

# OREGON CROP WEATHER



**NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE**

**USDA, NASS, Oregon Field Office**

Released: May 6, 2013  
Week ending: May 5, 2013  
Volume: 06-13

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**Weather:** Most Oregon weather stations reported warm and dry conditions for this time of year. High temperatures were reported in the mid 70's to upper 80's. Temperatures were well above normal for all weather stations in western part of the State. Low temperatures ranged from the upper 10's to low 40's. The Roseburg weather station recorded the highest temperature at 89 degrees. Most stations east of the Cascades reported below freezing low temperatures. Most of the State's precipitation fell in the coastal areas and the Willamette Valley. Detroit Lake had the most precipitation with 0.46 inches during the week. All weather stations reported below normal precipitation for the week.

**Field Crops:** The first round of spring grass hay began where fields were dry enough, and silage/haylage production continued in Coos and Curry. The hot dry weather continued to accelerate crop maturity in all pasture, hay, and field crops in many areas. Extremely dry for May. Farmers have started to irrigate most crops on fields which have irrigation systems. In Washington County, winter wheat in flag stage, alfalfa hay was cut and crimson clover beginning to bloom. In Yamhill, red clover was cut for silage, hay or just chopped off this week. Alfalfa was swathed as was grass hay. Spring planting of potatoes and other crops was well underway in Klamath. Heat and drought could kill the wheat crops as shallow ground was burning up quickly north central Oregon. Windy conditions have caused significant drying. Frost damage to a variety of crops including winter/spring crops are being reported from this week in Union and Baker.

**Fruits and Nuts:** The first strawberries of the season were available in north Willamette Valley that have been grown under small hoops and they are reported to be very sweet and like biting into Oregon summer! First report of possible problems in Italian purple plums/prunes. Codling moth emergence continued. Warmer weather was enhancing phenological development of all tree fruits. Early apples may have been damaged by last week's frost. Filberts looked good. In south Willamette Valley, coastal cedar rust affecting Bartlett pears. Scab infection seems to be down. EFB is down also due to drier spring.

Most blueberry varieties in Douglas County have set well and were filling nicely. All orchard crops had good pollination and have set large crops. Raspberry and blackberry plants were just a few days away from the beginning of bloom. Look for an early harvest for all fruit crops including wine grapes. In Jackson County, frost and freeze warnings were in place for Tuesday and Wednesday. There was widespread use of frost protection including heaters, frost fans and overhead sprinklers on Wednesday morning throughout the Valley. Unprotected orchards would likely see some evidence of frost damage. Hood River week started with a cool showery day, and transitioned to dry and very warm. With clear and calm conditions, temperatures dipped to near critical levels for orchard crops the morning of 5/1, resulting in widespread frost protection. In the lower Hood River Valley, routine orchard operations were underway, and in the upper Valley, pears were near or just past full bloom. Wasco cherry trees have suffered various degrees of loss from the freezes within the last month. Many growers have given notice of loss, but remain optimistic that the damage was fairly minimal, localized and only in certain varieties. Union County orchardists were concerned for the 2013 fruit crop with unknown freeze damage.

**Vegetables:** Sweet corn planting frenzy as good weather continued. Green bean planting happened in mid to late April.

**Nurseries and Greenhouses:** Rapid development of all ornamentals because of hot, dry weather. Nurseries were doing a good business in bedding plants and vegetables. Peonies were blooming a least a week earlier than normal. Some rhododendron 10 days ahead of normal. Balled and burlaped trees and shrubs were shipped.

**Livestock, Range and Pasture:** Livestock doing well in Washington County. With the warm weather, grass is growing well, and livestock continued to return to the lowland pastures as the ground continued to dry. The hot dry weather continued to accelerate crop maturity in pastures.

