



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: June 21, 2004, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: June 20, 2004
CWP WA-CW2504

Summer and Sunshine Arrived Just in Time Warm Temperatures Allow Hay Producers to Get Underway

Field Crops

Spring wheat and barley headed out rapidly due to warmer temperatures last week. A hail storm damaged an unknown amount of winter wheat in the northern portion of Douglas County. Heavy thunderstorms in areas of Whitman County caused mudslides and downed some winter wheat and barley. Grant County reported some stripe rust in susceptible wheat varieties, along with reports of wireworm in field corn and potato crops. Thurston County Christmas tree producers experienced minor heat damage on new growths of Noble firs.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 12% very poor, 13% poor, 27% fair, 47% good, and 1% excellent. Nearly ideal harvest conditions and an extended forecast with no rain in sight allowed hay producers to get out and into fields. Most producers reported average to good yields as long as hay was cut after the early June rains. In Kittitas County cattle producers finished their breeding season. Whatcom County producers continued green chopping grass.

Fruits and Vegetables

Green and sugar snap pea harvests continued, along with strawberry and cherry harvests. Some Franklin County cherry producers had to abandon their acreage due to heavily split culls. Much of the acreage harvested in Franklin County brought 25-50 percent cullage. Benton County experienced similar losses and in some areas they had culls averaging 20-45 percent. However, Yakima County reported that pack-out had improved and that the incidence of rain cracking had decreased. In Thurston County, some blueberry growers reported early varieties were showing color and that they expected harvest to be two weeks ahead of schedule. Bush bean and sweet corn plantings were other ongoing activities.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.9
Last Week	5.2

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	15	85	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Average	10	28	60	2
Subsoil	2	22	75	1
Subsoil 5 Yr Average	7	38	54	1
Irrigation Water	0	8	92	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Average	0	1	99	0
Hay & Roughage	2	4	94	0

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	60	50	52	59
Winter Wheat Headed	92	91	94	93
Barley Headed	50	49	42	52
Potatoes Emerged	100	99	100	100
Corn Planted	100	99	100	100
Corn Emerged	92	91	95	97
Dry Edible Beans Planted	99	99	100	99
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	90	86	91	92
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	6	3	6	9

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	5	25	58	10
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	4	92	4
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	3	33	57	7
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	7	90	3
Barley Dryland	0	2	32	54	12
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	80	20
Potatoes	0	0	4	93	3
Corn	0	0	1	99	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	1	98	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: There was little doubt among agricultural producers that summer had arrived in the county. The quiet hum of tractors echoed throughout the valleys, as ag producers took advantage of temperatures in the mid-80's and strong northerly winds, to begin the year's hay harvest in earnest. With nearly ideal harvest conditions, most producers referred to the first cutting as premium quality. Christmas tree growers were applying insecticides for the control of aphids in Noble fir plantations. Hothouse tomato growers continued to harvest early fruit, with commercial harvest slated to begin at the end of the week. Dahlia growers reported full bloom on early varieties. The warm, sunny weather and accompanying strong northerly winds quickly transformed the rural landscape from ample moisture to a lack of moisture. At this time of the year with a multitude of crops ranging from cranberries to sweet corn in various stages of growth, the county is truly one of the most scenic areas in the entire State.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Hot, dry weather brought about a flurry of activity in the hay fields. Conditions were near perfect, with hay yields and quality reported as being good. Summer-like conditions also benefitted small grains and corn.

Kitsap: Farmers were in full production of vegetables, fruit, and cut flowers. High temperatures resulted in increased crop irrigation.

Pierce/South King: The week was wonderful weather wise. All the pastures were looking good. Farmers were planting and working hard. There were no unusual situations to report.

Skagit: A warm, dry week continued a spring season, that in some grower's opinion, was the best they've seen in 30-40 years. All crops were planted. The spinach seed crop was looking excellent, as were all crops. Soil moisture levels were perfect. There was a

feeling of cautious optimism in the air.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: The weather was warm and dry. Most crops were planted. There was no apparent crop damage.

Snohomish/North King: During the long daylight hours the summer-like temperatures were hot. Above normal temperatures were great for growing established plants, but stressed new plantings. Farmer's Markets had an abundance of lettuce, strawberries, and flowers. Pastures looked great. Farmers were taking advantage of the warm, dry weather by getting hay harvest finished earlier than normal. Dairy farmers were beginning a third cutting of grass silage.

