



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

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Washington Crop Weather

Released: April 13, 2009
Week Ending: April 12, 2009
CWP WA-CW1309

Winter Wheat Kill Above Average while Stone Fruit Trees Begin Bud

Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.9. Excessive moisture in grain growing counties had delayed planting of all crops. Whitman County winter wheat kill estimates were slightly above average, between 15 percent and 20 percent. By the end of the week, moisture was plentiful with snow pack remaining on northern slopes and ponds had developed in low lying areas compounding the winter kill. Winter kill in Lincoln and Adams County was also worse than expected. In general, it was thought that large areas in these counties would not be reseeded, but reports indicate some farmers were trying to salvage the season and going back in with spring wheat. Walla Walla County reported winter wheat came through the winter in excellent shape and the grain crop looked very promising. Grant County reported fresh pea planting was still underway and irrigation water had already been turned on. Franklin County reported negligible potato and spring wheat emergence, due to cool weather. Christmas tree growers took advantage of nearly ideal conditions early in the week to apply herbicides and make fertilizer applications. Cranberry growers were concerned with cooler spring temperatures leading to lower production, similar to last year. In Skagit County the 2009 tulip crop was beginning to bloom. Whatcom County reported blueberries and raspberries continued to be planted.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, apricots were in petal fall stage while peaches, nectarines and early cherry bloom had started. Apple and pear buds were in pre-bloom and pear growers were applying sprays for pear psylla. Franklin County reported stone fruit trees were in bloom. In Skagit County, next year's cabbage seed crop was cut. The crop was beginning to bolt or send shoots forward for seed production.

Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 5 percent very poor, 15 percent poor, 49 percent fair, 29 percent good and 2 percent excellent. On the west side, Pacific County reported oyster and clam producers continued spring seed set and harvest. On the eastern side, pasture grass was greening up with all the rain and warmer temperatures. Klickitat County reported cattle were still on supplemental hay; the spring calving season was underway.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	4.9
Last Week	2.6

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	4	55	41
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	1	13	68	18
Subsoil	3	31	60	6
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	10	18	67	5
Irrigation Water	0	2	95	3
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	4	91	3
Hay & Roughage	0	8	82	10

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	30	12	44	60
Spring Wheat Emerged	5	3	19	29
Barley Planted	13	5	32	46
Barley Emerged	2	1	10	19
Potatoes Planted	9	5	31	37
Dry Edible Beans Planted	10	NA	4	10
Proc. Green Peas Planted	15	7	34	43
Dry Peas Planted	10	5	16	25
Field Corn Planted	2	NA	7	9

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	5	11	36	40	8
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	1	46	48	5
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	1	77	22	0
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	48	50	2
Barley Dryland	0	0	82	18	0
Barley Irrigated	0	0	21	50	29

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

Clallam/Jefferson: The temperatures were cooler over on the Peninsula. The highs were in the 50s and lows were in the mid to high 30s.

Clark: Over the last seven days there were four days which were conducive to farm work. Farmers were plowing and disking fields, and preparing farm stands for seasonal sales.

Grays Harbor: Commercial vegetable growers took advantage of warm sunny days early in the week to make herbicide applications of glyphosate to winter cover crops. Most of the fields were destined to be planted in cannery peas and sweet corn. Dairy producers commented on the rapid pasture growth once the temperatures reached 70 degrees. Just as agricultural producers anticipated beginning field cultivation, heavy rainfall at the end of the week resulted in super-saturated soils. Many fields had accumulations of surface water. Christmas tree growers took advantage of nearly ideal conditions early in the week to apply herbicides and make fertilizer applications. Home gardeners were busy tilling the soil for this year's garden and planted peas, onions and lettuce.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Fields continued to have a lot of moisture. Cool conditions and continued precipitation limited access to fields and pasture.

Mason: Cattle were turned out on pasture. Pasture conditions were excellent. It felt like spring and the apple trees were beginning to bloom.

Pacific: Cold, wet weather conditions hampered field work for producers. Cranberry growers were concerned with cooler spring temperatures that could lead to lower production as was the case last year. Oyster and clam producers continued spring seed set and harvest. Pasture conditions were improving with spring weather.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions were normal for this time of year. Temperatures were a little cooler than normal. No unusual situations were reported. There were no reports of any crop damage due to a weather related event.

Pierce/South King (2nd Report): Drier weather allowed an opportunity to prepare land and plant some colder tolerant vegetables such as peas and spinach. Many berries jumped bud stages and apples were at 1/2" green.

San Juan: Sunshine and drying weather helped move things closer to normal spring conditions.

