



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: April 3, 2006
Week Ending: April 2, 2006
CWP WA-CW1406

Moisture Delaying Fieldwork

Field Crops

Good moisture was reported throughout the state. Winter wheat is in fair to excellent condition overall, but the crop was reported to be lacking in nitrogen due to the large amount of moisture. Producers were busy planting potatoes, small grains, vegetables and dry peas. Fruit trees were leafing out and blooming in warmer areas. There is still some pruning taking place in the later season areas.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 1% very poor, 5% poor, 10% fair, 76% good, and 8% excellent. Spring calving and lambing continued and pasture growth is increasing. Supplemental feeding continued and livestock was being moved to drier pastures.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	4.4
Last Week	4.0

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	1	78	21
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	0	15	78	7
Subsoil	0	5	89	6
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	2	18	79	1
Irrigation Water	0	0	99	1
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	0	9	91	0
Hay & Roughage	0	38	57	5

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

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2005	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	32	26	61	39
Spring Wheat Emerged	15	11	20	11
Barley Planted	26	14	31	21
Barley Emerged	10	7	8	4
Potatoes Planted	15	3	18	11
Proc. Green Peas Planted	25	10	14	8
Dry Peas Planted	15	NA	14	4

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	1	25	60	13
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	10	87	3

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 tapestry of spring color has begun to unfold across the rural landscape as native trees and shrubs produced a chartreuse canopy of new foliage against a background of emerald green conifers. Although growers were anxious to begin field cultivation, soils were simply too wet. Warmer temperatures and ample moisture have resulted in the rapid growth of forages in pastures and hayfields.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Pastures were starting to grow, but in general the fields were still too wet for spring tillage to get underway. Daily showers have been the norm.

Clallam/Jefferson: The monthly average precipitation for Chimacum/Port Townsend was 1.76 inches, with Port Angeles at 1.98 inches. Temperatures warmed up to a high of 61 degrees and a low of 27 degrees. Sequim farmers began to work the ground.

Mason: Fairly normal spring weather was keeping things wet but not pleasant to work in. Early crops were being planted, greenhouses were in full production, and livestock was being moved onto well-drained pastures.

Mason (2nd Report): Rain of 1.75 inches was received at scattered intervals during the week. Fields were too wet to harrow or fertilize. Farmers were waiting for the next dry interval to complete spring fieldwork. Temperatures were mild with very little range between high and low. Pastures seemed to be growing normally for this time of the year. Asian pear and plum trees were blooming and Mason bees were out.

San Juan: Temperatures were slowly warming up. Grass forages were growing quickly with the warmer weather but could use more heat units. Vegetable plantings were underway in greenhouses, and early season vegetable

seedings were underway out-of-doors. The moisture supply was more than adequate.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: The weather has been mild. Some fieldwork began. There were no crop losses reported.

Skagit: Some early season vegetables, grasses and some early varieties of potatoes were planted during the week. Fieldwork continued in preparation for other crops.

Snohomish/King: Plowing continued as the weather allowed. Fields were drying out, though there were a few rain showers during the week. Fruit trees, blueberries, and cane fruits were leafing out. Early stone fruits were in bloom in warmer areas.

Snohomish/N. King (2nd Report): The weather continued to warm up with the average high of 64 degrees and the average low of 31 degrees. Rainfall was still a little above average. Farmers began to work the ground.

Thurston: Calves began hitting the ground. Cows were out of feedlots and into north pastures where they can calve in clean seclusion. Cattle were being fed hay, and livestock producers anticipate doing so through the first of May. Pasture growth has been minimal so far.

Thurston (2nd Report): Many ag producers reported they were behind schedule due to persistent rainfall throughout the month which continued to delay field cultivation. Christmas tree growers have finished planting and have started fertilizing established plantations. Some organic producers have been able to plant early vegetables on fields with sandy soils.

Central

Chelan: Tree fruit growers were fully involved with pre-bloom activities. Some pruning was still underway in the later season areas. Tree removal and pre-planting soil preparation was common. Pest management and fertilizer sprays were being applied. Bloom was developing on a normal schedule, unlike the past two seasons which were 7 to 14 days earlier than normal.

Franklin: The county experienced rain showers several days during the week, which is typical of the already above normal fall and winter precipitation. The ground was being worked for early potatoes in the south end of the county. Asparagus producers geared up for the beginning of harvest season.

Grant: Rain received over the weekend improved moisture conditions which were already in good shape. Spring fieldwork activities continued. The irrigation season will begin soon.

Kittitas: Livestock producers had most of their calves on the ground, and both pastures and hayfields were showing rapid change in growth. Many farmers were burning canary grass out of the ditch banks, preparing for irrigation water in a couple of weeks—even as the area has received significant precipitation. Spring has sprung!

Kittitas (2nd Report): Spring-like conditions continued in the Valley. Some additional moisture was received during the week. Temperatures were in the high 50's to lower 60's for the week, with continued chance of rain showers.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from two degrees below normal to four degrees above normal, with .32 of an inch of precipitation. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Lincoln: The winter wheat crop looked good but lacked nitrogen in the top three feet.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Good soil moisture and a relatively mild winter have contributed to a potentially very good winter wheat crop in most cases. Spring seeding conditions were good, and planting of spring crops has begun in the drier areas of the county. Spring calving continued with pasture grasses beginning to emerge and grow.

