



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

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Week Ending: April 5, 2009
CWP WA-CW1209

Wet Conditions Kept Farmers from the Field as Fruit Tree Buds Began to Swell

Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 2.6. Steady, heavy precipitation continued to delay fieldwork in major grain growing counties. Dry subsoil profiles were quickly recharging. Reports were mixed regarding winter wheat. Generally, reports indicated winter wheat overall appeared to have made it through winter, but some areas such as Lincoln County were indicating large tracks of reseeded will occur when fields dry out. Walla Walla County reported green pea processors were cutting back on planted acres due to wet weather, and inability to get peas to maturity before beans would have to be planted. Christmas tree growers had begun applying fertilizer and took advantage of dry weather over the weekend by applying herbicide.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, nighttime lows dipped below freezing several times during the week necessitating frost prevention in stone fruit orchards. Cherry buds were pushing and bloom was anticipated by the end of the week. Asparagus harvest was underway, although the cool spring had slowed harvest considerably. Vegetable growers were preparing their fields. The ground in hop yards had been worked, and some trellises were already strung up. In Pacific County, cranberry growers continued pre-season pruning and bog maintenance. Raspberry producers had completed pruning and pre-season field preparation activities. In Whatcom County, blueberry and raspberry producers were closely monitoring plants for potential frost damage.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 3 percent very poor, 21 percent poor, 40 percent fair, 33 percent good and 3 percent excellent. Heavy rain on the eastern side was expected to dramatically improve pastures as sunny days returned. Chelan County reported calving was ongoing. Pacific County reported shellfish growers had initiated oyster and clam seeding operations.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	2.6
Last Week	2.8

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	8	57	35
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	2	13	66	19
Subsoil	5	31	59	7
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	10	18	68	4
Irrigation Water	0	0	97	3
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	5	90	3
Hay & Roughage	1	4	93	2

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

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2008	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	12	10	33	46
Barley Planted	5	3	28	32
Barley Emerged	1	NA	5	9
Potatoes Planted	5	1	23	5
Proc. Green Peas Planted	7	3	23	27
Dry Peas Planted	5	NA	14	12

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	8	14	33	39	6
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	56	38	6

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: The weather over the weekend was the best of the year! Garden center sales were good during the weekend. Tulips were late to bloom in the Woodland Bottoms area. Berry growers were planning to begin fungicide applications for disease control. Farmer's Markets were featuring vegetable plant starts and cut woody ornamentals.

Grays Harbor: The extended cold, wet weather continued to delay field cultivation. Ag producers were getting further and further behind. Many fields continued to have standing water as a result of the persistent spring rainfall. Christmas tree growers began applying fertilizer and took advantage of dry weekend weather to begin applying herbicide. Livestock producers reported the unseasonably cold weather has resulted in excellent hay sales as pasture growth was nearly a month behind. Peony growers reported rapid growth of emerging stems. Daffodil cut-flower growers reported harvest was in full swing with flower development more than three weeks behind schedule. Home gardeners continued to be disgruntled over wet, cold soil conditions.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: The temperatures were warmer over the weekend, which will help dry out fields so producers can return to fieldwork.

Mason: Cattle were put out on pastures. Fruit trees were still in early bud stage.

Pacific: Spring conditions were slow incoming. The continued wet weather limited fieldwork for producers. Cranberry growers continued pre-season pruning and bog maintenance. Shellfish growers initiated oyster and clam seeding operations. Raspberry producers completed

pruning, and pre-season field preparation activities.

Pierce/South King: Cool, wet weather slowed development of many perennial crops. Additionally, spring planting of vegetables has been delayed. With warm, dry conditions settling in over the weekend, planting opportunities exist.

Pierce/South King (2nd Report): Crop conditions were poor, with cold, damp weather throughout the week. Producers were unable to do fieldwork. Pasture growth was below normal. There were no unusual situations to report and no reports of crop damage.

