



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

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CWP WA-CW2005

Rains Help Grain Crops and Soak, Cut Alfalfa Hay Lighter Fruit Set in Some Areas

Field Crops

Showers were welcomed in most areas of the state. Whitman, Lincoln, and Spokane experienced small amounts of washout and erosion on recently tilled summer fallow and on spring crop ground with newly emerging grains and pulses. Grain crops that were heading or starting to head out improved immensely throughout the week due to almost an inch of rain in many areas. Some counties continued spraying wheat, especially spring wheat, to guard against rust damage. However, Franklin County reported heavy amounts of rust appearing on wheat crops, particularly in red varieties. A large amount of alfalfa hay that was cut was rained on in many areas.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 8% very poor, 20% poor, 26% fair, 45% good, and 1% excellent. Shellfish growers in Pacific County completed surveys of burrowing shrimp densities in preparation for later summer control programs. Harvest and seed planting activities continued in this area. Range and pasture conditions improved with the rains that were received.

Fruits and Vegetables

Some hail was received in Yakima County and caused damage to fruit and vegetable crops. Some areas of the state reported lighter fruit set due to frost and poor weather conditions during pollination in April. In Benton County, producers were unable to spray due to rain over the past few weeks, which has caused mildew in apples and grapes. Asparagus harvesting continued, but at a slower pace due to milder temperatures. Rhubarb was at its peak due to ideal weather conditions. Nurseries also experienced good production, and perennial plants were thriving.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	4.6
Last Week	5.5

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	1	15	73	11
Topsoil 5 Yr Average	4	14	74	8
Subsoil	9	40	50	1
Subsoil 5 Yr Average	2	22	75	1
Irrigation Water	6	11	83	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Average	0	3	96	1
Hay & Roughage	3	23	71	3

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

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2004	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	100	99	100	98
Spring Wheat Emerged	82	80	95	88
Spring Wheat Headed	4	2	1	1
Winter Wheat Headed	29	14	10	8
Barley Planted	96	91	100	98
Barley Emerged	69	64	96	87
Barley Headed	2	1	1	0
Potatoes Planted	97	93	100	100
Potatoes Emerged	56	52	68	61
Corn Planted	73	45	91	81
Corn Emerged	35	14	38	20
Dry Edible Beans Planted	60	55	99	38
Proc. Green Peas Planted	98	97	100	89
Dry Peas Planted	93	85	100	92
Alfalfa Hay 1 st Cutting	18	5	14	13

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	3	20	64	12
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	5	80	15
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	1	30	64	5
Spring Wheat Irrigated	2	1	18	75	4
Barley Dryland	0	1	25	70	4
Barley Irrigated	0	0	23	71	6
Potatoes	0	0	14	70	16

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

Clallam/Jefferson: Port Angeles and Sequim have not received any rainfall this month, and the area is dryer than normal. Further east, Port Townsend has received ¹/₃ of an inch of rain and Chimacum has a monthly total of 0.83 inches. Enough drizzle has fallen to maintain surface moisture.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Rain continued to play havoc with spring planting schedules.

Kitsap: Early vegetables and leaf lettuce were in good supply. Bedding plants and vegetable starts were available at all local farmer's markets. Pasture forage was in great condition. Conditions also favored noxious weeds which continued to invade pastures.

Lewis: Mixed weather patterns throughout the week. Soil temperatures remained low as many crops appeared to be at a standstill. Peas were beginning to bloom in some areas.

Mason: Pasture rotation was in full swing. Intermittent rainfall, about 1.75 inches during the week was producing near-perfect grass growing conditions. Cool temperatures at night continued. Rhubarb was at its peak in this wet weather. Peonies will be ready next week, they were nearing the marshmallow stage.

Mason (2nd Report): The warm, humid temperatures and ample rain proved fruitful for local CSA vegetable growers. Pastures were still producing well, but were saturated in some parts of the county. Nurseries were also having good production and perennial plants were thriving. Numerous plant sales throughout the county welcomed plenty of paying customers ready to plant their home gardens.

Pacific: Improving weather gave growers ample opportunity to complete early season field operations. Dairy producers completed the first green chop operations of the season, with good yields. Final soil preparation and planting was

underway for row crops and cranberries. Christmas tree, and small fruit growers continued insect and weed control activities. Shellfish growers completed surveys of burrowing shrimp densities in preparation for later summer control programs. Shellfish harvesting and seed planting activities continued.

Pierce: Continuing rainfall and moderate temperatures have improved pasture and hay production outlook throughout the area. Soft ground has limited field access this week.

Pierce/South King: The weather remained favorable for farming in the South Puget Sound area. There has been rain, sun and moderate temperatures. No unusual situations to report. No report of crop damage due to a weather event.

San Juan: Cool and cloudy with some showers. Too moist for early hay. Harvesting of silage and haylage was on-going. Spring pasturing was in full swing. Late apples were still in bloom.

North Snohomish/King: North county coastal areas were still running nearly 40 percent behind the normal average rainfall for the year, however the area received over 0.75 of an inch of rain in the past week. Closer to the foothills, Arlington is at 81 percent normal for the year, and only received light rain over the course of last week.

