

# OREGON CROP WEATHER



**NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE**

**USDA, NASS, Oregon Field Office**

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**Weather:** Wet weather halted field work and temperatures were unseasonably cool during the past week. High temperatures ranged from 56 degrees at the Astoria/Clatsop station, up to 83 degrees in Rome. Low temperatures ranged from 21 degrees in Baker City and Redmond, up to 39 degrees in Bandon and North Bend. Last week, every station reported precipitation. The largest accumulation was reported at Florence with 1.64 inches, while the smallest was reported at Lakeview with .02 inches. Eight out of the forty three stations reported precipitation over an inch.

**Field Crops:** Weather conditions were mixed last week throughout the State with sunshine, rain, heavy winds, hail and frost. More sunshine is needed to finish off spring planting. Heavy winds caused lodging on grass seed in Lane County, while fine fescues were heading in Marion County. Clover and winter grain mites have been reported in Central Oregon. Stripe rust has appeared in hard red winter wheat fields in Morrow County. The western half of the county showed the majority of the infestation. On the positive side, wheat marketing has drawn a lot of interest given the strong current price levels. Statewide, small grains continued mostly in good condition. Spring wheat planted is nearly complete, while emergence has progressed to 88 percent, ahead of last year and the five year average.

**Vegetables:** Many Farmer's Markets opened in the Willamette Valley last week. Carrots, radishes, leeks, lettuce, rhubarb, and asparagus were available. Sweet corn and beans were being planted in Washington County as conditions allowed. Wet soil has delayed some spring vegetable planting. It continued to be too cold in Douglas County for most seeding. Vegetables were in the ground and being grown for Prineville, Madras, Redmond, and Bend Farmer's Markets. There was rainy weather for about three days mid-week, which would have curtailed some field activity. Spring work continued in Klamath County with the making of potato beds under continued irrigation. Potatoes were emerging in Morrow County, planting in the Umatilla/Baker county area. Some beans were still to be planted in Malheur County; onions were showing green in the fields. Southern Oregon spring onions showed good growth.

**Fruits and Nuts:** Last week's heavy winds, rains, hail, and thunder in the Willamette Valley does not appear to have caused too much damage to fruit trees.

However, apple varieties that were still in bloom may be affected by overall rainy conditions. Most other fruit trees were done or nearly done with bloom. There was not much tree fruit advancement in Douglas County. All tree fruit crops have set well with very nice pollination. Grapes were a little uneven in shoot growth but will probably even out with a warm week. Unsettling weather prevailed in Hood River County during the week, but conditions remained mostly dry. Some cool nights required frost protection, especially in the upper Hood River Valley. Initial fruit set of d'Anjou pears in earliest blooming areas appeared to be light. At week's end, crop development in the lower Hood River Valley was as follows: Red Delicious apple at post bloom (WSU stage 9); Pinot noir grapes at Eichhorn-Lorenz stage 9. Wasco County cherry orchard activity included numerous types of spraying on both bearing and non-bearing trees. Much of the ground spraying was performed through the night when there was no wind. Small cherries were starting to be visible on the early blooming trees. Frost fans were used several nights to control cold temperatures. Frost damage was reported to be spotty in some cherry orchards. Mowing of grass strips between trees was active all week. Irrigation on new orchard plantings was noted. Apple trees in the Prineville and Culver / Haystack Reservoir areas were in early bloom. Southern Oregon fruit set looked good and continued spraying will keep the quality up. Vineyards were showing good growth and starting to have blooms, but could use more sun.

**Nurseries and Greenhouses:** Nursery shipping season underway moving bare root trees, containers, and balled and burlapped plants to the Eastern United States. Greenhouses are preparing for mothers day sales and continue to move bedding plants to retail outlets. Community plant sales are continuing.

**Livestock, Range and Pasture:** Some areas of the Willamette Valley have seen good grass growth, while other areas continue to see soggy pastures with slow growth. Cool weather in Harney County was still delaying some spring grass growth. Annual pasture grasses are holding their own in Wasco County. Rangeland was starting to show brown areas where there is shallow ground. Yellow and purple wild flowers color the hills. Livestock were doing well on the lush grasses.

