

# ALASKA CROP-WEATHER

Alaska Division of Agriculture  
Alaska Cooperative Extension  
Ag & Forestry Experiment Station



NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE

USDA, NASS, Alaska Field Office  
P.O. Box 799  
Palmer, AK 99645

**RELEASED:** May 5, 2008

**GENERAL:** Cold soil temperatures and wet conditions have kept field work to a minimum in most areas of the State. There were **3.0 days suitable for fieldwork**, however little to no fieldwork was done due to soil moisture conditions and soil temperatures. **Topsoil moisture** supplies were reported as 85% adequate, 15% surplus. **Subsoil moisture** supplies were listed as 5% short, 95% adequate. **Fieldwork progress** was reported as two days to ten days behind normal. **Hay supplies** were rated as 15% short, 80% adequate, 5% surplus. **Condition of livestock** was listed as 5% poor, 25% fair, 45% good, 25% excellent. The main **farm activities** for the week were preparing machinery, ordering and spreading fertilizer, setting up irrigation equipment. Many local greenhouses are now open for business.

CROP WEATHER SUMMARY April 28 - May 4, 2008		
DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK: 3.0		
CROP	TOPSOIL MOISTURE	SUBSOIL MOISTURE
SHORT	0%	5%
ADEQUATE	85%	95%
SURPLUS	15%	0%
PAN EVAPORATION FOR 04/28 - 05/04 MAT AES SITE: N/A		

**TANANA VALLEY:** An average of **3.0 days was suitable for fieldwork**, although no tillage was reported in the Tanana Valley as farmers wait for fields to dry and thaw out. **Topsoil moisture** was reported at 95% adequate, 5% surplus. **Subsoil moisture supplies** were 10% short, 90% adequate. **Hay supplies** were reported as 10% short, 80% adequate, 10% surplus; with the surplus in good quality large round bales. **Livestock condition** was listed as 5% poor, 35% fair, 50% good, 10% excellent. **Farm activities** for the week included preparing machinery for fieldwork and spreading fertilizer.

**MATANUSKA VALLEY:** An average of **2.0 days was suitable for fieldwork**, although little fieldwork was actually done. **Topsoil moisture** was reported at 70% adequate, 30% surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was reported as 100% adequate. **Hay supplies** were reported as 10% short, 90% adequate. Hay fields were just beginning to green up in many areas. **Livestock conditions** were listed at 15% fair, 40% good, 45% excellent. Major **farm activities** during the week included preparing equipment and cleaning up hay fields. Many local greenhouses are open for business.

**KENAI PENINSULA:** There were **no days was suitable for fieldwork last week** as farmers were waiting for the ground to thaw. **Topsoil moisture** was reported at 90% adequate, 10% surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was reported as 100% adequate. **Hay supplies** were reported as 40% short, 60% adequate. **Livestock conditions** were listed at 10% poor, 40% fair, 50% good. Major **farm activities** for the week included preparing equipment and ordering fertilizer.

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

	<u>Grass</u>			<u>Fallow land</u>			<u>Temperature</u>		<u>Precip</u> <u>(inches)</u>
	2008	2007	2006	2008	2007	2006	High	Low	
UAF-AFES, Trunk Road	32	34	32	32	45	41	57	30	0.01
Sawmill Creek	29	31	30	na	na	na	60	25	0.48
Plant Materials Center	na	37	34	na	na	na	na	na	na

## 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.com from NWS preliminary data

For the Period: Monday April 28, 2008  
 To: Sunday May 4, 2008

STATION	LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY						May 1, 08 - May 4, 08 GDD					BASE 40F TOT
	TEMPERATURE			PRECIPITATION			PRECIPITATION		GDD BASE 50F			
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	TOT
Fairbanks_Intl	59	26	40	-3	0.34	2	0.32	+0.28	1	0	+0	18
Fairbanks/Eiels	58	27	38	-4	0.44	4	0.32	+0.28	2	0	+0	11
Nenana_Muni_AM	59	20	37	-5	0.33	5	0.27	+0.27	3	0	+2	9
Ftgreely/Allen	56	26	38	-5	0.33	4	0.21	+0.17	2	0	-4	11
Healy_River_Air	55	23	36	-5	0.16	4	0.12	+0.08	2	0	+3	9
Gulkana_Arpt_A	59	27	41	+3	0.26	4	0.03	-0.01	1	0	+0	6
Sutton	59	29	41	-1	0.37	5	0.22	+0.14	4	0	+0	10
Palmer_Municipa	57	30	42	-2	0.00	0	0.00	-0.06	0	0	+0	9
Talkeetna	60	26	41	+1	0.01	1	0.01	-0.17	1	0	+2	11
Willow_Airport	54	28	40	-3	0.38	5	0.22	+0.16	4	0	+0	3
Anchorage_Intl	51	29	39	-4	0.09	2	0.09	+0.01	2	0	+0	3
Kenai_Municipal	56	27	40	-2	0.05	1	0.05	-0.07	1	0	+0	7
Homer	49	27	38	-3	0.01	1	0.01	-0.15	1	0	+0	2
Kodiak	46	31	38	-4	3.66	5	3.04	+2.24	4	0	+0	0

For more weather information visit [www.awis.com](http://www.awis.com)  
 or call 1-888-798-9955.

Copyright 2007: Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc.  
 All rights reserved.

Alaska Agricultural Statistics Service  
 PO Box 799  
 Palmer, AK 99645