

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending April 7, 2002

WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Warm, Dry Weather Allowed for Spring Fieldwork to Progress
Winter Wheat Crop in Good Condition**

FIELD CROPS

Ground temperatures remained on the cold side, but seeding of spring cereals was underway. Warm, dry weather allowed for spring fieldwork to progress, while windy conditions delayed spraying. The winter wheat crop looked to be in good condition. Potatoes at 24% planted and 5% emerged continued to be above last year averages. Corn planting has also begun.

LIVESTOCK

Rangeland showed good initial growth and germination of annual grasses. Conditions were drier than expected, considering the amount of precipitation received over the winter. In Asotin and Garfield Counties, most ranchers fed hay and purchased additional supplies, while local hay supplies in Stevens County have been exhausted for several months. Range and pasture conditions were 2% very poor, 9% poor, 32% fair, 55% good, and 2% excellent.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Spring arrived on the western side of Washington. Fruit and ornamental trees were in bloom, as well as spring flowers. In Grant County, radish seed and onion planting was nearly complete. Planting of potatoes, carrots, spring wheat, and barley continued in Franklin County while sweet corn planting got underway in Grant.

| Days Suitable for Fieldwork | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| This Week | Last Week |
| 6.3 | 4.7 |

| Soil Moisture and Supply | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|----|-----|---|
| Soil Type | % Acreage | | | |
| | VS | SH | AD | S |
| Topsoil | 0 | 9 | 87 | 4 |
| Subsoil | 0 | 10 | 88 | 2 |
| Irrigation Water | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 |
| Hay and Roughage | 15 | 10 | 74 | 1 |

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

| Crop/Activity | Crop Progress | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|-----------|------|------------|
| | % Completed | | | |
| | This Week | Last Week | 2001 | 5 Yr. Avg. |
| Spring Wheat Planted | 39 | 25 | 36 | 38 |
| Spring Wheat Emerged | 15 | 3 | 12 | 12 |
| Barley Planted | 19 | 11 | 18 | 25 |
| Barley Emerged | 4 | 1 | 4 | 6 |
| Potatoes Planted | 24 | 10 | 18 | 18 |
| Potatoes Emerged | 5 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Corn Planted | 3 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Dry Peas Planted | 3 | 2 | 5 | 5 |
| Dry Edible Beans Planted | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Proc. Green Peas Planted | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 |

| Crop | Crop Condition * | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------|---|----|-----|----|
| | % Acreage | | | | |
| | VP | P | F | G | EX |
| Winter Wheat Dryland | 0 | 2 | 40 | 53 | 5 |
| Winter Wheat Irrigated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 |
| Spring Wheat Dryland | 0 | 0 | 84 | 16 | 0 |
| Spring Wheat Irrigated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 |
| Barley Dryland | 0 | 0 | 92 | 8 | 0 |
| Barley Irrigated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 |

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: Sunny, dry weather provided ideal conditions for field cultivation. Vegetable producers continued plowing and disking fields with well drained soils, in preparation for sweet corn planting next month. Christmas tree growers were busy applying fertilizer and finishing up on residual herbicide applications. Spring flower bulb growers reported excellent demand for cut daffodils. Commercial gladiola growers started selling corms. Organic truck farmers reported early infestations of cucumber beetles. Livestock producers were fencing hayfields for short term grazing.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: Spring work continued behind schedule due to the cool conditions. Fields were drying and tillage began.

Clallam, Jefferson, Snohomish & North King: Spring has finally arrived! The very welcome colors of spring were everywhere. Fruit and ornamental trees were in bloom, as well as spring

flowers. Signs of home gardens, started by the early birds, can be found in most areas. Many fields still had standing water and will not be ready to work for weeks. Daytime temperatures reached the high 60's for a few days, with nighttime lows just above freezing.

Thurston: A week of beautiful spring weather resulted in a flurry of activity by agricultural producers who raced to get started on a multitude of spring projects. Field cultivation took place on lighter soils. Livestock producers were applying commercial fertilizers to pastures. Christmas tree growers were busy fertilizing plantations and applying residual herbicides. Blueberry growers mowed cover crops between rows. Commercial turfgrass growers were working long days to keep fields mowed. A week of spring weather resulted in excellent turfgrass sales. Conifer seedling nurseries continued harvesting and transplanting.

CENTRAL

Benton: Frost protection, weed control, and dormant sprays were the major activities.

Franklin: The weather was generally warm and sunny, though there were some windy conditions during the week. Planting of potatoes, carrots, spring wheat, and barley continued.

Grant: Dry, windy conditions continued, which was of concern on dryland pasture and fall planted crops. Spring crop planting continued.

Grant (2nd Report): Sweet corn planting got underway. Radish seed and onion planting was nearly complete.

Yakima: Average temperatures ranged from 4 degrees below normal to 7 degrees above normal, with a trace of precipitation. Producers reported that spring crops are later than normal due to the recent cool weather.

EASTERN

Adams: Spring grain planting continued, with good fieldwork conditions prevalent during the week. Winter wheat looked good at this point. Rangeland showed good initial growth and germination of annual grasses. Conditions were drier than expected, considering the amount of precipitation received over winter.

Asotin/Garfield: Dry weather allowed farmers

to prepare for spring planting and to begin seeding. Windy conditions delayed much of the needed spraying. Much of the spring work will be 1-2 weeks later than normal due to the cold weather in March. Rangeland and pastures remained in poor condition. Most ranchers were still feeding hay and purchased additional supplies to get through until spring growth of pastures is better.