Thurston: Intense sunshine boosted temperatures into the mid-80's throughout much of the week. After glancing at an extended forecast with no rain, ag producers raced to begin cutting hay. Under nearly ideal harvest conditions the majority of the first cutting of hay was of premium quality. Strawberry growers were also pleased with the warm, sunny weather which provided excellent fruit quality as this year's harvest season began to wind down. Turfgrass growers quickly placed irrigation on production fields as temperatures reached 90 degrees on Thursday. Blueberry growers reported early varieties were showing color and continued to predict a two week earlier than normal harvest season. Christmas tree growers reported minor heat damage on the new growth of Noble firs. The very warm temperatures, combined with strong northerly winds, quickly transformed much of the county's soil from surplus moisture to a shortage of moisture.

Whatcom: Temperatures were in the 70's to low 80's during the week. Strawberry harvest continued. Bush beans were being planted. Producers continued to green chop grass.

Central

Benton: Cherry harvest, apple thinning, and weed control were major activities during the week. Much needed warmer weather was helping crop development.

Benton (2nd Report): The temperatures were in the high 80's. Many cherry producers in the Tri-City area and Benton City reported a total loss of their cherry crop. In the Prosser/County Line area culls averaged in the 20-45 percent. Winter and spring wheat were looking good in most areas.

Chelan/Douglas: Some winter wheat in the northern portion of the county received damage due to hail. The extent of the damage was unknown. The cherries were rained on but the damage was unknown. Weeds such as mustard and rye seemed more prevalent in wheat this year due to the early spring. Many producers were not prepared to treat the weed early and the window of opportunity passed. Spring wheat and barley looked good due to the precipitation received in May and June.

Franklin: Pea harvest was underway. Cherry harvest continued. The potato crop generally grew well.

Franklin (2nd Report): The week was good for growing. Potato plants looked exceptionally strong coming out of the cooler May and early June weather. Field and sweet corn was planted. Nearly all of the first cutting of hay was up and cutting on some of the second began. Cherry harvest was in full swing and will conclude much quicker than normal, as a fair amount of the acreage was being abandoned from heavy split cullage. Much of the acreage

being harvested was bringing anywhere from 25-50 percent cullage. The first cutting of timothy hay was being harvested, much of which was rain damaged. Early dry peas were struggling from the wet weather with mold, and a fair percentage of plant death. Young bean plants were planted in the past two weeks and looked good. Asparagus harvest was over after a slow second half of the harvest season.

Grant: Green and sugar snap pea harvest continued. Sweet corn planting and cherry harvest continued. Wireworm caused some damage in field corn and potato crops. Stripe rust was prevalent in susceptible wheat varieties.

Kittitas: As soon as prolonged hot, dry weather was evident, timothy hay growers began cutting. Fifty percent of the fields were harvested and many baled as well. The first cutting for those who started after the late rains will be high quality hay.

Kittitas (2nd Report): The first cutting of timothy hay began. The week was dry and warm with some wind and no rain.

Yakima: Dry, but cool weather allowed cherry growers in the mid-Yakima Valley to harvest sweet cherries. Cherry packout improved as the incidence of rain cracking decreased. Better harvesting conditions were anticipated as the producers entered the peak of cherry production.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures varied from 7 degrees below normal to 5 degrees above normal, with no

precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to weather conditions reported.

Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: Warm weather dominated the week. Crops were in mostly good condition due to rainfall the last half of May and the first half of June. Higher elevation pastures with deep soils were in very good condition, but shallow soils and lower elevation pastures had not recovered from earlier drought conditions.

Adams: Winter wheat remained in mostly good/fair condition as it completed heading and awaited harvest. Spring cereals remained in fair/good condition.

Lincoln: Winter wheat remained in mostly good/fair condition. It was mostly headed with harvest in about a month. Spring cereal conditions remained unchanged and were in mostly fair/good condition.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Rains from past weeks have improved grain crops. Pastures were still in need of more rain. Moderately cool weather was still needed for grain crops. The majority of hay crops have been cut, although there was some dryland hay yet to be cut in the northern part of the county.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Sunny weather brought the hay swathers out into the fields. Hay yields were reported as being disappointing. The weather was good for mowing except for the frost reported in parts of the county. The amount of damage was unknown.

