

# OREGON CROP WEATHER



**NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE**

USDA, NASS, Oregon Field Office

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**Weather:** Precipitation was minimal last week. Only two stations, Astoria/Clatsop and Tillamook, received precipitation more than one day. However, according to the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), isolated pockets of precipitation fell over coastal Oregon including the Cascades. Most temperatures throughout the State were above normal. High temperatures ranged from 90 degrees in Medford to 61 degrees in Crescent City. Low temperatures were very similar to those of last week. Temperatures ranged from 16 degrees in Christmas Valley to 41 degrees in Bandon and Portland.

**Field Crops:** Relatively dry weather conditions continued throughout the State. While the warm, dry weather allowed fieldwork to continue, many producers would like to see some precipitation. Irrigation systems have been turned on in many areas. Spring planting of most grain crops was wrapped up. Some early hay crops were put up. Most crops were reported to be in generally good condition across Oregon. As of May 14, 66 percent of the winter wheat crop was rated in good to excellent condition.

**Vegetables:** With the end of the cold evening temperatures, many vegetables were being planted across the State. Farmer's markets continued to sell greenhouse grown shallots, carrots, onions, and lettuce. Processing sweet corn was up and growers were irrigating their beets for seed in Washington County.

**Fruits and Nuts:** Northern Willamette Valley berries continued in bloom. Grape vines were leafing out and fruit set looked good. Walnuts were leafing. Most hazelnut growers finished spraying for Eastern Filbert Blight. Some growers are preparing to apply foliar bloom to their hazelnuts. Polk County cherry bloom looked excellent. Southern Willamette Valley strawberries are showing buds and should be ready for harvest around June 5<sup>th</sup>. Blackberries, raspberries, and blueberries were

progressing well. Grape budding continues to be slow; early grapes were blooming. Cherry bloom looked good although some growers think pollination and bees are down. Prunes and plums, and peaches were showing a good, but light crop. Pears looked very good. The apple crop may be too heavy and need thinning. Codling moth was out May 12<sup>th</sup>. Clear, calm night time conditions in Hood River County resulted in temperatures in the low thirties on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, requiring frost protection in many parts of the Hood River Valley. Activities in Wasco County fruit orchards included spraying and mowing grass strips between tree rows. Orchardists in Douglas County sprayed for fungal diseases, codling moth, and aphids. Plums, prunes, and cherries will have light to no crops from poor pollination. Pears look to have medium to light crops, and apples will have a good set. Nut crops look good at this time. Grapes were growing well with dry weather aiding disease control. Southern Oregon strawberries were in bloom. Apples and pears were off to a good start; cover sprays were applied. Vineyards showed good growth.

**Nurseries and Greenhouses:** Both nurseries and greenhouses were still shipping plant material to retail outlets for sale. Recent warmer and spring type weather have gotten home gardeners out and working in the yard. Nurseries were irrigating new plantings along with current stock and digging and balling evergreen landscape shrubs. The shipping season to the east coast is starting to wind down. Iris growers were getting ready for their spring open houses.

**Livestock, Range and Pasture:** Pastures continue to do well with warmer and dryer weather. Livestock were reported in good condition throughout most of the State and are thriving in the warm spring. Some yearlings and dry cows are going to market in Harney County. Cooler weather in high elevated areas continued to slow rangeland growth.

Soil Moisture-Week Ending 05/14/06

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	2	25	68	5
Subsoil	0	11	84	5

Crop Progress-Week Ending 05/14/06

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5 year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Barley planted	94	88	93	90
Barley emerged	70	60	81	74
Spring wheat planted	98	89	98	98
Spring wheat emerged	81	60	87	89
Days suitable for fieldwork	7.0	6.8	-	-

Crop Condition-Week Ending 05/14/06

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Winter wheat	0	8	26	63	3
Spring wheat	0	0	30	68	2
Barley	0	0	23	74	3
Range and pasture	0	2	27	53	18

