



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: May 10, 2004, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: May 9, 2004
CWP WA-CW1904

Spring Wheat and Barley Planting Completed High Winds Impede Asparagus Harvest

Field Crops

Winter wheat and spring cereals were doing fairly well considering the lack of precipitation. Whitman County reported fields being sprayed. The Kittitas Reclamation District announced a 30 percent cutback in water supplies. Timothy hay in Kittitas County made good progress. Grass harvest continued and silage were being bagged in Snohomish and King Counties. Initial silage and green chop cuttings were completed in Pacific County. Christmas tree growers started spraying for infestations of Swiss Needle Cast and Cooley Spruce Fall Adelgids.

Livestock

In Walla Walla County, cattle were out on pasture. Kittitas County had cattle on range. Range and pasture conditions were 8% very poor, 5% poor, 34% fair, 51% good, and 2% excellent. Production of longline shell for oyster seeding continued, along with oyster harvest operations. Shellfish growers continued harrowing of oyster beds, transplanting stock to fattening grounds, and planting seed clams on gravel substrate.

Fruits and Vegetables

Planting of sweet corn continued in Grant County. Green peas, blueberries, and wild flowers bloomed. Pacific County raspberry and cranberry growers continued weed control and early fertilization applications. Benton County applied cover and thinning sprays to fruit. Tent caterpillars in Snohomish County continued to be a problem with some areas experiencing large populations. Asparagus harvest continued in Grant County; however, a windstorm that hit a large portion of the state's growing regions two weeks ago caused significant amounts of damage to growing asparagus. Asparagus harvests were at a stand-still last week due to the damaged crop and lack of harvestability.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.4
Last Week	6.6

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	7	35	56	2
Subsoil	5	28	65	2
Irrigation Water	0	7	93	0
Hay & Roughage	0	3	96	1

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	100	99	97	96
Spring Wheat Emerged	91	86	80	77
Winter Wheat Headed	7	5	4	3
Barley Planted	100	99	98	93
Barley Emerged	92	89	80	73
Potatoes Planted	98	80	96	94
Potatoes Emerged	56	40	43	42
Corn Planted	84	55	73	67
Corn Emerged	28	11	22	10
Dry Edible Beans Planted	97	94	42	13
Proc. Green Peas Planted	99	97	93	65
Dry Peas Planted	99	95	90	78
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	8	4	12	5

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	8	41	43	6
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	7	93	0
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	6	57	31	6
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	17	83	0
Barley Dryland	0	5	52	35	8
Barley Irrigated	0	0	20	80	0
Potatoes	0	0	7	93	0
Corn	0	0	0	100	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	42	58	0

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: Rain showers throughout the week, helped to alleviate concern over dry soil temperatures. Christmas tree growers began spraying insecticides to control infestations of cooley spruce gall adelgids. Greenhouse tomato growers reported rapid plant development due to unseasonably warm temperatures. Retail nurseries and garden stores reported brisk sales of ornamental plants for the Mother's Day holiday.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Significant rains interrupted spring planting. The rains were welcomed as concerns were beginning to be raised about dry conditions. Forage crops were ahead of schedule due to the earlier warm weather, and will benefit from the recent rain.

Pacific: Continued warm, dry spring weather provided growers with ample opportunity to complete early season field operations. Initial silage and green chop cuttings were completed between rain showers. Some irrigation was used on newly planted corn and drier pasture areas. Christmas tree, raspberry, and cranberry growers continued weed control and early fertilizer applications. Production of longline shell for oyster seeding continued, along with oyster harvest operations, before water temperatures increase in the summer. Shellfish growers continued harrowing of oyster beds, transplanting stock to fattening grounds, and planting seed clams on gravel substrate. Surveys of burrowing shrimp abundance were completed in preparation for control programs this summer.

Pierce/S. King: Conditions remained good for crops, fruits, vegetables, and pastures. There were no unusual situations to report and no reports of crop damage.

Skagit: Rain received during the week was 0.6", which was welcome but not enough--following one of the driest months of April in recorded history. WSU Mount Vernon recorded a total

rainfall amount of 0.28" during April. The normal rainfall is 2.52". Growers were getting nervous about new plantings not getting enough rain.

Skagit/Island/San Juan: Some rain was received during the week, but more rain is needed. There were no reports of any crop damage.

Snohomish/N. King: Scattered showers were welcomed, but more rain is needed to help sprouting crops. Planting continued. Most pastures were in good shape but need more moisture. Grass harvest continued and silage was being bagged up. Blueberries were in full bloom. Home owners' complaints about tent caterpillars continued. Some areas of the county have large populations of these insects.

Snohomish/N. King (2nd Report): Warmer, drier than normal weather early in the week made fieldwork on or ahead of schedule. The late week heavy showers were a welcome sight. Berries were in bloom, grass silage was being harvested, and spring planting was going well. Dry conditions continue to be a concern for the months to come.

Thurston: Rain showers early in the week were welcomed by most ag producers. Blueberry growers reported that plant development appeared to be at least two weeks ahead of schedule. Frosty temperatures below freezing, in the latter part of April, appeared to have had no affect on fruit development. Turfgrass growers continued irrigating, mowing, and harvesting. Christmas tree growers applied fungicides for the prevention of Swiss Needle Cast. There continued to be concern among ag producers about the unusually dry spring and warmer than normal temperatures.

Central

Benton: Cover and thinning sprays were being applied to fruit. Asparagus harvest weed control and irrigation were other activities.

Benton (2nd Report): Some rain showers were received. The temperatures continued to be hotter than normal, with very windy conditions.

Grant: Sweet corn planting continued. Green peas were in the early bloom stage.

