

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

Released: April 2, 2001, 1:00 p.m.
Published Weekly
CWP Vol 01 No 4



Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending April 1, 2001

WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Many producers continued to worry about irrigation and energy supplies
Grapes survived the winter with no significant damage reported**

FIELD CROPS

Recent rainfall should help this year's winter wheat crop as well as newly seeded spring grains. Some reports of snow mold in the winter wheat crop were received in dryland regions that will require some replanting. Water supplies are low and timely rainfall will be needed to ensure proper crop development. Early potato planting was underway in many areas, down slightly from previous years. Significant rainfall has delayed corn planting on the western side of the state. Christmas tree growers were busy fertilizing tree plantations. Commercial daffodil flower growers reported excellent sales.

LIVESTOCK

Spring calving and lambing neared completion in many areas. Pasture conditions in most areas were below average due to dry overwintering conditions. Areas in the western part of the state saw pastures and forage fields rapidly growing from applications of chicken manure and fertilizer.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Pruning chores were nearly completed and early tree fruits were in bloom. Apple trees and cane fruits were starting to leaf out. Commercial raspberry growers complained about root rot and deer damage. Grapes made it through the winter without any serious injury reported. Carrots and onions were being seeded.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
4.33	-

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2000	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	19	-	23	20
Spring Wheat Emerged	5	-	2	5
Barley Planted	13	-	15	16
Barley Emerged	1	-	4	4
Potatoes Planted	9	-	14	10
Potatoes Emerged	1	-	4	4
Corn Planted	0	-	0	1
Dry Peas Planted	2	-	1	2
Pro. Green Peas Planted	1	-	4	1

Soil Type	Soil Moisture and Supply			
	% Acreage			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	2	23	75	-
Subsoil	7	40	53	-
Irrigation Water	-	20	80	-
Hay and Roughage	-	5	95	-

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

Crop	Crop Condition *				
	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	-	2	30	65	3
Winter Wheat Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-
Spring Wheat Dryland	-	-	25	75	-
Spring Wheat Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-
Barley Dryland	-	-	-	100	-
Barley Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-

VP=Very Poor, P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good, EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

Washington State University
Cooperative Extension Service
Mike Tate
Dean/Director, Coop Extension

USDA
Farm Service Agency
Larry R. Albin
State Director

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
Doug Hasslen - State Statistician
Jim Johnson - Ag Statistician
Michelle Fox - Ag Statistician

COUNTY COMMENTS

WESTERN

Grays Harbor: Cold, wet weather prevailed throughout the week, dismissing all thoughts of an early spring. All field cultivation came to an abrupt halt due to super saturated soils. Christmas tree growers finished up on planting and beginning fertilizer applications. Dairymen applied commercial fertilizer and liquid manure to forage fields on well drained soils. Commercial raspberry growers complained about root rot and deer damage. Commercial daffodil flower growers reported excellent sales.

Pierce/Thurston: The area experienced rain, hail, snow, and some sun during the last week. There has been little damage to crops because of the weather.

Skagit/Island/San Juan: Rainfall over the weekend delayed fieldwork. There was no crop damage reported.

Snohomish: Some areas of the county received 2+ inches of rain during the week. Pastures were generally in good condition and growing well. Early tree fruits were in bloom and apples and cane fruits were leafing out.

Thurston: Heavy rain throughout the week brought the majority of agricultural activities to a halt. Soils were saturated and several local rivers reached their highest level of the entire winter. Pastures and forage fields were rapidly growing from both chicken manure and commercial fertilizer applications in previous weeks. Turfgrass growers continued mowing, fertilizing, and harvesting fields between showers. Christmas tree growers were busy fertilizing tree plantations. Dairy producers continued applying liquid manure to forage fields.

Whatcom: Early corn plantings may be delayed due to rainfall over the weekend.

CENTRAL

Benton: Pruning chores were nearly complete. Grapes made it through another winter without serious cold injury. Soil moisture improved with the recent rains. Apricots were in full bloom, cherries were at first white.

Franklin: Fertilizers were available, as many local companies stockpiled them. The costs have risen 60 percent. Three timely rainfalls have come since the beginning of the last week in March. Coming into March, the county had 57% of normal precipitation. The recent rain will improve that percentage and dryland soil moisture. Standard irrigated planting occurred, primarily peas and potatoes. Less early market potatoes were being planted, likely due to poor prices in the last two years. Temperatures have been normal for this time of year.

Franklin 2nd Report: Rainfall, during the week, delayed some field operations. Growers remained concerned about irrigation supplies, cost of power,

and low contract and crop prices. Early potato planting was less than a year ago. Carrots and onions were being seeded.

Grant: Planting on significant irrigated acreage was on hold pending BPA buyback offers. Many growers should know if they are accepted by April 10. If growers aren't accepted, the majority of offered acreage would be planted to spring wheat, corn grain, dry beans, and new seeding of alfalfa. Many acres of 4th year alfalfa hay were also planning to be enrolled in the program. Some reports of snow mold in winter wheat were received in dryland regions, the most serious in the Sagebrush Flats region where some replanting will be required.