## Soil Moisture-Week Ending 05/06/07

|         | Very short | Short   | Adequate | Surplus |
|---------|------------|---------|----------|---------|
|         | Percent    | Percent | Percent  | Percent |
| Topsoil | 3          | 10      | 76       | 11      |
| Subsoil | 4          | 11      | 79       | 6       |

## Crop Progress-Week Ending 05/06/07

| Crop                        | This week | Last week | Last year | 5 year average |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
|                             | Percent   | Percent   | Percent   | Percent        |
| Winter wheat headed         | 2         | -         | 1         | 5              |
| Barley planted              | 94        | 92        | 87        | 84             |
| Barley emerged              | 81        | 78        | 59        | 64             |
| Spring wheat emerged        | 88        | 70        | 58        | 75             |
| Days suitable for fieldwork | 4.6       | 6.1       | 6.8       | 5.8            |

## Crop Condition-Week Ending 05/06/07

| Crop              | Very poor | Poor    | Fair    | Good    | Excellent |
|-------------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
|                   | Percent   | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent   |
| Winter wheat      | 0         | 0       | 11      | 82      | 7         |
| Spring wheat      | 0         | 0       | 29      | 69      | 2         |
| Barley            | 0         | 0       | 10      | 88      | 2         |
| Range and pasture | 0         | 6       | 26      | 50      | 18        |

## WESTERN OREGON

**CLACKAMAS:** Cold wet weather returned after we received warm days last week. Most grass pastures are getting ahead of the cows now.

**CLATSOP:** Too wet for field work. Chopping green grass continues.

**COLUMBIA:** Soils are still colder than normal for this time of year. Next week looks promising for field work.

**COOS/CURRY:** Temperatures were unseasonably cool early in the week and above normal by the end of the week, especially in southern Curry. Precipitation for the week was relatively heavy, but concentrated early in the week – even some hail in the valley and snow in the higher elevations. Pastures are growing and early high moisture haylage has begun to be harvested by late in the week. Bandon (Coos & Northern Curry): Low temperature for the period was 38.92 degrees, 1.72 degrees below the 5-year average. High temperature for the period was 64.21 degrees, 0.52 degrees below the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 1.20 inches, compared to a 5-year (including drought years 2002-2004) average of 0.25 inches. Precipitation for Current weather year precipitation stands at 52.99 inches, 2.38 inches above the 5 year average. Historical average precipitation through April is 52.85 inches. Brookings (Southern Curry) Low temperature for the period was 41.74 degrees, 1.72 degrees below the 5-year average. High temperature for the period was 82.8 degrees (Sunday), 14.28 degrees above the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 2.11 inches compared to a 5-year average (including drought years 2002-2004) of 0.4 inches. Current weather year precipitation stands at 74.31 inches, 0.92 inches above the 5 year average. Historical average precipitation through April is 64.54 inches.

**DOUGLAS:** A cold damp week had crops growing pretty slowly. Not much advancement in tree fruit stages. Still too cold to seed most vegetables. It looks like next week will warm significantly and vegetable planting will start quickly. All tree fruit crops have set well. Very nice pollination. Grapes are a little uneven in shoot growth but will probably even out with a warm week.

**JACKSON:** Another cool wet week. Some field work is still needed to get grain planted, but the ground must be warmer and with more sun. Fruit set is looking good, and continued spraying will keep the quality up. Vineyards are showing good growth and starting to have blooms. They also need some more sun. Spring onions are showing good growth. Greenhouse and nurseries are both very busy with sales of their products such as ornamental

flowers, flowering pots, and hanging baskets. They also have a good supply of vegetable starts. All livestock are looking good and are out on good green pastures. Spring calves are off to a good start. Lots of work ahead for both ranchers and farmers as weather permits.

