

OREGON CROP WEATHER



**NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE**

USDA, NASS, Oregon Field Office

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Weather: Most of the State experienced wet and cool conditions throughout the week. All weather stations across Oregon reported precipitation last week. Six weather stations reported rainfall six days last week. Those stations include Bandon, Detroit Lake, Madras, Pendleton, Worden, and Joseph. Total inches of precipitation ranged from minuscule amounts in various areas of the State to over an inch in Crescent City, Detroit Lake, and Rome. High temperatures ranged from 70 degrees in Aurora to 55 degrees in Agency Lake and Bend, while low temperatures were in the 20's and 30's.

Field Crops: Despite several days without rain this week, wet field conditions continued to hamper spring fieldwork activities. Planting progress was well behind average. Fifty three percent of the spring wheat and 35 percent of the barley had been planted as of April 9, compared to the five-year averages of 74 percent and 64 percent, respectively. Crop development in many small grain and grass seed fields also continues to be slowed by lack of warm and dry weather. Producers were busy tilling, fertilizing, and preparing ground for the upcoming season where conditions allowed.

Vegetables: Vegetable growers were waiting to work their fields due to the high amount of precipitation received during the week. Farmers markets in Benton, Linn, and Lane counties were selling greenhouse grown shallots, carrots, onions, and lettuce.

Fruits and Nuts: Many tree fruits were in bloom throughout the Willamette Valley including peaches, plums, pears, apples, and sweet cherries. Blueberry buds were opening. More sunshine is needed to ensure good fruit set. Apricots may be a total freeze out this year. There was one morning of light frost in Polk County. Loss adjusters for crop insurance companies were working on potential 2006 crop sweet cherry losses in Yamhill County. Most hazelnut growers have

applied their first two sprays for Eastern Filbert Blight. Unsettled conditions continued in Hood River County. In the lower Hood River Valley, d'Anjou pears were at first white to first bloom (WSU stages 4 to 6); Red Delicious apples were at tight cluster (WSU stage 4); Bing cherries were at open cluster (WSU stage 5); and Pinot Noir grapes were at Eichhorn-Lorenz stage 2. Most fruit trees around The Dalles were starting to show color. Bees for pollination were being distributed throughout cherry orchards. Cherry trees in the Duffur area were about two weeks late in blooming. Frost fans were needed in only a few orchards last week as overnight temperatures held in the mid 30's and 40's. Apricots, peaches, and pears were in bloom in southern Oregon. When weather allowed, sprays were applied. Coastal cranberry bud development has been slow due to cool weather. There was one cranberry frost development recorded at Bandon.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Nurseries were very busy digging and shipping plant material to the east coast. Operations were finishing digging bare root plants, digging and balling smaller plants and shrubs, and moving container plants. Greenhouses were very busy with flower and vegetable starts and shipping early plant material to retail outlets. Local plant sales are underway and are drawing large crowds to purchase plants. Annual tulip festival is underway.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Cool weather continued to slow pasture development across the State. Most areas needed an extended period of sunshine and warmer temperatures to jump start things. The short spring grass and wet conditions has forced many producers to delay turning out livestock. This has resulted in extremely tight hay supplies in some areas. Some cattlemen began spring working of herds. Livestock were reported in excellent condition throughout the State.

Soil Moisture-Week Ending 04/09/06

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	0	3	56	41
Subsoil	0	5	68	27

Crop Progress-Week Ending 04/09/06

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5 year average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Barley planted	35	35	75	64
Barley emerged	13	13	43	32
Spring wheat planted	53	37	80	74
Spring wheat emerged	21	13	34	32
Days suitable for fieldwork	3.7	3.1	-	-

Crop Condition-Week Ending 04/09/06

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter wheat	0	0	37	60	3
Range and pasture	4	17	24	43	12

WESTERN OREGON

BENTON/LINN/LANE: The Willamette Valley has experienced heavy rains this past winter, which has kept the ground moisture at a high level and made it difficult for farmers to get on some of their fields and conduct spring applications. The grass fields are starting to grow. Tree fruits are blooming; peaches, pears, and apples just starting to bloom. Apricot near total freeze out. Blueberry buds opening. Most greenhouse grown shallots, carrots, onions, and lots of different lettuces are at the Farmers markets. Mostly greenhouse grown. Greenhouse & nursery crops are off and running, but starting slow with the rain.

