



# Alaska Crop Weather

PO Box 799 · Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 745-4272 · (907) 746-4654 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/ak

RELEASED: May 7, 2012

**GENERAL:** There were **5.0 days suitable for fieldwork** last week, however little actual fieldwork was done as farmers wait for fields to dry out and warm up. High temperatures were generally in the 50's and lows were still below freezing. **Topsoil moisture** supplies were reported as 5% short, 85% adequate, 10% surplus. **Subsoil moisture** supplies were also listed as 5% short, 85% adequate, 10% surplus. **Fieldwork progress** was reported as on schedule. **Hay supplies** were rated as 5% very short, 10% short, 80% adequate, 5% surplus. **Condition of livestock** was listed as 10% fair, 65% good, 25% excellent. The main **farm activities** for the week were spreading fertilizer on hay, pasture, and grass seed acreage, preparing machinery, general farm maintenance, evaluating fields.

CROP WEATHER SUMMARY		
April 30 – May 6, 2012		
Days Suitable for Fieldwork: 5.0		
Crop	Topsoil Moisture	Subsoil Moisture
Very Short	0%	0%
Short	5%	5%
Adequate	85%	85%
Surplus	10%	10%
Pan Evaporation*, UAF-AFES, Trunk Rd		na

**TANANA VALLEY:** An average of **5.0 days was suitable for fieldwork** although little fieldwork has been done yet. **Topsoil moisture** was reported at 85% adequate, 15% surplus. **Subsoil moisture supplies** were also 85% adequate, 15% surplus. **Fieldwork progress** was reported as on schedule. **Hay supplies** were reported as 90% adequate, 10% surplus. **Livestock condition** was listed as 10% fair, 50% good, 40% excellent. **Farm activities** for the week included spreading fertilizer on hay, pasture and grass seed acreage, preparing machinery for fieldwork. Tillage and planting of small grains is expected to start this week.

**MATANUSKA VALLEY:** An average of **5.0 days was suitable for fieldwork**. **Topsoil moisture** was reported at 10% short, 85% adequate, 5% surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was reported as 10% short, 90% adequate. **Fieldwork progress** was reported as on schedule. **Hay supplies** were reported as 10% short, 90% adequate. Hay and pasture fields were beginning to green up in many areas. **Livestock conditions** were listed at 10% fair, 70% good, 20% excellent. **Farm activities** for the week included preparing equipment, spreading fertilizer, cleaning seed.

**KENAI PENINSULA:** There were **0.0 days was suitable for fieldwork last week** as farmers are waiting for fields to dry out. **Topsoil moisture and subsoil moisture** were both reported at 90% adequate, 10% surplus. **Fieldwork progress** was reported as on schedule. **Hay supplies** were reported as 60% very short, 30% short, 10% adequate. Major **farm activities** for the week included preparing equipment.

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

	Grass			Fallow land			Temperature		Precip (inches)
	2012	2011	2010	2012	2011	2010	High	Low	
UAF-AFES, Trunk Rd	na	34	41	na	38	41	na	na	na
Sawmill Creek	33	28	29	na	na	na	57	14	0.17
Plant Materials Center	34	30	na	38	na	na	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.com from NWS preliminary data

For the Period: Monday April 30, 2012  
 To: Sunday May 6, 2012

STATION	LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY						May 1, 12 - May 6, 12				GDD	
	TEMPERATURE			PRECIPITATION			PRECIPITATION	GDD BASE 50F		BASE		
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	TOT
Fairbanks_Intl	58	18	36	-7	0.01	1	0.01	-0.05	1	0	+0	6
Fairbanks/Eiels	57	16	35	-9	0.04	2	0.03	-0.03	1	0	+0	1
Nenana_Muni_AM	56	18	35	-8	0.08	3	0.04	+0.03	2	0	+2	1
Ftgreely/Allen	56	18	36	-7	0.01	1	0.00	-0.06	0	0	-6	1
Healy_River_Air	54	14	34	-8	0.03	1	0.03	-0.03	1	0	+3	0
Gulkana_Arpt_A	54	20	36	-4	0.35	3	0.35	+0.29	3	0	+0	0
Sutton	51	23	37	-6	0.11	3	0.11	-0.01	3	0	+0	1
Palmer_Municipa	58	22	40	-4	0.01	1	0.01	-0.09	1	0	+0	9
Talkeetna	56	22	37	-5	0.00	0	0.00	-0.28	0	0	+2	3
Willow_Airport	55	25	40	-4	0.05	1	0.05	-0.05	1	0	+0	7
Anchorage_Intl	55	28	40	-4	0.00	0	0.00	-0.12	0	0	+0	9
Kenai_Municipal	54	21	37	-5	0.00	0	0.00	-0.18	0	0	+0	3
Homer	53	25	38	-4	0.00	0	0.00	-0.24	0	0	+0	1
Kodiak	53	30	41	-1	0.56	4	0.44	-0.76	3	0	+0	7

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

Copyright 2012: Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc.  
 All rights reserved.