**LANE:** Peaches, cherries, and pears are all nearly done blooming. Many varieties of apples are in full bloom, and rain may cause some poor pollination. Wet soil is still preventing a lot of vegetable and crop planting so far this spring. Most fields are still not plowed due to wet weather. Heavy winds have caused annual grass seed fields to lodge creating high potential for rust infestations. Carrots, radishes, leeks, and lettuce are being sold at Farmer's Markets. Greenhouse and nursery sales are doing well with plenty of annuals, perennials, and vegetable and herb starts.

**MARION:** Spring weather prevailed and temperatures ranged from the upper 60's down to the low 30's with some frost occurring. We had sunshine, rain, and hail. Fine fescues heading out and some meadow foam is trying to bloom.

**POLK:** Hail in areas this past week, causing sporadic damage especially around the West Salem area.

**WASHINGTON:** Gang weeding and grass control is taking place for grass for seed. Clover is looking better and alfalfa is growing well. Rhubarb is being picked and walnuts are starting to leaf out. Corn and beans are being planted as field conditions allow. Farmer's Markets have started. Bare root trees are being shipped along with container vegetable starts. Nurseries are also rotating potted shrubs. Pastures remain soggy and grass is slow to grow. High temperature for the week was 84 degrees with a low of 68 degrees. We received 1.4 inches of rain for the week.

**YAMHILL:** We had quite a week of spring weather! Heavy winds, hard rains, hail, thunder, sun, light rain, some all in the same day! But it seemed to be hit and miss around the county as the storms came through. No reports of damage so far but some fruit trees could have been affected. Crops are looking good. Some reports that third year perennial rye grass is having a rough go but we are still hoping it will come out of it. Some fall planted red clover is also looking rough and some has been replanted this spring. Some concern that the grass seeds in general may not have very good seed quality because of the dry fall last year not giving the plants a very good start after harvest. Time will tell if that is true as the stands overall look good at this time.

## EASTERN OREGON

**BAKER/UMATILLA:** Last week we received very little precipitation. Potatoes are being planted. Irrigation has begun on hay ground. Rangeland is dry and short on grass.

**CROOK/DESCHUTES/JEFFERSON:** A number of Gene winter wheat fields that were planted back to back wheat, started out terrible this spring. None of the other wheat fields looked like this that were of other varieties planted back to back wheat. Cereal leaf beetle adults seem to be out in great numbers and laying eggs. The clover mite has found it's way to the Lower Bridge area of northern Deschutes County, and although not yet confirmed, appears they are up the Crooked River above Prineville now, and there are reports of severe damage in both areas, as well in the alfalfa and Tumalo area of Deschutes County. Clover mite attacks seem to prefer orchard grass as their primary host. We would expect the clover mite numbers to start dropping soon. Winter grain mite infestations have been documented too, but there are insecticides to control them, while nothing that is labeled for clover mites seem to work on them. There will be some severely damaged fields from the clover mite this season. Apples in Crook (Prineville) and Jefferson (Culver/Haystack Reservoir area) counties started flowering this week, maybe slightly earlier. Vegetables are in the ground and being grown for Prineville, Madras, Redmond, and Bend Farmer's Markets. There was rainy weather for about 3 days mid-week, which would have curtailed some field activity. The cold weather has set most of the field crops back or halted their growth. There were a number of good frosts this week.

**HARNEY:** Cool weather is still delaying spring grass growth in some areas. Stock water shortages are being reported.

**HOOD RIVER:** Unsettling weather prevailed during the week, but conditions remained mostly dry. Some cool nights required frost protection, especially in the upper Hood River Valley. Initial fruit set of d'Anjou pears in earliest blooming areas appeared to be light. At week's end, crop development in the lower Hood River Valley was as follows: Red Delicious apple at post bloom (WSU stage 9); Pinot noir grapes at Eichhorn-Lorenz stage 9.

**KLAMATH:** Cooler temperatures remained this past week. Rain and snow showers brought no measurable precipitation. Spring work continues with the making of potato beds. Irrigation continues.

**MALHEUR:** Ontario reported half an inch of rain on May 1. Frost or near frost towards the end of the week. Field work,

planting and irrigating continues. Rain early last week helped wash the dust off of everything. Range is drying out rapidly. Cheat grass is turning red already. Grain crops are finally starting to perk-up. Onions are showing green in the fields. Some first cutting alfalfa is in the windrow. Corn planting is drawing to a close. Some beans still to be planted.

