



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: April 4, 2005
Week Ending: April 3, 2005
CWP WA-CW1405

Continued Wet Conditions Were Welcomed Fruits Blooming Continued

Field Crops

Rainy conditions prevailed in most areas of the state. More than 16 inches of snow fell on Snoqualmie Pass in the middle of the week. Subsoil moisture was still below the average for some areas. Persistent rainfall restricted field activities for producers and delayed herbicide applications on Christmas trees. However, rainfall significantly helped to improve moisture and precipitation levels; range, pasture, and dryland winter wheat conditions. Potato planting continued.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 4 percent very poor, 20 percent poor, 42 percent fair, and 34 percent good. Alfalfa ranged from four to eight inches tall in Franklin County. Pacific oyster growers continued harvest and seed setting operations. Livestock producers provided supplemental forage since fields were still too wet.

Fruits and Vegetables

Plums, Asian pears, and cherries were blooming. Apple and pear trees were in pre-pink stage. Cranberry growers continued their maintenance work on bogs. Frost protection in tree fruit has been necessary. Cold temperatures during the night in Ferry, Okanogan, Douglas, and Chelan counties had the wind machines being utilized in orchards. Fields were prepared for fresh pea and vegetable seeding in Franklin County. Asparagus was beginning to emerge and bees were placed in orchards. Cut-flower tulip harvest continued in full swing.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	3.5
Last Week	4.0

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	6	28	56	10
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	0	15	78	7
Subsoil	26	41	32	1
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	1	18	79	2
Irrigation Water	9	25	65	1
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	0	9	91	0
Hay & Roughage	10	16	74	0

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

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2004	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	64	46	54	34
Spring Wheat Emerged	21	13	19	9
Barley Planted	35	31	39	20
Barley Emerged	12	8	10	4
Potatoes Planted	20	6	1	12
Proc. Green Peas Planted	15	8	0	0
Dry Peas Planted	17	14	1	2

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	2	39	48	9
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	1	18	77	4

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/Lewis/Pacific: For the second week in a row, more than three inches of rain fell. The two to three week headstart on spring was erased with cool wet weather. As a result, things were just about normal for this time of year in that farmers were waiting for fields to dry out enough to continue with spring work.

Grays Harbor (2nd Report): Heavy rainfall throughout the week brought most ag activity to a screeching halt. Many fields continued to have standing water. Producers were complaining that the persistent rainfall was now causing delays in field cultivation. The last several weeks of winter like weather have quickly dismissed hopes of early spring planting. Ornamental nurseries and retail garden stores reported slow sales due to the inclement weather. Hybrid poplar plantations have leafed out adding golden hues to the tapestry of spring colors that continued to unfold across the rural landscape. Cut-flower tulip harvest continued in full swing. Christmas tree growers sported raingear as they proceeded with fertilizer applications.

Kitsap: Much needed rain continued to limit field work for most farmers in Kitsap County. Farmers were well along with early leaf vegetable crops and greenhouse plants. Farmer's Markets opened at several locations in the region including the Gig Harbor Farmer's Market.

Mason: Rainy, soggy conditions prevailed all week. Fields were too wet to work. Temperatures increased enough to stimulate grass growth noticeably this past week. Plums and Asian pears were blooming, apple and pear trees were pre-pink. Retail nursery businesses seemed to be picking up in the area as people felt more confident that spring weather was here. Farmers were still feeding their cattle hoping to use up the excess hay from the winter. It was still too wet to turn them out.

Mason (2nd Report): Continued precipitation made work in the field a little on the soggy side, but mostly tolerable. Vegetable growers were still on track for a successful spring, and pastures looked promising. Perennial plants were doing well and were budding early. Greenhouse crops were also doing well.

Pacific: Wet, cold conditions continued this week. Restricting field activities for producers. The only group not affected were oyster growers, who continued harvest and seed setting operations. Harvesting and processing continued at a high rate, with good yields. Cranberry growers and dairy producers were able to continue their maintenance work for both equipment and bogs.

Pierce/South King: The recent rains have been a big help to the farming community. Producers were or have started to plant field crops. The pastures in the area were looking good. No report of unusual situations or crop damage.

Pierce (2nd Report): Moisture through out the week have helped with pasture conditions, however, subsoil moisture conditions were still below average. Long term hay and pasture production will likely present feed and production problems this summer.