Skagit: Temperatures were much colder than normal and this has had some adverse impacts on area farmers. Farmers were working to try and get crops in the ground. The first field of potatoes was planted. Usually we see a few fields being planted in the end of March but cold wet weather pushed planting back a few weeks. Area daffodils showed us that spring really is a reality. As promised the 2009 tulip crop began to show its color as well. Next year's cabbage seed crop was cut and some stakes were placed in fields. The crop began to bolt or send shots forward for seed production. Next years wheat crop received its first shot of fertilizer to push it through to harvest in August.

Snohomish/North King: The temperatures were warmer. Highs were in the 70s, although the night temperatures were in the high 30s. The flood affected the over-wintering crops i.e. cabbage and grass seed. Milk production was also affected though to what extent was unknown.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report): Warm weather early in the week encouraged pasture growth and leafing out of berry and tree fruit. Stone fruit was in bloom in some areas. Weather cooled by mid-week and returned back to a cold/wet cycle. Field work lagged, though some plowing was done in drier fields. Farmers were ditching the wetter fields where standing water remained.

Thurston: Temperatures reached the mid-70s early in the week and had agricultural producers convinced spring had arrived in full force. Many took advantage of the summer like weather to begin cultivating lighter soils. The increased temperature and longer day-length resulted in rapid forage growth in pastures and hayfields. Heavy rainfall received at the end of the week resulted in surface water accumulation. Many fields were too wet to work. Christmas tree growers were busy applying fertilizer to tree plantations in between showers. They complained that the wet weather delayed herbicide applications.

Thurston (2nd Report): Everything was at least two weeks late. Area daffodils were late and there were no tulips or morels yet. Cherry blossoms, ornamental plums and apple blossoms were all late.

Whatcom: Fields slowly dried up allowing for more field work. Manure was being applied to drier fields. Blueberries and raspberries continued to be planted.

Central

Benton: Soil moisture conditions continued to improve with added rainfall.

Chelan: Flower bud set on most crops was very good. No cold winter damage was seen. The cool spring delayed tree fruit development by about seven days.

Franklin: Temperatures remained cool as is typical this time of year. There was negligible potato or spring wheat emergence. The entire county received a daytime rain on Sunday. Apricots and some early cherry varieties in the south end of the County were in bloom.

Grant: Fresh pea planting continued. Sweet corn seeding will begin in the near future, or when the ground temperature gets above 52 degrees. Grain corn will begin a little later. Irrigation water was being turned on.

Kittitas: There was more fertilizer application and crop growth picked with a couple of days near 70 degrees. Range forage was significantly behind, but a few late spring showers should help top growth a little ways into the dry season.

Klickitat: The area had normal weather for the start of April. It was a variable week beginning with two very pleasant spring days with early season field activities underway. Highs were around 70 degrees, then a change to a cooler, overcast pattern of daytime highs in the 50s. Lows were in the 30s-40s and strong westerly winds with

accompanying rainfall delayed tractor work. Some weed control was done early in the week but wind and rain delayed that too. Cattle were still on supplemental hay and spring calving was underway. In home gardens, raspberry shoots emerged and blueberries began to bud.

Klickitat (2nd Report): Temperatures were warmer and the area received rain showers all through the week; this helped with moisture but slowed down planting. Pasture and crops were growing and doing well.

Yakima: Average temperatures were generally warmer than normal, varying from one degree below normal to seven degrees above normal. A trace of precipitation was received during the week. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Yakima (2nd Report): There was a scattering of trace precipitation on April 10th. Nighttime temperatures over the week held in the upper 30s to mid 40s. Little to no frost protection was needed. Daytime temperatures were moderate with high temperatures reaching into the lower to mid 70s. Apricots were in petal fall while peach, nectarine and early cherry bloom had started. Apple and pear buds were in pre-bloom and pear growers applied sprays for pear psylla.

Eastern

Adams: The area had a couple days of very warm temperatures midweek, before the weekend closed out with a good beneficial rain.

Asotin/Garfield: Farmers were able to get to the fields for only a few days as rains returned late in the week. Fields were too wet to work or plant in many areas. Planting was three to four weeks behind normal.

Ferry: Cool weather continued. The few days of warm weather gave the spring range grasses a little color but little growth.

Garfield: The effects of a very cold winter were becoming visible. Wheat looked okay in most locations. It was still too wet for tillage. There was some direct seeding of spring wheat going on piece by piece. There was a lot of DNS being planted.