Thurston: Unseasonably cold, wet weather early in the week resulted in mixed snow and rain showers. Ag producers were jubilant by the end of the week when sunshine prevailed. Many fields remained saturated, and field cultivation took place only on sandy soils with excellent drainage. The extended wet spring has seriously delayed crop planting. Some Christmas tree growers were still planting trees, while the majority were applying fertilizer and getting equipment ready for applying herbicides. Home gardeners expressed frustration over the lack of heat units.

Whatcom: Cool, wet weather continued the first part of the week, with temperatures dropping below freezing. Berry producers were monitoring the plants closely for potential frost damage. The second part of the week brought temperatures up to 66 degrees, which stimulated faster plant growth.

Central

Douglas/Chelan: Some snow, rain and wind were received during the week. Most of the snow cover was gone, and calving continued.

Franklin: Weather conditions were near normal with one day of good precipitation. Apricots were showing buds. Field activity was in full swing, and asparagus fields were being prepared for harvest.

Grant: Recent precipitation helped the dryland winter wheat. Most of the irrigated spring wheat has been seeded. Irrigated fresh peas will be planted soon, and irrigation water will be delivered in the next week or so.

Kittitas: Late cold weather and precipitation caused crop progress to be two weeks behind schedule. Fields have been too wet to fertilize. Wind, sun, and warmer weather began to dry topsoil very quickly, but fertilizer applications were behind schedule. Soil was still quite wet and grass growth was also behind, which led to extended hay feeding for cattle.

Klickitat: Early in the week a blasting wind was received, averaging 17 mph with gusts up to 46 mph in the Centerville/Goldendale Valley. April began with snow falling steadily even at mid to lower elevations, although there were no accumulations on the ground. Precipitation during the week was 0.5 inches. Daytime temperatures ranged from the high 30s to low 60s, with nighttime

temperatures in the 20s and 30s. Producers were fixing fences and doing other farm chores. Cattle were being moved off winter pastures. Orchardists and grape growers reported growth about two weeks late due to the cold winter and cooler spring. Dormant spraying and grape pruning finished up at the end of March. Earlier spring activities included planting more acreage to grapes, cherries, and peaches. Apricots and some peaches were in full bloom. Frost danger was not over yet.

Yakima: No precipitation was received during the week. Nighttime temperatures dipped below freezing a couple of times during the week, which necessitated frost prevention in stone fruit orchards. Cherry buds were pushing and bloom was anticipated by the end of the week. Asparagus harvest was underway, although the cool spring has slowed harvest considerably. Vegetable growers prepared their fields. The ground in hop yards has been worked and some trellises were already strung up.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures were generally cooler than normal, varying from nine degrees below normal to one degree above normal. There was a trace of precipitation during the week. Temperatures as low as 21 degrees caused fruit growers to use frost control measures.

Eastern

Adams: A wild week of weather began with high winds and a dust storm, followed by mid-week freezing and snowy weather, and culminated with the first taste of spring and 60 degree weather on Sunday.

Asotin/Garfield: Another week of rain kept farmers from their fields. Conditions were too wet for spring seeding preparation. Crop growth and rangeland were still lagging behind normal due to the cooler than normal temperatures.

Ferry: Cold weather hung on, with parts of the county receiving six inches of snow.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Many winter wheat fields were being reseeded. The warm weather during the weekend will help the winter wheat crop.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The weather was a mixed bag of spring weather: rain, snow, and sunshine. Warmer temperatures helped melt the snow and raised river levels in some areas. A large amount of snow on fields melted. It is starting to look like spring. Winter wheat was beginning to green up. Cattlemen continued calving operations and completed a fairly good winter for livestock. Fruit growers were watching the weather and hoping to avoid damaging frost. With warmer days, the trees were beginning to bud.

Stevens: Some producers began plowing and applying gopher bait during the weekend. Cattle producers were busy wrapping up calving operations. Warmer temperatures are needed for crop development and pasture growth. Many fields were too wet for producers to get in to.