COLUMBIA: Less rain. Warmer temperatures toward the end of the week should help the pastures. Decent forecast for next week as well.

COOS/CURRY: Cranberry bud development has been slowed due to cool weather. One cranberry frost event was recorded at Bandon location during the week.

DOUGLAS: Warmer temperatures got the grass growing. Hummingbirds are back. Spring Chinook are in the Umpqua.

JACKSON: Very little field work this week, ground is too wet. Grains already planted are up and growing some but with so little sun most are a bit yellow. Peaches and pears are starting to bloom. When weather allows, sprays are being put on. This week was the annual Pear Blossom parade in Medford. Not much activity in vegetables this week, ground was quite wet. Greenhouses still busy getting out flower and vegetable starts. Lots of starts now at most outlets. Still some bare root trees being planted so nurseries are quite busy with trees and shrubs for spring planting. Livestock being put on pastures as grass gets a start. Some hay and pasture grass showing growth but in bad need of sun for really good growth. The weather here has continued cooler and wetter than normal. Nights about 38 to 42 degrees and most days about 60 degrees. Good weather for some work such as maintenance and fence work but not good if you need to work in the soil.

JOSEPHINE: It has been raining and cool. Windy at times. Temperatures were in the low 30's in the a.m. depending on the location and going as high as upper 50's in afternoon hours.

Fields are wet and hard to farm from the high amounts of rain. Livestock are still being fed because of the short spring grass from the cool conditions.

LINCOLN: Break in the rain gave a chance for field work and reduction in top soil moisture.

MARION: Chemicals and fertilizers are being applied to grass seed and nursery crops. In most areas the soils are still too wet for tillage work. Much of the orchard fruits are in full bloom. More sunshine is needed to ensure a good fruit set. Field crops are perking up now that the weather is beginning to warm up. There are still many perennial ryegrass fields looking weak. Broadleaf herbicides are being applied to control recent and winter emerged weeds.

MULTNOMAH: Goose depredation on emerging wheat was severe in some areas.

POLK: There was one morning of light frost this past week, while apples were in bloom. Cherries blossom is at the earliest stages. Spraying and fertilizing conditions for grass seed have been optimal.

WASHINGTON: Clovers are growing well. Winter wheat greening up. Grass field spraying continues for weeds. Slug control applied. Alfalfa beginning to show growth. Rhubarb showing strong growth with beds well controlled from weeds and grasses. Vegetable beds waiting for moisture reduction for working and planting. Hardy plant sales successfully drawing large crowds. Continued digging and balling large and small shrubs and trees with shipping ongoing. Winter damage showing in nurseries. Some livestock turned to controlled grazing plots. Calves look good.

YAMHILL: The weather pattern has improved this week to include some warmer, dry days that are suitable for applying disease control materials. Sweet cherry bloom has begun on the Valley floor. Most hazelnut growers have applied their first two sprays for Eastern Filbert Blight control. Ground is still pretty wet for working or planting. Application of fertilizer where and when possible. Backpack sprayers for weed control are being used when possible (between rain showers). Loss adjusters for crop insurance companies in for maps on sweet cherry losses.

EASTERN OREGON

CROOK/DESCHUTES/JEFFERSON: Continued cool wet weather has slowed spring field work. It appears that some of the grass hay fields are being plowed down because of the high cost on nitrogen fertilizer input. Alfalfa and grass fields are starting to green up. The winter wheat has been growing a little over the winter, but has finally started to take off with this warmer weather. The Extension Service has a new crops agent for central Oregon based out of the Madras office, and Central Oregon Ag Research Center has a new plant physiologist to work on seed crops and new crops, among other areas, and will be based at Madras center site. The three counties are behind last year for cumulative growing degrees

GILLIAM/WHEELER: Continuing wet weather delays seeding spring crops in the higher elevation parts of Gilliam County. Farm Service Agency has received several calls this week concerning the final planting date for spring wheat. Producers have not been able to get into the fields to spring seed.

