonably cool temperatures and cloudy conditions continued to slow plant growth. U-Pick strawberry sales were again dampened over the weekend by heavy rainfall. Livestock producers were depressed with weather conditions that prevented cutting hay. In many fields desirable forage grasses reached prime quality and needed to be cut. Blueberry growers continued to predict an excellent crop for this harvest season. Christmas tree growers continued placing bird roosting sticks in Noble Fir fields. Home gardeners were harvesting onions, lettuce and sugar snap peas.

**Whatcom:** Spring plantings were winding down with a few growers still sowing beans and freezer peas. Moderately cool temperatures following rain showers minimized damage to the strawberry crop, which was in full swing. Corn was popping up in rows. Grass growers were irrigating fields after removal of hay, haylage, or silage.

National weather website: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/pubs.htm>

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## Central

**Benton:** Showers occurred with an average of 1.3 inches of rain this past week. Damage was reported, especially to the cherry crop around the Kennewick, Finely and Benton City areas. Reports indicated the majority of the crop sustained losses ranging from 60 to 90 percent. The south end of the county received strong winds, hail, and small tornados touched down in some of the wheat fields.

**Benton (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Two days of rain shut down cherry harvest while growers made damage estimates. Hay harvest was postponed, and asparagus harvest was about complete.

**Chelan/Douglas:** It appeared there was no damage to the cherry crop from the received precipitation, because of the stage of the crop maturity. Moisture made a significant difference to the wheat crop. Windy conditions were experienced.

**Franklin:** Periodic rains looked to have made a good growing week. Most of the county received heavy rain on the 8th. This rain appeared to damage many of the cherry orchards that had moderately weathered the previous rains. Growers reported heavy losses to cherries for split, losses to very late first cutting alfalfa hay, and first cutting timothy hay damage. Warmer temperatures toward the end of the week were more normal for this time of year. Potato plants looked exceptionally healthy from the cool weather and other crops like beans were being planted by the end of the week. Dryland winter wheat looked strong. Some of the early spring planted dryland wheat may be the best in years. Soil moisture in summer fallow ground was favorable for this time of year.

**Franklin (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Sunny conditions and mild temperatures were experienced. First cutting of alfalfa was complete. Cherry harvest was underway.

**Grant:** Green pea and sugar snap pea harvest continued with rain a delay mid-week. Sweet corn planting continued. Cherry harvest was underway. Wool was being shipped for wool pool.

**Kittitas:** Corn planted in the last few weeks was up, and waiting for warm weather. Timothy hay cutting began in a few spots. Sporadic rain showers and cool temperatures kept most people from haying. Many cattle producers had yearlings on pasture, and many had feed hay down.

**Klickitat:** Alfalfa weevil had infested all alfalfa hay; those who did not spray for it have at least a 50 percent loss of quantity. Heavy rains on hay that was cut greatly effected the quality.

**Okanogan/Ferry:** Most of the first cutting of alfalfa hay was cut and baled. Cherry harvest was one week to ten days away from the early cherries.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures varied from one to seven degrees below normal, with .55 of an inch of precipitation. Producers reported limited splitting of cherries due to rain.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** More hail damage was reported to tree fruits from widely scattered thunderstorms in the Valley. Rains delayed cherry harvest and caused some fruit splitting in the early harvested cherry varieties. Fortunately, cool temperatures minimized splitting in most cherry blocks. Hand thinning of apples continued.

## Eastern

**Asotin/Garfield:** Farmers call it the million dollar rain when large amounts of rain come in June. That was the case this past week as most all areas of Garfield & Asotin Counties received soaking rains. Crops, pastures and rangeland improved as a result. A few producers had hay cut and were hoping that it will dry out and not be lost.

**Adams:** Cool weather for the week helped grain crops along, but reports of damage to cherries were being received from rainfall events of the past few weeks.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** Rain was received, and totals varied, but reports of ½ to one inch of rain were coming in. Winter wheat was really starting to head out and some spring wheat and barley was heading out. Alfalfa hay was starting to bloom and growers were hoping for some sunshine to start cutting hay. Warmer weather was forecast so we will start seeing hay being cut. A couple of fields of peas were blooming and the peas looked good.