South Snohomish/King: The South county area received nearly two inches of rain this month, significantly impacting the rainfall totals for the year. North King County only received 0.20 of an inch of rain for the month. Fieldwork was progressing nicely, and most farmers have completed their first cutting of grass.

Thurston: Still very moist. Pinot Noir was setting nicely. Fertilized garlic for the first time with a fish/kelp organic liquid. Vetted herd and switched pastures. Calving is all done.

Central

Benton: Received showers throughout the week, with temperatures in the 50 to 60 degrees with windy conditions. Calls were received concerning poor cherry crop pollination. With the rainy week producers were not able to spray crops, causing some mildew in apples and grapes. Wheat growers continued to spray for rust especially spring wheat because it had not headed out completely.

Chelan/Douglas: More precipitation received over the weekend (less than 0.3 inches at Waterville). Recent moisture has really helped the wheat and forage crops. Livestock water was in short supply in Douglas County. Many producers have signed up for assistance through the Emergency Conservation Program. Chelan County irrigation supply looked to be adequate throughout the growing season except for a few producers that have indicated the water levels in their wells were dropping, and it is their only source of water. Fruit crops looked good.

Franklin: Rainy conditions this past week and the drought picture was improving. Heavy amounts of rust was showing up in wheat, particularly in the red varieties. Forty percent of the first cutting of hay is down and at this time is getting rained on. Asparagus harvest slowed down a bit by cooler temperatures and the rains.

Franklin (2nd Report): Hay harvest began last week at about 35 percent cut and on the ground. Rain moved in on Sunday halting any hay work. Some alfalfa has been baled but most cut hay was in the drying process. Asparagus harvest continued with good prices.

Grant: Received rain over the weekend again which improved moisture conditions for dryland operators and improved native pastures for the cattlemen. Rains were forecasted for most of the week. Hay growers were wanting to get first cutting started. Rains might delay the start date. Field corn and potato planting was completed. Field preparations were underway for bean and sweet corn planting.

Grant (2nd Report): First cutting was at ten percent and rained on.

Kittitas: The Kittitas Valley received heavy showers over the weekend averaging, about 0.50 of an inch total precipitation accumulation. The May rains were definitely boosting the perennial crops in the valley especially timothy hay.

Kittitas (2nd Report): Three days of record-setting rain this week have encouraged producers. Although it will not affect when irrigation supplies are turned off. The rain will make a significant difference on non-irrigated ground, where soils were already extremely dry and plant growth was not likely to be sustained for many more weeks without significant improvement. The timothy hay crop was doing well, with possibly an early first cutting which will improve the chances for a second cutting.

Okanogan/Ferry: The county received five days of good weather that allowed producers to be out in the fields. Portions of the county received up to and in excess of 1.04 inches of precipitation this week. Temperatures were normal for this time of year. Fruit crops looked good at this time, no reports of damage. The winter wheat crop still looked good at this time. Spring grain plantings were just about complete, some of the higher elevations were yet to be planted. Most reports from producers indicated that pasture conditions were good, although some cattlemen were reporting that some water sources were low or not running. Irrigated hay crops looked good. These last rains should really improve crop and pasture conditions.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from three to twelve degrees above normal, with 0.52 of an inch of precipitation. Some producers reported receiving up to 1.5 inches of rain in certain areas of the county on May 9. Several producers also reported hail damage to fruit and vegetable crops on the same date.

Eastern

Adams: Heavy rains as much as two inches in the north portion of the county to considerably less south and east of Lind on Monday evening. More generalized rains on Sunday bracketed the week, weather wise, adding optimism to all grain crops. Some reports of hail damage north of Othello, and early hay cutters with wet forage in the project area provided the negatives to an otherwise appreciated precipitation week. Pasture conditions were holding steady.

Adams (2nd Report): Rainfall was heavy in northern Adams County with reports well over two inches of precipitation. In southern Adams County precipitation was much lighter with reports of only 0.15 of an inch during the week. With these rains subsoil moisture conditions have improved with only 60 percent being in short or very short supply and the remaining 40 percent in adequate supply. Winter and spring cereal conditions have improved with the winter wheat crop being 60 percent excellent and 20 percent good and spring cereal conditions were 75 percent fair and 25 percent good.

Asotin/Garfield: Rain showers continued throughout the week and continued to improve crop and rangeland conditions.

Lincoln: The rain on Monday was very much needed. All areas of southern Lincoln County got over 1.6 inches of rain. The areas of winter wheat that were drying up before Monday greened back up. Spring wheat will make an average crop now.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Soaking rains significantly improved the condition of spring crops and pastures, as well as enhancing an already good winter wheat crop. This precipitation did cause some washing and erosion in some limited areas of the county, but the rains were mostly welcomed by producers.

Lincoln (3rd Report): Precipitation was widespread throughout Lincoln County with reports well over two inches during the week. Sub soil moisture conditions improved from 100 percent being in short or very short supply to only 10 percent in very short supply, 20 percent in short supply and 70 percent now being in adequate supply. Winter wheat conditions improved with 65 percent in excellent condition and 20 percent in good condition. Spring wheat and barley conditions also improved as only 50 percent remained fair and the rest is good and excellent.

