

# WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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## Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending April 15, 2001

### WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Cool conditions slowed spring crop development  
Bud break was beginning in grapes**

### FIELD CROPS

Cold spring conditions restricted spring wheat and barley emergence and set back the growth and development of winter wheat. Washington's spring wheat crop is over fifty percent seeded with ideal conditions reported over the weekend. Potato planting continued throughout the Basin. Christmas tree growers were completing herbicide applications and continued fertilizing. Retail nurseries reported strong plant sales over the Easter holiday. Tulip fields were beginning to bloom. Turfgrass growers were harvesting mature fields.

### LIVESTOCK

Cattle began grazing early ranges. Cool weather has hampered pasture development causing producers to feed longer than normal. Hay supplies in some areas were reported below normal. Ranchers worried about the possibility of their stock ponds drying up from the drought. Dairy producers harvested green-chop.

### FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Cool conditions continued keeping fruit producers busy with frost protection activities. Cherries, peaches and nectarines continued blooming, while apple blossoms were reported in their pink or early flowering stage. Bud break was reported in some vineyards. Irrigation water levels continued to be a concern in the fruit growing districts. Hothouse tomato plants were in bloom. Producers were busy seeding carrots and onions. Radish seed planting was in progress.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
4.9	4.4

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2000	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	52	39	64	54
Spring Wheat Emerged	16	13	28	26
Barley Planted	30	19	48	41
Barley Emerged	12	4	14	13
Potatoes Planted	26	19	54	36
Potatoes Emerged	4	2	22	9
Corn Planted	5	1	20	9
Dry Peas Planted	15	5	30	16
Pro. Green Peas Planted	28	3	36	7

Soil Moisture	Soil Moisture and Supply			
	% Acreage			
Soil Type	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	3	9	88	-
Subsoil	8	34	58	-
Irrigation Water	-	25	75	-
Hay and Roughage	-	5	95	-

VS=Very Short, SH=Short, AD=Adequate, S=Surplus

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	-	2	30	63	5
Winter Wheat Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-
Spring Wheat Dryland	-	10	30	60	-
Spring Wheat Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-
Barley Dryland	-	10	10	80	-
Barley Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-

VP=Very Poor, P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good, EX=Excellent

\* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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# COUNTY COMMENTS

## WESTERN

**Grays Harbor:** Several days of dry weather during the week allowed vegetable growers to continue with field cultivation. Christmas tree growers were busy fertilizing trees. Retail nurseries reported strong sales of plants for the Easter holiday. Hothouse tomato growers reported plants in bloom. Dairy producers were making their first spring harvest of green chop. Livestock producers continued feeding hay due to slow pasture growth and below average temperatures.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis:** For the first time since last June, precipitation was above normal.

**Skagit:** Some potato planting began, but most growers were waiting. Tulip fields were beginning to show blooms, about two weeks later than normal. Apple growers applied scab fungicides.

**Snohomish/Clallum:** Temperatures were still below seasonal averages in all areas. Daytime temperatures

were normal over the weekend. Fieldwork was on schedule for most of the area. There were no reports of crop damage or prevented planting.

**Snohomish (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Many areas in the county picked up over an inch of precipitation during the week. Snow fell in the foothills down to the 600' elevation and frosty mornings were common. Stone fruits and early pears were in bloom and small fruits were leafing out. Pasture growth was excellent. Fieldwork continued as weather permitted.

**Thurston:** Several days of sun and dry weather during the week, allowed ag producers to do some field cultivation in preparation for seeding pastures. Christmas tree growers completed herbicide applications and continued with fertilizer applications. Dairy producers were harvesting their first crop of green chop for the season. Turfgrass growers harvested mature fields.

## CENTRAL

**Benton:** Frost continued to plague fruit growers. Cherries were in full bloom. Grapes had bud break. Lack of irrigation water had growers scrambling for alternative sources of water.

**Franklin:** The weather was generally mild and fieldwork progressed normally. Potato planting continued. Carrots and onions were seeded.

**Grant:** Most tree fruit were in bloom. Frost protection has been required many nights. Cherry blossoms received some damage. Hay supplies were becoming scarce. Cattle were grazing on early ranges. Dryland spring wheat planting was nearly complete. Corn planting began. Peas began to emerge. Onion planting was 80 percent complete. Carrot planting was in progress. Radish seed planting progressed.

**Kittitas:** Crop conditions and the water situation was the same as last week.

**Klickitat:** The majority of the winter wheat looked

good, although more precipitation was needed. Recent rains have helped, but subsoil moisture was greatly deficient and much more rain was needed. Many streams and creeks, normally running this time of year, have dried up and ranchers are worried about stock ponds drying up. If current adverse weather conditions persist, hay yields and supplies could be down, forcing some producers to buy hay.

**Yakima:** Temperatures averaged 1 to 10 degrees below normal, with a minimum temperature of 23 degrees on April 14. However, no crop damage due to the cold weather has been reported.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Bloom continued for cherries, peaches, and nectarines. Blossom thinning activities were reported in peaches and nectarines. Apple blossoms were in the pink stage or early flowering stage. Pears showed white and some bloom. Pollination conditions were good. Some cold nights required frost protection.

## EASTERN

**Adams:** Cold conditions continued to slow spring wheat and barley emergence, as well as winter wheat growth and development in the northern half of the county.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Additional rain and snow halted all fieldwork again. Many producers were getting concerned about the timely seeding of spring crops. Even though the moisture was much needed, producers need to get into the fields to complete spring planting.

