



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: April 12, 2004, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: April 11, 2004
CWP WA-CW1504

Rain Desperately Needed In All Washington Counties Spring Planting Almost Complete

Field Crops

Warmer than normal temperatures have allowed many producers to almost finish planting schedules. Potato planting was in full swing. Warm weather improved winter wheat conditions. Spring cereals planted were emerging in fair to good condition. Most producers agree that rain is needed in order to aid current crop conditions. Turf grass growers continued mowing and fertilizing fields. In Stevens County, grain and hay producers continued tillage work and fertilizing. Christmas tree growers were still fertilizing and expressed concern about the lack of rain and warm temperatures that may result in seedling mortality in newly planted fields.

Livestock

Range and pasture condition were 12% poor, 41% fair, and 47% good. Irrigation on some pastures in Kittitas County occurred and most cattle were on supplemental hay. Some sources of water for livestock were low or not running at all in Ferry and Okanogan Counties. Dairy producers in Grays Harbor and Thurston Counties were harvesting green chop and applying manure to harvested fields. Oyster producers continued seed setting operations and transplanting to fattening beds.

Fruits and Vegetables

Fruit trees, such as cherry, pear and apple, were in bloom this week throughout Washington. The lower Yakima Valley fruit trees were in full bloom. Tulips were in peak bloom and expected to end earlier than normal. Onion planting in Grant County completed, while sweet corn planting continued. Cranberry growers completed initial application of insecticides and herbicides to bogs and continued repairs on dikes and access roads. In Grays Harbor, blueberry growers applied fertilizer and spot sprayed infestations of Canada thistle. In Franklin County, asparagus cutting began.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	7.0
Last Week	6.4

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	5	30	60	5
Subsoil	20	17	59	4
Irrigation Water	0	2	98	0
Hay & Roughage	0	1	95	4

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

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2003	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	80	55	52	51
Spring Wheat Emerged	50	20	13	15
Barley Planted	71	40	31	32
Barley Emerged	35	10	5	6
Potatoes Planted	33	1	28	26
Potatoes Emerged	16	0	7	5
Corn Planted	19	3	12	8
Proc. Green Peas Planted	55	35	11	0
Dry Peas Planted	40	1	4	8

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	7	47	37	7
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	5	79	16
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	4	65	27	4
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	1	73	26
Barley Dryland	0	1	60	33	6
Barley Irrigated	0	8	63	14	15

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

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

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: A week of unseasonably warm temperatures with no rain resulted in nearly ideal conditions for soil cultivation. Agricultural producers raced to get fields prepared for seeding sweet corn and other vegetable crops. Dairy producers were harvesting fields of green chop and applying liquid manure to harvested fields. Blueberry growers were applying fertilizer to established fields and spot spraying infestations of Canada thistle. The county was a portrait of color as thousands of ornamental as well as native trees and shrubs had burst into full bloom due to the unseasonably warm weather. Christmas tree growers expressed concern that the lack of rain for the past two weeks and warm temperatures may result in higher than normal seedling mortality in newly planted fields.

Kitsap: Fieldwork was in full swing with area farmers getting crops planted. Record high temperatures pushed plant growth. The Gig Harbor Farmers Market opens early this year on Saturday, April 17.

Pacific: Improving weather conditions allowed producers to continue field preparations and early season weed control. Cranberry growers completed initial applications of insecticides and herbicides to bogs, and continued repair of dikes and access roads. Christmas tree growers applied fertilizer, and continued weed control in plantations. Oyster producers continued seed setting operations, and transplanting to fattening beds. Harvest operations for clams and oysters continued.

Skagit: Farmers were taking advantage of the warm (55-65 degrees) and dry weather. Many fields were ripped and disced. Spuds were being planted, while a few spud growers were still cleaning and packing the 2003 crop. Tulips were in peak bloom, with the bloom season expected to end earlier than normal.

Substantial acreage in apple orchards was pulled out, a result of economic depression in the industry.