## WESTERN OREGON

**BENTON/LINN/LANE:** Fabulous weather for spraying... but rain is needed again! Irrigation systems are now out and running. Mint fields looking very good. Nice set for blueberries. Strawberries are showing buds; expect crop around June 5. Black and red raspberries progressing nicely. Grapes seem a little slow to bud this year, early ones blooming. Cherry bloom looking good, some growers think pollination and bees are down. Plum/prune and peaches showing a lighter but OK crop. Pears look very good. Asian pears; nice crop. Apple crop may have too good of a set and require thinning. Codling moth out May 12, first big flight of codling moth. Farmers markets open. Mostly greenhouse grown shallots, carrots, onions, and lots of different lettuces are at farmer's markets. Plantings go hog wild with the end of the cold evening temperatures. First season plantings going in; lots of planting going on. Greenhouse and nursery crops are off and running. Sunny days during the weekend helped farmer market sales and weekend greenhouse sales. People out in droves. Good sale weekends for the last four weeks. Great spring so far. The weather in the Willamette Valley continues to be warm and dry. The grass crops are growing well and the orchard and berry crops have now finished blooming.

**COLUMBIA:** Good week for farm work. Soil moisture starting to slip. Irrigation will be starting soon on some crops.

**COOS/CURRY:** Temperatures above normal most of the week, and still breezy in the afternoons. Ground conditions continue to dry out, although some low spots are still very wet. Pastures improved to mostly good condition and livestock are being turned out to fill the bottoms; haylage production swung into gear with the winds drying out the hay fields. Preliminary indications are for light to medium reduction in forage production from the normally high producing bottoms. Producers are blaming silt deposits, and cool rainy weather for late start on growth this spring. Some areas experienced lows into the low 30's even this week, with frost reported in some locations. At Brookings (South Curry), low temperature for the period was 40.61 degrees, 0.56 degrees below the 5-year average. High temperature for the period was 67.81 degrees. Precipitation for the period was 0.01 inches. Precipitation for Weather year stands at 99.45 inches. At Bandon (Coos & Northern Curry), low temperature for the period was 40.61 degrees. High temperature for the period was 67.68 degrees. Precipitation for the period was 0.01 inches. Weather year precipitation stands at 65.99 inches.

**DOUGLAS:** Field work progressing nicely for all crops as dry weather continues. Orchard spraying for fungal diseases, codling moth, aphids going strongly. Very evident that plums, prunes, and cherries will have light to no crop from poor pollination. Pears medium to light crops and apples will have a good set. Nut crops look good at this time. Grapes are growing well with dry weather aiding disease control. Hay crop looks excellent. Hay crops and pastures are making good growth but will peak early for non-irrigated areas. Livestock thriving in the warm spring.

**JACKSON:** Most spring grain now planted, or about to be planted. Hay crop getting off to a good start. Some early first cutting of grass now cut. Apples and pears are off to a good start. Cover sprays being applied. Saw about 5 acres of pears that had the tops worked with new pears put on. Vineyards showing good growth. Lots of vegetable gardens planted this week. Saw some early planting of sweet corn was now up. Greenhouses still busy getting out vegetable and flowering plant starts. Appears to be a good supply at outlets. Nurseries very busy with getting out trees and shrubs, also lots of flowering plants. Most all livestock is now out on good green pastures. Dry grown pasture is looking good to fair, but with warmer dry weather, could now use a good rain. The weather has been ideal for all types of farm and ranch work. A nice rain would be good for field crops.

**JOSEPHINE:** Strawberries are blooming; activity in truck and home gardens is very hectic. Some fields are under irrigation now including hay fields. Some hay has had first cutting, had to put sprinklers on others that were not to be cut for a couple of weeks. Nursery sales are brisk, lots of plants, trees, shrubs being sold to home gardeners. Professional and home gardens are really beautiful now, with all spring blooming trees and shrubs, early perennials in bloom. Beautiful weather all week with no precipitation.

**MARION:** Rapid crop growth occurred this week with warm and dry weather however, some perennial ryegrass fields still looking weak. Light frost early in the week, but warm and dry later. Grass seed crops are a week or more later in maturity so far this season. First applications of fungicides are being applied on some fields with rust just starting to appear. Irrigation is being applied to grass seed crops as well as to nursery and recently planted row crops. Flowering crops are pollinating well now.

**POLK:** At this point there is an excellent fruit set on cherries. Spring planted grass seed and other crops are in need of rainfall for germination. Temperatures are now close to 50 at night. Pasture conditions are good, but with the below normal rainfall in May they are expected to produce less forage with no rainfall in sight and very warm temperatures coming.

