



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: April 14, 2008  
Week Ending: April 13, 2008  
CWP WA-CW1308

## Wet and Cool Weather Persists as Seeding Operations Continue

### Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.0. Spring seeding conditions varied. Whitman and Walla Walla Counties reported slow progress of spring tillage and seeding. Much of the work had been limited to aerial applications of herbicides and ground applications of fertilizer. Asotin County reported drier conditions and their spring seeding was further along, but still hampered by snow-drifted fields in higher elevations. Grant County reported planting of processing peas continued. Adams County reported to be nearly done planting grain. Dry land winter wheat continued to look good coming out of winter. One report of wheat mosaic virus was noted in a county. In spite of a cool spring, very dry conditions still prevailed in some grain growing areas

### Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, apples entered into the 1/2 inch green stage; cherries were between first white to popcorn stage. In the warmer areas of the county, apple buds were showing pink and soft fruits were in early bloom. Nighttime temperatures remained cool earlier in the week as growers continued to protect fruit buds against frost damage. While significant bud damage had been reported, no significant crop loss was anticipated except in orchards in the warmer areas of the county that do not practice frost control. In Snohomish and Whatcom Counties, planting of blueberries continued.

### Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 4% very poor, 3% poor, 31% fair, 61% good, and 1% excellent. On the west side of the Cascades, initial green chop activities were reported with improving pasture conditions. On the east side, it was reported that some cattle operators were turning cattle out on pasture. But pastures in general were reported to be wet and slow to green. Shellfish growers continued oyster harvest and seeding operations.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.0
Last Week	3.8

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	4	72	24
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	1	13	72	14
Subsoil	4	14	77	5
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	8	19	68	5
Irrigation Water	0	0	91	9
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	5	92	1
Hay & Roughage	24	19	57	0

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

### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2007	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	45	35	51	64
Spring Wheat Emerged	20	10	16	30
Barley Planted	32	31	49	49
Barley Emerged	11	5	12	19
Field Corn Planted	8	0	13	12
Potatoes Planted	32	25	39	39
Dry Edible Beans Planted	5	NA	21	11
Proc. Green Peas Planted	35	25	36	40
Dry Peas Planted	16	15	29	26

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	5	36	50	8
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	11	77	12
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	0	62	38	0
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	35	54	11

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

**Clark:** Beautiful weather at the end of the week brought the first big shopping weekend for the area garden centers.

**Grays Harbor:** A tapestry of color continued to unfold across the rural landscape as native trees and shrubs produced vibrant chartreuse foliage against a background of emerald green conifers. Ag producers began field cultivation on lighter soils, but for the most part, fields were still too wet to work. Christmas tree growers took advantage of dry weather over the weekend to apply post and pre-emergent herbicides. Livestock producers applied manure solids to forage fields. Temperatures climbed above 70 degrees on Saturday, convincing most home gardeners that spring had arrived. Their gardening enthusiasm was short lived as temperatures dropped over 20 degrees on Sunday, and they received rain showers.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** The area was still too wet to do much farming in the three counties, but there was hope. Most farmers were waiting for the weather to dry out a bit more.

**Island/San Juan/Skagit:** The weather continued to be cooler and wetter than normal. Fall seeded crops were maturing later, with some reports of crop damage. Producers complained they have not been able to get into their fields to accomplish normal spring land preparation or planting.

**Mason:** There was light frost in the mornings and 0.2 inches of precipitation was received during the week. Apple trees were pre-pink. Deciduous trees were budding.

**Pacific:** Growers had a taste of spring weather with warmer, sunnier conditions for most of the week. Initial green chop operations were underway with improving pasture conditions. Weed control activities continued for cranberry and raspberry growers, who expressed concerns with bee colonies affected by the new fungus disease. Shellfish growers continued oyster harvest and seeding operations.

**Pierce/S. King:** Crop conditions remained normal for this time of year. Fields were starting to dry out, and producers were getting out on them. There was no report of any unusual situations and no reports of any crop damage due to a weather event.

**Skagit:** Saturday was a nice day, but until then the weather was wet and cold.

**Snohomish/North King:** There were periods of rain in several areas during the week, but some very nice weather during the weekend encouraged pasture and crop growth. Temperatures approached 80 degrees in some areas. Showers were received on Sunday. Home gardeners were scrambling to plant during the sunny days. Fieldwork was still slow as standing water remained in many lowland fields. Stone fruits were in bloom, and apples were leafing out nicely. Treatments for mummy berry on blueberries continued.

**Thurston:** Unseasonably cold weather with sporadic rain showers continued to limit agricultural activity. Turfgrass growers reported very low fertility levels in fields inundated with flood waters from last December. Christmas tree growers continued fertilizing tree plantations and applying pre-emergent herbicides. Livestock producers continued repairing fences damaged by December floods. Organic vegetable growers began field cultivation on lighter soils. Temperatures reached a 'scorching' 80 degrees on Saturday, convincing most home gardeners that spring had arrived. In general, ag producers reported plant development had been delayed between two and three weeks due to the unseasonably cold, wet spring.