Pierce (3rd Report): Very wet week

Thurston: Heavy rain showers combined with unseasonably cool temperatures left most ag producers convinced that winter had returned. A high percentage of cultivated fields have standing water which is slow to drain due to ongoing rainfall. The beautiful, dry, sunny weather which occurred throughout late February and early March is now a distant memory. Ag producers who did early field cultivation under dry conditions expressed concern that fields would now have to be re-worked due to compaction from the rain. Turfgrass growers continued harvesting and mowing under less than ideal conditions. Livestock producers were once again providing supplemental forage as pasture growth was slowed due to the cold temperatures. Christmas tree growers complained that the persistent rainfall delayed herbicide applications.

Skagit/Island/San Juan: Skagit, Island, and San Juan Counties had rain this past week. No field work was evident due to the fields being too wet. No apparent damages were reported due to excessive moisture in the past week.

Skagit: Precipitation for the week totaled 1.74 inches which created excess soil moisture in some areas. Most operations progressed with the continued planting of vegetable seed, potatoes, and peas.

Skamania: Scotch broom was starting to bloom.

Snohomish/King: Coastal areas received between 0.6 to 0.84 inches of rain with at least a trace falling each day. Significantly less rain than what was near the foothills where nearly 1.5 inches fell over the course of the week. The average high for the area was 51degrees, the low was at 39 degrees.

Central

Benton: Growers were still waiting to see what the water allocation will be. Frost protection in tree fruit has been necessary. Cherries were in full bloom in early locations, two weeks ahead of normal.

Benton (2nd Report): For the month of April Benton County received a total of 0.37 inches of rain which is 54.9 percent of normal, with temperatures two degrees hotter than normal with the nights dipping below freezing conditions. Over the weekend we did receive some additional rain ranging from 0.4 to 0.1 inch in places. According to the irrigations districts Roza will shut down their irrigation today, until further notice.

Chelan/Douglas: Cold temperatures were experienced during the night. Wind machines were being utilized. No report of crop damage at this time. Cherries were beginning to bloom. Minimal precipitation was received on Sunday, however windy conditions were also present.

Chelan (2nd Report): Snowpack doubled the last couple of weeks. Tree fruit was blooming ahead of schedule. Very little freeze damage.

Franklin: Alfalfa ranged from four to eight inches tall with little insect activities. Potatoes were actively being planted. Bees were placed in orchards. The area had intermittent light showers during the week. Asparagus was beginning to emerge.

Grant: Rains received over the weekend have helped improve both range and pasture conditions and dryland

winter wheat. Potato planting continued. Fields were also being prepared for fresh peas. Orchardists continued to monitor cold temperatures, with no reports of frost damage.

Kittitas: As with most portions of central Washington, the drought conditions were lessened somewhat with more than 16 inches of snow that fell on Snoqualmie Pass mid last week. The snow in the mountains and the rain in the region assisted the record low water supply for Kittitas Valley farmers. We also received some moisture on Saturday and Sunday. I haven't seen or heard what the final precipitation amounts were for this area, but it was very little. Pasture grasses along with timothy hay will see definite improvement with the rain and snow that Kittitas received mid last week.

Okanogan: Recent rains have helped, but topsoil moisture was still short in all areas. Spring grain producers were having a difficult time deciding whether or not to plant.

Okanogan/Ferry: Cold temperatures during the night and early morning had the wind machines being utilized in orchards. There has been no report of crop damage at this time. The county received minimal to 0.21 inches of precipitation on Sunday. Windy conditions were also present.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from five degrees below normal to four degrees above normal, with 0.06 inches of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions have been reported.

Eastern

Adams/Lincoln: More precipitation was welcomed this week but more was still needed to really improve subsoil moisture conditions that remained in short and very short supply. Winter wheat remained mostly in good to excellent condition and a little more spring cereal may be seeded when growers were able to get back into the fields.

Asotin/Garfield: We have had very little rain over the past week. Much more rain will be needed throughout the growing season. The temperatures have been cooler and we have had strong winds most days.

Ferry: Weather was variable, and cool. Some rain, hail, snow, and sun. Subsoil is still very short on moisture in most areas. No one has started irrigating yet. Topsoil was starting to get adequate moisture from variable weather.

