



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

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# Washington Crop Weather

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## Crop Progress and Condition for the Month of February 2008

### Western

**Clallam/Jefferson:** Temperatures were cooler with an average high of 39 and a low of 34.7. There was nothing unusual to report.

**Grays Harbor:** Agricultural producers took advantage of nearly a week of sunny, dry weather in late February to get a jump start on spring chores. The warmer temperatures and extended daylight resulted in the greening of pastures as new forage growth emerged. Commercial cut-flower daffodil growers were placing harvest containers in fields. Cut-flower peony growers were busy applying fertilizer to established fields. Christmas tree growers started re-planting harvested fields. Livestock producers were busy repairing fences damaged by the December floods.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** February started out colder than normal and then warmed up a bit and rained as usual. We enjoyed beautiful sunny weather the last part of the month, helping to dry things out. Farmers were able to start the spring work in Lewis, Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties.

**Mason:** February rainfall totaled 3.95 inches. The last week of February was highlighted by warmer temperatures and periods of sunshine. The grass was coming out of dormancy and there were bulbs sprouting. Calving started and the calves were up and running. The drying trend was most welcome as producers were hoping to move their herds to new pastures.

**Pacific:** Improving weather toward the end of the month allowed growers to complete a variety of pre-season field activities. Oyster growers continued harvest operations, with strong market demand. Storm damage to oyster beds had created a shortage for processors, and producers were still working to recover. Cranberry growers completed dike maintenance work and initiated insect and weed control programs. Pasture conditions were beginning to improve with warmer weather. Raspberry producers completed pruning activities.

**Pierce/S. King:** Crop conditions were very good in the South Puget Sound area. The livestock in the area looked good and the grass was growing. There were no unusual situations to report or crop damage due to a weather event.

**Pierce/King:** While February weather had dried a little, mid-March looks like it will be wet.

**San Juan:** Early grasses had started to grow. Although topsoil moisture was adequate, subsoil moisture was below normal for February.

**Skagit/San Juan/Island:** Weather had been normal for this time of year with days warming up but overcast, rainy, cold nights. Periodically there were days with sunshine. Tulips and daffodils were on their way and hybrid cabbage was doing well. There were no reports of crop failures. Skagit County had average rainfall and Island County had slightly below average rainfall.

**Skamania:** Herbaceous weeds started to germinate at 450' elevation.

**Snohomish/North King:** The weather was fairly nice this past week with warmer temperatures. Average temperature high was 47 degrees and low was 37.5 degrees.

**Snohomish/North King (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Weather was typical with off-and-on rain with some frosts the first half of the month. The last couple weeks were relatively dry and warmer. Fields were too wet to work. Pruning and caning continued and gardeners were cheered by the early blooming crocus and other spring bulbs. Honeybees were collecting pollen on the warmer days and bumblebee queens had emerged to search for nesting places. New lambs were romping in the fields.

**Thurston:** Weather conditions greatly improved during the last week of the month which provided agricultural producers the opportunity to do some field work. Turfgrass growers started mowing fields again and also reported increased demand for sod once sunny days arrived. Livestock producers continued to report excellent sales of both haylage and conventional baled hay. Christmas tree growers began planting seedlings and continued cleaning fields after harvest. Agricultural producers in the Chehalis River Valley continued to clean up debris from the record breaking December floods.

**Whatcom:** Spring is in the air. Temperatures reached a balmy 57 degrees toward the end of the month. However, there were a few nights of frost earlier in the month. Dairy farmers were actively applying manure to well drained fields. Raspberry starts were being planted in drier fields.

## Central

**Benton:** Conditions were generally favorable. Winter wheat seeding in central portions that were planted later had not developed a good crown root structure and could be susceptible to damage if the weather turns colder. Excellent snow pack in the mountains portends well for irrigation conditions this season.

**Chelan:** While significant snow remained in orchards at higher elevation, winter seemed to have lost its grip. Plentiful snow and deep cold slowed the pruning of the fruit trees and growers were working hard to catch up. The first pear sprays were expected sometime in the first half of March.

**Douglas/Chelan:** Temperatures were warming up and the snow-pack began to melt. Most of the winter wheat crop was still snow covered. Most fruit producers had finished their pruning operations. There appeared to be a good bud-set. Livestock producers were calving and weather conditions were making it easier. Some high winds were experienced.

**Grant:** Field work began in the southern portion of the county, around the Mattawa area. Fields were being prepared for fresh peas and spring wheat. Snow was still present in the northern portions of the county, but was steadily melting away. Some reports of snow mold were received in the county office.

**Kittitas:** There was good snow-pack in the hills. There was no snow left on the ground in the valley. Daytime temperatures were warmer.

**Klickitat:** The area looked like it was finally drying out. The east end of the county saw some tillage activity. The west end of the county was still under a half foot of snow.

**Okanogan:** The area had a rapid thaw in the last week for the low elevations. The area was still a few weeks away from the true signs of Spring. Good quality hay was still in demand to support mother cows and their newly born calves. Orchards appeared to remain dormant.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures varied from 7 degrees below normal to 11 degrees above normal, with .51 inch of precipitation. No concerns regarding possible crop damage due to weather conditions were reported.

## **Eastern**

**Adams:** Wet conditions persisted throughout the month with above average precipitation levels, coming mostly as snow; wind, which put much of that snow in large drifts during the early half of the month; followed finally by warm, which finally put the snow into a slow recession throughout the area. Runoff was limited, as little rain fell over the last two weeks of the month, allowing snow to leave on its own terms. Toward the last 10 days of the month, some field activities, especially grass reseedings were taking place.