**Garfield:** Spring seeding was delayed by 2-3 weeks, due to the cold, wet weather. Producers were concerned about insect activity and disease in spring crops emerging late and under cold, wet conditions. Winter wheat was only dryland. There was no significant irrigation in the dryland crop areas of Garfield, Asotin, and Whitman Counties. There was no snowpack to fill aquifers for stream flow later this summer.

**Lincoln:** Continued cold weather persisted. Periodic rain showers were hampering fieldwork and plantings. However, warmer weather was forecast and more action should be seen in fields. Pastures were beginning to green up. Soil moisture was fair, but continued moisture is needed.

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> report):** Cold spring conditions restricted spring wheat and barley emergence, as well as slowed

the growth and development of winter wheat.

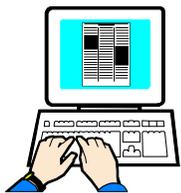
**Spokane/Pend Oreille:** The southern part of Spokane County received 4 inches of snow on Tuesday. Temperatures dipped down into the lower 20's two nights in a row. These cold and freezing temperatures made for slow growing conditions for the winter wheat, grass seed, pasture grass, timothy and alfalfa hay. If weather conditions hold, a little fieldwork will get done this week.

**Stevens:** The county experienced rain showers and cool temperatures during the week. The weekend was warm without precipitation.

**Walla Walla:** The weather continued to be cool and rainy throughout most of the week. The weekend brought warmer weather and sun. Conditions were very good for spring seeding. Moisture levels were good. Pastures were growing well.

**Walla Walla (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Beneficial rains were received. Cherries were in bloom. Apples were not yet in bloom. At least one wine grape vineyard had bud break occur during the first part of the week. The weather was on the cool side.

**Whitman:** Cool, unsettled conditions slowed crop progress and fieldwork.



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# WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

April 16, 2001

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	29	65	44	-4	0	-7	0	0	0.45	-0.18	3	19.93	-8.23	71	108
Everett	34	62	44	-5	0	-7	0	0	0.58	-0.07	4	17.87	-10.31	63	106
Hoquiam	31	61	45	-5	1	-8	0	0	0.52	-0.57	3	32.80	-25.30	56	120
Kelso	30	64	45	-4	0	-12	0	0	0.73	-0.10	4	15.46	-22.60	41	96
Olympia	26	63	42	-5	0	-7	0	0	0.62	-0.19	3	23.12	-20.38	53	106
Seattle-Tacoma	36	64	45	-4	1	-6	0	0	0.84	0.28	3	17.83	-13.35	57	94
Shelton	28	63	43	-6	0	-13	0	0	0.68	-0.33	4	31.76	-25.34	56	110
Tacoma	28	64	43	-7	0	-7	0	0	1.01	0.32	4	18.76	-14.44	57	103
Vancouver	31	66	45	-4	0	-12	0	0	0.43	-0.23	3	18.13	-16.02	53	107
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	24	59	40	-7	0	-7	0	0	0.41	0.27	2	5.33	-1.63	77	58
Omak	21	62	44	-2	0	-7	0	0	0.00	-0.23	0	4.15	-5.70	42	47
Stampede Pass	24	46	31	-3	0	0	0	0	1.78	0.56	5	40.76	-28.57	59	124
Wenatchee	33	60	45	-6	0	-17	0	0	0.43	0.27	2	4.46	-1.80	71	54
Yakima AP	23	64	43	-6	0	-14	0	0	0.18	0.04	1	3.54	-2.71	57	47
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	25	64	43	-3	0	-7	0	0	0.02	-0.33	1	9.06	-6.01	60	60
Deer Park	22	58	39	-6	0	-7	0	0	0.16	-0.15	3	9.27	-4.11	69	79
Spokane AP	23	56	39	-7	0	-7	0	0	0.21	-0.07	1	7.04	-4.85	59	72
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	25	64	44	-6	2	-16	0	0	0.26	0.14	1	3.84	-1.67	70	50
Moses Lake	24	64	44	-6	0	-18	0	0	0.27	0.15	1	5.36	-0.15	97	47
Quincy	30	62	45	-5	0	-16	0	0	0.29	0.15	2	4.57	-1.42	76	46
Ritzville	24	54	39	-8	0	-7	0	0	0.18	-0.03	2	7.45	-1.10	87	62
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	28	63	45	-9	0	-32	0	-3	0.51	0.41	2	4.53	-0.62	88	46
Pasco	28	70	47	-7	2	-27	0	-1	0.29	0.21	2	6.34	0.57	110	55
Pullman	26	58	40	-5	0	-7	0	0	0.37	0.02	2	10.54	-5.23	67	84
Walla Walla AP	32	66	45	-7	1	-22	0	0	0.77	0.35	2	12.01	-2.78	81	73
Whitman Mission	28	60	44	-6	0	-18	0	-3	0.79	0.51	2	10.56	0.42	104	76
<b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D' A' AP	28	50	38	-9	0	-7	0	0	0.22	-0.19	3	10.01	-8.95	53	74
Lewiston ID	31	56	43	-7	0	-20	0	0	0.32	0.04	4	8.27	0.44	106	75

Summary based on NWS data.  
 Season CUMulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2000  
 DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).  
 NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.  
 Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.  
 Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.  
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