



Washington Crop Weather

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Week Ending: April 24, 2005
CWP WA-CW1705

Spring Field Work Underway Cattle Turned Out on Spring Pastures

Field Crops

Warmer temperatures were experienced across the state. Rainfall was minimal, which allowed many producers to return to fields and continue early season fieldwork. The warmer temperatures helped improve crop growth and pasture conditions in many areas of that state. Skagit, Island, and San Juan Counties reported possible damage to planted crops due to water saturated soils and standing water on fields. Planting of spring cereals, potatoes, dry peas, corn, and lentils continued. Franklin County reported small occurrences of cutworm on corn. They also observed stunting by aphids in some alfalfa fields.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 5% very poor, 19% poor, 17% fair, 58% good, and 1% excellent. Calving and lambing continued throughout the state. Some cattle producers were still considering turning cattle out on spring pastures, while other producers had already turned cattle out as of the first of the week. A few Asotin County cattle producers were experiencing lower than normal water supplies and were having to haul water to cattle. Some Douglas and Chelan County cattle producers may be selling cattle due to drought and poor grazing conditions. A large amount of grass silage and green chop was cut in Snohomish and King Counties. Shellfish producers in Pacific County continued transplanting, harvesting, and seeding operations for both clams and oysters.

Fruits and Vegetables

Fruit trees continued to bloom. Areas such as Yakima County were still evaluating damage to crops due to freezing weather from previous weeks. Benton County fruit growers continued to be plagued by frost. Grant County experienced thunderstorms on Saturday causing damage to budding fruit trees. Blueberries and a few strawberries in Snohomish and King Counties were blooming. Asparagus harvest continued.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.6
Last Week	4.1

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	2	20	68	10
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	1	13	81	6
Subsoil	24	45	30	1
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	2	20	76	1
Irrigation Water	14	19	66	1
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	0	6	94	0
Hay & Roughage	1	28	70	1

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	93	89	98	81
Spring Wheat Emerged	54	45	78	49
Winter Wheat Headed	4	0	1	0
Barley Planted	72	58	96	71
Barley Emerged	39	27	75	36
Potatoes Planted	78	63	71	61
Potatoes Emerged	16	9	35	27
Corn Planted	21	9	39	30
Corn Emerged	2	0	5	2
Dry Edible Beans Planted	25	11	71	17
Proc. Green Peas Planted	83	61	89	63
Dry Peas Planted	48	29	89	46

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	4	18	64	12
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	6	80	14
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	1	56	42	1
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	28	72	0
Barley Dryland	0	1	42	56	1
Barley Irrigated	0	0	43	52	5

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

Clallam/Jefferson: Dry weather and warm temperatures were the order of the week. Fieldwork, including planting continued. Port Angeles has received just over eight inches of rain for the year, though none of it has fallen in April. Sequim has received just over three inches of precipitation so far this year. Further east and south, Port Townsend received 1.53 inches and Chimacum received 2.41 inches for the month of April.

Clark: Precipitation was received all but two days during the week. Hay fields looked shorter and thinner than last year. Hay supplies were short. Pasture growth was slow.

Grays Harbor: The distant hum of tractors could be heard across the rural landscape as ag producers took advantage of several sunny days to begin field cultivation. The landscape was dotted with brilliant fields that were sprayed with herbicide in preparation for cultivation. Christmas tree growers began monitoring Douglas fir fields for midge. Hothouse tomato growers reported pink colored fruit on the vine. Retail nurseries and garden stores reported excellent sales due to the sunny weather.

Lewis: Most of the week had fair weather, followed by heavy rain on Saturday.

Mason: Sunny skies and little precipitation made fieldwork much more productive. Some home gardeners began planting, while nurseries were seeing better growth and germination in greenhouses. Livestock owners tried to squeeze in pasture seedings before the spring seeding window closes. Animals were enjoying forage production from the recent rain.

Pacific: Growers were able to complete early season fieldwork for a number of crops after a much needed break in previously wet and cold spring conditions. Pasture conditions continued to improve with warmer temperatures, and drier field conditions permitted plowing and pre-planting work. Shellfish producers also enjoyed the sunshine and warmer temperatures on the water, as they continued transplanting, harvesting, and seeding operations for both clams and oysters.

Pierce: Rising temperatures and continuing light rain over most of the week stimulated growth of hay crops and pasture

forage. Wet pasture conditions limited fieldwork.

Pierce/South King: Conditions remained favorable for producers in the South Puget Sound area. There were no unusual situations to report and no reports of any crop damage due to a weather related event. The dry spell was welcomed and will allow producers to continue planting vegetables and working in fields. Pastures looked good and normal for this time of year.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: The weather has been dry and mild. Fields were drying out from previous rains, so farmers will be able to begin planting soon. Crops already planted were possibly damaged by water saturated soils and standing water.