**Adams (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Moisture conditions were favorable over the last month. Some runoff occurred but not to the same degree as last year.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Moisture conditions for the past month were adequate in most areas. The exception was the lower elevations in Asotin County where it was still dryer than normal. Winter wheat appeared to have made it through the winter with little damage. The crop was still very small due to dry conditions at planting time last fall. Farmers will begin Spring field work soon in the lower elevations.

**Columbia:** Snows were melting and continued to maintain excess topsoil moisture in many places, especially in the higher elevations. Some field work occurred in lower and drier regions. Winter wheat started to emerge from dormancy.

**Garfield:** The area had mixed weather. Snow Drops were blooming a month late. Wheat looked good. There were still snow drifts above 2000 feet.

**Lincoln:** The snow was just beginning to leave. The water was running off the winter wheat ground but was not leaving the stubble ground. More moisture will have to come this Spring as the area was short moisture for the Winter with none going in on the south slopes because of drifting.

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Precipitation received was adequate, and snowmelt occurred in an orderly fashion with the majority of it soaking into the soil, although it was reported that there was some runoff. Fall planted crops appeared to be in good condition, and Spring calving began for some livestock producers.

**Lincoln (3<sup>rd</sup> Report):** Moisture conditions were favorable over the last month. Some runoff occurred but not to the same degree as last year.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** The month of February was an interesting month. It brought heavy snowfall to the area with blowing snow that closed roads and schools for almost a week. Fortunately, the snow had melted fairly slowly and the moisture went into the soil profile. There was some flooding, but it was limited. What winter wheat had been uncovered looked pretty good. The heavy snow put a lot of pressure on feeding cattle making it difficult to get areas cleared to feed them. There were numerous reports of calf deaths due to the snow and the inability of cows and calves to get away from predators. Overall, things looked pretty good for the first of March.

**Stevens:** As of the end of February, most of the county was still blanketed with snow. Hay was very expensive and in short supply. Calving season had begun on most cattle operations.

**Walla Walla:** Conditions looked good throughout area. Crops were growing and moisture was soaking in well. Minimal runoff was noted throughout area.

**Walla Walla (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Area temperatures were warming with some early growth starting to show. Cheat-grass was coming on. Many livestock producers were still feeding. The wheat looked like it made it through winter.

**Whitman:** February marked the beginning of the transition to Spring. Precipitation was below normal for the month but that was actually welcomed. Temperatures moderated and allowed snow to melt at a measured pace with much of the moisture being able to go into the ground and not down the creek. Snow remained in areas where there were large piles or berms and on north sides of hills where large snow drifts were deposited. The drifts will linger much longer and may complicate Spring work and cause problems such as snow mold in winter wheat stands. Producers prepared for Spring work by trying to obtain seed in a very tight market.

Weather Statistics  
February 1 - 29 2008

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION			HDD TOT	HDD DFN	DAYS OF 32 COLD	DAYS OF 28 COLD
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS				
WEST											
Bellingham Intl	57	26	42	+0	1.92	-1.83	15	676	-14	11	6
Everett	59	30	43	+0	1.46	-1.89	16	646	-20	3	0
Hoquiam	60	33	46	+3	5.58	-2.93	20	532	-68	0	0
Kelso	64	27	44	+2	2.37	-2.73	13	600	-54	7	4
Olympia	58	24	42	+1	4.03	-1.92	16	673	-19	13	7
Seattle-Tacoma	58	31	44	+1	1.57	-2.55	13	605	-18	1	0
Shelton	58	25	41	-2	5.08	-3.23	18	679	+24	13	6
Tacoma WA AP	62	26	42	-2	2.54	-2.06	15	664	+16	13	6
Vancouver WA	63	26	44	+4	2.43	-2.25	13	593	-80	10	3
CENTRAL											
Ellensburg	64	14	38	+6	0.34	-0.58	7	768	-165	17	13
Omak AP	58	4	29	+0	0.12	-1.33	5	1023	-7	25	22
Stampede Pass	50	16	31	+5	3.86	-5.61	14	969	-133	24	15
Wenatchee	61	18	37	+3	0.53	-0.25	5	817	-77	17	15
Yakima AP	64	14	39	+3	0.51	-0.25	5	755	-71	21	14
NORTHEAST											
Colville	54	11	33	+3	0.52	-1.40	7	917	-72	25	20
Deer Park	47	4	29	-3	1.10	-0.63	12	1049	+72	27	24
Republic	54	12	31	+3	0.38	-0.89	5	966	-85	27	21
Spokane AP	51	16	32	-2	0.80	-0.74	6	944	+26	24	18
EAST CENTRAL											
Ephrata	56	9	33	-2	0.22	-0.50	6	930	+43	24	16
Moses Lake	59	9	35	+1	0.12	-0.60	4	865	-22	23	15
Quincy	57	12	35	+0	0.12	-0.59	3	877	-10	21	17
Ritzville	57	16	33	-2	0.83	-0.30	6	928	+33	26	19
SOUTHEAST											
Hanford	65	21	41	+2	0.35	-0.27	6	700	-46	15	9
Pasco	64	20	42	+3	0.44	-0.28	7	667	-76	14	10
Pullman	53	18	36	+2	0.89	-1.33	13	833	-64	15	9
Walla Walla Rgn	66	27	42	+3	0.72	-1.19	8	659	-67	9	2
Whitman Mission	64	21	40	+2	0.60	-0.66	9	722	-39	18	16
IDAHO											
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE											
Lewiston ID	59	26	42	+4	0.50	-0.42	10	670	-80	12	1

National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2007/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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