GRANT: Still cold and wet.

HARNEY: Wet weather continues to slow spring activities, including branding and turn-out.

HOOD RIVER: Unsettled conditions prevailed during the week. At week's end, crop development in the lower Hood River Valley was as follows: d'Anjou pear at first white to first bloom (WSU stages 4 to 6); Red Delicious apple at tight cluster (WSU stage 4); Bing cherry at open cluster (WSU stage 5); Pinot noir grapes at Eichhorn-Lorenz stage 2.

KLAMATH: Cold and wet spring conditions continue. Spring field work (dragging pastures) has begun, but wet conditions limit grain planting. Wet weather has limited field work. Potato seed sales continue. Hay feeding continues

LAKE: Received more precipitation during the week and weekend. Field work has begun in the northern portion of the county despite the wet conditions.

MALHEUR: More rain last week and over the weekend. Very little fieldwork is getting completed. The planting of every spring crop is way behind schedule. All irrigation reservoirs are full and overflowing with water. Cattle being turned out.

SHERMAN: Over an inch of rain this week and still raining. Mud preventing field work. In general, planting has been delayed this spring by cool, wet weather.

UMATILLA: Very wet...Spring wheat seeding and other field work has been slowed. Nonetheless, it is good to have the moisture. The winter wheat is trying to catch up as it was small going into the winter. Potatoes are 50 percent planted.

UNION: Rain has delayed field work. Frosty cold nights slowing pasture growth. Hay in extremely tight supply.

WALLOWA: Snow pack percentages climbed a little bit due to some good storms on April 5th. Some ponds in the drier areas (Leap, Zumwalt) did get some runoff but not enough to curtail any water hauling. More rain needed to alleviate this problem. Some farmers are able to prepare fields for spring seeding.

WASCO: Normal spring weather prevailed most of the week. Rain fell again Saturday morning, adding another half inch of precipitation to the soil profile. Field work was active for five days. Spring wheat planting continued. Winter wheat is looking quite good and slowly putting on growth. Weed spraying started on both no till stubble and wheat crops. Alfalfa growth starting to show. Most fruit trees around The Dalles are starting to show color. Bees for pollinating are being distributed throughout cherry orchards. The cherry trees in the Dufur area are about two weeks later in blooming. Night-time temperatures held in the 30's through 40's, frost fans were needed only in a few cherry orchards. Cattle were starting to feed on pasture grasses, but some hay feeding still needed to give pasture grasses a chance to develop. New plantings of pasture grass were active. A few cattlemen are branding, ear marking, and vaccinating their early calves.

Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: April 9, 2006 (as of 11:00 am) ¹