Snohomish/North King: It was beginning to look like spring with temperatures above normal for the month. Only one day of precipitation amounted to .29 inches at Stanwood. The northern part of the county received nearly double the normal monthly rainfall, but was still short of the annual norm by 14-32 percent. South Snohomish County had a couple of days of drizzle, while further south was relatively dry. Monroe received a monthly total of 6.07 inches of rain compared to Carnation's .40 inches. Temperatures were warmer than normal, and fields were dry enough to work in.

Snohomish/King (2nd Report): The weather was good for fieldwork all week, and the plowing was nearly done. Lots of grass silage and green chop was put up during the week. Manure spreading was underway. Pasture growth was good. Apple trees continued in bloom. Blueberries and strawberries were coming into blossom.

Thurston: Fruit trees were in bloom. After the heavy rains ceased the soil was drying. Temperatures rose. Calving and lambing continued. Asparagus cutting began.

Thurston (2nd Report): Ag producers took advantage of sunny days with no rain to begin field cultivation in earnest. Plant development continued to be advanced for this time of year. Livestock producers took advantage of nearly ideal forage harvest conditions for making ensilage. Christmas tree growers continued fertilizing and applying herbicides for weed control. Blueberry growers mowed cover crops in order to accommodate bees for pollination.

Central

Adams: Precipitation was spotty, but enough was received to maintain moisture conditions. Winter wheat continued to be in good and very good condition. Spring cereals were progressing.

Asotin/Garfield: Dry weather with above average temperatures were the norm over the weekend. Moisture was adequate for immediate needs, but rain will be needed within a week to ten days for normal crop development. Winter wheat was in mostly good to excellent condition, but subsoil moisture will be needed for the crop to develop normally. Spring planting was nearly complete. Rangeland was still growing slowly. Water supplies were lower than normal with several producers hauling water to cattle.

Benton: Frost plagued fruit growers. Irrigation, hop tying, and asparagus cutting were major activities.

Chelan/Douglas: A few more producers have planted spring wheat and barley. Acreage was down considerably from past years because of the low moisture. Livestock producers were beginning to release their herds into spring pastures. Several reported poor grazing conditions and will be selling cattle because of the drought. One producer estimated that he has a 65 percent loss in his pastures. Only minimal precipitation was received over the weekend. High winds accompanied the rain. No crop damage has been reported.

Franklin: Rain showers occurred over the weekend helping the dryland wheat growers. Early planted corn was just beginning to emerge. Light cutworm was occurring on corn. Alfalfa harvest was one to two weeks away. Stunting by aphids was observed in some fields. The dry winter allowed root-knot nematode damage to show up in new seedings of alfalfa.

Grant: Dairy hay was in very short supply. Feeder hay was disappearing fast.

Grant (2nd Report): Thunderstorms occurred on Saturday afternoon and evening causing some local damage to budding fruit trees. Winter wheat acreage looked good, and pasture conditions continued to improve. Warmer temperatures were welcomed. Potato, corn, and peas

continued to be planted.

Kittitas: Conditions remained very dry. The Kittitas Valley received .20 inches of rain over the weekend making the total rainfall for the month about an inch. Although good for the month of April it hasn't really helped in the bigger scheme of things. The forecast was for warmer weather with the highs in the 50's to low 60's for the rest of the week.

Klickitat: More rain during the week (.25 inches) helped topsoil moisture, but rainfall is still behind for the year. There was very little flow in streams for this time of year.

Lincoln: A rain shower was received over much of the county in the latter part of the week. The precipitation and warmer growing weather gave a boost to both the winter and spring crops. Pastures were growing and livestock were either on pastures or will be turned out soon. However, more rain is needed in the future to sustain growing crops and pastures.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Precipitation last week was spotty but enough was received to maintain the moisture level. Winter wheat continued to be in good to very good condition. Spring cereal seeding was progressing and will be mostly completed by the end of the week.

Okanogan/Ferry: Producers were able to continue fieldwork due to good weather all week. The county received .08 inches of rain. Low temperatures were in the mid-30's to lower 40's. There were no reports of any crop damage to fruit crops. Winter wheat looked good. Spring plantings were underway. Some cattlemen began turning their stock out to spring pastures.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from three degrees below normal to ten degrees above normal, with a low temperature of 27 degrees. Precipitation was .46 inches in Yakima, with up to an inch of precipitation in localized portions of the county. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported, although producers were still evaluating the damage to crops from the recent freezing weather.