Okanogan/Ferry: Substantial precipitation was received during the week which allowed producers to be out in the field for about five days. Orchardists were still in the process of pruning fruit trees. Cattlemen were experiencing a shortage of hay.

Pend Oreille: The high temperature was 55 and the low was 20 degrees with a precipitation level of .75 inches. After the long cold winter, the subsoil was still frozen in shaded areas. Pastures had no new growth and were somewhat frozen where water sank into the soil. Sunday was the first day that producers were able to do fieldwork in dry areas. Hay supplies were still adequate. Livestock were shedding their winter coats. Fowl began their laying season, and snow was heavy in wooded areas. Calving and lambing season began for some ranchers, though several lost lambs during birth.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: It was another week of typical spring weather. The temperatures were warmer and things began to green up a little bit. The wheat looked pretty good. Cattle

were still being fed hay because pasture growth was at a minimum. Some growers reported good demand for hay. The moisture situation was very good compared to last spring. The fields continued to be wet and many farmers were not able to begin fieldwork.

Stevens: Pastures began to green up, but were not growing significantly.

Stevens (2nd Report): Moisture was in plentiful supply. Most fields were still too wet for tillage. Spring calving operations were winding down.

Walla Walla: Crops continued to look good. Temperatures were favorable for growing crops. The area received rainfall during the week. Fieldwork was in full swing.

Whitman: The large amount of precipitation received over the past few months has moved the nitrogen down into the soil profile and may make it hard to access by small winter wheat. A soil test will help in determining nitrogen availability.

Whitman (2nd Report): Fieldwork has not yet begun in most of the county, but if the weather conditions hold—tractors will be hitting the hills next week. The eastern third of the county and lower areas will be slower in getting started. Subsoil and topsoil moisture conditions were in much better condition than last year.

Weekly Weather Statistics

April 3, 2006

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	32	62	48	3	3	-2	0	0	0.94	0.31	6	26.34	-0.55	98	122
Everett	38	61	49	3	3	-4	0	0	0.73	-0.04	3	25.50	-1.33	95	123
Hoquiam	39	63	50	4	7	0	0	0	0.59	-0.79	5	62.84	7.13	113	142
Kelso	36	66	51	4	10	3	0	0	1.01	0.10	4	35.09	-1.22	97	119
Olympia	35	62	48	3	2	-3	0	0	0.62	-0.34	3	46.39	4.66	111	123
Sea-Tac	39	62	50	4	5	-2	0	0	0.51	-0.18	3	30.53	0.58	102	118
Shelton	30	61	47	1	2	-5	0	0	1.17	-0.10	6	63.05	8.22	115	127
Tacoma	34	61	48	2	2	-5	0	0	0.84	0.07	5	34.14	2.39	108	111
Vancouver	36	67	51	5	9	2	0	0	0.63	-0.15	5	35.84	3.11	110	118
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	30	65	47	4	0	0	0	0	0.45	0.31	3	9.26	2.59	139	64
Stampede Pass	29	58	40	9	0	0	0	0	0.62	-0.64	5	60.23	-6.18	91	126
Wenatchee	33	64	47	0	1	-6	0	0	0.59	0.45	3	4.99	-0.97	84	46
Yakima AP	29	65	47	3	2	-5	0	0	0.31	0.17	3	7.78	1.81	130	57
NORTHEAST															
Colville	27	59	45	4	0	-6	0	0	0.16	-0.17	2	13.72	-0.30	98	70
Deer Park	25	60	44	3	0	-5	0	0	0.33	-0.02	4	21.29	8.56	167	91
Spokane AP	29	57	44	3	0	-5	0	0	0.25	-0.03	3	13.80	2.47	122	83
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	29	64	48	2	7	0	0	0	0.08	-0.06	1	7.45	2.20	142	56
Moses Lake	30	64	47	1	2	-5	0	0	0.12	-0.02	2	8.40	3.15	160	63
Quincy	31	65	49	3	5	-2	0	0	0.48	0.34	4	9.21	3.51	162	67
Ritzville	29	59	44	1	0	0	0	0	0.19	-0.02	3	11.69	3.57	144	75
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	28	66	51	1	13	-4	0	0	0.29	0.19	1	3.98	-0.92	81	34
Pasco	30	68	52	3	21	6	0	0	0.39	0.25	3	6.90	1.34	124	56
Pullman	33	55	45	4	0	0	0	0	0.27	-0.15	4	7.77	-7.25	52	76
Whitman Miss.	29	65	49	3	12	4	0	0	0.91	0.63	5	11.79	2.20	123	85
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D' A' AP	28	57	44	1	0	-5	0	0	0.22	-0.23	2	7.97	-10.14	44	66
Lewiston ID	33	62	49	3	9	-1	0	0	0.40	0.14	3	6.52	-0.83	89	61

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2005

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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