**Soil Moisture - Week Ending 05/05/13**

	<b>Very short</b>	<b>Short</b>	<b>Adequate</b>	<b>Surplus</b>
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	17	42	41	0
Subsoil	3	42	54	1

**Crop Progress - Week Ending 05/05/13**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>This week</b>	<b>Last week</b>	<b>Last year</b>	<b>5 year average</b>
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Barley planted	85	73	93	88
Barley emerged	54	46	76	67
Spring wheat planted	92	86	94	92
Spring wheat emerged	72	68	67	65
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.8	6.7	4.6	4.6

**Crop Condition - Week Ending 05/05/13**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>Very poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter wheat	4	9	46	38	3
Spring wheat	13	16	35	35	1
Barley	1	14	51	34	0
Range and pasture	2	18	30	47	3

## Western Oregon

**CLACKAMAS:** Good dry weather the past week, some grass hay fields were beginning to be cut.

**COOS AND CURRY:** Lows averaged about 5 degrees above 5-year average in Coos and nearly 11 degrees above the 5-year average in southern Curry. Coos County maximum high temperature was over 22 degrees above the 5-year average. Maximum high was almost 22 degrees above the 5-year average in Southern Curry County. Relatively warm morning conditions prevailed most of the week along the coast, with some patchy morning fog, especially near the coast, with dry conditions and unseasonably warm and very windy conditions prevailing through the weekend. A thunder storm brought scattered showers to the area on Sunday evening. River levels continued to drop, with the South Fork, Coquille River near historic low flow levels for this time of year. With the warm weather, grass is growing well, and livestock continued to return to the lowland pastures as the ground continued to dry. The first round of spring grass hay began where fields were dry enough, and silage/haylage production continued. Bandon (Coos and Northern Curry): Official Low temperature for the period was 38.69 degrees, 0.3 degrees above the 5-year average. High temperature for the period was 80.1 degrees, 21.83 degrees above the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 0.5 inches, which is 0.95 inches below the 5-year average for the week. Weather year 2013 (began 10/1/2012) precipitation stands at 49.5 inches, 0.27 inches below the 5-year average. Historical average precipitation through May is 55.97 inches.

Brookings (Southern Curry): low temperature for the period was 44.49 degrees, 4.41 degrees above the 5-year average. High temperature for the period was 89.6 degrees, 22.47 degrees above the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 0.02 inches, which is 1.16 inches below the 5-year average. Weather year 2013 (began 10/1/2012) precipitation stands at 64.12 inches, 11.37 inches below the 5-year average. Historical average precipitation through May is 68.15 inches.

**DOUGLAS:** The hot dry weather continued to accelerate crop maturity in all pasture, hay, and field crops. The same rapid development of all ornamentals and fruit crops was also taking place. Most blueberry varieties have set well and were filling nicely. All orchard crops had good pollination and have set large crops. Raspberry and blackberry plants were just a few days away from the beginning of bloom. Look for an early harvest for all fruit crops including wine grapes.

**JACKSON:** Frost and freeze warnings were in place for Tuesday and Wednesday. There was widespread use of frost protection including heaters, frost fans and overhead sprinklers on Wednesday morning throughout the Valley. Unprotected orchards would likely see some evidence of frost damage. After the cool

starts this week, the days were clear and dry and the end of the week warmed up into the upper 80s and close to 90 degrees.

**JOSHEPHINE:** Overnight lows 34-46 daytime 59-84. No precipitation for week. Busy planting, pruning, fertilizing, watering. Extremely dry for May. Luckily temperatures were tolerable still. Lovely spring flowers bulbs, shrubs, perennials. Harvesting asparagus broccoli rhubarb snow peas. Lots of chicks sold this spring of all kinds, colors. Nurseries were doing a good business in bedding plants, vegetables and amendments. Fire season not far away, many debris fires have escaped causing problems

**LANE:** Very dry conditions; farmers have started to irrigate all crops on fields which have irrigation systems. Too hot and too dry for so early in the season. Apples - continued to bloom. Early varieties done blooming. Coastal cedar rust affecting Bartlett pears. Scab infection seems to be down. EFB is down also due to drier spring. Cool to cold mornings still a problem with warm seasoned vegetables. Frost protection is needed. Record high temperatures mean time for irrigation is closer than previous years. Peonies blooming a least a week earlier than normal. Some rhododendron 10 days ahead of normal. Bee population in many areas with wild and planted flowering plants were above normal. The more pollen flowers, the better for bees and predatory insects.

**WASHINGTON:** Winter wheat in flag stage, alfalfa hay made, red clover field, and some green chopped, crimson clover beginning to bloom. Strawberries blooming and fruit setting, early apples may have been damaged by last week's frost. Filberts look good. Gardens and commercial sweet corn planting frenzy as good weather continued. Balled and burlaped trees and shrubs were shipped. Livestock doing well. No rain. High temperature 83 degrees, low 44 degrees.