Garfield (2nd Report): Weather has been cold and wet this past week.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Last Saturday and Sunday's rainfall over Lincoln County helped revive the small winter wheat. The winter wheat that was at a good size needed the rain to continue to add tillers.

Lincoln (3rd Report): Rains received intermittently

throughout the week with some parts of the county experiencing snowfall. Spring seedings and pasture should benefit the most from this precipitation as winter wheat for the most part already looked good.

Pend Oreille: High temperatures for the week as of Sunday were 48 degrees with the low at 18 degrees. Precipitation was 2 ¹/₁₀ inches, it rained five days, snowed one day and hailed two days. Annual Rye was showing in pasture and hay fields.

Stevens: Cattle were still being fed hay and pea pellets.

Stevens (2nd Report): Stevens County received moisture several times during the past week. A few farmers have been working fields and fertilizing but most were waiting for warmer weather.

Stevens (3rd Report): Continued rainfall and warmer weather will make for better crops this spring that was predicted a month ago.

Walla Walla: Rains have significantly improved area crops. Cooler, milder conditions have been welcomed. A couple rain events this past week. Spring work was now in full swing, with area growers working hard to complete seeding, spraying, etc.

Weekly Weather Statistics

April 4, 2005

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	52	46	0	0	-4	0	0	0.80	0.17	6	30.43	3.35	112	109
Everett	40	54	46	0	0	-7	0	0	1.18	0.42	5	18.96	-8.07	70	108
Hoquiam	39	53	46	-2	0	-7	0	0	2.97	1.62	7	43.60	-12.18	78	122
Kelso	37	61	48	2	3	-4	0	0	1.19	0.28	5	17.76	-18.38	49	80
Olympia	37	55	47	2	0	-4	0	0	1.98	1.03	7	29.31	-12.75	70	108
Sea-Tac	38	55	47	0	0	-7	0	0	1.66	0.98	6	23.00	-7.17	76	93
Shelton	36	54	45	-2	0	-7	0	0	2.27	1.02	7	42.47	-12.81	77	105
Tacoma	39	55	47	-1	0	-7	0	0	1.59	0.82	5	19.67	-11.70	63	83
Vancouver	39	60	49	3	5	-2	0	0	0.89	0.12	4	19.25	-13.74	58	97
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	28	55	43	0	0	0	0	0	0.29	0.15	3	3.92	-2.80	58	54
Stampede Pass	28	41	34	3	0	0	0	0	3.37	1.93	7	49.26	-17.91	73	112
Wenatchee	33	57	45	-3	0	-7	0	0	0.17	0.03	1	4.11	-1.89	69	47
Yakima AP	26	57	45	-2	0	-7	0	0	0.02	-0.12	1	3.78	-2.23	63	50
NORTHEAST															
Colville	28	61	45	4	1	-5	0	0	0.57	0.20	4	12.99	-1.38	90	64
Deer Park	23	54	41	-1	0	-4	0	0	0.83	0.48	5	12.48	-0.24	98	75
Spokane AP	30	53	42	1	0	-5	0	0	0.71	0.43	4	7.52	-3.89	66	60
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	28	61	45	-3	0	-7	0	0	0.10	-0.04	1	3.19	-2.10	60	37
Moses Lake	29	62	47	0	2	-5	0	0	0.11	-0.03	2	3.07	-2.22	58	35
Quincy	29	61	45	-2	1	-6	0	0	0.06	-0.08	1	3.03	-2.62	54	32
Ritzville	29	56	43	-1	0	-1	0	0	0.47	0.26	3	5.53	-2.66	68	39
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	28	61	49	-3	4	-14	0	0	0.00	-0.12	0	2.59	-2.20	54	31
Pasco	28	64	51	2	13	-3	0	0	0.03	-0.11	2	3.05	-2.54	55	42
Pullman	29	52	43	2	0	0	0	0	0.26	-0.16	3	3.60	-11.54	24	44
Whitman Miss.	29	64	48	2	1	-8	0	0	0.43	0.15	3	6.29	-3.31	66	65
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D' A' AP	32	54	42	-1	0	-4	0	0	0.87	0.43	3	9.36	-8.89	51	51
Lewiston ID	36	59	49	3	5	-6	0	0	0.64	0.39	6	5.29	-2.10	72	59

Summary based on NWS data.
 Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2004
 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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