

OREGON CROP WEATHER



**NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE**

USDA, NASS, Oregon Field Office

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Weather: Hot conditions prevailed across the State last week. High temperatures ranged from 76 degrees in Crescent City to 100 degrees in Hermiston, but high temperatures were mainly in the nineties, with 29 of the 43 weather stations reporting high temperatures in the nineties. Although low temperatures were mostly in the forties and fifties, thirty-nine was the lowest temperature recorded in Christmas Valley, Lorella, Baker City, and Prairie City. Temperatures were mostly 10-19 degrees above average across Oregon. All weather stations reported precipitation last week except for three stations. Those stations included Florence, Tillamook, and McMinnville. Two weather stations, Moro and Burns, received over an inch of rainfall last week.

Field Crops: Dry weather conditions prevailed through most of last week allowing some hay producers to begin cutting and baling hay. Much needed moisture came late last week in form of thunder showers, boosting field crop development throughout most of the State. More precipitation is still needed though. Some counties have been forced to start irrigating earlier than normal due to warmer than normal and dry conditions. The shift from cold and dry conditions to hot and dry conditions last week has stressed many field crops in Union County. Some farmers in that area have reported losses in dry land winter wheat due to frost, drought, and heat.

Vegetables: The weather was favorable for vegetable growers last week. Early corn was up and doing well. Rhubarb continued to be harvested in Washington County. Farmer's markets were still selling mostly greenhouse grown vegetables.

Fruits and Nuts: Northern Willamette Valley berries continued in bloom, some were irrigated. Grape vines were leafing out and fruit set looked good. Walnuts were leafing. There was still some spraying for Eastern Filbert Blight. Most areas are expecting an average to above average sweet cherry crop. Growers in Yamhill County report Italian prunes look spotty due to April rains, but Brooks variety look good. The first strawberries were showing up at farmers markets. Southern Willamette Valley blueberries were showing a nice crop, but with some freeze damage. Strawberries were setting fruit and should be ready by the first of June.

Blackberries and raspberries look good. Grapes seem a little slow to bud this year, showing some effect from the cold weather and freeze damage. Cherries look to be a medium crop. Plums/prunes and peaches look to be a small crop this season. Asian and other pears look good. Apples look to be a heavy crop and will need thinning. Apples and pears are showing scab damage. There were 85 codling moths caught in three traps beginning May 12. Hood River County weather started out hot and dry, but ended cool and wet. Lower Hood River Valley growers started hand thinning Bartlett pears. Irrigation started in some orchards valley wide. Cherries in The Dalles area were starting to be visible on trees. The cherry crop is currently expected to be above average. Union County sweet cherry production is expected to be down due to a hard freeze. May 22 thundershowers and hail may cause additional damage. Recent hot and dry weather accelerated tree fruit and vineyard growth in Douglas County. Fungal disease sprays were needed as showers moved in late in the week. Yield potential looks good for strawberries and blueberries. Tree fruit potential is good for apples, but other tree fruits did not pollinate well. Southern Oregon cover sprays were still being applied to pears, apples, and peaches. Pears were blooming and look good. Caneberries and some wild blackberries are in bloom. Vineyards were showing lots of new growth with some starting to blossom.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Both nurseries and greenhouses were still shipping plant material to retail outlets for sale. Nurseries were irrigating, digging and balling evergreen landscape shrubs, and rotating containers. The shipping season to the east coast is winding down. Iris growers were getting ready for their spring open houses.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Above normal temperatures during most of the week continued to dry down pastures and rangeland forcing some producers to start irrigation early. Drier rangeland suffered under the extreme heat and producers started hauling livestock water in some areas. Rain received late in the week helped give grasses a boost and improve conditions. Livestock were reported in good condition throughout the State.

Soil Moisture-Week Ending 05/21/06

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	2	33	62	3
Subsoil	0	25	70	5

Crop Progress-Week Ending 05/21/06

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5 year average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter wheat headed	10	1	39	27
Barley planted	96	94	96	93
Barley emerged	70	70	85	80
Spring wheat planted	98	98	100	99
Spring wheat emerged	86	81	91	93
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.5	7.0	-	-

Crop Condition-Week Ending 05/21/06

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter wheat	0	10	25	63	2
Spring wheat	0	5	30	62	3
Barley	0	4	21	72	3
Range and pasture	0	3	32	44	21

WESTERN OREGON

BENTON/LINN/LANE: Blueberries nice crop, some freeze damage. Strawberries showing; setting fruit, will be ready by first of June. Blackberries and raspberries look good. Grapes seem a little slow to bud this year, showing some effect from the cold weather and freeze damage. Cherry bloom medium crop. Plum/prune and peaches a little crop. Pears nice crop. Asian pears nice crop. Apples almost too big of a crop. Will need lots of thinning. Apple and pears showing scab damage. Huge codling moth fruit started May 12. Counted 85 in three traps. Farmers markets opened first of April. Shallots, carrots, onions, lots of different lettuces and greens. Mostly greenhouse grown. First season plantings going in lots of planting going on. Greenhouse & nursery crops weekend sales doing very well. Sunny weekends helped farmer market sales and weekend greenhouse sales. People out in droves. Good sale weekends for the last five weeks. The Willamette Valley has been dry these past few weeks. The hills around the valley are starting to show signs of drying up. The crops that require bees to pollinate them have had the perfect weather. Great spring so far.

