

OREGON CROP WEATHER



**NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE**

USDA, NASS, Oregon Field Office

Released: April 24, 2006
Week ending: April 23, 2006
Volume: 04-06

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Weather: Conditions across the State were a bit drier and warmer last week. Most weather stations reported precipitation last week, but the amounts were much smaller than the previous weeks. Eight weather stations did not receive any precipitation this past week. Those stations were mostly in the north and south central areas of the State, but also included La Grande, Union, and Ontario. High temperatures ranged from 58 in Crescent City to 75 in Aurora, the Southwest Valleys, and The Dalles. Low temperatures ranged from only 16 in Christmas Valley to 39 in Bandon.

Field Crops: A few days of warm and dry weather promoted crop development across the State. Seventy percent of the winter wheat crop was rated in good to excellent condition. Producers were busy tilling, seeding, and spraying, as field conditions allowed. Alfalfa and clover crops put on a lot of growth last week. Spring planting progress was still lagging behind average. By April 23, 66 percent of the spring wheat had been planted, compared to the five-year average of 90 percent.

Vegetables: The warmer, drier weather allowed vegetable growers to prepare seed beds for planting. Rhubarb was being harvested in Washington County and was nearing harvest stage in Wasco County. Onions were getting a good start in southern Oregon.

Fruits and Nuts: Fruit trees and bees benefited from some warmth and sunshine over the weekend. Northern Willamette Valley sweet and tart cherries were in full bloom, while prunes were nearing petal fall. Hazelnut growers applied their third Eastern Filbert Blight spray of the season. Grape vines were leafing out. Southern Willamette Valley blueberry buds were opening and blooming; strawberries were showing buds. Rain has affected cherry bloom, but improved weather should make a difference. Prunes, plums, and peaches were done blooming. Asian pears were nearly done with bloom, while apples were just starting. Other pears have begun to set fruit. Douglas County growers were unable to do fieldwork until Thursday. Cold, wet weather up until this past week has made plum pollination a complete failure there. Cherry pollination may also be negatively impacted by weather. Apples and pears should pollinate with more recent good weather. Abundant mason bees reported in Garden Valley helped pollinate fruit trees where the

honey bees are in short supply. Wine grapes were just starting to break bud, which is about two weeks later than last year. Orchard crops have not received many fungicide treatments due to excess rains. Cool, showery weather early in the week in Hood River County gave way to warm, dry conditions for the second half. Clear skies and cold temperatures required frost protection on several nights. At week's end, crop development in the lower Hood River Valley was as follows: d'Anjou pear at full bloom (WSU stage 7); Red Delicious apple at first bloom to full bloom (WSU stages 7 & 8); Bing cherry at first bloom to full bloom (WSU stage 7 & 8); Pinot noir grapes at wool stage to bud burst (Eichhorn-Lorenz stages 3 & 5). Sherman County U-pick cherry orchards along the Columbia River were in bloom. Planting of 120 new sweet cherry acres was complete. Cherry orchards in The Dalles area were still in full bloom, while the eight mile and Dufur Valley were just getting underway. Some sweet cherry blossoms received slight damage from frost, but should not affect yield. A few frost fans were operated several nights early in the week. Overall, weather during bloom was excellent, with mild temperatures and very little wind. Strawberry plants were about 10 percent in bloom. Southern Oregon plums, pears, and apples continued in bloom. Better weather has aided bees in pollination and allowed growers to apply spring sprays.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Greenhouses and nurseries were still very busy shipping plant material to retail outlets. Nursery operations were rotating container plants, digging and balling smaller plants, and planting new field stock. Greenhouses were very busy with flower and vegetable starts and shipping of plant material. Local plant sales were underway and drew large crowds to purchase plants.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Warmer weather helped to improve pasture growth in many areas. Conditions improved, but continued warm, dry conditions were needed, especially in many of the rangeland areas. Producers continued to turn livestock out into spring pastures and the lower rangeland. Supplemental feeding continued with some producers running very low in hay stocks. Livestock were reported in good condition with producers branding and vaccinating calves and shearing sheep.

