

# OREGON CROP WEATHER



**NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE**

USDA, NASS, Oregon Field Office

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**Weather:** Conditions continued to be cold and wet during the early part of the week in most areas, but warmed up dramatically by weeks end. High temperatures ranged from 86 degrees in Roseburg to 64 degrees in Crescent City. Low temperatures ranged from 38 degrees at the Bandon station to 15 degrees in Christmas Valley. The Florence station received the most precipitation with 1.10 inches and was the only station to receive over an inch. Only four of the forty-three stations did not receive any measurable precipitation with most reporting only a trace. Despite wet conditions at the beginning of the week, almost all stations reported slightly below average precipitation levels.

**Field Crops:** Warmer temperatures were welcomed this past weekend across most of the State after earlier cool conditions. The warmer weather aided crop development and growth. Grains, grass seed, and canola were doing better with the increased temperatures. However, some areas of the State were still too wet for spring field work. In some western counties, some grains failed to emerge due to saturated soils. Warmer weather forecasts should aid winter wheat and spring cereals recover from slow growth due to recent cold spells. For the most part, north-central counties have so far lacked moisture and warmth for small grains.

**Vegetables:** Attendees at local Farmer's Markets throughout the Willamette Valley enjoyed warm and sunny weather this past weekend as the start of the season continued. In the southern part of the Valley, truck gardeners were preparing fields, and some cabbage, radishes, and carrot planting was taking place where the ground would allow. Transplanting carrot roots continued in Jefferson County where irrigation could begin as early as next week.

**Fruits and Nuts:** Continued frosty mornings and cool daytime temperatures early in the week furthered potential fruit damage in many

areas. Weeks end quick warm up accelerated fruit development, which concerned some growers as temperatures may dip down again. Potential fruit damaged in Willamette Valley could include plums, peaches, and cherries. Douglas County plums were past full bloom when low temperatures occurred and will probably have a poor set. Peaches were still in full bloom and may have a favorable set. Pears were about 30-40 percent flowering with the remaining bloom out in the next 4-5 days. Apples will be in full bloom in about a week to 10 days. Blueberries were still about a week or so away from bloom. Grapes were entering their most vulnerable frost period of spring. Fruit development in the lower Hood River Valley was as follows: d'Anjou pear near full bloom (WSU stage 7); Red Delicious apple at tight cluster (WSU stage 4); Pinot noir grape at Eichhorn-Lorenz stage 2. Fruit trees in The Dalles were starting to show color. Further south, tree buds were swelling. The cherry bloom has been delayed compared to this time last year, about two weeks late, with some just coming into bloom. Two weeks of temperatures in the mid to high 20's has caused some flower bud mortality. Southern Oregon fruit trees were in bloom and grapes were leafing out.

**Nurseries and Greenhouses:** Greenhouses were busy with spring flowerers and some early garden starts. Nursery business increased with numerous plants becoming available. Nurseries were very busy in some areas with decorative tree and shrub sales.

**Livestock, Range and Pasture:** Some supplemental feeding continues, particularly in the cooler areas of the State, but more and more cattle are being moved to spring pastures. Cattle growers are starting to turn animals out onto their grazing permits in Lake County. Producers were fertilizing pasture in Coos and Curry counties. A few cattlemen were branding, ear marking, and vaccinating early calves in Wasco County.

**Soil Moisture-Week Ending 04/13/08**

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	0	11	64	25
Subsoil	2	12	65	21

**Crop Progress-Week Ending 04/13/08**

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5 year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Barley planted	79	75	74	65
Barley emerged	39	37	56	38
Spring wheat planted	80	76	80	74
Spring wheat emerged	39	36	43	40
Days suitable for fieldwork	4.9	4.7	5.1	5.1

**Crop Condition-Week Ending 04/13/08**

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Winter wheat	0	8	57	29	6
Barley	0	0	56	37	7
Range and pasture	5	16	38	33	8

## WESTERN OREGON

**BENTON/LINN/LANE:** In the Marcola area, it was too cold for pastures to grow with low temperatures between 23 and 27 degrees. In the Lane County valley areas, continued wet and cold weather has delayed crops and field work. Pastures were slow to take off and mud has been a problem for many producers. Grass seed crops appeared to be good. Some spring planted grain failed to emerge from saturated soils. Plums were blooming with some signs of hail damage. Peaches were also blooming with potential freeze and hail damage. Cherries were budding and apples were leafing out. Blueberries were in the bud swelling stage and most berry crops were showing growth. Farmers markets started. Weather was good over the weekend, but sales last weekend were down due to rain. Most greenhouses were growing crops.

