

# ALASKA CROP-WEATHER



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Alaska Cooperative Extension  
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U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
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**RELEASED:** September 22, 2003

**GENERAL:** There were **6.0 days suitable for fieldwork** statewide. Daytime high temperatures were generally in the forties to fifties. Lows were mostly in the twenties in South Central and Kenai and in the teens in the Tanana Valley. Hard frosts were reported across the state. **Topsoil moisture** supplies were reported as 10% short, 65% adequate, 25% surplus. **Subsoil moisture** supplies were reported as 20% short, 80% adequate. The **barley** crop was reported as 90% harvested, the 5 year average is 70% harvested. The **oat** crop was 75% harvested, the 5 year average is 40% harvested. **Potatoes** were reported as 70% harvested, the five year average is 75% harvested. **Second cutting hay** harvest was 75% complete statewide. **Winter supplies of hay** were reported as 20% short, 80% adequate. No **wind and rain damage** to small grains was reported. Harvest continued across the state as winter approaches.

CROP WEATHER SUMMARY September 15 - September 21, 2003		
DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK: 6.0		
CROP	TOPSOIL MOISTURE	SUBSOIL MOISTURE
SHORT	10%	20%
ADEQUATE	65%	80%
SURPLUS	25%	0%
PAN EVAPORATION FOR 9/15 - 9/21 MAT AES SITE: -0.602		

**TANANA VALLEY:** An average of **6.0 days were suitable for fieldwork**. Harvest continued as temperatures in the single digits were reported at night, as was snow in the Delta area. **Topsoil moisture** was reported as 60% adequate, 40% surplus. **Subsoil moisture supplies** were 15% short, 85% adequate. **Barley** was 90% harvested. The **oat** crop was 75% harvested. **Potatoes** were reported as 45% harvested. **Second cutting hay** harvest was 75% complete. No **wind and rain damage** to small grains was reported. **Farm activities** for the week included harvesting hay, small grains, potatoes, vegetables and baling straw.

**MATANUSKA VALLEY:** An average of **6.0 days were suitable for fieldwork**. **Topsoil moisture** was 20% short, 80% adequate. **Subsoil moisture** was 30% short, 70% adequate. **Barley** was reported as 90% harvested. The **oat** harvest continued. **Potatoes** were reported as 85% harvested. **Second cutting hay** harvest was 65% complete. No **wind and rain damage** to small grains was reported. Major **farm activities** during the week included hay, grain, potato and vegetable harvests.

**KENAI PENINSULA:** An average of **7.0 days were suitable for fieldwork**. **Topsoil moisture** was reported at 20% short, 80% adequate. **Subsoil moisture** was reported as 15% short, 85% adequate. **Potatoes** were reported as 50% harvested. **Second cutting hay harvest** was 85% complete. Major **farm activities** for the week included harvesting hay, potatoes and vegetables. Hard frosts and snow on Saturday caused damage to some vegetable crops.

## 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	45	49	50	44	46	46	58	26	0.02
Sawmill Creek	30	35	47	na	na	na	49	9	1 in. of snow
Plant Materials Center	48	na	42	44	na	48	57	23	0.00

**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  
 Prepared By AWIS, Inc.

For the Period: Monday September 15, 2003  
 To: Sunday September 21, 2003

STATION	LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY						May 1, 03 - September 21, 03					
	TEMPERATURE			PRECIPITATION			PRECIPITATION			GDD BASE 50F		BASE
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	TOT
Fairbanks Intl	50	24	35	-9	0.00	0	9.54	+3.22	50	866	-76	2034
Fairbanks/Eiels	50	19	33	-12	0.05	1	10.53	+2.60	60	895	-2	2085
Nenana Muni AM	51	20	34	-9	0.00	0	12.44	+6.38	60	730	-74	1843
Ftgreely/Allen	46	14	29	-15	0.15	1	7.01	-1.79	41	760	-95	1872
Healy_River_Air	52	14	29	-15	0.02	1	10.72	+1.48	82	741	+71	1846
Gulkana_Arpt_A	50	11	31	-12	0.07	1	4.54	-2.26	45	507	+22	1577
Sutton	55	23	41	-5	0.13	1	10.73	+1.28	87	542	+30	1754
Palmer_Municipa	56	29	43	-5	0.00	0	5.82	-2.37	58	757	+84	2071
Talkeetna	63	28	45	-1	0.00	0	18.63	+3.67	72	1147	+485	2483
Willow_Airport	56	25	42	-7	0.12	1	9.07	+1.12	84	971	+314	2274
Anchorage Intl	57	28	43	-5	0.17	1	5.57	-2.88	55	870	+190	2170
Kenai_Municipal	57	20	41	-7	0.00	0	7.48	-1.25	49	524	+126	1715
Homer	57	29	43	-5	0.00	0	6.45	-1.69	51	425	+68	1633
Kodiak	58	33	46	-4	0.18	3	20.52	-5.03	81	453	+64	1662

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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