Snohomish/N. King: Sunny weather was experienced all week. A few light frosts occurred early in the week. Temperatures climbed into the 70's by late in the week. Field work continued at full speed. Stone fruit trees were in full bloom. Apple bloom was coming on. Pastures were doing well.

Thurston: A week of sunny, warm weather provided a real bonanza to agricultural producers who began field cultivation in earnest. Record breaking temperatures in the low 80's on Easter Sunday had some Christmas tree growers worried about the potential for drought damage in newly planted fields. Insects were also taking advantage of the unseasonably warm temperatures with reports of Cooley Spruce Gall Adelgids hatching on Douglas Firs. Livestock producers harvested green chop under nearly ideal conditions. Truck gardeners had planted early season vegetable crops with some quick germination due to rapidly warming soil temperatures. Turfgrass growers continued mowing and fertilizing fields. Blueberry growers expressed concern that warm temperatures could advance plant development (early Bloom) and greatly increase the potential for frost damage. Retail nurseries and garden centers reported strong demand for both bedding plants and ornamental nursery stock. The entire county was a profusion of color due to the earlier than normal bloom on ornamental trees and shrubs resulting from unseasonably warm temperatures.

Whatcom: Warmer temperatures were experienced this past week with little rain. Grass silage was starting. Spring fieldwork continued. Raspberry vines continued to foliate.

Central

Benton: We had some hot days for this time of the year. No crop damage was reported.

Benton (2nd Report): Good pollination weather had helped orchards and advanced tree growth. Early irrigation and delayed-dormant sprays were major activities.

Franklin: The past week had consisted of normal to slightly higher than normal temperatures, with typical cool evenings and good growing heated days. Early potato planting was on-going. Asparagus cutting had begun. Cherries had been in full bloom for a week or so.

Grant: Abnormally warm temperatures and lack of precipitation created major concern with dryland crops. Spring planting of all crops was on schedule. High contract offers for corn grain as well as a reduction in contract acreage of lima beans and sweet corn will result in a large increase in grain corn acreage in 2004.

Grant (2nd Report): Onion planting was completed. Sweet corn planting continued.

Kittitas: Field work activities continued. Irrigation season will begin soon. Range and pasture conditions were good, but rain is needed.

Kittitas (2nd Report): Irrigation occurred on some pastures, while grass growth was accelerating. Most cattle were still on supplemental hay. Calving was nearly complete for most of the county. Pastures not irrigated yet had fairly dry topsoil. Rain would not hurt anything. Most timothy fields had begun responding to spring nitrogen and were growing rapidly. Herbicide applications occurred.

Klickitat: Strong winds from the east along with above normal temperatures had dried out the soil considerably.

Yakima: Average temperatures had ranged from one to eight degrees above normal, with a trace of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions had been reported.

Yakima (2nd Report): Warm spring had bloom well ahead of normal (7 to 14 days). So far, great bee conditions and lots of flowers made it look like a big crop. Cherry and pear trees were past full bloom. Apple trees in lower valley were past full bloom as well. The upper valley progressed rapidly towards full bloom. No known frost damage reported.

Eastern

Adams: Warm spring conditions improved winter wheat conditions, but moisture was still in adequate to short supply. Rain will be needed to significantly improve crop conditions. Spring cereals were planted and emerged and remained in fair condition, but they too will need additional moisture to improve crop conditions.

Asotin/Garfield: Unseasonably warm and dry weather allowed most farmers to complete spring seeding except in the highest elevations. Moisture was needed in most areas for proper development of both winter and spring crops as well as for pasture growth. Many springs and small streams had reduced flow or were not producing any water.

Ferry/Okanogan: Planting of spring crops was getting underway. With no spring rains, conditions were getting dry quickly. Some sources of water for livestock were low or not running at all.

Lincoln: Winter wheat conditions improved with warm weather but still require additional moisture to significantly improve crop condition. Spring cereal planting was on the downhill slide and was nearing completion.

Lincoln

(2nd Report): Crops received good growing weather, but crops and pasture were in need of rain.