**CLACKAMAS:** Cold wet days first half of the week followed by three very nice sunny warm days.

**CLATSOP:** Warm over the weekend with a high of 80 degrees on Saturday, but back to cool temperatures on Sunday. Rain and snow expected in the higher elevations today.

**COOS/CURRY:** Temperatures were slightly below the 5-year average early in the week, with the only precipitation also early in the week. Bandon (Coos & Northern Curry): The low temperature for the period was 38.4 degrees, 1.92 degrees below the 5-year average. The high temperature for the period was 73.1 degrees on Saturday, 6.17 degrees above the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 0.27 inches, compared to a 5-year (including drought years 2003-2004) average of 1.13 inches. Precipitation for Current weather year precipitation (began 10/07) stands at 46.54 inches, 2.25 inches below the 5-year average. Historical average precipitation through April is 52.85 inches. Pastures remained wet for the most part, but more cattle were being turned out on the bottoms. Some producers were fertilizing pasture and hay land late in the week.

**DOUGLAS:** Frosty mornings, cool daytime temperatures, and drizzle have not been good for the early pollinating tree fruit. Plums were past full bloom and will probably have a poor set. Peaches were still in full bloom and may set OK but it is still undecided. Pears were about 30-40 percent flowering with the remaining bloom out in the next 4-5 days. Apples will be in full bloom in about a week to 10 days. Blueberries were still about a week or so away from bloom. Field crops like grass seed, canola, wheat were all looking better as temperatures warmed up a little toward the end of the week. Most wine grapes were pushing and are breaking bud. Grapes were entering their most vulnerable frost period of spring. Spraying fungicides for nearly all crops was going heavy over the past weekend with good weather.

**JACKSON:** Some light rain early in the week, but it warmed up and was sunny the rest of the week, even had days in the 70's. Some more grain was planted this week. A few warmer days really helped the grain and hay crops. Pears were coming in bloom, so time for some good warm days for bees to do their work. Some sprays for sucker and weed control, also for codling moth and scab. Vineyards were most all done with

pruning. Where ground would allow, work included some garden preparation, some early planting of strawberry sets, some cabbage starts, some radishes and carrot planting. Greenhouses were quite busy getting out spring flower and some early garden starts. Nurseries were very busy with decorative tree and shrub sales. More cattle were being put on valley pastures as the spring growth on pastures gets better. Still some supplemental feeding being done and all livestock were looking quite good.

**JOSEPHINE:** Weather was warmer with Saturday's high at 84 degrees, but night time temperatures were still in the 20's. No measurable precipitation for the week. There were drying east and north winds. It was good weather for working outside. The nursery business was picking up with a lot of plants available now. Livestock have a lot of young this year and pastures were looking good. Truck gardeners were preparing fields and greenhouses were full. Grapes have not leafed out in some areas yet. All other fruit trees were in bloom. Nuts are later except for almonds and pecans. Pollen count was very high with *Ceanothus* blooming like crazy.

**MARION:** This past week was somewhat rainy early in the week and by Saturday the weather was fantastic and warm with highs in the 70's. The early week cool weather continued to slow crop development. Farmers were in their fields this week. Spraying continued. Caneberries were starting to come to life. Many fruit trees were in bloom. Some row crops were being planted where soil was not too wet to work and plant. Hop fields were being readied for the growing season. Grass fields were looking good and growing rapidly with the warmer days. Some broadleaf sprays were being applied to grass seed fields as voles continued to cause some damage.

**POLK:** It was warm over the weekend, but fresh snow in the hills this morning. Things were trying to bloom but cool temperatures throughout most of the week delayed them.

**MULTNOMAH:** Soils were still too wet to plow.

**WASHINGTON:** The low temperature for the week was 30 degrees and the high was 82 degrees. Humidity was between 50 and 72 percent. Early in the week the freezing temperature affected the cherry buds/bloom. Reduced cherry yields may be expected. Producers were able to apply chemicals over the warm weekend. There were reports of disking and seedbed preparation for spring seeded crops beginning where moisture was not an issue. Spraying was done for pest management on grass seed fields and some wheat and small grains were being fertilized. Blueberries were nearing bloom stage and catkins were off filberts. Some ground was being prepared for vegetable planting. Greenhouses and nurseries were pruning, fertilizing, and baling and burlapping small shrubs. Pastures were looking good with the warm sunny days during the latter part of the week.

**YAMHILL:** The warm weather on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday was a welcome relief but could spell disaster as pollen was evident on cars. With a turn in the weather to temperatures below sixty degrees for the next week, bees will have problems getting out and about.