CLACKAMAS: No doubt this was a record setting week for western Oregon weather. Daily high temperature shattered on Monday. Other records for consecutive hot dry days and daily difference between highs and lows may have been set. Probably records for best quality and quantity of grass hay made this early in western Oregon. Not such a good week for freshly dug nursery stock or recently planted trees. High chance of mortality in either case. Let there be rain.

COOS/CURRY: Temperatures above normal most of the week, and not as breezy in the afternoons as past weeks. Ground conditions continue to dry out. Pastures improved to mostly good condition but some producers are starting irrigation early; haylage production shows light to medium reduction in forage production from the normally high producing bottoms. Producers are blaming silt deposits and cool rainy weather when we should have been experiencing sun for optimum pasture growth. In Brookings, low temperature for the period was 48.4 degrees. High temperature for the period was 76.1 degrees. Precipitation for Weather year stands at 99.67 inches. In Bandon, low temperature for the period was 47.15 degrees. High temperature for the period was 80.1 degrees. Weather year precipitation stands at 66.04 inches.

DOUGLAS: The dryness continued this week turning hay very quickly. Many producers started to cut hay. Thunder storms, rain and hail drenched the fields and the early cut hay in some areas on Sunday. The pastures are benefiting from the storm. The yields are about 30% below expectation because of the lack of rain in April-May and the excessive rains of winter leaching soils of nutrients. The dryness is forcing any irrigated crop land to begin watering about a month earlier than normal. Recent dry-hot weather has accelerated the growth of grapevines and tree fruit. Both crops have needed sprays for fungal disease as some showers are moving in late in the week. Yield potential looks good for strawberry and blueberries. Tree fruit potential is good for apples but other tree fruit did not pollinate well. Unseasonably warm weather brought the hay crop on early cutting into yields.

JACKSON: The weather has been wet and warm. Still some late planting of grain crops. Lots of hay was cut this week. Some were lucky enough to get it dried and baled before rain came on Friday and Saturday. The rain was good but bad for the hay. Some hay was damaged by the rains that came to the area. Still cover sprays being put on pears, apples

and peaches. Pears orchards are blooming and looking good. Caneberries now in bloom, even some wild blackberries in bloom. Vineyards are getting lots of growth with some starting to blossom. Vegetables are getting off to a good start now. Early sweet corn is up and doing well. Lots of home garden planting being done. Greenhouses still getting out vegetable and flower starts. Nurseries very busy with sales and getting new starts planted. Pastures are quite good now. Livestock on green pastures, lambs, kids and calves out with their mothers. Range and pastures are growing and staying ahead of the livestock. Horses are also out on pastures, some with new foals. The early part of the week was very hot for this time of the year but the weekend brought temperatures down and brought a fair amount of rain.

JOSEPHINE: Beautiful weather. Some rain, some clouds, some sun, moderate temperatures day and night. Haying came to a stand still. Most got it in before the rain. Thunder and lightening on Saturday. Truck gardeners have been busy plowing and planting as have the home gardeners.

LINCOLN: Lower than normal precipitation in May causing concern over water availability for plant growth.

MARION: High temperatures are stimulating growth, but many crops are still one to two weeks behind the normal growth process. Grass seed crops are maturing later this season. Top soil is dry and needs rain. Light amounts of rain fell at the end of the week but irrigation is being applied due to dry conditions. Some early grasses like orchardgrass are starting to bloom. There is still very little rust pressure so far this year. Snap beans are up and growing. Berries are blooming.

MULTNOMAH: Grass seed is heading out. Clover is flowering. First hay cutting.

POLK: Significant rainfall this past Sunday night, measuring an inch in some areas. This should help spring seeded crops.

WASHINGTON: Field corn planting continues, oats heading, wheat nearing flag leaf. Red clover being cut for hay, some baled and in barn, some being cut for silage. Crimson clover blooming. Grass for seed being irrigated. Caneberries in full bloom and some are being irrigated. Walnuts leafing. Spraying for Eastern Filbert Blight. Rhubarb really good! Cannery corn is up. Farmers Markets are open. Landscape shrubs balled and shipped, container rotation on going, irrigation on going. Livestock looking good as pastures rebound with good weather and moisture. Rain, wind and huge thunderstorm Sunday afternoon. High temperature 94 degrees, low 46 degrees with .4" rain. Humidity 53 - 79 percent.