**Stevens:** Intermittent rain showers prevented hay growers from swathing first cutting. Some fields began showing some bloom. Pastures and grain crops continued to show the benefits of recent rains.

**Walla Walla:** Frequent rain events and wind were experienced throughout last week. Reports of a minimum of one inch of rain or more was reported throughout area. Hay producers were still struggling to get hay off the fields. Significant damage to cherries and Walla Walla sweet onions was reported due to excessive rain. When the rain stopped, the winds started, which prevented most operators from spraying fields.

**Whitman:** Rain, rain, rain. Precipitation continued to fall on the Palouse creating optimism that this crop year will be a good one. June rains were the missing ingredient for last year's crops. This year's crops look very promising.

# Weekly Weather Statistics

June 14, 2004

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	47	71	57	-2	47	-9	0	-7	0.55	0.13	3	27.75	-4.79	85	136
Everett	49	72	57	-3	50	-12	2	-9	0.37	-0.12	5	27.18	-5.64	83	143
Hoquiam	46	63	55	-3	39	-10	0	-4	0.54	0.01	6	61.09	-3.05	95	171
Kelso	46	69	58	-1	61	-4	4	-10	0.61	0.07	5	31.08	-11.98	72	121
Olympia	38	77	56	-3	43	-12	1	-6	0.53	0.11	4	43.97	-3.72	92	152
Sea-Tac	46	74	57	-4	54	-18	3	-11	0.62	0.25	5	32.79	-1.76	95	129
Shelton	44	73	57	-4	47	-24	1	-15	0.01	-0.41	1	60.19	-1.64	97	149
Tacoma	43	75	57	-4	55	-16	3	-11	0.14	-0.30	2	30.61	-6.59	82	131
Vancouver	50	68	60	-1	68	-1	5	-11	0.57	0.15	4	29.76	-8.74	77	144
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	41	78	60	-2	74	-6	7	-17	0.34	0.20	3	7.36	-0.67	92	85
Omak	43	80	60	-1	72	-2	12	-10	0.83	0.48	2	10.60	-2.09	84	69
Stamper Pass	36	61	45	-2	4	-9	0	0	0.95	0.24	4	69.04	-7.18	91	157
Wenatchee	48	76	61	-5	81	-28	11	-33	0.20	0.06	2	8.50	1.15	116	75
Yakima AP	38	73	58	-6	57	-38	6	-27	0.55	0.41	4	6.27	-0.88	88	66
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	43	69	56	-5	42	-32	0	-21	0.45	0.07	4	8.61	-9.92	46	72
Deer Park	40	70	54	-7	31	-42	0	-20	0.08	-0.20	2	16.89	0.57	103	119
Spokane AP	44	69	55	-7	33	-43	0	-22	0.85	0.54	3	13.15	-1.35	91	105
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	43	75	60	-8	74	-47	10	-43	0.50	0.36	2	4.85	-1.60	75	64
Moses Lake	42	75	59	-8	68	-53	10	-43	0.53	0.39	2	5.05	-1.40	78	62
Quincy	40	73	60	-6	71	-33	8	-32	0.00	-0.14	0	4.93	-2.07	70	57
Ritzville	39	69	54	-8	28	-50	0	-23	0.18	0.04	3	10.16	0.00	100	73
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	45	76	61	-10	79	-60	12	-57	0.65	0.58	2	6.38	0.53	109	65
Pasco	48	80	63	-6	89	-38	22	-37	1.16	1.08	3	7.66	0.87	113	77
Pullman	35	67	52	-7	20	-40	0	-15	0.23	-0.12	2	15.15	-3.57	81	103
Whitman Miss.	45	70	58	-7	60	-41	3	-35	1.08	0.87	5	16.24	3.97	132	112
<b>ID PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D'A' AP	45	64	54	-8	32	-50	0	-23	0.18	-0.31	4	13.08	-9.67	57	98
Lewiston ID	44	71	59	-7	67	-42	6	-37	0.59	0.29	6	10.84	0.46	104	92

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2003

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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