



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: March 26, 2007  
Week Ending: March 25, 2007  
CWP WA-CW1307

## Spring Fieldwork Underway as Fields Dry Hay Supplies Tight

### Field crops

Overall winter wheat looks good with good soil moisture conditions reported and growers quite optimistic at this time. Spraying for weed control, light tilling and seeding has begun across the state. Some snow mold and frost damage in winter wheat was reported in Douglas County. Reports of winter kill for many varieties of carrot and onion seed were reported in Grant County. Spring planting of green onion sprouts and spring wheat is on going. Water stores are expected to be able to meet full irrigation allotment for the growing season.

### Fruit and Vegetables

Weather conditions were too wet for field work. Adequate chilling has been reported with new growth emerging well. Fruit trees blown over by storms were propped up in an effort to save them. Seeded winter spinach and broccoli were being harvested. Fruit tree buds are swelling and developing normally. Some freezing temperatures have resulted in frost protection equipment being utilized.

### Livestock

Calving season continued. Livestock producers have begun turning cattle onto pasture. Hay supplies throughout the state are tight but holding up. Spring pastures were greening up.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	4.1
Last Week	NA

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	1	1	66	32
Subsoil	0	15	76	9
Irrigation Water	0	0	76	24
Hay & Roughage	18	13	65	4

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

### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2006	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	16	NA	22	29
Spring Wheat Emerged	2	NA	9	6
Barley Planted	8	NA	12	13
Barley Emerged	1	NA	6	3
Potatoes Planted	1	NA	3	2
Proc. Green Peas Planted	5	NA	9	3

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	4	22	62	10
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	31	69	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.

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# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Clark:** A very nice Sunday saw the first really good day for garden center operators.

**Grays Harbor:** Several days of warm, sunny weather has resulted in rapid growth of pastures and hayfield forages. Christmas tree growers were finishing up planting and beginning to apply fertilizers. Daffodil cut-flower growers were doing a booming business selling blooms to both local and wholesale markets. Heavy rainfall at the end of the week has prevented any attempts of field cultivation. Soils remain super-saturated.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** Wet conditions have prevented almost all spring fieldwork. A few pastures have been harrowed, but most fields were too wet to be worked or sprayed.

**Mason:** Last week's warm temperatures had many producers planting spring crops. This week's frost had them covering those tender new plantings. Greenhouses were getting quite full with annual and perennial plant starts. Many producers were gearing up for farmers markets to begin the next two months. Those who seeded winter spinach and broccoli were finally reaping the rewards of planning ahead, by harvesting their first crops of spring. The hard winter has finally started to lift, and some producers were even starting to graze their drier, hilltop pastures. Growers in the Skokomish Valley, however, were watching flood waters recede and won't be able to get on their fields for some time.

**Mason (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Precipitation so far for the month of March has been 7.25 inches. Grass pastures were looking good for this time of year even though we have had only a couple of really sunny days to stimulate growth. Livestock in the area were being put on pasture. Nice weather this Sunday had people out looking for nursery stock and plants, people are ready for spring. It was still too wet for fieldwork, harrowing or rototilling.

**Pierce/King:** The season was just getting started in the South Puget Sound area. Temperatures were starting to warm up and fieldwork could be seen in the area. No report of any unusual situations to report.

**Skagit/Island/San Juan:** The weather has been very wet this past week. Temperatures have been cooler than normal. Fields were too wet to complete any fieldwork.

Crop losses have been filed for hybrid cabbage seed; however, the losses were related to earlier freezing temperatures in January and February.

**Skagit:** High temperatures for the week averaged 50 degrees Fahrenheit. There was 1.9 inches of precipitation recorded at the WSU North West Research and Extension Center in West Mount Vernon. March started out like a lion with a major dusting of snow and has proceeded in staying tough as far as weather goes. Daffodil flower harvest was still underway and tulip flower harvest was just beginning. Many farmers were looking for March's lion to turn into a lamb so they can begin tilling the soil and getting spring crops in the ground. On a normal year farmers would already have some crops in the ground at this time. With more good weather in the forecast for the week of the 26<sup>th</sup>, area farmers will be glad to get back to doing what they do best, farming.