YAMHILL: Red clover silage harvest in full swing as is alfalfa silage harvest. Alfalfa for hay is going as well. Grass hay harvest is underway too. Sweet cherries are looking to be average to above average. Italian prunes are getting reports of spotty production due to rains in April. Brooks Prunes however are looking good. First tasting of Oregon grown strawberries over the weekend and they were great. Can't wait for harvest to get into full swing in a week or two! This week's warmer weather has advanced the development of fruits and their insect pests.

EASTERN OREGON

GILLIAM/WHEELER: Gilliam County got some good thunder storms late last week, which gave the top soil some much needed moisture.

GRANT: Grass was not growing due to cold nights however, when the temperatures warmed up they went to the extreme and grass is drying rapidly. Many areas look like it is early July.

HARNEY: Widespread rain just in time to give range grasses a boost.

HOOD RIVER: The week started out hot and dry, ended cool and wet. Lower Hood River Valley growers started hand thinning Bartlett pears. Irrigation has started in some orchards valley wide.

KLAMATH: Warm weather continues. Crops looking good. Irrigation continues. Goslings have hatched. Pasture movement of cattle continues. Most hay feeding has stopped. Potato planting in full swing.

LAKE: Reports of planting underway, and we are now receiving rain. Pastures look good, still quite a bit of water coming out of the mountains.

MALHEUR: Scattered showers toward the end of last week did not affect fieldwork too much. Cooler temperatures on the weekend helped also. First cutting of alfalfa is in the windrow in most areas.

SHERMAN: A week of very hot weather combined with 30 days of no measurable precipitation hurt our wheat and barley crops badly. The early talk was of record yields because of the great rains this winter, but no matter how much winter rain one stores it will not counteract extreme heat at critical times. Heat also shriveled what was looking as a promising spring crop. Heat has caused onion leafing and shallow spots are burning up. There was some relief with late week thunderstorms, but rain fall was erratic ranging from zero to .70 to over one inch in 16 minutes, but at least no reported hail. More gentle rains still needed for crops. Some promise over next 10 days, but we'll see. Hopefully the heat is over. Sherman Crop Hop May 24 has growers waiting with baited breath!

UMATILLA: Last week saw record high temperatures, 100 degree days with winds. The stress especially showed in wheat color in shallow soils. The weekend brought cool and moist weather.

UNION: Freezing temperatures last week, above normal temperatures this week have caused a lot of plant stress. Some farmers are reporting losses in dryland winter wheat due to frost/drought/heat. Losses in sweet cherries due to frost. Thundershowers and hail may have caused additional damage today. Hard freeze from previous week has caused significant damage to sweet cherries in some areas. The sudden shift from cold and dry conditions to hot and dry conditions has stressed many field crops. This week we experienced 4 consecutive days above 90 degrees (which is not normal for this time of year) in addition to the lack of substantial rainfall. Thunderstorms at the end of the week brought high winds, lightning, but little rainfall except in isolated areas. The impact from all these events on all crops may become more evident in the near future.

WALLOWA: Very hot weather has not helped range conditions for grass growth. It may have gotten too hot too fast. Thunderstorms towards the end of the week with plenty of lightning. So far no fires reported. Water conditions still tenuous. Some producers have started hauling water to their livestock.

WASCO: The first five days of the week were hot, while the last three days saw three quarters inch of precipitation fall. This was a good shot of moisture for the wheat crop and new plantings of all types of field crops. Most winter wheat acreage looking very good. South slopes look the poorest. Shallow spots starting to show some yellow areas. Heading just starting in a few areas. Wild rye is headed out in most areas. Grass and alfalfa hay cutting was started early in week. Cherries in The Dalles area starting to be visible on trees. The cherry crop is currently expected to be above average. Cattle and sheep are doing well on ranges and pastures.

Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: May 21, 2006 (as of 11:00 am) ¹

Station	Air temperature ²				Growing degree days ³		Last week precip. ⁴			Season cum. precipitation ⁵			
	Low	High	Avg.	DFN ⁶	Total	DFN ⁶	Total inches	DFN ⁶	Days ⁷	Total inches	DFN ⁶	Pct. normal	Days ⁷
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria/Clatsop	44	90	58	+6	60	+40	0.06	-0.58	2	71.10	10.48	117	161
Bandon ⁸	47	80	58	+7	59	+41	0.05	-0.56	1	60.84	5.58	110	125
Crescent City	46	76	56	+3	43	+15	0.18	-0.48	2	75.71	13.98	123	133
Florence	40	93	58	+5	57	+34	-	-0.84	-	75.96	5.18	107	147
Tillamook	42	95	60	+8	68	+53	-	-0.98	-	85.94	5.20	106	159
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Aurora ⁸	51	97	68	+13	126	+87	0.93	0.44	3	47.07	9.99	127	138
Corvallis	48	91	65	+11	107	+72	0.32	-0.10	3	47.01	7.51	119	138
Detroit Lake ⁸	50	95	68	+18	126	+111	0.70	-0.05	3	94.55	32.36	152	155
Eugene	46	86	63	+7	91	+48	0.29	-0.20	3	42.21	-3.51	92	127
Hillsboro	47	94	65	+11	109	+71	0.10	-0.25	3	39.95	5.89	117	134
McMinnville	50	94	66	+11	114	+72	-	-0.42	-	36.54	-3.85	90	132
Portland	54	92	68	+12	130	+78	0.04	-0.44	3	36.52	4.02	112	141
Salem	50	95	66	+12	113	+78	0.05	-0.37	3	45.02	9.12	125	132
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	52	98	71	+12	150	+84	0.53	0.25	2	43.31	13.84	147	117
Medford	54	97	72	+14	152	+93	0.85	0.64	3	24.93	7.73	145	96
Roseburg	53	96	68	+11	124	+73	0.52	0.18	3	43.10	12.66	142	130
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	43	93	67	+16	120	+100	0.56	0.32	3	13.67	2.21	119	83
Echo ⁸	45	97	72	+13	157	+90	0.64	0.50	3	9.12	1.43	119	85
Heppner	49	95	71	+16	151	+109	0.69	0.34	3	12.98	1.43	112	96
Hermiston	43	100	72	+13	158	+91	0.59	0.45	3	9.35	1.66	122	67
John Day	48	92	69	+16	137	+107	0.17	-0.18	2	7.87	-2.12	79	98
Madras ⁸	45	93	66	+13	117	+83	0.42	0.23	3	11.05	2.69	132	100
Moro	46	94	69	+16	133	+104	1.12	0.91	3	16.31	6.79	171	79
Parkdale ⁸	44	92	65	+9	103	+60	0.30	0.09	3	42.62	13.62	147	140
Pendleton	50	96	71	+14	152	+93	0.75	0.54	2	11.66	1.46	114	90
The Dalles	48	97	72	+18	157	+122	0.57	0.43	3	17.54	6.68	162	88
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Agency Lake ⁸	47	85	63	+14	92	+79	0.20	-0.01	5	18.47	4.55	133	108
Bend	41	89	65	+15	105	+89	0.09	-0.10	2	18.88	9.41	199	74
Burns	45	90	65	+14	104	+85	1.54	1.33	5	14.28	6.56	185	94
Christmas Valley ⁸	39	88	60	+7	73	+43	0.24	0.03	4	6.98	-2.95	70	83
Klamath Falls	44	87	63	+10	91	+64	0.23	0.02	2	15.54	3.99	135	94
Klamath Falls ⁸	43	87	63	+11	95	+68	0.06	-0.15	2	15.14	3.59	131	125
Lakeview	43	84	61	+10	78	+58	0.04	-0.31	1	8.16	-4.91	62	65
Lorella ⁸	39	88	62	+9	84	+57	0.21	0.00	1	17.64	6.09	153	115
Redmond	40	93	64	+14	102	+83	0.31	0.17	4	9.19	2.64	140	80
Worden ⁸	41	88	61	+9	80	+53	0.14	-0.07	2	13.27	1.72	115	114
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	39	91	66	+13	112	+88	0.55	0.27	4	7.62	0.13	102	83
Joseph	44	87	66	+19	113	+106	0.27	-0.20	3	16.19	-4.26	79	109
La Grande	45	93	68	+14	127	+94	0.83	0.48	3	6.37	-7.59	46	72
Prairie City ⁸	39	90	64	+18	99	+96	0.79	0.44	4	12.12	-4.98	71	91
Union	45	93	69	+17	138	+115	0.83	0.48	3	9.75	-0.33	97	94
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	48	95	72	+12	155	+82	0.09	-0.06	1	12.43	4.41	155	83
Rome	44	91	67	+11	120	+76	0.33	0.12	4	8.98	2.88	147	79

¹ Summary based on NWS data. Copyright 2006: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

² Air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

³ Growing degree days base-50 degrees Fahrenheit.

⁴ Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

⁵ Season cumulative precipitation starts September 1, 2005.

⁶ DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-1990 normals period).

⁷ Precipitation days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

⁸ Agri-Met weather stations.