**MORROW:** Winter wheat continues to look good but needs continued moisture in order to meet full potential. Stripe rust has shown up in parts of Morrow County in hard red winter wheat. Most severe infestations are in the Western half of the county and are approaching "threshold" levels. Early signs of rust noticed farther east. Acreage is limited at this time. Spring work continues in the irrigated ground with most spring work completed and potatoes emerging.

**SHERMAN:** Field work continues, but with an increased switch to chemical fallow. Green up has helped but many streams are still short on water. Some ranchers hauling water at this time, even though grass looks good. Wheat marketing is drawing much interest with price levels in their present range. Much planning for sales of 2008 and 2009 crops.

**WALLOWA:** Not much change from last week. We received some moisture during the week which has helped crop conditions but more is still needed. Some ponds are full and some are dry so range use could be restricted in some areas.

**WASCO:** Wind prevailed most of the week. The winter wheat crop looks very good in its bright green cover. Crop prospects look good at this point. Strong winds limited amount of time spent weed spraying. Other farm activities in grain crop areas included field tillage and fertilization. Cherry orchard activity included numerous types of spraying on both bearing and non-bearing trees. Much of the ground spraying was performed through the night when there was no wind. Small cherries are starting to be visible on the early blooming trees. Frost fans were used several nights to control cold temperatures. Frost damage was reported to be spotty in some cherry orchards. Mowing of grass strips between trees was active all week. Irrigation on new orchard plantings was noted. Alfalfa fields are growing rapidly. Annual pasture grasses are holding their own. Range land starting to show brown areas where there is shallow ground. Yellow and purple wild flowers color the hills. Livestock are doing well on the lush grasses.

**Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: May 6, 2007 (as of 11:00 am) <sup>1</sup>**

| Station                       | Air temperature <sup>2</sup> |      |      |                  | Growing degree days <sup>3</sup> |                  | Last week precip. <sup>4</sup> |                  |                   | Season cum. precipitation <sup>5</sup> |                  |             |                   |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------|------|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|--|------------------|-------------|-------------------|
|                               | Low                          | High | Avg. | DFN <sup>6</sup> | Total                            | DFN <sup>6</sup> | Total inches                   | DFN <sup>6</sup> | Days <sup>7</sup> | Total inches                           | DFN <sup>6</sup> | Pct. normal | Days <sup>7</sup> |
| <b>COASTAL AREAS</b>          |                              |      |      |                  |                                  |                  |                                |                  |                   |  |                  |             |                   |
| Astoria/Clatsop               | 35                           | 56   | 49   | -2               | 3                                | -11              | 0.83                           | 0.04             | 6                 | 66.74                                  | 7.57             | 113         | 152               |
| Bandon <sup>8</sup>           | 39                           | 64   | 51   | +1               | 13                               | -1               | 1.20                           | 0.46             | 4                 | 53.76                                  | -0.13            | 100         | 140               |
| Crescent City                 | 37                           | 59   | 48   | -5               | 3                                | -18              | 1.08                           | 0.31             | 4                 | 56.40                                  | -3.85            | 94          | 107               |
| Florence                      | 32                           | 67   | 49   | -3               | 8                                | -6               | 1.64                           | 0.69             | 4                 | 81.04                                  | 12.13            | 118         | 129               |
| North Bend                    | 39                           | 66   | 50   | -2               | 10                               | -7               | 1.12                           | 0.34             | 4                 | 58.38                                  | 0.32             | 101         | 121               |
| Tillamook                     | 36                           | 61   | 50   | +0               | 10                               | +3               | 0.76                           | -0.34            | 5                 | 51.11                                  | -27.45           | 65          | 142               |
| <b>WILLAMETTE VALLEY</b>      |                              |      |      |                  |                                  |                  |                                |                  |                   |  |                  |             |                   |
| Aurora <sup>8</sup>           | 36                           | 65   | 51   | -3               | 12                               | -14              | 0.58                           | 0.03             | 4                 | 39.48                                  | 3.45             | 110         | 129               |
| Corvallis                     | 35                           | 69   | 50   | -3               | 9                                | -13              | 1.38                           | 0.89             | 4                 | 44.91                                  | 6.36             | 116         | 126               |
| Detroit Lake <sup>8</sup>     | 35                           | 69   | 49   | +3               | 11                               | +4               | 1.53                           | 0.69             | 5                 | 82.86                                  | 22.30            | 137         | 145               |
| Eugene                        | 34                           | 70   | 50   | -4               | 11                               | -17              | 1.12                           | 0.56             | 4                 | 37.61                                  | -7.06            | 84          | 113               |
| Hillsboro                     | 34                           | 64   | 50   | -3               | 8                                | -17              | 0.87                           | 0.46             | 3                 | 33.09                                  | -0.22            | 99          | 122               |
| McMinnville                   | 35                           | 66   | 51   | -3               | 13                               | -15              | 0.57                           | 0.08             | 3                 | 34.22                                  | -5.26            | 87          | 125               |
| Portland                      | 38                           | 65   | 52   | -4               | 15                               | -20              | 0.91                           | 0.42             | 3                 | 31.97                                  | 0.51             | 102         | 131               |
| Salem                         | 35                           | 68   | 50   | -2               | 11                               | -10              | 1.02                           | 0.57             | 3                 | 38.53                                  | 3.53             | 110         | 113               |
| <b>SW VALLEYS</b>             |                              |      |      |                  |                                  |                  |                                |                  |                   |  |                  |             |                   |
| Grants Pass                   | 35                           | 76   | 53   | -4               | 27                               | -20              | 0.61                           | 0.32             | 3                 | 28.52                                  | -0.35            | 99          | 90                |
| Medford                       | 35                           | 80   | 53   | -3               | 24                               | -17              | 0.26                           | -0.01            | 3                 | 16.78                                  | 0.04             | 100         | 87                |
| Roseburg                      | 38                           | 75   | 53   | -2               | 21                               | -15              | 0.74                           | 0.33             | 4                 | 29.71                                  | 0.01             | 100         | 102               |
| <b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>          |                              |      |      |                  |                                  |                  |                                |                  |                   |  |                  |             |                   |
| Condon                        | 29                           | 68   | 47   | -2               | 6                                | -3               | 0.42                           | 0.14             | 2                 | 12.17                                  | 1.27             | 112         | 87                |
| Echo <sup>8</sup>             | 34                           | 76   | 53   | -4               | 22                               | -24              | 0.42                           | 0.25             | 3                 | 7.84                                   | 0.45             | 106         | 87                |
| Heppler                       | 33                           | 68   | 49   | -4               | 9                                | -17              | 0.65                           | 0.33             | 3                 | 11.61                                  | 0.81             | 108         | 95                |
| Hermiston                     | 33                           | 74   | 53   | -4               | 20                               | -26              | 0.45                           | 0.28             | 3                 | 7.26                                   | -0.13            | 98          | 79                |
