

# ALASKA CROP-WEATHER



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National Agricultural Statistics Service  
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**RELEASED:** May 27, 2003

**GENERAL:** Planting continued across the state last week. Temperatures were cooler than normal in Delta Junction and Fairbanks. Small amounts of rain fell but most areas could use more precipitation. Daytime high temperatures were in the fifties and sixties. Lows were in the twenties to mid-thirties. **Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.0 days.** **Topsoil moisture** supplies were reported as 30% short and 70% adequate. **Subsoil moisture** supplies were reported as 25% short, and 75% adequate. **Planting of barley** was 95% complete statewide, and was less than 5% emerged. **Planting of oats** was 85% complete, and was less than 5% emerged. **Planting of potatoes** was reported as 55% complete. **Vegetable** crops were being transplanted/seeded. **Crop growth** was reported as 65% slow, 35% moderate and 5% rapid. **Winter freeze damage** to grass fields was reported as 80% none, 15% light and 5% moderate. **Range and pasture conditions** were reported as 5% poor, 25% fair, 60% good and 10% excellent. **Livestock conditions** were listed as 10% fair, 80% good and 10% excellent.

CROP WEATHER SUMMARY May 19 - May 25, 2003		
DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK: 6.0		
CROP	TOPSOIL MOISTURE	SUBSOIL MOISTURE
SHORT	30%	25%
ADEQUATE	70%	75%
SURPLUS	0%	0%
PAN EVAPORATION FOR 05/19-05/25		
MAT AES SITE:		+0.753

**TANANA VALLEY:** An average of **6.0 days** were suitable for fieldwork. **Topsoil moisture** was reported at 40% short, and 60% adequate. **Subsoil moisture supplies** were 35% short and 65% adequate. Planting of **barley** was 95% complete. Planting of **oats** was 85% complete. Planting of **potatoes** was 20% complete. Cool conditions have prevented vegetable starts from being transplanted. **Crop growth** was reported as slow. **Livestock conditions** were listed as 10% fair, 70% good and 20% excellent. **Winter freeze damage** to grass fields was reported as 80% none, 15% light and 5% moderate. **Range and pasture conditions** were reported as 10% poor, 45% fair, 35% good and 10% excellent. **Farm activities** for the week included fertilizing hay acres and planting small grains and potatoes.

**MATANUSKA VALLEY:** An average of **6.0 days** were suitable for fieldwork. **Topsoil moisture** and **subsoil moisture** were both 10% short and 90% adequate. **Planting of barley and oats** continued. **Potato** planting was 75% complete. **Vegetable** crops were being seeded/transplanted. **Crop growth** was reported as 5% slow, 80% moderate and 15% rapid. **Livestock conditions** were listed at 5% fair, 90% good and 5% excellent. **Winter freeze damage** to grass fields was reported as 90% none and 10% light. **Range and pasture conditions** were reported as 5% fair, 90% good and 5% excellent. Major **farm activities** during the week included equipment preparation, weed control, fertilizing, planting small grains, potatoes and vegetables.

**KENAI PENINSULA:** An average of **7.0 days** were suitable for fieldwork. **Topsoil moisture supplies** were reported as 10% short and 90% adequate. **Subsoil moisture supplies** were reported as 100% adequate. Planting of potatoes was underway. **Crop growth** was 40% slow and 60% moderate. **Livestock conditions** were listed at 10% poor, 20% fair, 50% good and 20% excellent. **Winter freeze damage** to grass fields was reported as 80% none and 20% light. **Range and pasture conditions** were reported as 10% poor, 20% fair, 50% good and 20% excellent. Major **farm activities** for the week included ground preparation and fertilizing.

## Soil Temperatures ( F<sup>0</sup> ) at 4 inch depth

	<u>Grass</u>			<u>Fallow land</u>			<u>Temperature</u>		<u>Precip (inches)</u>
	2003	2002	2001	2003	2002	2001	High	Low	
UAF-AFES, Trunk Road	49	53	49	51	55	54	66	31	0.02
Sawmill Creek	37	na	49	na	na	na	60	31	0.14
Plant Materials Center	51	52	49	50	52	51	65	29	0.10

## PAN EVAPORATION

Pan evaporation is an indirect estimation of evapotranspiration or consumptive water use by plants. For purposes of watering or irrigation of plants, it is a good indicator of climatic effects on water use by crops. A positive reading indicates that evaporation exceeded precipitation.

Weather Summary For Alaska Agricultural Statistics Service  
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For the Period: Monday May 19, 2003  
 To: Sunday May 25, 2003

STATION	LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY						May 1, 03 - May 25, 03					GDD
	TEMPERATURE			PRECIPITATION			PRECIPITATION			GDD BASE 50F		BASE
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	TOT
Fairbanks Intl	59	34	46	-6	0.00	0	0.28	-0.14	3	1	-22	109
Fairbanks/Eiels	59	34	47	-5	0.04	2	0.17	-0.29	4	2	-21	141
Nenana Muni AM	60	30	45	-7	0.00	0	0.43	+0.23	5	1	-13	86
Ftgreely/Allen	56	32	45	-6	0.07	1	0.33	-0.17	7	1	-42	82
Healy River Air	55	12	45	-5	0.05	1	0.45	-0.03	10	0	-6	83
Gulkana Arpt A	62	27	45	-2	0.01	1	0.38	-0.02	8	0	-6	68
Sutton	62	27	47	-1	0.11	2	1.36	+0.75	13	1	-7	109
Palmer Municipa	64	34	49	-1	0.05	2	0.87	+0.39	10	7	-13	181
Talkeetna	69	33	51	+4	0.05	2	1.69	+0.42	11	17	+12	198
Willow Airport	65	37	52	+3	0.12	2	1.15	+0.68	13	19	+15	194
Anchorage Intl	64	35	49	+1	0.10	1	0.72	+0.20	6	6	-7	164
Kenai Municipal	65	27	46	+0	0.01	1	0.81	+0.06	7	0	-4	94
Homer	59	31	45	+0	0.01	1	0.70	-0.19	6	1	+0	102
Kodiak	60	31	47	+3	0.06	1	0.81	-4.30	10	13	+9	135

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).  
 Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) and Pan Evap in inches.  
 Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.  
 Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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