Kittitas: Despite cool temperatures and spotty showers late in the week, range conditions were very dry for lack of rain. Most dryland areas were behind in soil moisture and vegetation production. Wildflowers bloomed or were blooming early in much of the lower elevation rangeland. Many cattle were on range, but will not likely stay for the usual duration. Timothy

hay was making good progress. Non-timothy grasses in hay fields were heading, making their presence conspicuous.

Kittitas (2nd Report): The Kittitas Reclamation District announced that it would cut back irrigation water supplies by 30 percent. Additional cutbacks might still occur if the dry, warm conditions continued. Normal spring fieldwork activities continued. Rain is needed to improve range and pasture conditions.

Okanogan/Ferry: Temperatures were slightly higher than normal. Windy conditions still exist.

Yakima: Average temperatures ranged from 9 degrees above normal to 3 degrees below normal with .07" of precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to weather conditions reported.

Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: Drought conditions continued and all crops and rangeland were in need of rain.

Adams: Precipitation was limited, but there was enough to maintain the current moisture and crop conditions. Overall, winter wheat remained in mostly fair to good condition as it neared heading. Spring wheat and barley remained in mostly fair condition with good stands, but precipitation will be required for completion.

Lincoln: Limited precipitation maintained moisture and crop conditions at current conditions. Overall winter wheat remained in mostly fair to good condition and spring cereals were mostly in fair condition.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Another week of wind dried out the profile. Producers wrapped up spraying of winter wheat and some started on spring grains. A little shower Saturday morning amounted to approximately 1/10" of rain but the wind dried it out almost as fast as it fell. Things just don't seem to be growing very much right now. The pasture conditions continued to decline. This morning there were frost pockets of dew viewed on the rural landscape. More cold nights are in the forecast which

will slow the growth of planted crops.

Stevens: A rain shower Saturday, May 8, dropped varying amounts of moisture across the county. More rainfall is needed to continue crop and pasture growth.

Walla Walla: Peas were blooming. Crops appeared in good condition overall. The weather was warm and breezy during the week, with no measurable rainfall. Cattle were put out on summer pastures.

Whitman: Warm temperatures and sunshine were the norm for much of the week. Field spraying progressed without delays. Crops continued to look mostly good, but lower than normal accumulated rainfall for the season continues to be a concern.

Whitman (2nd Report): Windy, dry conditions were taking a toll on crop conditions and making spraying operations difficult. Producers were hoping for a return of wetter conditions to provide needed moisture to the topsoil and for crop development.

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Weekly Weather Statistics May 10, 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	37	65	54	3	29	11	0	0	0.15	-0.41	4	24.44	-5.75	81	120
Everett	43	70	55	3	36	15	0	0	0.28	-0.28	5	23.97	-6.20	79	122
Hoquiam	41	65	53	1	23	2	0	0	0.29	-0.50	4	56.84	-4.16	93	150
Kelso	43	72	57	5	51	26	2	2	0.37	-0.22	2	28.75	-11.57	71	107
Olympia	37	69	53	2	22	7	0	0	0.50	-0.03	5	41.52	-4.01	91	137
Sea-Tac	44	70	56	4	44	18	0	0	0.34	-0.08	2	29.85	-2.84	91	115
Shelton	37	69	53	-2	22	-8	0	0	0.52	-0.08	4	58.01	-1.44	98	138
Tacoma	39	73	55	2	34	6	0	0	0.59	0.10	4	28.64	-6.40	82	121
Vancouver	42	75	59	6	64	38	4	4	0.46	-0.10	4	27.76	-8.31	77	127
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	36	79	57	6	54	29	3	3	0.01	-0.09	1	6.07	-1.29	82	73
Omak	33	78	58	6	54	32	5	5	0.00	-0.35	0	7.77	-3.15	71	59
Stampede Pass	34	59	44	6	1	1	0	0	0.41	-0.44	1	61.82	-10.61	85	136
Wenatchee	42	79	60	4	72	25	11	6	0.00	-0.14	0	7.36	0.62	109	62
Yakima AP	34	79	56	2	43	6	2	2	0.07	0.00	1	5.34	-1.18	82	58
NORTHEAST															
Colville	36	75	56	5	44	23	0	0	0.00	-0.42	0	6.37	-10.00	39	56
Deer Park	28	75	53	2	26	5	0	0	0.01	-0.34	1	14.18	-0.40	97	100
Spokane AP	38	74	56	6	45	25	1	1	0.07	-0.21	1	9.15	-3.68	71	88
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	41	79	59	2	63	9	5	-2	0.10	0.03	1	3.76	-2.00	65	52
Moses Lake	36	82	59	2	64	10	6	-1	0.10	0.03	1	4.01	-1.75	70	52
Quincy	43	78	60	4	69	23	8	5	0.05	-0.05	1	3.81	-2.49	60	47
Ritzville	35	76	55	4	39	17	0	0	0.09	-0.12	1	7.58	-1.64	82	60
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	41	83	61	0	76	0	15	-1	0.06	-0.01	1	4.91	-0.48	91	54
Pasco	37	84	61	3	80	16	18	8	0.15	0.01	1	5.63	-0.52	92	63
Pullman	39	73	54	5	31	17	0	0	0.03	-0.32	1	13.11	-3.85	77	89
Whitman Miss.	36	81	58	4	61	20	13	13	0.00	-0.28	0	13.47	2.38	121	93
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	34	73	55	3	42	16	2	2	0.00	-0.42	0	9.32	-10.98	46	80
Lewiston ID	45	82	63	8	93	48	27	25	0.04	-0.24	1	7.05	-1.77	80	70

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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