**WASHINGTON:** Grass for seed being irrigated. Grass and legumes being processed to hay, haylage or silage. Berries blooming; grape vines leafing out and fruit looking good. Walnuts leafing; blueberries blooming and bees are in hives and doing their work. Fungicides applied. Sweet corn for processing up; irrigating beets for seed, rhubarb harvest continues, farmers markets selling vegetables hot house grown. Gardens being planted. Irrigating new settings and small shrubs, digging and balling evergreen landscape shrubs. Buffalo and calves doing well and beef cows and calves look good. Pastures doing well with warmer and dryer weather.

**YAMHILL:** Most growers finished spraying for Eastern Filbert Blight in hazelnuts. Some growers are preparing to apply foliar boron to their hazelnuts.

## EASTERN OREGON

**CROOK/DESCHUTES/JEFFERSON:** Clover mites and winter grain mites are working in the grass hay and pasture fields in central Oregon. The clover mites seem to prefer Orchardgrass. Lots of fields across the three counties are being affected. The clover mite has been reported to be in some Culver fields this year, in addition to the Alfalfa-Bend-Tumalo-Cloverdale area of Deschutes County. Redmond Farmers Market is starting up for the season this coming Monday (May 15). No precipitation this week.

**GILLIAM/WHEELER:** Good moisture early this spring, but windy conditions and freezing nights has dried out the ground. The range grass in the higher elevations is still behind.

**GRANT:** Cool night temperatures have kept the grass from growing. Lower elevations are drying out rapidly.

**HARNEY:** Range grass responding well to recent warm weather. Cattle doing well. Stock water plentiful. A few yearlings and dry cows going to market.

**HOOD RIVER:** Weather conditions were mostly fair through the week with no precipitation and fluctuating daily maximum temperatures. Clear, calm night time conditions resulted in temperatures in the low thirties on the 9th and 10th requiring frost protection in many parts of the Hood River Valley.

**KLAMATH:** Warm temperatures continue. Irrigation is under way. Some row crops are emerging. Some winter seeded crops are being reseeded due to the prolonged exposure to standing water during the winter months.

**LAKE:** No precipitation during the week. Morning and evening temperatures were in the low 40's--afternoon temperatures reaching upper 70's/low 80's. Pastures conditions continue to improve with the warmer temperatures.

**MALHEUR:** Temperatures cooler first of week and warmer end of week. All field activity continues. Clear all last week. Irrigation season is underway! A few late fields are still being worked for corn and beans. Cheatgrass on the range is beginning to turn.

**SHERMAN:** Spring tillage in full swing. Would like a shower or two please! Wind has slowed down spraying most afternoons and a couple mornings but soil is drying enough that most are tilling without getting stuck, although there are still some wet spots in fields (in MAY?). ORSS 1757 supersoft wheat looks very good as does ORCF 101. All wheat has some mottled discoloration in field, mainly a yellowing factor where the snow lay longer or water pooled. Makes the soil differences show up more too in the wheat. Expect a good harvest, but maybe not so great as the early excitement at seeing rain prompted.

**WALLOWA:** Snow pack percentages are still above 110%. Producers are finishing with spring wheat plantings and starting barley and oats. Conditions have been great for these activities. Cold weather has delayed the growth of range grass. Pond conditions are not the best but are better than 2005.

**WASCO:** The wind through the week hampered ground spraying on cereal crop fields. The wild rye starting to head out in the wheat fields. Activity in fruit orchards included spraying, and mowing grass strips between tree rows. Alfalfa is starting to bloom. Livestock on range and pasture grasses are doing quite well in most areas. The hills are getting brown rapidly.

Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: May 14, 2006 (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/Clatsop	34	71	50	-3	6	-8	0.05	-0.65	3	71.04	11.06	118	159
Bandon <sup>8</sup>	41	68	51	-1	13	-1	0.01	-0.65	1	60.79	6.14	111	124
Crescent City	38	61	50	-3	9	-18	-	-0.71	-	75.53	14.46	124	131
Florence	32	73	49	-4	8	-12	0.05	-0.85	1	75.96	6.02	109	147
Tillamook	29	67	46	-6	1	-13	0.98	-0.07	2	85.94	6.18	108	159
<b>WILLAMETTE VALLEY</b>													
Aurora <sup>8</sup>	35	85	56	+2	43	+12	0.01	-0.48	1	46.14	9.55	126	135
Corvallis	34	79	53	+0	31	+3	0.01	-0.45	1	46.69	7.61	119	135
Detroit Lake <sup>8</sup>	33	84	55	+7	39	+29	-	-0.77	-	93.85	32.41	153	152
Eugene	32	77	52	-3	21	-15	0.02	-0.47	1	41.92	-3.31	93	124
Hillsboro	32	82	54	-1	32	+2	0.12	-0.23	1	39.85	6.14	118	131
McMinnville	32	83	55	+0	35	+0	0.01	-0.41	1	36.54	-3.43	91	132
Portland	41	82	57	+2	52	+9	0.23	-0.26	1	36.48	4.46	114	138
Salem	36	80	54	+2	33	+5	0.21	-0.21	1	44.97	9.49	127	129
<b>SW VALLEYS</b>													
Grants Pass	37	86	59	+2	68	+12	-	-0.28	-	42.78	13.59	147	115
Medford	37	90	63	+6	88	+39	-	-0.21	-	24.08	7.09	142	93
Roseburg	37	81	58	+3	55	+12	0.03	-0.32	1	42.58	12.48	141	127
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>													
Condon	28	70	51	+1	15	+1	-	-0.28	-	13.11	1.89	117	80
Echo <sup>8</sup>	31	82	54	-5	32	-24	0.01	-0.13	1	8.48	0.93	112	82
Heppner	32	72	51	-4	19	-14	0.05	-0.30	1	12.29	1.09	110	93
Hermiston	29	83	54	-4	34	-22	-	-0.14	-	8.76	1.21	116	64
John Day	30	79	52	+0	28	+6	0.16	-0.19	1	7.70	-1.94	80	96
Madras <sup>8</sup>	26	81	52	-2	24	-4	-	-0.14	-	10.63	2.46	130	97
Moro	28	70	50	-3	17	-4	-	-0.19	-	15.19	5.88	163	76
Parkdale <sup>8</sup>	30	80	51	-5	15	-20	0.02	-0.19	1	42.32	13.53	147	137
Pendleton	32	80	55	-3	35	-12	-	-0.21	-	10.91	0.92	109	88
The Dalles	35	86	57	+5	53	+25	-	-0.14	-	16.97	6.25	158	85
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>													
Agency Lake <sup>8</sup>	37	79	56	+9	44	+37	-	-0.21	-	18.27	4.56	133	103
Bend	29	75	49	-1	8	-4	-	-0.14	-	18.79	9.51	202	72
Burns	25	84	54	+5	39	+25	-	-0.21	-	12.74	5.23	170	89
Christmas Valley <sup>8</sup>	16	83	50	-3	14	-8	-	-0.21	-	6.74	-2.98	69	79
Klamath Falls	32	80	54	+4	32	+11	-	-0.20	-	15.31	3.97	135	92
Klamath Falls <sup>8</sup>	31	81	54	+4	34	+13	-	-0.20	-	15.08	3.74	133	123
Lakeview	33	81	54	+5	32	+18	-	-0.30	-	8.12	-4.60	64	64
Lorella <sup>8</sup>	26	83	53	+2	27	+6	-	-0.20	-	17.43	6.09	154	114
Redmond	22	81	50	+1	12	-2	0.01	-0.13	1	8.88	2.47	139	76
Worden <sup>8</sup>	31	82	54	+3	29	+8	-	-0.20	-	13.13	1.79	116	112
<b>NORTHEAST</b>													
Baker City	22	84	51	-2	21	+4	-	-0.28	-	7.07	-0.14	98	79
Joseph	27	71	47	+0	10	+10	0.06	-0.36	1	15.92	-4.06	80	106
La Grande	28	84	55	+3	42	+17	0.03	-0.32	1	5.54	-8.07	41	69
Prairie City <sup>8</sup>	24	85	51	+6	22	+22	0.01	-0.32	1	11.33	-5.42	68	87
Union	28	77	51	+0	26	+9	0.25	-0.10	1	8.92	-0.81	92	91
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>													
Ontario	33	91	60	+2	69	+8	0.07	-0.07	1	12.34	4.47	157	82
Rome	21	86	55	+1	44	+11	-	-0.21	-	8.65	2.76	147	75

<sup>1</sup> Summary based on NWS data. Copyright 2006: 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, 2005.

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

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

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