Lincoln: Many acres of winter wheat were being reseeded. Soil moisture conditions were better than last spring but were still very poor.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Rain received during the week improved the condition of crops. The planting of spring crops and weed spraying continued in the drier areas of the county. Warmer weather contributed to the progress of pastures greening up.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The area had typical spring weather. There was some sun, rain and wind. The winter wheat started to be more visible and was getting some color. Heat units were needed to start growth, but last week gave a sneak-peak at spring.

Stevens: A few snow piles remained as fields dried enough for tillage to begin. Hay producers continued plowing, disking and applying gopher bait to fields. Pasture grass was greening up after a few days of temperatures in the 70s.

Walla Walla: Farmers were scrambling to get spring crops planted. Frequent spring showers, although welcome, made spring work challenging to complete. Fall crops looked very good throughout the county. Pastures and rangeland were growing better.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Spring finally arrived and grass was growing. Spring seeding picked up. Producers were trying to catch up from the late start.

Whitman: Rainy and cool weather continued to slow spring work. While the rainfall was welcomed in improving soil moisture, some operators expressed concern about seeding spring crops late if conditions do not begin to dry.

Weekly Weather Statistics April 6 - 12th, 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			
	---	---	---	---	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	---	---	INCHES	DFN	NORMAL	DAYS	
WEST																
Bellingham Intl	35	69	50	+3	4	-3	0	+0	0.40	-0.23	1	23.67	-4.22	85	108	
Hoquiam	35	67	48	-1	3	-4	0	+0	1.65	+0.50	5	46.82	-10.83	81	125	
Kelso	34	77	52	+4	15	+6	0	+0	0.56	-0.29	3	28.78	-8.93	76	101	
Olympia	31	74	49	+4	3	-3	0	+0	1.16	+0.31	4	35.20	-7.97	82	115	
Seattle-Tacoma	40	70	50	+3	11	+4	0	+0	0.84	+0.25	4	26.66	-4.28	86	114	
Shelton	30	73	48	-1	2	-8	0	+0	2.33	+1.26	4	48.22	-8.46	85	113	
Tacoma WA AP	31	72	49	+2	3	-4	0	+0	0.66	-0.04	4	26.65	-6.26	81	108	
Vancouver WA	36	78	55	+7	33	+24	0	+0	0.60	-0.09	3	21.19	-12.69	63	110	
CENTRAL																
Ellensburg	27	75	51	+6	11	+4	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	0	5.77	-1.13	84	51	
Omak AP	29	72	50	+7	11	+7	0	+0	0.03	-0.18	1	5.76	-3.98	59	64	
Stampede Pass	34	70	44	+12	8	+8	0	+0	0.72	-0.55	4	64.89	-3.93	94	116	
Wenatchee AP	36	72	52	+4	18	+4	0	+0	0.00	-0.15	0	2.93	-3.26	47	37	
Yakima AP	28	74	51	+4	13	+1	0	+0	0.01	-0.13	1	4.93	-1.26	80	48	
NORTHEAST																
Colville	27	70	48	+4	2	-5	0	+0	0.25	-0.10	2	11.96	-2.96	80	71	
Deer Park	26	69	44	+1	0	-7	0	+0	0.27	-0.07	2	13.26	+0.00	100	83	
Republic	30	70	50	+9	8	+8	0	+0	0.13	-0.10	2	7.21	-2.63	73	66	
Spokane AP	34	69	48	+5	8	+1	0	+0	0.18	-0.10	2	12.02	+0.25	102	90	
EAST CENTRAL																
Ephrata	35	73	52	+3	20	+5	0	+0	0.02	-0.12	1	3.12	-2.35	57	47	
Moses Lake	31	75	52	+3	16	+1	0	+0	0.02	-0.12	1	3.96	-1.51	72	50	
Quincy	35	73	53	+5	22	+8	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	0	7.48	+1.55	126	49	
Ritzville	34	72	50	+5	10	+3	0	+0	0.00	-0.21	0	8.27	-0.19	98	62	
SOUTHEAST																
Hanford	36	73	55	+3	34	+6	3	+3	0.00	-0.13	0	4.39	-0.73	86	44	
Pasco	31	79	55	+4	35	+10	0	+0	0.08	-0.03	1	5.58	-0.16	97	57	
Pullman	36	71	49	+6	9	+2	0	+0	0.27	-0.09	1	16.02	+0.40	103	90	
Walla Walla Rgn	38	77	56	+5	40	+20	1	+1	0.03	-0.39	1	13.84	-0.77	95	75	
Whitman Mission	29	75	52	+3	15	+0	0	+0	0.00	-0.28	0	12.59	+2.57	126	81	
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE																
Lewiston ID	41	75	55	+7	38	+21	2	+2	0.06	-0.20	1	8.08	+0.37	105	62	

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>
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