Soil Moisture-Week Ending 04/23/06

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	0	3	68	29
Subsoil	0	5	72	23

Crop Progress-Week Ending 04/23/06

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5 year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Barley planted	52	52	84	79
Barley emerged	39	28	68	55
Spring wheat planted	66	59	87	90
Spring wheat emerged	31	28	64	66
Days suitable for fieldwork	5.5	3.2	-	-

Crop Condition-Week Ending 04/23/06

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Winter wheat	0	0	30	66	4
Barley	0	0	20	75	5
Range and pasture	0	12	27	41	20

WESTERN OREGON

BENTON/LINN/LANE: The weather has been warm and spring like this week; the crops are now starting to grow rapidly. Field crops including grain and seed crops, hay, cover crops, mint, sugarbeets, etc. are just starting to grow. Blueberry buds are opening and blooming. Strawberries are showing buds. Rain effecting cherry bloom but nice weather will make the difference. Plum/prune and peaches are done blooming, look OK. Pears fruit setting, now will wait until June drop. Asian pears are near done with bloom, while apples are just starting. Mostly greenhouse grown shallots, carrots, onions, lots of different lettuces are at the Farmers markets. First season in ground planting is still a week away after last week's rain. Greenhouse and nursery crops are off and running, but started slow with the rain. Last weeks rain, slowed sales even more. Another week of rain during the weekend will affect farmer market sales and weekend greenhouse sales.

CLACKAMAS: Some much needed sunshine and warmer temperatures this week. Grass growth accelerating. Fruit trees and bees all benefited from some warmth and sunshine. This is what spring should be.

COLUMBIA: Looks like spring is here. Condition of pastures and field crops looking up.

COOS/CURRY: Cool most of the week, with frost reported in some locations early in the week. Ground conditions improved, although many areas continue to be saturated to the point that livestock turn-out, pasture fertilization, application of waste and other farming activities are being delayed. Pastures are improving, but remain in mostly fair condition; many "sacrifice areas" continue to be muddy and devoid of vegetation. Wet pasture conditions -- too wet for silage making and for cow turnout. Many producers having to buy additional hay. Budbreak beginning in cranberries - some roughneck. Night temperatures dropping to the point where frost protection is turning on. If no frost protection - check vines for cold damage. Brookings (South Curry): Low temp for the period was 39.09 degrees, 2.02 degrees below the 5-year average. High temp for the period was 74.0 degrees. Precipitation for Weather year stands at 99.44 inches. Bandon (Coos & Northern Curry): Low temp for the period was 39.49 degrees, 0.3 degrees above the 5-year average. High temp for the period was 65.66 degrees, Weather year precipitation stands at 65.95 inches.

DOUGLAS: Last weekend rains left crop areas unworkable. Orchards, vineyards, and nurseries were unable to do fieldwork until Thursday. Recent cold, wet weather made plum pollination a complete failure in the county. Apples and pears seem to be finding a few days with good weather and the crops should pollinate. Cherry pollination may be negatively impacted by weather but not to the extent of the plum crop. Abundant mason bees reported in Garden Valley helping pollinate fruit trees where the honey bees are in short supply, Wine grapes in Douglas County are just now starting to break bud. Bud break is about two weeks later than last year. Orchard crops have not received many fungicide treatments this year because of excess rains. Potential is there for more

disease pressure. Nurseries saying cold, wet weather has slowed buying at their locations. Dry weather needed by all.

JACKSON: This week was a bit warmer and dryer. Only had showers on two days. Some warm days allowed for some field work. Some spring grain was planted. The warmer weather also helped hay fields. Plums, pears, and apples still blossoming. Better weather also allowed the bees to get to work with pollination. The better weather also allowed for putting on spring sprays. Nights were also a bit warmer, so there was no need for frost protection except for Sunday night. With this better weather, vegetable gardeners are getting started with more planting. Some early planting of sweet corn. Onions are now getting a good start. Nurseries very busy with sales now. Lots of trees and shrubs being planted. Greenhouses still busy with getting out vegetable and ornamental starts. Lots of livestock now out on pastures as good growth of grasses has started. Pasture and low range grass is looking much better. There was finally three good days for outside work.

JOSEPHINE: Beautiful weather this week. There was one storm pass through with light precipitation and cool temperatures. Some frost early mornings with dew point very high. Afternoons were gorgeous! Lots of work done this week. Truck gardeners getting into fields, which have been unable to work due to rain and water. Farmers able to fertilize low lying fields. Fruit blossoms have begun to appear and the grass has started to grow. The last two days been very warm although no records broken.

LINCOLN: Excellent conditions for field work and for forage growth and response to fertilizer input.

MARION: Temperatures warmed up and helped spur on spring growth with warming soil temperatures. Spring fertilizing on grass seed crops mostly completed with some plant growth regulator applications starting.

POLK: Temperatures have been at or above normal, light rain on the 21st. Weekend weather expected to be great for orchard crops.

