

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending April 22, 2001

WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Producers continued to feed cattle due to slow pasture development
Snow mold was a concern for winter wheat growers**

FIELD CROPS

Cooler than normal conditions continued to hamper growers' efforts to seed spring cereal crops. Snow mold in some areas slowed growth and development of winter wheat and caused some producers to replant. Potato planting continued behind schedule for this time of year. Christmas tree growers were busy setting out midge traps and fertilizing plantations. Daffodil and tulip flower harvest was in full swing. CRP grass seeding began to emerge in some areas. Hybrid poplar plantations were leafed out.

LIVESTOCK

Limited feed supplies have forced producers in some areas to graze spring pastures in poor condition. The cool weather has slowed range and pasture development. Dairy producers harvested green-chop and pumped liquid manure on forage fields.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Cold spring weather has kept fruit producers busy with frost protection activities. Fruit tree bloom continued. Wind machines were utilized in the berry fields of Whatcom County. Overall field activity was slowed due to low air and soil temperatures. Onion planting was completed in Grant County. Asparagus harvest began and carrot seeding continued.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
5.3	4.9

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2000	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	66	52	82	67
Spring Wheat Emerged	25	16	46	40
Barley Planted	51	30	72	57
Barley Emerged	19	12	26	25
Potatoes Planted	49	26	74	54
Potatoes Emerged	20	4	43	20
Corn Planted	13	5	27	19
Dry Peas Planted	32	15	44	24
Pro. Green Peas Planted	63	28	74	15

Soil Moisture	Soil Moisture and Supply			
	% Acreage			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	-	18	82	-
Subsoil	6	38	56	-
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	-	5	30	58	7
Winter Wheat Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-
Spring Wheat Dryland	3	7	40	50	-
Spring Wheat Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-
Barley Dryland	4	10	10	76	-
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.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

WESTERN

Grays Harbor: Fields remained saturated from frequent rain showers. Christmas tree growers continued fertilizing plantations. Commercial raspberry growers were pruning and tying canes. Commercial daffodil and tulip harvests were in full swing. These cut flowers are shipped to virtually every state in the United States. Hybrid poplar plantations were leafed out. Truck gardeners were disking well drained soil. Dairymen pumped liquid manure on forage fields.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: Cool, wet weather continued to delay spring fieldwork. Farmers were able to till some sod ground, but fieldwork was limited to spraying Roundup.

Pierce/Thurston: The Sound Puget Sound FSA office received word from several producers that they were unable to get out into the fields to plant vegetables because of wet conditions. Some producers said that they are 20 days behind in planting.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: The weather has been cool and wet. In some areas of Skagit County, the weather has put planting behind schedule. There has been some crop damage to spinach, broccoli, Chinese cabbage seed, and beets that were planted just before the rains. The weather in Island County has been very dry, with cool temperatures. Crop planting continued.

Snohomish/Clallum: Daytime temperatures were in

the normal range. Precipitation continued to be below the seasonal average. Pastures showed good growth and the weather was good for fieldwork.

Snohomish (2nd Report): Parts of the county received up to 3/4 of an inch of precipitation and temperatures peaked at 74 degrees. Stone fruits and pears were in bloom, and pastures were growing well. Hybrid poplars were partially leafed out. Fieldwork continued as the weather permitted.

Thurston: Heavy rain showers, early in the week, limited fieldwork. Dairymen continued making greenchop and applying liquid manure to forage fields. Turfgrass growers continued mowing and fertilizing fields between showers. Christmas tree growers set out midge traps in Douglas fir plantations. Forest seedling nurseries were busy seeding and transplanting conifers.

Whatcom: Grass and hay were planted in the lighter soil. Fruit trees were showing buds. Soil temperatures were still very low and pre-existing pastures were not growing very well. Cold nights kept the soil temperature down. Some wind machines were started in the berry fields during the night. Roto tilling, weeding, and spraying were being done in the berry fields. Not much field activity was done due to the low soil and air temperature.

CENTRAL

Benton: The weather turned warmer. Pollination of tree fruit was a concern, with the cloudy, windy weather. Most apples were in full bloom. Spring seeding continued.