| Madras <sup>8</sup>           | 26                           | 72   | 46   | -5               | 5                                | -16              | 0.08                           | -0.06            | 3                 | 5.43                                   | -2.58            | 68          | 74                |
| Moro                          | 30                           | 67   | 48   | -3               | 5                                | -10              | 0.30                           | 0.16             | 3                 | 10.47                                  | 1.37             | 115         | 76                |
| Parkdale <sup>8</sup>         | 31                           | 69   | 47   | -7               | 4                                | -24              | 0.09                           | -0.16            | 2                 | 33.39                                  | 4.84             | 117         | 95                |
| Pendleton                     | 33                           | 70   | 50   | -5               | 10                               | -28              | 0.49                           | 0.22             | 2                 | 8.99                                   | -0.76            | 92          | 81                |
| Prairie City <sup>8</sup>     | 26                           | 72   | 46   | -5               | 5                                | -16              | 0.08                           | -0.06            | 3                 | 5.43                                   | -2.58            | 68          | 74                |
| The Dalles                    | 32                           | 74   | 54   | +4               | 35                               | +14              | 0.12                           | -0.02            | 1                 | 12.23                                  | 1.67             | 116         | 71                |
| <b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>          |                              |      |      |                  |                                  |                  |                                |                  |                   |  |                  |             |                   |
| Agency Lake <sup>8</sup>      | 32                           | 70   | 45   | +0               | 9                                | +2               | 0.64                           | 0.43             | 3                 | 14.57                                  | 1.10             | 108         | 91                |
| Bend                          | 25                           | 73   | 45   | -3               | 5                                | -2               | 0.15                           | 0.01             | 2                 | 8.83                                   | -0.29            | 97          | 64                |
| Burns                         | 22                           | 73   | 46   | -3               | 6                                | -8               | 0.31                           | 0.10             | 3                 | 7.70                                   | 0.43             | 106         | 75                |
| Christmas Valley <sup>8</sup> | 22                           | 73   | 42   | -8               | 1                                | -20              | 0.44                           | 0.23             | 4                 | 4.62                                   | -4.86            | 49          | 65                |
| Klamath Falls                 | 23                           | 72   | 44   | -6               | 4                                | -10              | 0.21                           | 0.06             | 3                 | 8.93                                   | -2.19            | 80          | 69                |
| Klamath Falls <sup>8</sup>    | 24                           | 71   | 43   | -6               | 4                                | -10              | 0.23                           | 0.08             | 4                 | 10.05                                  | -0.79            | 93          | 88                |
| Lakeview                      | 23                           | 72   | 44   | -4               | 3                                | -10              | 0.02                           | -0.26            | 1                 | 3.15                                   | -9.23            | 25          | 44                |
| Lorella <sup>8</sup>          | 22                           | 72   | 43   | -6               | 3                                | -11              | 0.32                           | 0.17             | 4                 | 8.89                                   | -2.23            | 80          | 82                |
| Redmond                       | 21                           | 75   | 45   | -3               | 3                                | -8               | 0.07                           | -0.07            | 2                 | 4.10                                   | -2.15            | 66          | 49                |
| Worden <sup>8</sup>           | 23                           | 71   | 43   | -7               | 3                                | -11              | 0.20                           | 0.05             | 2                 | 7.43                                   | -3.69            | 67          | 89                |
| <b>NORTHEAST</b>              |                              |      |      |                  |                                  |                  |                                |                  |                   |  |                  |             |                   |
| Baker City                    | 21                           | 77   | 46   | -4               | 7                                | -7               | 0.03                           | -0.18            | 2                 | 3.74                                   | -3.15            | 54          | 69                |
| Joseph                        | 26                           | 67   | 44   | +0               | 8                                | +8               | 0.43                           | 0.01             | 3                 | 11.24                                  | -8.26            | 58          | 93                |
| La Grande                     | 27                           | 72   | 48   | -3               | 11                               | -10              | 0.52                           | 0.17             | 2                 | 6.30                                   | -6.91            | 48          | 62                |
| Union                         | 28                           | 75   | 49   | +0               | 24                               | +10              | 0.43                           | 0.08             | 3                 | 7.81                                   | -1.52            | 84          | 77                |
| <b>SOUTHEAST</b>              |                              |      |      |                  |                                  |                  |                                |                  |                   |  |                  |             |                   |
| Ontario                       | 31                           | 80   | 55   | -2               | 45                               | -6               | 0.35                           | 0.21             | 2                 | 5.00                                   | -2.71            | 65          | 60                |
| Rome                          | 26                           | 83   | 51   | -2               | 28                               | +2               | 0.07                           | -0.14            | 1                 | 2.55                                   | -3.10            | 45          | 55                |

<sup>1</sup> Summary based on NWS data. Copyright 2007: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

<sup>2</sup> Air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

<sup>3</sup> Growing degree days base-50 degrees Fahrenheit.

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

<sup>5</sup> Season cumulative precipitation starts September 1, 2006.

<sup>6</sup> DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-1990 normals period).

<sup>7</sup> Precipitation days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

<sup>8</sup> Agri-Met weather stations.