Pend Oreille: The majority of the fieldwork should be completed. The dry conditions and lack of rainfall are a continuous concern. The early seeding may be helpful if timely rains are received. Apricots and cherry trees were blooming. The northern end of the county received rain on Wednesday from a thunder shower but the southern end just received high winds.

Stevens: Warm temperatures and dry conditions continued. A few rain showers moved through the area but for the most part they did not amount to much. Grain and hay producers continued tillage work and fertilizing.

Whitman: Spring fieldwork was winding down, but rain is needed to help bring along newly seeded crops.

Whitman (2nd Report): The emergence of spring cereals had been good, but below average rainfall in March and early April was of concern. However, crops looked good at the time. Pasture conditions responded to the warm sunny conditions, but everything really could use a good rain. Spring calving and lambing was winding down, with good lamb and calf crops reported.

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Weekly Weather Statistics

April 12, 2004

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	35	75	51	5	14	7	0	0	0.00	-0.63	0	23.98	-3.81	86	110	
Everett	42	80	54	7	31	24	5	5	0.00	-0.68	0	23.19	-4.63	83	108	
Hoquiam	36	78	53	5	29	22	5	5	0.06	-1.09	1	54.73	-2.67	95	135	
Kelso	37	82	55	8	37	28	2	2	0.00	-0.85	0	27.24	-10.31	73	99	
Olympia	30	82	51	6	19	13	0	0	0.00	-0.85	0	39.74	-3.23	92	124	
Sea-Tac	41	80	55	7	35	28	3	3	0.00	-0.59	0	28.97	-1.84	94	107	
Shelton	32	82	53	6	23	13	0	0	0.00	-1.07	0	55.79	-0.61	99	126	
Tacoma	34	81	52	5	20	13	0	0	0.00	-0.70	0	27.59	-5.18	84	111	
Vancouver	38	80	55	8	41	32	2	2	0.00	-0.69	0	26.28	-7.45	78	115	
CENTRAL																
Ellensburg	31	76	54	10	32	25	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	5.53	-1.34	80	67	
Omak	33	74	54	11	30	26	0	0	0.00	-0.21	0	6.66	-3.05	69	55	
Stampede Pass	34	60	44	12	0	0	0	0	0.00	-1.27	0	61.05	-7.41	89	128	
Wenatchee	40	73	57	8	48	34	0	0	0.00	-0.15	0	7.15	0.98	116	59	
Yakima AP	32	75	54	6	28	16	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	5.01	-1.15	81	53	
NORTHEAST																
Colville	32	77	56	11	40	33	0	0	0.04	-0.31	1	5.88	-8.98	40	50	
Deer Park	28	69	49	6	2	-5	0	0	0.19	-0.15	1	13.09	-0.13	99	92	
Spokane AP	35	70	52	8	14	7	0	0	0.00	-0.28	0	8.55	-3.18	73	80	
EAST CENTRAL																
Ephrata	34	73	54	6	32	17	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	3.37	-2.07	62	49	
Moses Lake	32	73	53	4	21	6	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	3.67	-1.77	67	48	
Quincy	37	73	55	7	34	20	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	3.43	-2.46	58	44	
Ritzville	36	70	52	8	19	12	0	0	0.00	-0.21	0	7.23	-1.19	86	56	
SOUTHEAST																
Hanford	35	74	54	2	32	4	0	0	0.00	-0.13	0	4.50	-0.61	88	49	
Pasco	32	78	54	2	28	3	0	0	0.00	-0.11	0	5.23	-0.50	91	59	
Pullman	30	69	49	6	4	-3	0	0	0.03	-0.33	1	12.09	-3.47	78	81	
Whitman Miss.	31	74	53	4	22	7	0	0	0.00	-0.28	0	12.04	2.04	120	81	
ID PANHANDLE																
Coeur D'A' AP	34	66	50	5	8	1	0	0	0.02	-0.40	1	7.79	-10.92	42	72	
Lewiston ID	41	73	57	9	49	32	1	1	0.00	-0.26	0	5.67	-2.03	74	59	

Summary based on NWS data.
 Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2003
 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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