



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: April 2, 2007  
Week Ending: April 1, 2007  
CWP WA-CW1407

## Stone Fruits in Full bloom, Minimal Delays for Tillage and Seeding State-wide

### Field Crops

Days suitable for field work this past week were 5.1. Cool and damp spring weather conditions continued throughout the state. Walla Walla reported minimal delays in grain seeding and overall crops looked good. Fall and winter moisture levels in dryland country were in good condition. Winter wheat appeared to be in good condition. Early potatoes were being planted. Row crops were actively being planted.

### Fruit and Vegetables

Apricots were in full bloom, while peach and cherry buds were showing good color. Some hybrid cabbage losses due to freezing temperatures in January and February had been reported. Daffodil flower harvest was well underway and tulip flower harvest was just beginning. Various fruit trees were blooming or developing bloom. Efforts were underway for pre-bloom pest control. Stone fruit were in full bloom. Early apples were beginning to bloom. Blueberries, raspberries, and strawberries were leafing out.

### Livestock

Range and Pasture conditions were 2 % very poor, 14 % fair, 77 % good, and 7 % excellent. Timothy stands were mostly green and beginning to grow significantly, with some fields reporting six inches of growth. Calving continued with some branding having been reported. Most pastures were still not ready to graze, but hay was very short and animals were out. There was some rain, which helped green up pasture and range. Spring calving continued heavy for some ranchers as did feeding.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.1
Last Week	4.1

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	1	71	28
Subsoil	0	9	86	5
Irrigation Water	0	0	94	6
Hay & Roughage	14	22	61	3

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	28	16	31	40
Spring Wheat Emerged	5	2	14	12
Barley Planted	12	8	24	23
Barley Emerged	2	1	10	6
Potatoes Planted	10	1	13	10
Proc. Green Peas Planted	7	5	23	12
Dry Peas Planted	10	NA	13	6

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	5	15	68	10
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	11	87	2

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

**Clallam/Jefferson:** The producers of Clallam County were unable to till ground due to cool and wet weather. Jefferson county producers were able to work in the drier areas.

**Clark:** Fieldwork for horticulture crop producers started.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** Cool and damp conditions kept tractors out of the fields. Snow showers were experienced on Sunday, April 1, above 500 feet, a sure sign that spring is here.

**Lewis:** The area experienced mixed weather with sun and rain.

**Mason:** Temperature highs and lows kept producers on their toes. One day with a high of close to 70 degrees and a low of 29 degrees had producers embracing spring and dealing with the last of winter all in 24 hours. Lots of row cover was being used as spring crops were being planted actively. Greenhouses were truly busting at their seams as growers ramped up for the spring gardening season. More livestock were moved onto pasture. Market gardeners were starting to prepare in earnest for farmer's market season.

**Pacific:** Spring weather provided limited opportunities for growers to complete pre-season fieldwork and other tasks. Oyster growers were busy with preparations for seed setting operations beginning later this month, and continued harvest operations with market-sized oysters. Dairy and livestock producers were using pasture forage with improving conditions. Christmas tree plantations were busy with fertilizer applications. Cranberry growers continued pre-season frost control and thinning activities, and raspberry producers initiated weed control efforts. Equipment repair and maintenance activities continued.

**Pierce/King:** Crop conditions were good, even with the cooler weather. No unusual situations to report.

**Skagit/Island/San Juan:** The weather was drier than previous weeks. However, fields continued to be too wet to work. Skagit County continued to receive loss notifications for hybrid cabbage due to freezing temperatures in January and February.

**Skagit:** High temperatures for the week averaged 52 degrees Fahrenheit. There was 1 inch of rain 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 6th area farmers will be glad to get back to doing what they do best, farming.

**Snohomish/N. King:** The weather continued to be rainy and cool. Temperatures continued to be cool with lows of 30's and highs of 50's.

**Snohomish/King (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** It was mostly a dry week, but lowland pastures were still too wet for much fieldwork. Light snow fell in some areas by end of week. Stone fruit was in full bloom. Early apples were beginning to bloom. Blueberries, raspberries and strawberries were leafing out. Pastures improved as growth picked up.

**Whatcom:** There was less precipitation than last week. Manure application and field work began in some of the drier areas. There was still standing water in some areas of the county. Temperatures dipped below freezing. There was light hail and snow Saturday and Sunday. Blueberry growers ran sprinkler systems on plants to avoid frost damage.

## Central

**Chelan:** Various tree fruits were blooming or developing bloom. Main orchard work efforts were pre-bloom pest control.

**Franklin:** The area experienced normal growing temperatures, with slight precipitation. Fall and winter moisture levels in the dryland country were still good. Ground breaking was considerable last week. Early potatoes were being planted at the south end of the county. Spring wheat was being planted as well.

**Ferry:** The cool spring has resulted in grass coming on slow for grazing. Fieldwork was occurring on lower elevations.

**Kittitas:** The days were warmer, with cold nights near freezing. Timothy stands were mostly green and beginning to grow significantly, some fields had 6 to 8 inches of growth. Cow-calf producers were still in calving season, some were branding. Most pastures were still not ready to graze. Hay was in very short supply and animals were out.

**Okanogan/Ferry:** Orchardists were starting frost protection measures. Cattlemen were still feeding and heavy into calving.

