



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: April 27, 2009
Week Ending: April 26, 2009
CWP WA-CW1509

Reasonable Weather Pushes Grain Seeding and Fruit Tree Bloom Along

Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.1. Cool weather settled in over the eastern portion of the state but generally, conditions remained dry. Whitman County reported spring seeding activities were being conducted countywide. Counties reported weed spraying activities were ongoing. Asotin County was the only county to report some fields still too wet to work. FSA committee reports indicate hay produces in Franklin County may be a week behind first cutting. Christmas tree growers were setting out midge traps in Douglas fir plantations.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, the week of April 20 started off warm with day time highs reaching the mid to upper 80s. Temperatures cooled off during the week when nighttime lows dropped to near or just below freezing towards the end of the week, necessitating frost protection for soft and pome fruit growers. Peaches and nectarines were past petal fall stage, but aggressive flower thinning was observed last week. Cherries were at petal fall stage in the lower Yakima Valley but in full bloom in the upper Valley. Pears, plums and early varieties of apple were in bloom. Hand and chemical thinning of apples was taking place. There was no precipitation noted last week. In addition to Yakima County, multiple other counties noted fruit blossoms. Vegetable growers were harvesting asparagus and green onions in Yakima and Franklin Counties. In Thurston County, blueberry growers were monitoring temperatures closely as early varieties were in bloom. Whatcom County reported raspberries and blueberries were several weeks behind. In Pacific County, cranberry growers completed bog renovation work.

Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 2 percent very poor, 13 percent poor, 47 percent fair, 36 percent good and 2 percent excellent. On the west side, livestock producers reported Tansy Ragwort plants in fields which had been flooded over the winter. On the eastern side, Stevens County reported conditions were quite wet with frequent small showers and cool winds. Grazing activities were being kept to a minimum and one ton lots of hay were moving quickly to get animals through to grazing season. Calving was wrapping up for most cattle operations. In Pacific County, shellfish growers were busy with late season harvest of oysters and clams while seeding operations continued.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.1
Last Week	5.4

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	4	15	73	8
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	1	13	72	14
Subsoil	6	39	51	4
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	7	22	67	4
Irrigation Water	0	2	95	3
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	3	5	88	4
Hay & Roughage	1	13	82	4

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	64	44	59	78
Spring Wheat Emerged	20	7	33	50
Winter Wheat Headed	NA	NA	NA	2
Barley Planted	42	23	42	69
Barley Emerged	7	6	16	40
Field Corn Planted	28	8	20	28
Field Corn Emerged	4	0	3	7
Potatoes Planted	55	15	49	55
Potatoes Emerged	9	3	9	21
Dry Edible Beans Planted	25	11	16	40
Proc. Green Peas Planted	48	28	40	66
Dry Peas Planted	29	13	21	51
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	NA	NA	NA	1

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	6	13	34	39	8
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	1	46	48	5
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	1	66	33	0
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	40	53	7
Barley Dryland	0	0	62	38	0
Barley Irrigated	0	0	48	12	40
Potatoes	0	0	62	38	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	55	45	0

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: Temperatures ranged from a high of 59 to a low of 38. One producer reported starting the first cutting of hay. It was drier than normal for this time of year.

Grays Harbor: Agricultural producers spent a busy week trying to play catch-up on a myriad of farm activities which had been delayed due to the cold, wet spring. Vegetable producers kept tractors running around the clock in order to expedite field cultivation. Christmas tree growers were finishing up fertilizing and applying herbicides for weed control. Livestock producers reported Tansy Ragwort plants in fields which had been flooded this winter. Greenhouse tomato growers reported rapid plant growth due to the increased heat units. Home gardeners continued planting warm season vegetable crops.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Cool temperatures continued to hamper pasture growth but drier weather facilitated better access to fields.

Mason: The area had a lot of flies, which was surprising. The wasp and insect hatch seemed to be heavy this year. The Peony crop did not look good this year which is unusual.

Pacific: Improving spring weather conditions allowed producers to complete a variety of field work activities. Small fruit and Christmas tree growers continued early season weed control efforts and cranberry growers completed bog renovation work. Shellfish growers were busy with late season harvest of oysters and clams and continued seeding operations. Pasture conditions continued to improve.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions remained normal for this time of year although it was a little cooler than normal. There were no unusual situations to report. There were no reports of any crop damage due to a weather event.

Pierce/South King (2nd Report): Growers were very active getting in as many spring crops as possible because of dry, warm weather. Perennial crops were coming along quite nicely.

Snohomish/North King: The weather was nice with some rain. Temperatures ranged from a high of 68 to a low of 38. Grass began to grow. There were no unusual situations to report.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report): There were a few showers during the week and at least one night of frost. Fields dried out and fieldwork was underway. Some standing water remained in the wettest fields. Pasture growth was excellent. Stone fruit blossom continued and early apples and blueberries began to bloom.