Lincoln: Warmer temperatures helped the winter wheat and pastures to green-up. The sub-moisture level was still low. Spring work began and will continue for the next few weeks.

Stevens: Alfalfa and winter wheat came through the winter in good condition. Pastures were beginning to green-up at the lower elevations. The local hay supplies have been exhausted for several months.

Whitman: Moisture conditions were generally good across the county. Spring fieldwork

progressed throughout the week. Ground temperatures remained on the cold side, but seeding of spring cereals was underway. The winter wheat crop looked good.

Whitman (2nd Report): Warm, dry weather allowed for spring fieldwork to begin. Conditions still remained windy on most days. Tractors were kicking up dust pulling drills in the western half of the county, as both direct and conventional seeding operations worked to get their crops into the ground. Fieldwork began in the eastern half of the county.

WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS
April 8, 2002

| 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 | | | |
| WEST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bellingham | 31 | 63 | 46 | 1 | 0 | -3 | 0 | 0 | 0.58 | -0.05 | 3 | 27.65 | 0.31 | 101 | 118 | |
| Everett | 36 | 63 | 47 | 1 | 2 | -5 | 0 | 0 | 0.14 | -0.58 | 2 | 26.66 | -0.67 | 98 | 124 | |
| Hoquiam | 31 | 71 | 48 | 1 | 4 | -3 | 0 | 0 | 0.27 | -0.99 | 3 | 55.64 | -0.95 | 98 | 136 | |
| Kelso | 34 | 73 | 51 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0.01 | -0.89 | 1 | 35.04 | -1.91 | 95 | 119 | |
| Olympia | 25 | 69 | 46 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.07 | -0.83 | 2 | 51.01 | 8.64 | 120 | 128 | |
| Seattle-Tacoma | 37 | 65 | 49 | 2 | 4 | -3 | 0 | 0 | 0.03 | -0.61 | 2 | 30.67 | 0.27 | 101 | 112 | |
| Shelton | 27 | 69 | 46 | -2 | 0 | -7 | 0 | 0 | 0.22 | -0.95 | 3 | 62.13 | 6.48 | 112 | 128 | |
| Tacoma | 28 | 66 | 47 | -1 | 1 | -6 | 0 | 0 | 0.09 | -0.65 | 2 | 25.26 | -7.01 | 78 | 96 | |
| Vancouver | 34 | 75 | 53 | 6 | 21 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0.25 | -0.48 | 2 | 31.64 | -1.60 | 95 | 118 | |
| CENTRAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ellensburg | 21 | 68 | 45 | 1 | 0 | -4 | 0 | 0 | 0.02 | -0.12 | 1 | 5.20 | -1.57 | 77 | 60 | |
| Omak | 27 | 65 | 45 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | -0.22 | 0 | 7.65 | -1.91 | 80 | 55 | |
| Stampede Pass | 23 | 57 | 37 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.89 | -0.47 | 4 | 65.45 | -2.12 | 97 | 122 | |
| Wenatchee | 29 | 67 | 48 | 1 | 3 | -8 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | -0.14 | 0 | 3.99 | -2.07 | 66 | 46 | |
| Yakima AP | 23 | 70 | 47 | 0 | 2 | -5 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | -0.14 | 0 | 4.63 | -1.44 | 76 | 43 | |
| NORTHEAST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colville | 24 | 69 | 49 | 6 | 11 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | -0.35 | 0 | 11.75 | -2.87 | 80 | 63 | |
| Deer Park | 24 | 60 | 44 | 2 | 0 | -3 | 0 | 0 | 0.01 | -0.34 | 1 | 17.09 | 4.11 | 132 | 91 | |
| Spokane AP | 26 | 61 | 44 | 2 | 0 | -5 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | -0.28 | 0 | 10.15 | -1.38 | 88 | 81 | |
| EAST CENTRAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ephrata | 25 | 67 | 47 | -2 | 4 | -6 | 0 | 0 | 0.02 | -0.12 | 1 | 4.21 | -1.14 | 79 | 45 | |
| Moses Lake | 23 | 67 | 48 | 0 | 6 | -4 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | -0.14 | 0 | 3.76 | -1.59 | 70 | 48 | |
| Quincy | 24 | 67 | 47 | 0 | 3 | -6 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | -0.14 | 0 | 5.04 | -0.76 | 87 | 47 | |
| Ritzville | 26 | 66 | 46 | 2 | 2 | -3 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | -0.21 | 0 | 8.10 | -0.17 | 98 | 62 | |
| SOUTHEAST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hanford | 29 | 71 | 51 | -2 | 15 | -7 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | -0.14 | 0 | 4.22 | -0.80 | 84 | 37 | |
| Pasco | 24 | 73 | 51 | 1 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | -0.14 | 0 | 3.81 | -1.85 | 67 | 39 | |
| Pullman | 27 | 63 | 45 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.04 | -0.37 | 1 | 13.90 | -1.41 | 91 | 80 | |
| Walla Walla AP | 31 | 71 | 51 | 3 | 20 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | -0.42 | 0 | 10.94 | -3.33 | 77 | 77 | |
| Whitman Mission | 25 | 73 | 51 | 4 | 25 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | -0.28 | 0 | 9.26 | -0.53 | 95 | 69 | |
| WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Coeur D'A'AP | 25 | 63 | 45 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | -0.42 | 0 | 13.53 | -4.88 | 73 | 88 | |
| Lewiston ID | 31 | 68 | 50 | 3 | 18 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0.03 | -0.18 | 2 | 7.16 | -0.34 | 95 | 67 | |

Summary based on NWS data.
 Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2001
 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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