**Yakima:** Daffodils and apricots were in full bloom. Peach and cherry buds were showing color. Over the past week, growers had to practice frost control measures using propane heaters, wind machines, under- and over-tree irrigation in stone fruits. So far no significant crop losses reported, but some bud thinning can be anticipated in stone fruit particularly in colder pockets without frost protection.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Average temperatures varied from 8 degrees below normal to 14 degrees above normal, with a trace of precipitation. Temperatures as low as 20 degrees have caused growers to use frost control measures.

## Eastern

**Garfield:** The continued breezy, cool, showery, weather slowed spring work. Soil temperatures were below 50 degrees. Seeding of DNR wheat and spring barley was under way.

**Lincoln:** Some rain was received in parts of the county which should help crops and rangeland. Producers in drier parts of the county were seeding crops, and other producers will not be far behind once things dry out a little bit more. Spring calving continued for some ranchers.

**Stevens:** Winter wheat appeared to be in good condition. Very little pasture was available.

**Walla Walla:** The occasional showers throughout the week resulted in minimal delays for spring seeding. Crops overall continued to look good.

Weekly Weather Statistics  
April 2, 2007

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP				
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	PCT			
	---	---	---	---	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	---	---	INCHES	DFN	NORMAL	DAYS	
WEST																
Bellingham Intl	33	60	45	-1	0	-6	0	+0	0.13	-0.50	1	29.26	+2.46	109	123	
Everett	34	59	46	-1	0	-7	0	+0	0.14	-0.63	2	27.40	+0.68	103	121	
Hoquiam	37	67	48	+2	4	-3	0	+0	0.73	-0.67	5	61.59	+6.07	111	134	
Kelso	32	68	48	+2	4	-3	0	+0	0.01	-0.91	1	35.68	-0.50	99	106	
Olympia	29	65	45	+0	0	-6	0	+0	0.61	-0.36	3	50.06	+8.46	120	124	
Seattle Tacoma	34	63	46	+0	0	-7	0	+0	0.68	-0.02	4	39.67	+9.81	133	119	
Shelton	29	65	45	-2	0	-7	0	+0	0.39	-0.90	3	68.33	+13.67	125	129	
Tacoma WA AP	28	65	45	-2	0	-7	0	+0	0.58	-0.20	4	35.01	+3.37	111	113	
Vancouver WA	29	67	48	+2	7	+0	0	+0	0.31	-0.48	4	32.19	-0.43	99	107	
CENTRAL																
Ellensburg	24	70	46	+4	1	+1	0	+0	0.01	-0.13	1	7.20	+0.55	108	65	
Omak AP	20	68	45	+5	3	+3	0	+0	0.00	-0.25	0	6.78	-2.60	72	47	
Stampede Pass	22	52	36	+5	0	+0	0	+0	0.79	-0.69	4	86.89	+20.48	131	126	
Wenatchee	31	66	48	+2	5	-2	0	+0	0.15	+0.01	1	6.66	+0.72	112	46	
Yakima AP	20	68	46	+0	0	-7	0	+0	0.04	-0.10	2	6.13	+0.18	103	45	
NORTHEAST																
Colville	19	68	46	+5	4	-2	0	+0	0.04	-0.35	2	11.05	-3.27	77	79	
Deer Park	22	62	41	+0	0	-6	0	+0	0.21	-0.14	3	14.75	+2.07	116	86	
Republic	20	63	42	+4	0	+0	0	+0	0.07	-0.21	1	10.42	+0.99	110	57	
Spokane AP	29	60	43	+3	0	-6	0	+0	0.18	-0.10	1	11.52	+0.23	102	78	
EAST_CENTRAL																
Ephrata	26	65	47	+2	1	-6	0	+0	0.42	+0.28	1	5.63	+0.40	108	54	
Moses Lake	25	64	47	+1	1	-6	0	+0	0.60	+0.46	1	4.99	-0.24	95	54	
Quincy	27	65	47	+2	5	-2	0	+0	0.28	+0.14	1	6.28	+0.60	111	43	
Ritzville	27	62	43	-1	0	+0	0	+0	0.18	-0.03	2	8.51	+0.42	105	66	
SOUTHEAST																
Hanford	27	69	48	-3	6	-10	0	+0	0.34	+0.22	1	3.65	-1.25	74	39	
Pasco	27	69	47	-3	4	-10	0	+0	0.49	+0.35	2	5.71	+0.17	103	58	
Pullman	29	57	41	+0	0	+0	0	+0	0.20	-0.22	1	13.01	-1.95	87	83	
Walla Walla	35	65	47	-2	7	-5	0	+0	0.84	+0.42	3	14.24	+0.33	102	74	
Whitman Mission	27	68	44	-4	1	-6	0	+0	0.91	+0.63	4	10.15	+0.60	106	78	
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE																
Coeur D'Alene	28	61	44	+2	3	-3	0	+0	0.03	-0.43	2	7.41	-10.64	41	73	
Lewiston ID	34	66	48	+2	7	-2	0	+0	0.37	+0.10	4	6.48	-0.84	89	64	

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>  
 Washington Agricultural Statistics Service website: [http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Washington](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington)  
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