Kittitas: A severe drought is expected this summer and all agricultural producers in this area are extremely worried.

EASTERN

Adams: Light rain early in the week, and a moderate rainfall over the weekend, was welcomed by farmers and should benefit winter wheat crops as well as spring seeded grains and CRP stands. Pasture conditions remained below average due to dry overwinter conditions, which delayed annual grass germination, and a lack of warm temperatures to start perennial grasses moving.

Adams (2nd Report): Precipitation last week was very beneficial to both the winter wheat and spring cereal planting. Winter wheat was small but looked fair.

Lincoln: Fall seeded wheat was considered good with poor stands starting to appear. Soil moisture was short. Spring seeding began in the southern part of the county. Moisture is needed.

Lincoln (2nd report): Rains last week, will help both the winter wheat and spring seeding.

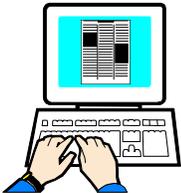
Spokane/Pend Oreille: The area was still low on moisture. The counties received moisture this

past week. Amounts varied from location to location. Very little fieldwork was done due to the weather and the fact that the temperatures had cooled off.

Stevens: Some rain was received during the last week of March. .

Walla Walla: Rain and cool temperatures were received in the past few days—good spring conditions. Winter wheat appeared to be in very good condition.

Whitman: Fieldwork was interrupted sporadically during the week by rain. Precipitation accumulations were quite variable across the county, but all moisture was welcomed. Fieldwork and spring seeding were running somewhat ahead of normal in the western reaches of the county. The limited amount of moisture in the soil profile remained a concern for the crop year. Timely rainfall during the growing season will be very important this year. Spring calving and lambing was nearing completion for most operations.



Visit our Internet World Wide Web site at
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa>

WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS
April 2, 2001

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	36	53	44	-2	0	-6	0	0	1.17	0.54	7	18.88	-8.02	70	99
Everett	38	54	44	-3	0	-7	0	0	0.60	-0.17	6	16.28	-10.54	61	97
Hoquiam	31	53	45	-3	0	-7	0	0	1.98	0.58	7	31.63	-24.14	57	113
Kelso	36	57	48	2	3	-4	0	0	1.02	0.10	6	14.14	-22.20	39	86
Olympia	27	55	44	-2	0	-6	0	0	1.40	0.43	6	22.12	-19.68	53	98
Seattle-Tacoma	37	53	45	-2	0	-7	0	0	0.80	0.10	7	16.27	-13.72	54	87
Shelton	35	53	44	-3	0	-7	0	0	1.57	0.28	6	30.41	-24.53	55	99
Tacoma	34	55	45	-2	1	-6	0	0	0.92	0.14	6	16.57	-15.21	52	94
Vancouver	34	59	48	2	5	-2	0	0	1.08	0.29	7	17.07	-15.70	52	99
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	28	56	42	-2	0	0	0	0	0.24	0.10	2	4.82	-1.86	72	53
Omak	19	57	40	-2	0	0	0	0	0.27	0.02	2	3.99	-5.42	42	43
Stampede Pass	24	41	30	-2	0	0	0	0	3.27	1.79	7	38.07	-28.70	57	113
Wenatchee	30	58	45	-2	0	-7	0	0	0.09	-0.05	1	4.02	-1.94	67	51
Yakima AP	27	63	45	-2	2	-5	0	0	0.08	-0.06	2	3.15	-2.82	53	45
NORTHEAST															
Colville	30	58	41	-2	0	-6	0	0	0.51	0.12	2	8.53	-5.84	59	57
Deer Park	26	52	39	-3	0	-6	0	0	0.39	0.04	4	8.25	-4.47	65	71
Spokane AP	25	51	39	-3	0	-6	0	0	0.31	0.03	3	6.38	-4.95	56	67
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	28	57	43	-4	0	-7	0	0	0.32	0.18	4	3.56	-1.69	68	48
Moses Lake	28	58	44	-3	0	-7	0	0	0.33	0.19	3	5.06	-0.19	96	44
Quincy	30	58	44	-3	0	-7	0	0	0.19	0.05	2	4.23	-1.48	74	42
Ritzville	26	57	41	-3	0	0	0	0	0.59	0.38	3	7.07	-1.06	87	56
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	31	60	46	-5	0	-16	0	0	0.11	-0.01	2	3.98	-0.93	81	43
Pasco	28	61	47	-4	1	-13	0	0	0.30	0.16	4	5.87	0.32	106	50
Pullman	28	53	41	-1	0	0	0	0	0.66	0.24	5	9.82	-5.20	65	77
Walla Walla AP	37	57	47	-2	0	-12	0	0	0.77	0.35	5	10.58	-3.37	76	67
Whitman Mission	30	65	48	2	5	-2	0	0	0.78	0.50	6	9.36	-0.22	98	71
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A'AP	28	52	40	-3	0	-6	0	0	0.68	0.22	5	9.29	-8.84	51	66
Lewiston ID	32	62	47	1	3	-6	0	0	0.37	0.10	4	7.74	0.41	106	66

Summary based on NWS data.
Season CUMulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2000
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.
Copyright 1998: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.