Station	Air temperature ²				Growing degree days ³		Last week precip. ⁴			Season cum. precipitation ⁵			
	Low	High	Avg.	DFN ⁶	Total	DFN ⁶	Total inches	DFN ⁶	Days ⁷	Total inches	DFN ⁶	Pct. normal	Days ⁷
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria/Clatsop	34	67	50	+4	12	+5	0.52	-0.72	4	67.46	11.94	122	143
Bandon ⁸	39	63	52	+5	16	+9	0.70	-0.52	6	58.68	8.17	116	113
Crescent City	40	57	50	+1	7	-14	1.50	0.16	4	72.35	15.58	127	123
Florence	36	63	50	+3	7	+0	0.53	-0.96	4	72.20	7.49	112	136
Tillamook	29	66	50	+4	12	+5	0.80	-0.86	3	81.52	7.76	111	148
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Aurora ⁸	37	70	53	+6	25	+12	0.68	-0.04	5	44.18	10.43	131	123
Corvallis	35	65	51	+3	12	+0	0.32	-0.39	4	44.47	7.97	122	125
Detroit Lake ⁸	39	67	48	+7	4	+1	1.68	0.49	6	89.54	32.52	157	142
Eugene	34	63	51	+2	12	-2	0.17	-0.70	4	40.12	-2.11	95	115
Hillsboro	33	68	52	+4	16	+3	0.35	-0.25	2	38.37	6.77	121	122
McMinnville	35	69	53	+5	24	+10	0.54	-0.18	4	34.93	-2.54	93	121
Portland	36	67	53	+5	24	+10	0.39	-0.24	4	34.28	4.81	116	125
Salem	33	66	51	+4	17	+7	0.54	-0.12	4	42.88	9.82	130	119
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	36	62	49	-3	3	-21	0.94	0.42	5	41.39	13.89	151	109
Medford	34	62	49	-1	6	-15	0.47	0.17	3	23.33	7.59	148	87
Roseburg	36	64	51	+2	12	-9	0.44	-0.17	4	40.65	12.74	146	117
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	30	58	45	+3	-	-6	0.55	0.27	4	12.16	2.35	124	73
Echo ⁸	34	62	51	+2	10	-8	0.47	0.26	5	7.78	0.98	114	73
Heppner	34	65	49	+3	7	-3	0.87	0.53	5	11.25	1.60	117	84
Hermiston	33	63	51	+2	9	-9	0.49	0.28	4	8.18	1.38	120	60
John Day	32	63	46	+2	3	-5	0.99	0.71	5	6.93	-1.16	86	88
Madras ⁸	31	58	45	-1	-	-13	0.60	0.39	6	10.39	2.94	139	87
Moro	32	59	46	+2	-	-7	0.59	0.38	3	13.77	5.30	163	69
Parkdale ⁸	31	66	47	-2	2	-12	0.32	-0.13	4	41.49	14.19	152	123
Pendleton	34	68	49	+2	9	-5	0.75	0.47	6	10.41	1.58	118	82
The Dalles	35	66	52	+7	20	+12	0.44	0.23	2	16.58	6.64	167	81
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Agency Lake ⁸	33	55	41	+2	-	-3	0.50	0.26	3	18.08	5.39	142	100
Bend	31	55	42	+0	-	-7	0.80	0.66	4	17.95	9.37	209	68
Burns	27	58	43	+3	-	-7	0.53	0.37	3	12.18	5.52	183	81
Christmas Valley ⁸	26	61	41	-3	-	-9	0.33	0.15	5	6.58	-2.26	74	75
Klamath Falls	27	58	40	-3	-	-7	0.43	0.22	5	14.78	4.26	140	88
Klamath Falls ⁸	26	59	40	-4	-	-7	0.41	0.20	5	14.61	4.09	139	112
Lakeview	28	59	40	-2	-	-7	0.18	-0.10	4	7.72	-3.58	68	61
Lorella ⁸	29	59	41	-2	-	-7	0.36	0.15	5	16.41	5.89	156	101
Redmond	26	60	45	+4	-	-7	0.71	0.57	4	8.79	3.06	153	71
Worden ⁸	26	60	40	-3	-	-7	0.20	-0.01	6	12.36	1.84	117	101
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	23	58	44	+1	-	-7	0.24	0.07	3	6.78	0.66	111	72
Joseph	21	57	41	+3	-	-2	0.90	0.48	6	14.36	-3.52	80	96
La Grande	28	63	46	+3	3	-5	0.26	-0.09	3	4.85	-7.04	41	62
Prairie City ⁸	28	59	43	+6	-	-2	0.94	0.59	4	10.21	-4.98	67	79
Union	27	61	45	+2	2	-5	0.82	0.54	5	8.25	0.10	101	85
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	32	66	50	+2	9	-9	0.89	0.74	4	11.72	4.55	163	74
Rome	26	66	43	-2	-	-7	1.60	1.42	5	8.28	3.31	167	68

¹ Summary based on NWS data. Copyright 2006: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

² Air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

³ Growing degree days base-50 degrees Fahrenheit.

⁴ Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

⁵ Season cumulative precipitation starts September 1, 2005.

⁶ DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-1990 normals period).

⁷ Precipitation days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

⁸ Agri-Met weather stations.