WASHINGTON: Alfalfa and clover are showing good growth, spraying weeds and feral grass in fields of grass for seed and last fertilizer applies. Grape vines sprouting. Leaves and final spraying applied; non-herbicide cultural practices applies for weed control. Some rhubarb being picked, garlic growing well, seed beds for corn and other vegetables being prepared - weather permitting. Potted and balled shrubs continue in rotation to other locations. Pasture is improving and supplemental feeding slowing down. High temperature 76 degrees and low 39 degrees. Little moisture, some east wind. Humidity 45-91 percent.

YAMHILL: Sweet cherries and tart cherries are in the full bloom stage, while prunes are nearing petal fall. The weather pattern this week was favorable for pollination, with temperatures in the sixties coupled with dry weather. Hazelnut growers are applying their third Eastern Filbert Blight spray of the season.

EASTERN OREGON

GILLIAM/WHEELER: Clear, sunny weather is helping to dry some of the soggy fields out. Growers are back in the field for spring seeding

HARNEY: The last few warm days have helped with pasture growth. Many herds branded and turned out this week.

HOOD RIVER: Cool, showery weather early in the week gave way to warm dry conditions for second half. Clear skies and cold temperatures required frost protection on several nights. At week's end, crop development in the lower Hood River Valley was as follows: d'Anjou pear at full bloom (WSU stage 7); Red Delicious apple at first bloom to full bloom (WSU stages 7 & 8); Bing cherry at first bloom to full bloom (WSU stage 7 & 8); Pinot noir grapes at wool stage to bud burst (Eichhorn-Lorenz stages 3 & 5).

KLAMATH: More wet spring weather. Some field work continues however wet ground is causing problems. Alfalfa is showing signs of growth.

LAKE: Received more precipitation during the week, but actually had some days with sunshine!! Field work in full swing in most areas of the county.

MALHEUR: Good weather all last week. No measurable precipitation since Monday 17th. Field work is beginning to catch up. Field preparation and planting resumed in earnest this week. Rivers have gone down below flood stage however, low lying fields are still very wet. Cattle are out on range grazing. The grass looks good but it is short because of cooler temperatures. Still frequent scattered showers in higher elevation grazing areas.

MORROW: Spring wheat is 100 percent planted and 90 percent emerged. The winter crop looks good. In the north end some irrigators are preparing to plant corn. Should be planting by first of May.

SHERMAN: Cooler temperatures have kept the range from getting a good start on the annuals and perennials. Showers are still keeping hopes

high for a good grazing year. U-pick cherry orchards on the river in bloom, has not frosted enough for any loss as of this date. Finished planting 120 acres of new cherry orchard. Cheat grass and fiddleneck just starting to head/flower. Late seeded wheat showing pronounced difference to that seeded earlier. Several tractors and sprayers got stuck this week. Still too wet in many areas to farm, although dry, warm conditions this week helped. Showers last Saturday and early this Friday were spotty and very variable in amounts. Still concerns about being able to get spring grain in timely manner.

UNION: Snow pack makes irrigation outlook good for the season. Precipitation at the valley level is 80% of normal for the crop year.

WALLOWA: Snow pack is still around 120% of normal. Spring seeding is underway in most parts of the valley, except for the Flora area. Sunshine and warm weather needed for grass to start growing in the range areas. Hay supplies are dwindling with no place to put the cows.

WASCO: Warm, spring weather occurred most of the week. Field activities were in full swing all week; moldboard plowing, field cultivation, and weed spraying. Spring seeding continued for spring wheat, barley, and grass crops. Cherry orchards in The Dalles area still in full bloom, while the eight mile and Dufur valley just getting under way. Some sweet cherry blossoms received slight damage this week from frost, but it is not expected to affect yields in any way. Weather during bloom was excellent, with mild temperatures and very little wind. Bloom for most varieties are finishing at this time. A few frost fans were operated several nights in early week. Developing new variety orchards continued; planting new trees and putting in more efficient irrigation systems. Alfalfa crops are putting on good growth, but no buds yet. Strawberry plants are about 10 percent in bloom by weeks end, and rhubarb plants nearing harvest. Beef cattle are doing well on improving pastures. A few late heifers still calving and sheep shearing in progress. A number of cattle operations are branding and vaccinating new crop calves.

Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: April 23, 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	73	48	+0	5	-2	0.34	-0.65	2	70.00	12.38	121	152
Bandon ⁸	39	66	51	+3	10	-4	0.16	-0.74	3	60.75	8.29	116	122
Crescent City	37	58	49	-2	6	-18	0.39	-0.53	1	75.53	16.75	128	131
Florence	31	74	48	-3	4	-10	0.41	-0.70	2	75.67	8.58	113	144
Tillamook	29	70	46	-3	-	-7	0.48	-0.79	2	84.33	7.86	110	154
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Aurora ⁸	33	75	52	+2	19	-1	0.13	-0.47	2	45.81	10.81	131	132
Corvallis	32	73	51	+2	15	-2	0.11	-0.43	2	46.38	8.74	123	133
Detroit Lake ⁸	32	72	49	+6	13	+6	0.34	-0.59	3	93.35	34.36	158	151
Eugene	33	71	50	-2	11	-10	0.07	-0.58	1	41.75	-1.87	96	122
Hillsboro	31	72	50	+0	12	-7	0.08	-0.35	1	39.43	6.89	121	128
McMinnville	33	74	51	+2	17	-4	0.03	-0.48	2	36.32	-2.25	94	129
Portland	37	73	53	+2	26	+3	0.22	-0.30	3	36.00	5.45	118	134
Salem	32	74	51	+2	16	+1	0.20	-0.30	2	44.53	10.40	130	127
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	34	75	51	-4	20	-16	0.05	-0.31	1	42.78	14.49	151	115
Medford	33	75	54	+2	33	+3	0.09	-0.18	2	24.08	7.79	148	93
Roseburg	37	75	53	+2	25	-3	0.32	-0.16	3	42.55	13.62	147	126
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	23	68	44	-2	3	-4	0.04	-0.24	2	13.11	2.73	126	80
Echo ⁸	31	73	50	-3	11	-20	0.01	-0.13	1	8.42	1.32	119	79
Heppner	29	71	47	-3	12	-7	0.10	-0.18	2	12.24	2.03	120	92
Hermiston	27	74	50	-4	11	-20	-	-0.14	-	8.74	1.64	123	63
John Day	24	70	45	-3	9	-5	0.06	-0.22	2	7.44	-1.21	86	94
Madras ⁸	25	70	45	-3	3	-17	0.08	-0.06	2	10.61	2.86	137	95
Moro	27	69	46	-2	8	-6	0.02	-0.14	1	15.19	6.35	172	76
Parkdale ⁸	27	70	46	-5	3	-18	0.10	-0.25	4	42.12	14.07	150	134
Pendleton	29	74	50	-3	12	-14	-	-0.21	-	10.90	1.60	117	87
The Dalles	31	75	52	+4	22	+8	0.03	-0.12	1	16.97	6.67	165	85
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Agency Lake ⁸	30	67	46	+4	4	-3	-	-0.19	-	18.27	5.18	140	103
Bend	24	72	41	-4	2	-7	0.57	0.43	1	18.79	9.93	212	72
Burns	21	68	44	-1	1	-6	0.15	0.01	2	12.61	5.67	182	87
Christmas Valley ⁸	16	69	40	-7	-	-14	-	-0.14	-	6.74	-2.38	74	79
Klamath Falls	23	68	43	-3	-	-14	0.27	0.13	1	15.31	4.46	141	92
Klamath Falls ⁸	22	67	43	-3	-	-14	0.24	0.10	5	15.07	4.22	139	122
Lakeview	20	64	41	-4	-	-7	-	-0.28	-	8.12	-3.74	68	64
Lorella ⁸	23	65	44	-2	-	-14	0.34	0.20	6	17.30	6.45	159	113
Redmond	20	74	46	+2	5	-5	0.04	-0.08	2	8.87	2.88	148	75
Worden ⁸	23	67	44	-2	1	-13	0.34	0.20	3	12.94	2.09	119	109
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	18	66	43	-4	-	-11	0.08	-0.13	2	6.90	0.40	106	77
Joseph	24	69	42	+0	3	-3	0.68	0.26	3	15.67	-3.05	84	104
La Grande	25	70	47	-1	5	-9	-	-0.32	-	5.36	-7.20	43	66
Prairie City ⁸	19	67	42	+2	-	-1	0.44	0.12	2	11.07	-4.79	70	84
Union	27	69	46	-2	7	-7	-	-0.28	-	8.54	-0.17	98	88
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	27	73	51	-2	22	-11	-	-0.14	-	11.90	4.45	160	79
Rome	22	71	45	-4	6	-12	0.07	-0.08	1	8.62	3.36	164	74

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.