**Thurston (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** There was one warm day during the week and then the cold returned.

**Whatcom:** Temperatures were mild throughout the week, reaching 66 degrees on Saturday. Fields were slow in drying out, due to four days of light rain. New plantings of raspberries and blueberries continued.

# Central

**Benton:** Spring plantings picked up with enough weather warm to melt the north slopes. Total soil moisture in both the stubble ground and winter wheat was below normal. Snow mold on the north slopes of the winter wheat showed up.

**Chelan:** Tree fruit growers battled frost during the week and were generally successful avoiding damage in the northern half of the county, as flower buds were less advanced than in the southern areas. The main agriculture activities were the application of pre-bloom pest management, nutrition spars, and weed control.

**Douglas/Chelan:** Cool temperatures during the evening caused fruit growers to use frost control measures. Some growers reported temperatures as low as 16 degrees. Damage to stone fruit buds and blooms was unknown at this time. Spring pastures were behind normal growth due to the cool spring. Livestock producers were normally beginning to release cows into spring pastures, which they have not been able to do this year yet. Winter wheat growth was also behind normal for early April.

**Franklin:** The cool spring caused some crops to come up quite slowly.

**Grant:** Processing pea planting continued. Fieldwork preparation for spring crop planting continued. Dry land winter wheat looked good. Cold temperatures during the week caused some fruit damage in the southern portion of the county.

**Kittitas:** It was another cool week—but apparently the last one. Crop growth was still behind schedule, but soil moisture was good. Farmers were preparing for irrigation water, corrugating fields, and getting last minute fixes done on irrigation systems. It looked like the weed control window will be fairly short this year, as weed growth was just beginning. Warm weather was upon us and weeds will develop quickly, leaving too few windows during this windy season to get herbicide applications done.

**Klickitat:** A dry, cold trend continued much of the week, but weekend temperatures reached the 70s, with cool temperatures at night. Orchard and vineyard districts at lower elevations were not threatened by nighttime frosts. Farmers and ranchers were relieved to get sunny days that warmed the surface temperatures and soils which caused the grasses to grow. Saturated soils dried out and newly planted seeds germinated more quickly. Over the weekend, windless mornings allowed for aerial spraying of wheat fields. Cultivation and seeding continued throughout the week. Some barley plantings were underway, but with wheat prices twice that of barley, most growers were opting to put in wheat now. Some winter wheat strands showed signs of stress from excess moisture. The warm weekend made a huge difference on range and pasture land. Cattle ranchers have been dealing with low forage and hay supplies by spreading their cattle out over bigger turnout areas. There were lots of slow moving farm vehicles on county roads traveling between fields. Home gardeners were planting fruit trees and prepping garden plots. Spring's arrival seemed about three weeks late. Pollinator bees were emerging ahead of bloom time.

**Yakima:** Apples in the upper Yakima Valley were entering into the half inch green stage, and cherries were between first white to popcorn stages. In the warmer areas of the county, apple buds were showing pink, and soft fruits were in early bloom. Nighttime temperatures remained cool earlier in the week, as growers continued to protect fruit buds against frost damage. While significant bud damage has been reported, no significant crop loss was anticipated except in orchards in the warmer areas of the county that do not practice frost control.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Average temperatures varied from eight degrees below normal to 11 degrees above normal, with no precipitation. Low temperatures earlier in the week caused growers to use frost control measures.

# Eastern

**Adams:** Spring seeding was nearly complete, and producers were spraying winter wheat.

**Adams (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Spring finally arrived with a week of mostly warm weather, capped by a weekend of high 60s, which jump started all growing crops into action. Winter wheat was tillering nicely with good color, and range was greening.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Planting of spring crops continued at a rapid pace, as farmers tried to catch up due to the cold spring. Crops and rangeland were generally in good condition with adequate moisture, with the exception of the northern half of Asotin County and an area in Garfield County where drought conditions still prevailed. The higher elevations in both counties had areas with snow drifts that will cause delays in spring fieldwork.

**Lincoln:** Some warm weather experienced over the weekend provided much needed good growing weather for crops. Weed spraying was delayed due to wet soil conditions.

**Pend Oreille:** The high temperature during the week was 69 degrees and the low was 20 degrees. Three inches of snow and one inch of rain were received. Snow was still on much of the pasture land. No fieldwork has begun.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** The week had typical spring weather. The weekend brought warmer temperatures to the area, with temperatures in the high 60s and lower 70s. The warm weather accelerated the snow melt and caused some road damage in Pend Oreille County due to blocked culverts. Cooler weather was predicted, which will hopefully slow down some of the mountain snow melt. A hint of fieldwork was done in the southwestern part of the county, but rain put a halt to the fieldwork. Warm temperatures should help get pasture grass growing.