**Snohomish/N. King:** Lots of rain this month. Standing water was in most lowland fields. Farmers were looking forward to better weather. Tree fruit and berries were beginning to bud out.

**Thurston:** Warmer temperatures and increased daytime have resulted in rapid forage growth in pastures throughout the county. Ag producers took advantage of several days of dry, sunny weather to repair fences and clean up storm debris. Most Christmas tree growers continued planting fields while some got a head start on fertilizer applications. Commercial blueberry growers were applying fungicides. Heavy rainfall late in the week brought a screeching halt to any attempts for field cultivation. Home gardeners took advantage of spring like weather to give lawns their first mowing of the season

**Thurston (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Hay was holding out. Grass was growing, but slow due to the cold. The cattle were looking good.

**Whatcom:** Precipitation was above normal with rain warnings in effect. Heavy rains prevented manure application in some areas. Standing water in the fields was causing concern for potential crop damage. Too wet for fieldwork. Perennial crops were beginning to bud.

## Central

**Douglas/Chelan:** Pear growers were spraying their trees with clay for pest control. Cherry growers were applying nutrients and oils for pest control. Growers who had trees tipped over by the January wind storms were beginning to prop up their trees in an attempt to save them. It will take time to see if this effort is successful. Some winter wheat damage was apparent from snow mold. Also, some wheat was damaged because it was exposed to cold temperatures because the snow cover was blown off in the January wind storms. Most of the damaged wheat acreage will be taken out and re-planted to spring wheat. Livestock operations have been calving. Spring pastures were beginning to green up. Weather was warming up. Most of the snow cover over the cropland has melted. The moisture was going into the ground with very little runoff.

**Grant:** Fieldwork activities continued in preparation of planting fresh peas. Numerous reports were received indicating winter kill of most varieties of carrot and onion seed. Winter wheat acreage looked great.

**Kittitas:** Irrigation through the Federal project will be turned on April 15. Cold nights and warm days with wind had soil temperatures increasing and perennial hay fields and pastures actively growing. Hay was extremely tight,

so there was pressure to put animals on pasture, but it has been a cool spring and pastures were not ready for grazing yet. Still had an occasional frost. Hay growers were fertilizing and preparing irrigation systems; livestock producers were still calving.

**Okanogan/Ferry:** Cattle were still in winter feed lots. Calving was in full swing. Spring pastures were starting to green-up and the weather was getting warmer.

**Yakima:** Fruit tree buds have started to swell and develop. Stone fruit buds were most susceptible to frost damage. In response to sub-freezing night time temperatures, producers have had to engage frost protection equipment. While some bud "thinning" in stone fruits has been reported, no reduction on any tree fruit crop was expected.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Average temperatures varied from 10 degrees below normal to 15 degrees above normal, with .08 of an inch of precipitation. No crop damage due to weather conditions was reported.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Soil moisture levels were less than anticipated but were mostly adequate with some short supply sub-soil moisture. Winter wheat conditions varied, but 50 percent remained in good/excellent condition and 30 percent remained in fair condition. Spring cereal planting will be nearly complete by the end of the week with the first seeded stuff beginning to emerge.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Spring work progressed normally as producers began planting spring crops. There was adequate moisture in all areas except portions of Asotin County. Livestock producers began turning cattle out to pasture.

**Lincoln:** Soil moisture levels were less than anticipated but were mostly adequate with some short supply sub-soil moisture. Winter wheat conditions varied but 55 percent remained in good/excellent condition and 30 percent remained in fair condition. Spring cereal planting was just beginning in the southern end of the county.

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Winter wheat crops looked good coming out of winter.

**Stevens:** A few hay producers have started applying gopher bait and fertilizer. Pastures were just beginning to show a hint of green in some places. The Colville Valley was still very wet.

**Walla Walla:** Spring fieldwork has been going on for a couple of weeks, in between the rain. Winter wheat came through looking good. Hay to buy is non-existent. Most ranchers have enough of their own.

**Walla Walla (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Crops were looking favorable to date with good moisture. Area producers were quite optimistic at this time.