Pend Oreille: Highs were at 71 degrees, lows were at 30 degrees, precipitation was 2.6 inches with two overcast days three sunny days and two rainy days. The thunder storms late in the week brought an over abundance of water with minor flooding (standing water) in the fields. The ground was saturated by Sunday evening. The growth in the fields were as expected for this time of the year. The night temperatures were warming up (mid 40's-50's) with dew on the grasses during early morning hours. Livestock have about finished winter shedding.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Lots of moisture this week. Grass was growing and wheat looked good. Some heavy rains caused erosion even in the no-till.

Stevens: Pastures and hay crops continued growing well. Very little precipitation was received during the past week.

Walla Walla: Frequent showers throughout the week, warm and clear on Thursday and Friday, then back to showers on Saturday. Area crops looked good. Many Walla Walla County alfalfa growers had first cutting down and it was getting rained on. Columbia County hay not yet cut. Area producers remained optimistic about crop yields this year.

Whatcom: Another fairly dry week for fieldwork. Corn planting was over ²/₃ complete; seed potato growers were wrapping up their spring planting. There was 0.40 of an inch of precipitation that fell during the week as daytime highs averaged a normal 65 degrees. Night time lows for the week were five degrees above normal at 49 degrees.

Whitman: Heavy rains were experienced in most of the county with washout and erosion experienced on recently tilled summer fallow and on spring crop ground with newly emerging grains and pulses. Overall, the rainfall was beneficial and gave pastures and crops a much needed drink. While conditions were cloudy and rainy most of the week temperatures remained warm helping with plant growth and development. Rust was beginning to show up in some areas.

Whitman (2nd Report): Most of the planting was finished and the rain continued aiding the crops. We are looking forward to a very productive fall if these trends continue.

Weekly Weather Statistics

May 16, 2005

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	45	70	58	6	57	36	3	3	0.84	0.33	3	34.20	3.56	112	126	
Everett	50	71	58	6	59	33	5	5	0.24	-0.32	2	22.62	-8.04	74	125	
Hoquiam	45	65	55	3	39	16	0	0	1.53	0.78	5	50.82	-10.60	83	149	
Kelso	46	70	58	5	58	30	7	7	2.70	2.14	4	24.38	-16.04	60	103	
Olympia	44	70	58	6	54	34	4	4	1.48	0.99	4	34.61	-11.47	75	132	
Sea-Tac	50	69	58	4	56	25	2	2	1.31	0.90	4	27.15	-5.96	82	112	
Shelton	43	69	57	3	53	18	2	2	1.43	0.88	4	48.21	-11.91	80	124	
Tacoma	45	70	58	4	57	24	3	3	1.40	0.95	4	23.64	-11.22	68	101	
Vancouver	47	73	59	6	66	36	13	13	1.58	1.02	4	24.64	-11.98	67	121	
CENTRAL																
Ellensburg	46	80	62	9	85	54	19	19	1.91	1.82	5	6.28	-1.18	84	69	
Stampede Pass	41	65	51	12	17	17	0	0	2.30	1.50	5	54.58	-18.77	74	140	
Wenatchee	49	79	62	5	84	29	22	15	0.65	0.56	5	4.98	-1.83	73	56	
Yakima AP	48	79	62	7	90	47	24	23	0.50	0.43	4	5.18	-1.42	78	67	
NORTHEAST																
Colville	39	82	62	10	83	57	14	14	0.49	0.06	4	15.08	-1.56	91	78	
Deer Park	36	74	57	5	50	24	0	0	0.99	0.60	4	14.97	0.16	101	92	
Spokane AP	45	73	58	7	62	37	2	2	1.37	1.08	4	10.04	-3.04	77	80	
EAST CENTRAL																
Ephrata	48	79	63	5	92	28	25	16	1.09	0.98	5	4.61	-1.27	78	49	
Moses Lake	44	79	62	4	88	24	22	13	1.14	1.03	4	4.93	-0.95	84	47	
Quincy	49	76	63	6	90	37	25	18	1.54	1.40	4	5.04	-1.30	79	43	
Ritzville	45	76	58	6	60	33	7	7	0.73	0.52	4	6.89	-2.52	73	50	
SOUTHEAST																
Hanford	48	85	65	3	103	18	37	15	0.35	0.23	2	3.08	-2.26	58	37	
Pasco	42	85	65	5	105	32	37	23	0.45	0.31	3	4.12	-2.14	66	52	
Pullman	42	73	56	6	50	31	1	1	0.53	0.18	3	5.07	-12.20	29	58	
Whitman Miss.	45	81	61	5	79	32	22	19	0.54	0.26	5	8.35	-2.90	74	80	
ID PANHANDLE																
Coeur D' A' AP	37	73	57	4	51	19	2	2	0.18	-0.28	4	9.82	-10.90	47	63	
Lewiston ID	46	80	61	4	80	28	21	14	1.26	0.98	4	8.84	-0.19	98	75	

Summary based on NWS data.
 Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2004
 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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