**YAMHILL:** Red clover was cut for silage, hay or just chopped off this week. Alfalfa was swathed as was grass hay. Crimson clover was in bloom as were early blueberries. Corn for silage was planted last month starting around the 22nd which is very early and is now up about 3-4 inches. Green bean planting happened in mid to late April. Most of the farmers have the spring grains and grasses planted and will now be concentrating on the row crops. The first strawberries of the season were available that have been grown under small hoops and they are reported to be very sweet and like biting into Oregon summer! First report of possible problems in Italian purple plums/prunes. Codling moth emergence continued. Warmer weather was enhancing phonological development of all tree fruits.

## Eastern Oregon

**HOOD RIVER:** The week started with a cool showery day, and transitioned to dry and very warm. With clear and calm conditions, temperatures dipped to near critical levels for orchard crops the morning of 5/1, resulting in widespread frost protection. In the lower Hood River Valley, routine orchard operations were underway, and in the upper Valley, pears were near or just past full bloom.

**KLAMATH:** A week of warm temperatures in the 70's. No precipitation. Spring planting of potatoes and other crops was well underway. Irrigation continued. Strong winds on Saturday caused some damage to irrigation equipment.

**SHERMAN/WASCO:** No disease issues, but heat and drought could kill the wheat crops as shallow ground was burning up quickly, possibly sped up by cold nights. Several farmers have commented on how they are able to drive (and have been) on fields that are typically too moist until mid May. Many streams that commonly run well into August are left as a series of mud holes. Dry year is upon us. Cheat grass, cereal rye and fiddle neck all headed. Cheat grass drying up sooner than normal reducing amount of feed available. Cherry trees have suffered various degrees of loss from the freezes within the last month. Many growers have given notice of loss, but remain optimistic that the

damage is fairly minimal localized and only certain varieties. Wheat looks good but shallow areas are stressed to loss. This is normal in most years. Growers are hoping for cool weather and timely May rains. First cutting hay should be completed by third week in May. Range was fair due to low rainfall and cooler spring weather.

**UNION/BAKER:** Irrigation was started on most farms. Windy conditions have caused significant drying. Cool dry weather continued during the early part of the week with 3 nights below freezing. Frost damage to a variety of crops including winter/spring crops are being reported from this week and previous frost events. Damage level not known at this time but orchardists are concerned for the 2013 fruit crop. Warmer day temperatures occurred later in the week. Dry conditions have continued with evapo-transpiration rates approximately 0.25 in/day already this season. Irrigation season is fully underway to reduce moisture stress.

**WALLOWA:** Warmer weather towards the end of the week but some chilly temperatures early did not help crop conditions. Farmers were busy seeding spring crops but north part was still too wet.

**Alert! The window to respond to the Census of Agriculture is almost closed!**

**There are only a few weeks left to complete and return the 2012 Census of Agriculture.** Because time is running out, NASS may contact you or farmers in your area by phone or in person to collect information for the Census. *Help ensure you and your industry have the most complete set of agricultural statistics available for your country and county.* For more information or for help filling out your Census form, visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov) or call (888) 424-7828.

**Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: May 5, 2013 (as of 11:00 am) <sup>1</sup>**

Station	Air temperature <sup>2</sup>				Growing degree days <sup>3</sup>		Last week precip. <sup>4</sup>			Season cum. precipitation <sup>5</sup>			
	Low	High	Avg.	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Total	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Total inches	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Days <sup>7</sup>	Total inches	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Pct. normal	Days <sup>7</sup>
<b>COASTAL AREAS</b>													
Astoria	32	85	54	4	37	23	0.30	-0.50	2	68.12	8.80	115	156
Bandon <sup>8</sup>	39	80	54	5	35	21	0.05	-0.70	1	49.55	-4.51	92	141
Crescent City	40	76	54	3	33	12	0.05	-0.72	1	45.91	-14.52	76	102
Florence	32	88	55	4	41	27	0.07	-0.89	1	58.87	-10.24	85	136
North Bend	37	86	56	6	51	35	0.02	-0.77	1	38.19	-20.05	66	110
Tillamook	32	86	55	6	39	32	0.25	-0.86	2	59.15	-19.62	75	141
<b>WILLAMETTE VALLEY</b>													
Aurora <sup>8</sup>	34	85	59	8	71	46	-	-0.56	-	31.79	-4.33	88	126
Corvallis	29	85	58	7	67	46	0.01	-0.48	1	27.85	-10.83	72	125
Detroit Lake <sup>8</sup>	29	82	56	10	52	45	0.46	-0.38	1	76.60	15.86	126	141
Eugene	31	86	57	4	52	24	-	-0.56	-	25.61	-19.20	57	104
Hillsboro	30	84	56	5	51	27	0.08	-0.33	2	28.06	-5.36	84	119
McMinnville	32	86	58	6	64	36	-	-0.49	-	26.83	-12.79	68	111
Portland	40	85	60	7	67	33	0.07	-0.42	1	30.52	-1.01	97	116
Salem	32	87	58	7	65	44	0.05	-0.41	1	29.70	-5.41	85	114
<b>SW VALLEYS</b>													
Grants Pass	33	86	59	4	65	19	-	-0.29	-	27.94	-1.05	96	99
Medford	33	87	61	7	80	40	-	-0.26	-	15.76	-1.02	94	89
Roseburg	36	89	61	8	80	45	-	-0.42	-	24.89	-4.90	84	107
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>													
Condon	24	70	51	4	25	17	-	-0.28	-	6.73	-4.15	62	64
Echo <sup>8</sup>	28	82	54	-2	37	-8	-	-0.17	-	6.70	-0.69	91	74
Heppner	28	75	52	0	32	7	-	-0.32	-	6.14	-4.64	57	62
Hermiston	24	83	55	-1	44	-1	-	-0.17	-	6.63	-0.76	90	63
Madras <sup>8</sup>	22	75	50	0	24	3	-	-0.14	-	5.67	-2.35	71	64
Moro	25	76	51	2	25	11	-	-0.14	-	6.97	-2.14	77	63
Parkdale <sup>8</sup>	27	79	52	-2	28	0	0.10	-0.16	2	31.52	2.84	110	120
Pendleton	26	79	53	-1	34	-3	-	-0.26	-	7.27	-2.48	75	69
Prairie City <sup>8</sup>	22	75	50	0	24	3	-	-0.14	-	5.67	-2.35	71	64
The Dalles	31	86	58	7	58	37	-	-0.14	-	8.18	-2.41	77	60
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>													
Agency Lake <sup>8</sup>	33	76	53	8	27	20	-	-0.21	-	10.00	-3.50	74	61
Bend	23	75	48	3	17	10	-	-0.14	-	6.43	-2.72	70	29
Burns	15	74	47	-1	8	-6	-	-0.20	-	5.21	-2.04	72	48
Christmas Valley <sup>8</sup>	12	75	45	-5	2	-19	0.01	-0.20	1	16.55	7.06	174	74
Klamath Falls	26	77	51	3	24	10	-	-0.15	-	6.18	-4.97	55	54
Klamath Falls <sup>8</sup>	27	77	53	4	30	16	0.02	-0.13	2	6.93	-4.22	62	76
Lakeview <sup>8</sup>	22	78	48	0	7	-6	0.09	-0.19	2	8.28	-4.11	67	79
Lorella <sup>8</sup>	18	76	46	-3	2	-12	0.01	-0.14	1	8.07	-3.08	72	70
Redmond	16	78	49	2	16	5	-	-0.14	-	4.71	-1.54	75	49
Worden <sup>8</sup>	20	75	49	0	10	-4	0.25	+0.10	1	7.23	-3.92	65	69
<b>NORTHEAST</b>													
Baker City	15	74	46	-3	7	-7	-	-0.21	-	4.17	-2.70	61	69
Joseph	25	70	48	4	13	13	-	-0.42	-	10.57	-8.38	56	83
La Grande	21	73	50	-1	19	-2	0.01	-0.34	1	8.75	-4.44	66	70
Imbler <sup>8</sup>	22	76	49	-1	18	4	0.06	-0.29	1	9.94	-9.17	52	100
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>													
Ontario	27	81	56	-1	47	-2	-	-0.14	-	4.44	-3.27	58	55
Rome	19	75	49	-3	17	-8	-	-0.21	-	3.23	-2.39	57	51

<sup>1</sup> Summary based on NWS data. Copyright 2013: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

<sup>2</sup> Air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

<sup>3</sup> Growing degree days base-50 degrees Fahrenheit.

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

<sup>5</sup> Season cumulative precipitation starts September 1, 2012.

<sup>6</sup> DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-1990 normal period).

<sup>7</sup> Precipitation days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

<sup>8</sup> Agri-Met weather stations.