**Stevens:** Tractors began moving in the fields once again as hay producers began harrowing and applying gopher bait. Most grain fields were still too wet for tillage operations. A few cattle producers turned cows out on pastures as a means of getting away from feeding expensive hay. Three warm days during the week were a welcome relief from the long winter.

**Walla Walla:** Frequent strong winds continued to delay spraying efforts. Temperatures warmed up as the week progressed, which helped crop growth. Tuesday morning light showers were received and then the weather cleared up and it was warm the rest of the week. Crops continued to look good. Pasture grasses matured slowly due to cool conditions, which kept many cattle producers from putting animals on spring pastures. A few warm days will benefit pasture growth.

**Walla Walla (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Spring showed up for two days and then the weather returned to cooler temperatures. Most winter wheat looked pretty good. Wheat soilborne mosaic virus was identified in some fields in the foothills of the Blue Mountains. It could be spread farther that was initially thought. Livestock were on spring grazing.

**Whitman:** Spring fieldwork was still off to a very slow start. While some operations in the western third of the county have been able to make progress, the eastern two thirds have been slow to get started with many operations. Much of the work has been limited to aerial applications and contracted ground applications of dry fertilizer or herbicides. Warm temperatures over the weekend gave a sneak peek at spring conditions and helped melt the remaining snow banks with temperatures in the mid-70s. However, the forecast for the coming week calls for more of the same with temperatures barely into the 50s during the day and more rain.

**Weekly Weather Statistics**  
**April 6 - 13, 2008**

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		DAYS
	---	---	---	---	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES			INCHES	DFN	NORMAL	
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham Intl	36	66	47	+0	5	-2	0	+0	0.30	-0.33	4	20.74	-7.23	74	135
Everett	37	77	47	-1	10	+3	0	+0	0.40	-0.26	5	25.83	-2.17	92	139
Hoquiam	34	78	51	+3	18	+10	4	+4	0.43	-0.68	3	47.89	-9.81	83	150
Kelso	30	82	50	+2	13	+2	0	+0	0.13	-0.71	3	27.90	-9.89	74	106
Olympia	28	82	47	+1	8	+1	0	+0	0.46	-0.36	4	38.76	-4.43	90	133
Seattle-Tacoma	35	78	49	+2	12	+5	1	+1	0.12	-0.45	4	29.06	-1.91	94	128
Shelton	27	80	47	-3	7	-5	0	+0	0.35	-0.68	3	51.53	-5.15	91	134
Tacoma WA AP	30	77	47	-2	6	-1	0	+0	0.17	-0.53	4	27.73	-5.24	84	119
Vancouver WA	33	78	51	+3	17	+6	0	+0	0.45	-0.22	4	30.97	-2.94	91	121
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	29	77	48	+3	14	+7	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	0	5.14	-1.77	74	52
Omak AP	23	74	44	+0	5	-1	0	+0	0.05	-0.17	1	5.37	-4.41	55	47
Stampede Pass	27	74	38	+6	6	+6	0	+0	1.10	-0.13	5	58.73	-10.07	85	143
Wenatchee	32	73	49	-1	18	+2	0	+0	0.00	-0.16	0	3.80	-2.42	61	38
Yakima AP	21	79	47	-2	13	-1	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	0	5.23	-0.97	84	46
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	27	76	46	+1	8	+1	0	+0	0.06	-0.29	1	12.25	-2.71	82	87
Deer Park	23	75	41	-4	6	-1	0	+0	0.48	+0.16	4	16.29	+2.99	122	106
Republic	26	74	44	+3	5	+3	0	+0	0.08	-0.14	2	8.57	-1.32	87	77
Spokane AP	30	74	45	+0	10	+3	0	+0	0.10	-0.18	2	13.14	+1.33	111	92
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	27	76	47	-3	13	-4	0	+0	0.05	-0.08	1	3.77	-1.70	69	56
Moses Lake	26	76	47	-3	11	-6	0	+0	0.07	-0.06	2	3.77	-1.70	69	53
Quincy	27	74	47	-2	11	-4	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	0	5.66	-0.27	95	57
Ritzville	26	71	42	-5	5	-2	0	+0	0.00	-0.21	0	7.82	-0.66	92	71
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	31	82	51	-3	22	-9	2	+0	0.00	-0.11	0	3.04	-2.09	59	37
Pasco	27	83	51	-3	23	-4	1	+1	0.01	-0.08	1	5.24	-0.51	91	53
Pullman	31	77	46	+3	17	+10	3	+3	0.41	+0.06	3	13.62	-2.04	87	91
Walla Walla Rgn	35	82	51	+0	26	+4	5	+5	0.06	-0.36	3	10.28	-4.41	70	82
Whitman Mission	31	78	48	-3	6	-11	0	-2	0.03	-0.25	2	8.99	-1.09	89	83
<b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b>															
Lewiston ID	35	74	48	-2	12	-7	1	+1	0.16	-0.12	3	5.30	-2.48	68	70

Summary based on NWS data.  
 Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2007  
 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/2007/summary/weth1606.pdf>  
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