## EASTERN OREGON

**BAKER/UNION:** Pastures were just starting to grow. However, some areas were still too wet for spring field work.

**GRANT:** Cool weather, rain, and snow continued to slow grass growth and hinder spring field work.

**HOOD RIVER:** Cool temperatures through most of the week slowed bud development. Unseasonably warmer temperatures at week's end accelerated bud development dramatically, with crop development in the lower Hood River Valley was as follows: d'Anjou pear near full bloom (WSU stage 7); Red Delicious apple at tight cluster (WSU stage 4); Pinot noir grape at Eichhorn-Lorenz stage 2.

**JEFFERSON:** Transplanting carrot roots continued. Irrigation will begin in earnest next week. Water is much needed as topsoil was very dry and many of the grass seed fields were moisture stressed.

**KLAMATH:** Rain, snow, hail, and sunshine for the week. Grass growth was slow due to cold spring temperatures. Spring field preparation continued. Some limited pasture turnout and some hay feeding continued.

**LAKE:** Cattle producers have started turning out onto their grazing permits with some concerns over water. Hay producers started to fertilize and do weed control.

**MALHEUR:** Cool weather prevailed. Field work and planting continued. Unsettled weather failed to produce any significant moisture.

**MORROW:** There was very little, if any, useable precipitation during the past couple of weeks. It was still unseasonably cold and windy. Warm weather is in the forecast, and this should help late-seeded winter wheat and recently-seeded spring cereals recover from slow growth due to unseasonably cold temperatures during the previous month. Most farmers have finished weed control operations and are conducting primary tillage on summer-fallow ground. No significant damage from pests as of April 11. Snow line was still visible in the mountains. There were some cattle grazing on spring pasture.

**SHERMAN:** Very cold nights and dry seedbeds were still delaying plant growth. North facing slopes were looking especially poor. Grass growth on rangelands was very poor as was growth on wheat plants. We've been getting warm day time temperatures but very cold night time temperatures. Wheat on south facing slopes were much bigger and happier than north facing ones. Many growers have "sweetened up"

wheat seedings a bit where spring wheat was planned, cool temperatures again slowing and delaying much emergence. Probably just as well because if it did emerge, cold nights would kill it. Many growers have locked in prices for 2008 crop, although there is much uncertainty in markets from grower's perspective. Fertilizer, chemical, and fuel prices are impacting decisions on tillage and cropping. There will be a big Field Day May 13 at the Sherman Experiment Station to discuss the results from long term experiments on rotations in crops and tillage system practices.

**UMATILLA:** Cool dry weather persisted throughout the region. Precipitation has still been below normal for this time period. A wet weather pattern is forecasted for the beginning of this week. Periods of warmer weather have provided better growing conditions. Mountain snow was at average or above average in some places. Current extended outlook forecasts have no heavy rain events in the mountain regions, which has eased flood tensions.

**WALLOWA:** Snowpack was 100% of normal.

**WASCO:** Weather was good all week with very warm weather on Saturday. Winter wheat looks pretty good in all parts of the County and was slowly putting on growth. Pasture grasses were looking good in the south part of County. There was plenty of field work activity during the week with spring wheat planting and weed spraying on both no till stubble and wheat crops. Top dressings of fertilizer were being applied to winter wheat fields. Alfalfa was starting to show growth as well. Fruit trees in The Dalles were starting to show color. Further south, tree buds were swelling. Some fruit damaged from previous week of very cold temperatures at night, but to what extent is difficult to determine at this time. The cherry bloom has been delayed compared to this time last year, about two weeks late, with some just coming into bloom. Two weeks of temperatures in the mid to high 20's has caused some flower bud mortality. Fortunately, cherries are very resilient and don't need all of the flowers to set a full crop. Frost fans were being used nonetheless in some cherry orchards. Bees for pollination were being distributed throughout orchards and some good pollination weather will go a long way in setting a reasonable crop. Cattle were starting to feed on pasture grasses, but some hay feeding was still needed to give pasture grasses a chance to develop. New planting of pasture grass were active. A few cattlemen were branding, ear marking, and vaccinating their early calves.

**Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: April 13, 2008 (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	34	77	49	+2	13	+6	0.58	-0.57	4	52.13	-4.20	93	145
Bandon <sup>8</sup>	38	73	49	+1	11	+4	0.29	-0.81	3	48.37	-2.92	94	146
Crescent City	37	64	49	-2	9	-12	0.14	-1.01	3	41.60	-15.97	72	100
Florence	35	75	49	+2	16	+6	1.10	-0.23	4	75.03	9.39	114	131
North Bend	37	72	50	+2	14	+1	0.59	-0.58	3	51.82	-3.45	94	122
Tillamook	32	73	50	+3	8	+1	0.68	-0.82	4	48.43	-26.38	65	139
<b>WILLAMETTE VALLEY</b>													
Aurora <sup>8</sup>	34	80	51	+3	18	+4	0.34	-0.33	5	37.26	3.04	109	133
Corvallis	37	79	50	+2	15	+1	0.29	-0.34	3	39.38	2.44	107	130
Detroit Lake <sup>8</sup>	35	77	48	+6	16	+9	0.97	-0.11	4	75.36	17.58	130	139
Eugene	33	84	51	+2	18	+1	0.13	-0.65	4	32.19	-10.58	75	111
Hillsboro	31	80	50	+2	13	-1	0.36	-0.17	4	28.12	-3.85	88	113
McMinnville	32	78	50	+2	16	+2	0.60	-0.02	3	31.07	-6.82	82	122
Portland	37	78	52	+2	21	+3	0.37	-0.21	4	28.15	-1.72	94	124
Salem	34	80	51	+3	16	+2	0.22	-0.37	3	33.25	-0.22	99	112
<b>SW VALLEYS</b>													
Grants Pass	34	85	51	-2	19	-9	0.07	-0.38	2	25.50	-2.31	92	102
Medford	35	84	53	+4	32	+9	0.21	-0.07	2	14.59	-1.34	92	86
Roseburg	37	86	53	+3	29	+5	0.38	-0.18	3	29.25	0.94	103	113
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>													
Condon	26	71	43	-2	5	-2	0.19	-0.09	3	9.22	-0.79	92	79
Echo <sup>8</sup>	31	80	50	-2	15	-7	-	-0.18	-	6.71	-0.21	97	82
Heppner	28	75	45	-3	7	-7	0.16	-0.13	3	9.78	-0.07	99	89
Hermiston	25	81	49	-2	18	-4	-	-0.18	-	6.53	-0.39	94	65
Madras <sup>8</sup>	26	77	46	+0	14	+0	0.11	-0.07	3	5.58	-1.99	74	75
Moro	27	73	44	-2	9	+2	0.03	-0.18	2	8.04	-0.58	93	68
Parkdale <sup>8</sup>	29	72	46	-3	6	-9	0.08	-0.34	1	19.41	-8.19	70	84
Pendleton	30	78	49	-2	18	-1	-	-0.28	-	8.17	-0.86	90	72
Prairie City <sup>8</sup>	26	77	46	+0	14	+0	0.11	-0.07	3	5.58	-1.99	74	75
The Dalles	33	80	51	+5	19	+6	-	-0.21	-	11.92	1.83	118	71
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>													
Agency Lake <sup>8</sup>	29	69	44	+4	9	+2	0.04	-0.17	1	10.20	-2.65	79	79
Bend	24	76	41	-2	8	+1	0.01	-0.13	1	11.50	2.82	132	66
Burns	18	80	39	-3	5	-2	0.11	-0.03	2	7.14	0.38	106	81
Christmas Valley <sup>8</sup>	15	75	39	-6	-	-14	0.05	-0.09	1	3.91	-5.02	44	55
Klamath Falls	23	74	43	-2	5	-2	0.10	-0.11	2	7.54	-3.13	71	68
Klamath Falls <sup>8</sup>	25	74	44	+0	7	+0	0.12	-0.09	2	8.20	-2.47	77	90
Lakeview	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lorella <sup>8</sup>	20	76	42	-2	3	-4	0.13	-0.08	2	6.89	-3.78	65	91
Redmond	20	79	43	-1	8	+1	0.01	-0.13	1	1.57	-4.26	27	30
Worden <sup>8</sup>	24	74	43	-1	3	-4	0.05	-0.16	2	6.80	-3.87	64	87
<b>NORTHEAST</b>													
Baker City	18	72	40	-4	-	-7	0.26	0.11	3	6.25	0.02	100	82
Joseph	25	65	38	-3	-	-7	0.46	0.04	3	12.84	-5.34	71	91
La Grande	27	75	45	-2	7	-6	0.10	-0.25	1	8.58	-3.57	71	71
Union	28	72	43	-3	3	-7	0.22	-0.06	3	7.14	-1.22	85	73
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>													
Ontario	26	83	47	-3	11	-13	0.02	-0.12	2	5.15	-2.12	71	59
Rome	20	79	42	-4	5	-7	0.12	-0.02	2	5.97	0.90	118	66

<sup>1</sup> Summary based on NWS data. Copyright 2008: 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, 2007.

<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.