Thurston: Sunny days with no rain resulted in a flurry of agricultural activity this past week. Producers took advantage of nearly ideal conditions to cultivate fields, spray weeds and fertilize pastures. Christmas tree growers were setting out midge traps in Douglas fir plantations. Blueberry growers were monitoring temperatures closely as early varieties were in bloom. Organic vegetable growers reported excellent sales of vegetable transplants at the Olympia Farmers Market. Home gardeners reported frost damage to new growth on flowering ornamentals.

Whatcom: Temperatures were very cool at night. The plant growth of raspberries and blueberries was at least three to four weeks behind normal. The drier week allowed more fields to be readied for planting. Potato planting had begun. More livestock were put out to pasture.

Central

Douglas: The warmer weather along with slight precipitation greened up what little wheat made it through the winter.

Douglas/Chelan: A couple days of warm weather helped the winter wheat progress, however it was spotty and some areas will need to be re-seeded. There were a few days of high winds and light precipitation. The majority of livestock producers had put their cattle on to spring pastures. Soft fruit crops continued to bloom.

Franklin: Daytime temperatures started out in the mid to upper 80s Sunday through Tuesday. Temperatures then dropped back down into the mid 60s for the rest of the week with typical cool evenings and mornings. No precipitation was received. While there were no devastating freezes, the cool temperatures slowed spring planting emergence. Asparagus harvest continued. Most soft fruit and cherry trees were in bloom. Reports from FSA Committee hay producers indicated we may be a week behind in the area for first cutting alfalfa.

Klickitat: The weather was very warm at the beginning of the week which perked up all the plants and flowers. Temperatures dropped back into the 20s towards the end of the week which might have set some of the crops back a little bit. It was mostly sunny so producers were able to get into the fields every day. Planting started to wind down.

Klickitat (2nd Report): It was a dry week that started sunny and hot under a northerly flow but became much cooler with winds out of the southwest by the weekend. Monday and Tuesday, the highs were up to 80s but with the change in wind direction, settled into the 50s for the remainder of the week. Overnight lows were in the high 30s and low 40s for three nights then plummeted to the 20s in most areas of the county. The early hot weather pushed growth that was then vulnerable to freeze damage. Soil temperatures in the southern area of the county were in the 50s but colder soil temperatures remained in the northern parts. Fruit producers in the orchard districts along the Columbia

River received a light frost one night but no damage was reported. Activities include thinning peaches and irrigating and tying grapes in the vineyards. Cherries finished bloom, peaches were at petal fall, apricots at shuck split and apples started to bloom. Apricots showed a good set. Grapes looked good, though late like everything else. They were past bud break and at two or three leaf stage and nearly ready for the first mildew spray. Cattle drives began to be seen on county roads as herds moved to new fields and range. Early season annual grasses started to head and wildflowers were in bloom.

Okanogan: Thursday night and Friday morning brought some cold temperatures. Some cherry orchards reported 19 degrees with quite a bit of damage to their blooms. There was plenty of sun but little rain received. Some cattle were turned out on range pasture but many cattle were still being fed hay. Branding season was underway.

Yakima: Average temperatures were generally cooler than normal, varying from 7 degrees below normal to 13 degrees above normal. There was no precipitation during the week. Temperatures were as low as 26 degrees and caused fruit growers to use frost control measures.

Yakima (2nd Report): The week started off warm with daytime highs reaching the mid to upper 80s. Temperatures cooled off during the week with night time lows dropping to near and just below freezing towards the end of the week. This necessitated frost protection for soft and pome fruit growers. Peaches and nectarines were at beyond petal fall and aggressive flower thinning was observed last week. Cherries were at petal fall in the lower Yakima Valley but in full bloom in the upper Yakima Valley. Pears, plums and the early varieties of apples were in bloom. Hand and chemical thinning of apples was taking place. There was no precipitation noted. Vegetable growers were harvesting asparagus and green onions.

Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: Above normal temperatures the first part of the week turned to below normal temperatures the later part of the week. With little to no precipitation, farmers progressed rapidly with spring planting and spraying. However, there were fields in the higher elevations near the Blue Mountains that were too wet to work.

Ferry: The area received high winds but a couple of days of warm weather helped the crops. The majority of cattle were on spring range.

Lincoln: Very cold weather in the mornings had once again set back the winter wheat crop. There were reports of lows reaching 15 degrees in the low areas. The spring crops were emerging and need a good rain.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Conditions were dry and more rain was needed for crops and pasture. Reseeding occurred in drier areas of the county. Other acres of winter wheat were significantly patchy with regards to a growing crop.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Field work started in most areas of Spokane County. Some producers started seeding spring wheat but were forced to work around a lot of wet draws and mud holes. A number of stuck tractors were seen. Winter wheat continued to look pretty good. There were some snow showers with freezing temperatures on three different evenings. There was one report from the Fish Trap area with a low of 16 degrees. Apricot trees were blooming so the freezing temperatures might not be good. Pasture grass was growing but cattle had not been turned out except in the southwest corner of the county. Producers in Pend Oreille County prepared fields for fertilizer and working of fencing. Cold nights continued.