Walla Walla: The weather was cold and wet early in the week. Most soils were saturated, which caused spring seeding to be behind schedule. Green pea processors were cutting back on acreage because they don't have enough time to finish seeding before bean harvest begins. Spring weather appeared by the end of the week.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Significant rain events were received early in the week, but some sunshine and warm weather was received by the weekend. The winter wheat crop looked good. Most area farmers were scrambling to get spring seeding and fieldwork completed.

Whitman: Spring work was delayed by continued rain and snowfall. Weather conditions were improved by the end of the week. March precipitation for Colfax was double the average. Precipitation was very helpful for improving crop and pasture conditions, as well as improving the soil profile for spring crops.

Weekly Weather Statistics
 March 30 - April 5, 2009

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	
WEST															
Bellingham Intl	30	66	44	-3	0	-3	0	+0	1.24	+0.61	4	23.27	-3.99	85	107
Hoquiam	30	68	45	-3	6	-1	0	+0	1.72	+0.41	4	45.17	-11.33	80	120
Kelso	28	73	45	-3	3	-4	0	+0	0.65	-0.26	3	28.22	-8.64	77	98
Olympia	25	70	43	-3	0	-2	0	+0	0.71	-0.22	3	34.04	-8.28	80	111
Seattle-Tacoma	33	69	44	-4	5	-2	0	+0	1.57	+0.91	4	25.82	-4.53	85	110
Shelton	26	70	44	-4	4	-3	0	+0	1.13	-0.08	4	45.89	-9.72	83	109
Tacoma WA AP	28	71	44	-4	0	-7	0	+0	0.51	-0.25	4	25.99	-6.22	81	104
Vancouver WA	28	74	47	+0	8	+1	0	+0	0.49	-0.26	4	20.59	-12.60	62	107
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	24	64	42	-3	0	-2	0	+0	0.15	+0.01	2	5.77	-0.99	85	51
Omak AP	19	64	41	-1	0	+0	0	+0	0.07	-0.15	3	5.73	-3.80	60	63
Stampede Pass	24	66	34	+3	0	+0	0	+0	6.86	+5.46	5	64.17	-3.38	95	112
Wenatchee AP	32	62	44	-4	0	-9	0	+0	0.06	-0.08	1	2.93	-3.11	49	37
Yakima AP	21	64	41	-6	0	-7	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	0	4.92	-1.13	81	47
NORTHEAST															
Colville	24	58	42	-2	0	-6	0	+0	0.86	+0.51	5	11.71	-2.86	80	69
Deer Park	24	58	38	-5	0	-3	0	+0	0.48	+0.13	6	12.99	+0.07	101	81
Republic	24	61	40	+1	0	+0	0	+0	0.26	-0.02	3	7.08	-2.53	74	64
Spokane AP	26	58	38	-5	0	-5	0	+0	0.98	+0.70	6	11.84	+0.35	103	88
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	27	64	44	-4	0	-8	0	+0	0.08	-0.06	2	3.10	-2.23	58	46
Moses Lake	27	64	44	-5	0	-8	0	+0	0.13	-0.01	2	3.94	-1.39	74	49
Quincy	28	63	44	-3	0	-7	0	+0	0.48	+0.34	2	7.48	+1.69	129	49
Ritzville	25	54	37	-7	0	-3	0	+0	0.52	+0.31	4	8.27	+0.02	100	62
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	28	67	47	-5	2	-18	0	+0	0.01	-0.11	1	4.39	-0.60	88	44
Pasco	25	70	46	-5	1	-17	0	+0	0.30	+0.16	3	5.50	-0.13	98	56
Pullman	29	59	38	-5	0	+0	0	+0	1.14	+0.72	5	15.75	+0.49	103	89
Walla Walla Rgn	34	67	45	-5	2	-12	0	+0	0.86	+0.44	4	13.81	-0.38	97	74
Whitman Mission	27	58	44	-5	0	-11	0	+0	0.61	+0.33	3	12.59	+2.85	129	81
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	33	56	44	-5	0	-13	0	+0	0.37	+0.14	3	8.02	+0.57	108	61

Summary based on NWS data.
 Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2008
 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/2008/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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