Stevens: A week of good weather brought the first cutting of hay. Yields were generally average to good. Most of the crop was in good shape, except for a small quantity of hay cut in early June which suffered rain damage. Pastures continued to produce nice quantities of feed.

Walla Walla: Warm weather continued throughout the week. Periodic high winds slowed down spray efforts. Area pea crops indicated potential for very high yields this year, but there was some concern over the potential for powdery mildew. All cereal crops looked good. Isolated showers near Waitsburg on Saturday evening resulted in another 2/3 of inch of rain in a short period of time; however, indications were that the storm was not widespread.

Whitman: Heavy thunderstorms Friday evening and Saturday afternoon in various areas of the county caused mudslides and downed some winter wheat and barley.

Whitman (2nd Report): Weather conditions were turning more summer-like with more sunshine and warming conditions. Thunderstorms continued to bring moisture to the Palouse, but problems such as washouts and erosion have been experienced in some areas. Generally, however, crops looked excellent and regular summer weather will be welcomed to begin maturing cereals and pulses.

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Weekly Weather Statistics

June 21, 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		
WEST															
Bellingham	42	82	62	3	83	19	25	16	0.01	-0.41	1	27.76	-5.20	84	137
Everett	48	82	64	5	103	33	40	26	0.05	-0.44	3	27.23	-6.08	82	146
Hoquiam	46	87	62	5	87	33	24	17	0.06	-0.42	1	61.15	-3.47	95	172
Kelso	48	90	67	7	121	49	52	34	0.00	-0.49	0	31.08	-12.47	71	121
Olympia	39	89	63	5	94	29	32	22	0.00	-0.38	0	43.97	-4.10	91	152
Sea-Tac	49	88	68	7	125	45	59	39	0.03	-0.32	1	32.82	-2.08	94	130
Shelton	37	89	64	4	100	21	35	14	0.03	-0.39	1	60.22	-2.03	97	150
Tacoma	43	90	65	5	104	25	39	20	0.00	-0.42	0	30.61	-7.01	81	131
Vancouver	46	91	68	8	126	47	56	35	0.00	-0.37	0	29.76	-9.11	77	144
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	41	93	66	3	111	19	45	13	0.00	-0.14	0	7.36	-0.81	90	85
Omak	41	92	65	3	104	17	37	8	0.00	-0.29	0	10.60	-2.38	82	69
Stampede Pass	30	75	57	8	61	44	13	13	0.55	-0.12	2	69.59	-7.30	91	159
Wenatchee	47	91	67	-1	119	-3	51	-4	0.00	-0.14	0	8.50	1.01	113	75
Yakima AP	40	90	64	-2	96	-11	32	-10	0.00	-0.14	0	6.27	-1.02	86	66
NORTHEAST															
Colville	37	82	60	-3	74	-10	17	-11	0.00	-0.35	0	8.61	-10.27	46	72
Deer Park	31	82	58	-5	57	-30	9	-20	0.00	-0.28	0	16.89	0.29	102	119
Spokane AP	39	81	60	-3	73	-17	19	-11	0.00	-0.28	0	13.15	-1.63	89	105
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	46	89	67	-3	118	-16	49	-18	0.00	-0.08	0	4.85	-1.68	74	64
Moses Lake	45	89	66	-4	114	-20	44	-23	0.00	-0.08	0	5.05	-1.48	77	62
Quincy	46	88	65	-2	107	-9	37	-12	0.00	-0.10	0	4.93	-2.17	69	57
Ritzville	37	81	60	-4	74	-18	20	-11	0.00	-0.14	0	10.16	-0.14	99	73
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	47	94	69	-4	133	-18	63	-20	0.00	-0.07	0	6.38	0.46	108	65
Pasco	41	91	66	-4	113	-25	43	-26	0.00	-0.07	0	7.66	0.80	112	77
Pullman	35	78	57	-4	49	-22	0	-21	0.00	-0.35	0	15.15	-3.92	79	103
Whitman Miss.	38	89	63	-4	90	-23	24	-23	0.00	-0.21	0	16.24	3.76	130	112
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'Alene AP	36	75	57	-8	52	-43	7	-25	0.00	-0.47	0	13.08	-10.14	56	98
Lewiston ID	46	87	64	-4	102	-21	33	-22	0.41	0.13	1	11.25	0.59	106	93

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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