**Whitman:** We have received multiple rains throughout Whitman County. The moisture was approximately 105 to 110 percent of normal.

**Whitman (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Cool, rainy, warm and dry. A typical spring on the Palouse. Rainfall was normal. Producers were beginning with spraying and light tillage but some have actually started seeding as well. Activity will continue to accelerate as the weather becomes more spring like.

## Weekly Weather Statistics

**March 26, 2007**

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F TOT	BASE-50F DFN	BASE-60F TOT	BASE-60F DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham Intl	33	53	46	+2	2	-1	0	+0	1.66	+1.02	6	29.13	+2.96	111	122
Everett	33	53	46	+1	2	-5	0	+0	0.99	+0.18	7	27.26	+1.31	105	119
Hoquiam	38	54	49	+3	5	-2	0	+0	4.44	+2.90	6	60.86	+6.74	112	129
Kelso	28	57	49	+4	8	+1	0	+0	1.44	+0.46	5	35.67	+0.41	101	105
Olympia	26	55	47	+3	2	-1	0	+0	2.62	+1.56	6	49.45	+8.82	122	121
Seattle Tacoma	32	54	47	+2	1	-6	0	+0	1.59	+0.83	7	38.99	+9.83	134	115
Shelton	26	54	46	+1	1	-6	0	+0	3.45	+2.02	6	67.94	+14.57	127	126
Tacoma	26	56	47	+2	4	-3	0	+0	2.05	+1.21	6	34.43	+3.57	112	109
Vancouver	29	60	51	+6	20	+13	0	+0	1.44	+0.58	5	31.88	+0.05	100	103
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	29	65	47	+6	4	+4	0	+0	0.02	-0.12	2	7.19	+0.68	110	64
Omak AP	19	61	46	+8	5	+5	0	+0	0.00	-0.28	0	6.78	-2.35	74	47
Stampede Pass	23	45	34	+4	0	+0	0	+0	4.66	+3.06	7	86.10	+21.17	133	122
Wenatchee	31	65	49	+5	7	+5	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	0	6.51	+0.71	112	45
Yakima AP	23	69	48	+4	12	+11	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	0	6.09	+0.28	105	43
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	14	58	41	+2	1	+1	0	+0	0.28	-0.14	4	11.01	-2.92	79	77
Deer Park	21	62	44	+5	0	+0	0	+0	0.70	+0.35	4	14.54	+2.21	118	83
Republic	19	56	42	+6	0	+0	0	+0	0.31	+0.03	2	10.35	+1.20	113	56
Spokane AP	26	62	46	+7	4	+3	0	+0	0.56	+0.21	5	11.34	+0.33	103	77
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	26	67	48	+4	11	+9	0	+0	0.12	-0.02	3	5.21	+0.12	102	53
Moses Lake	27	67	49	+5	15	+13	0	+0	0.10	-0.04	2	4.39	-0.70	86	53
Quincy	26	67	48	+5	8	+7	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	0	6.00	+0.46	108	42
Ritzville	23	65	45	+4	5	+5	0	+0	0.48	+0.27	3	8.33	+0.45	106	64
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	31	71	52	+4	26	+17	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	0	3.31	-1.47	69	38
Pasco	23	73	53	+6	37	+29	4	+4	0.20	+0.06	4	5.22	-0.18	97	56
Pullman	29	61	45	+6	2	+2	0	+0	0.40	-0.08	4	12.81	-1.73	88	82
Walla Walla	35	68	52	+6	25	+18	0	+0	1.24	+0.79	4	13.40	-0.09	99	71
Whitman Mission	30	70	51	+6	17	+10	0	+0	0.54	+0.24	4	9.24	-0.03	100	74
<b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D'Alene	27	63	46	+6	3	+3	0	+0	0.42	-0.07	4	7.38	-10.21	42	71
Lewiston ID	35	69	52	+8	29	+22	0	+0	0.13	-0.15	2	6.11	-0.94	87	60

Summary based on NWS data.  
 Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2006  
 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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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2006/summary/weth1606.pdf>  
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