Eastern

Pend Oreille: Temperatures for the week were 71 degrees for the high and 20 degrees for the low, with 0.1 inches of precipitation. The week was mostly sunny with pasture and hay fields at normal growth for this time of year.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Warmer temperatures allowed producers to get back into their fields to seed more spring crops. The weekend weather warmed up nicely and things seemed to grow rapidly. Winter wheat looked good. Spring crops began to show up in the drill rows. The warmer temperatures caused growth in pastures. Cattlemen may put their livestock out on pastures due to the short hay supplies.

Stevens: Six to ten inches of growth was received on pastures. Cattle were turned out on pastures on April 21.

Stevens (2nd Report): The warm temperatures were very helpful.

Stevens (3rd Report): Weather conditions were very good throughout the county. Recent warm temperatures and rain

showers have made for excellent growing conditions. Winter wheat, alfalfa, and pastures were all growing nicely.

Walla Walla: Crops continued to look good. Temperatures remained cool. Scattered thunder showers received on Saturday afternoon resulted in .10 to .40 inches of precipitation. Spring crops began emerging.

Whitman: Crop conditions looked very good due to intermittent rainfall. Heavy planting of peas, lentils, and barley continued. Temperatures began to rise, giving way to good grass for livestock.

Whitman (2nd Report): Temperatures warmed during the week, and conditions remained mostly dry. Thunderstorms brought rain to the Palouse on Saturday with varying totals. Some areas reported wash while others received just over .10 inches. Producers were finishing seeding pulses in the east and spraying and making summer fallow in the west. Winter wheat generally looked very good countywide, and spring crops were just beginning to emerge and green up.

Weekly Weather Statistics

April 25, 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	33	76	54	6	33	26	2	2	0.10	-0.53	2	33.17	4.20	114	119	
Everett	41	71	54	5	34	21	0	0	0.29	-0.33	2	22.28	-6.70	77	120	
Hoquiam	37	77	52	3	21	7	0	0	0.44	-0.51	3	48.23	-10.76	82	137	
Kelso	36	79	55	5	32	18	1	1	0.35	-0.40	3	20.53	-18.04	53	93	
Olympia	31	76	54	7	33	26	2	2	0.25	-0.46	3	32.27	-12.16	73	121	
Sea-Tac	40	77	55	6	38	24	4	4	0.15	-0.34	2	25.11	-6.72	79	101	
Shelton	30	78	54	4	34	17	2	2	0.14	-0.71	1	46.36	-11.85	80	116	
Tacoma	32	75	53	3	25	11	1	1	0.26	-0.35	2	21.30	-12.06	64	90	
Vancouver	34	76	54	5	30	16	1	1	0.48	-0.13	3	22.04	-12.90	63	112	
CENTRAL																
Ellensburg	36	76	57	9	49	36	0	0	0.10	-0.04	1	4.28	-2.86	60	59	
Stampede Pass	31	63	49	15	16	16	0	0	0.68	-0.39	3	51.93	-18.79	73	127	
Wenatchee	39	75	59	7	62	35	6	6	0.01	-0.13	1	4.33	-2.11	67	51	
Yakima AP	27	76	57	7	52	31	1	1	0.45	0.35	2	4.41	-1.98	69	56	
NORTHEAST																
Colville	29	82	55	8	40	29	7	7	0.05	-0.30	1	14.30	-1.12	93	71	
Deer Park	24	77	52	6	32	23	3	3	0.14	-0.21	2	13.37	-0.35	97	83	
Spokane AP	31	76	54	7	37	29	1	1	0.08	-0.20	2	8.25	-3.98	67	71	
EAST CENTRAL																
Ephrata	37	79	59	8	67	39	8	7	0.03	-0.04	1	3.39	-2.21	61	42	
Moses Lake	29	79	57	5	51	23	6	5	0.09	0.02	1	3.50	-2.10	63	41	
Quincy	38	74	58	6	55	30	5	5	0.13	0.05	1	3.45	-2.56	57	37	
Ritzville	28	73	51	4	25	13	0	0	0.06	-0.11	1	5.97	-2.81	68	45	
SOUTHEAST																
Hanford	35	79	60	4	69	23	11	4	0.00	-0.07	0	2.62	-2.46	52	33	
Pasco	31	82	56	2	47	7	7	0	0.03	-0.05	1	3.54	-2.33	60	46	
Pullman	32	69	51	6	24	17	0	0	0.12	-0.23	1	4.33	-11.89	27	52	
Whitman Miss.	32	78	52	2	22	-3	2	1	0.18	-0.08	4	7.71	-2.71	74	73	
ID PANHANDLE																
Coeur D'Alene AP	32	72	52	4	32	21	0	0	0.06	-0.30	2	9.50	-9.92	49	56	
Lewiston ID	40	75	55	4	41	13	3	-4	0.04	-0.24	1	6.68	-1.51	82	66	

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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