Stevens: Cold dry weather kept crops from growing. Soil temperatures need to warm up. There was very little precipitation.

Stevens (2nd Report): Fieldwork continued on hay and grain farms. Calving was wrapping up on most cattle operations. Calves were being prepared to go to spring pasture.

Stevens (3rd Report): Conditions were extremely wet with slight showers and cold winds. The entire area was about two weeks behind normal schedule. No grazing was available. One ton lots of hay were sold to get animals through to grass.

Walla Walla: The weather was warm and calm early in the week. Conditions allowed for lots of spring work to be done. Later in the week conditions turned cool and quite windy. Most area farmers tried to get all their spraying finished. Windy weather made this task challenging. Pastures were growing slow due to cool conditions but look good overall.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): The area received no precipitation. Producers were busy with lots of fieldwork. Winter wheat looked really good. Early annual grass range pastures started to dry up in the west and north ends of the county. Hay was available. Branding was under way.

Whitman: Spring seeding operations were conducted county-wide. The west end of the county was wrapping up, the center was as much as 50 percent done and the east end of the county began tillage and herbicide applications. Passing showers slowed operations at times but weather remained fairly cooperative. Temperatures were very cool with highs only in the 50s.

Weekly Weather Statistics
Weekly Weather Statistics
April 20 - 26, 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	DAYS
WEST															
Bellingham Intl	33	71	49	-1	11	+3	0	+0	0.06	-0.57	2	24.28	-4.87	83	112
Hoquiam	35	65	48	-3	4	-10	0	+0	0.00	-0.93	0	47.38	-12.23	79	127
Kelso	34	81	52	+2	23	+8	1	+1	0.00	-0.73	0	29.66	-9.57	76	105
Olympia	29	79	50	+2	18	+11	0	+0	0.15	-0.53	2	36.31	-8.30	81	120
Seattle-Tacoma	37	72	51	+1	20	+6	0	+0	0.31	-0.18	2	27.66	-4.31	87	119
Shelton	28	76	49	-2	14	-5	0	+0	0.05	-0.76	2	49.42	-9.01	85	118
Tacoma WA AP	29	76	49	-2	16	+1	0	+0	0.02	-0.57	1	27.80	-6.35	81	112
Vancouver WA	35	83	54	+5	38	+22	9	+9	0.04	-0.55	1	21.86	-13.24	62	114
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	29	83	53	+5	29	+15	1	+1	0.00	-0.14	0	5.92	-1.26	82	55
Omak AP	20	83	50	+3	26	+15	0	+0	0.00	-0.28	0	5.86	-4.43	57	67
Stamper Pass	27	66	41	+7	11	+11	0	+0	0.23	-0.80	4	66.58	-4.42	94	123
Wenatchee AP	34	84	56	+4	48	+18	13	+11	0.00	-0.14	0	3.00	-3.48	46	40
Yakima AP	26	85	52	+2	32	+10	4	+4	0.00	-0.08	0	5.17	-1.24	81	51
NORTHEAST															
Colville	24	79	51	+4	28	+15	2	+2	0.00	-0.35	0	12.39	-3.23	79	75
Deer Park	21	78	47	-2	13	+2	0	+0	0.05	-0.30	2	13.83	-0.09	99	87
Republic	23	76	50	+6	26	+19	0	+0	0.00	-0.28	0	7.42	-2.97	71	68
Spokane AP	26	77	49	+2	28	+18	3	+3	0.01	-0.27	1	12.25	-0.06	100	93
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	36	84	55	+3	38	+7	6	+3	0.00	-0.07	0	3.16	-2.46	56	49
Moses Lake	28	84	53	+0	36	+5	4	+1	0.00	-0.07	0	3.97	-1.65	71	51
Quincy	31	84	56	+4	48	+21	15	+13	0.00	-0.07	0	7.59	+1.46	124	51
Ritzville	24	80	50	+2	30	+16	4	+4	0.02	-0.17	1	8.62	-0.22	98	65
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	34	87	56	-1	47	-2	12	+5	0.00	-0.07	0	4.39	-0.87	83	44
Pasco	28	86	54	-2	36	-8	5	-2	0.00	-0.10	0	5.68	-0.23	96	58
Pullman	25	75	49	+2	25	+18	0	+0	0.00	-0.35	0	16.35	+0.03	100	92
Walla Walla Rgn	36	82	56	+3	49	+15	19	+13	0.00	-0.35	0	13.99	-1.38	91	76
Whitman Mission	28	84	53	+2	39	+12	4	+4	0.00	-0.25	0	12.75	+2.20	121	82
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	33	82	56	+4	54	+24	13	+8	0.00	-0.28	0	8.18	-0.09	99	63

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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