Douglas/Chelan: Snow mold caused damage to the winter wheat, and as the crop progresses, winterkill is more evident. Fruit crop maturity was about 10 days behind schedule for this time of the year. Livestock were released into spring pastures (because feed supplies were diminished), even though pasture grazing conditions were poor.

Franklin: Periods of wind and rain delayed field operations. Cool temperatures slowed crop growth. Potato and carrot planting continued. Asparagus harvest began.

Grant: Cool weather continued, which delayed spring planting of vegetables. Only a few potato fields were planted, because contracts were not offered. Apple blossom will be later than normal and is predicted between May 1st and the 10th. Some dryland producers were replanting to spring barley on winter wheat acreage damaged by snow mold. There will be significant reduction in corn grain and dry edible

beans, due to the BPA buyback program in the irrigated water project.

Grant (2nd Report): Peas were 75 percent emerged. Onion planting was complete. Carrot and sweet corn planting continued. Radish seed planting was complete. Grazing continued on spring ranges. Alfalfa hay supplies were moving though the supplies were scarce. Apricots, peaches, cherries, and apples

were all in bloom.

Okanogan/Ferry: Fruit growers utilized frost control measures due to the extremely cold spring weather. Cattlemen continued to feed livestock, as spring pastures were slow to develop due to the cold, dry conditions. Damage to winter wheat due to snow mold and winter kill, was more evident as the crop progressed.

EASTERN

Adams: Very little precipitation was received. CRP grass seedings were beginning to emerge, and stood to benefit most from the continuing cloudy weather and moderate temperatures. Potatoes were planted throughout the county.

Adams (2nd Report): Cold conditions slowed spring planted cereals emergence, as well as winter wheat growth and development. Precipitation was helpful, but more is needed.

Asotin: Winter wheat was in good condition and spring planting progressed between the showers. Subsoil moisture was still a concern, as much of the spring rains have missed parts of the area.

Garfield: A break from the rains allowed farmers to return to their fields. Spring planting was one to two weeks behind normal. Winter wheat was in good condition, but rains in May and June will be the key to abundant yields. Pastures and rangeland were still slow in growing due to the cool weather.

Lincoln: The weather was cool and wet, making it difficult for producers to seed spring grains. The moisture level has gone from severe to moderate. Precipitation received this year is still under normal levels.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Cold conditions, in

combination with the snow mold continued to slow winter wheat growth and development in the northern half of the county. Replanting due to snow mold was confined to the most severely hit areas in the fields. Precipitation on Wednesday slowed spring planting.

Stevens: Warm weather during the day started pasture growth. Freezing temperatures were still experienced at night.

Walla Walla: Overall rains still continued. Temperatures were still on the cool side. Wheat was doing well at this time. Cherries were in bloom. Apples started blooming. Fire blight in apples was a concern, with current rains and moderate temperatures. Green pea planting continued. Quite a bit of green peas were left to plant. Bud break continued in grapes.

Whitman: Conditions for fieldwork were favorable and spring seeding continued. Winter wheat continued to look good. Cool conditions delayed emergence of spring cereal grains, but spring planting progressed very quickly across the county. Many growers in the western section of the county completed spring seeding, whereas farmers in the eastern half of the county were in their first week of planting spring cereals. Pasture conditions were generally good, but cool weather continued to delay grass growth.



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WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

April 22, 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	34	66	50	2	11	4	0	0	0.41	-0.22	3	20.34	-8.45	71	111
Everett	42	65	51	2	10	-1	0	0	0.41	-0.22	3	18.28	-10.53	63	109
Hoquiam	37	58	48	-2	1	-13	0	0	0.94	-0.05	4	33.74	-25.35	57	124
Kelso	37	63	49	-1	6	-8	0	0	0.56	-0.21	4	16.02	-22.81	41	100
Olympia	28	66	47	-1	2	-5	0	0	0.74	0.01	3	23.86	-20.37	54	109
Seattle-Tacoma	40	65	50	1	7	-7	0	0	0.61	0.10	3	18.44	-13.25	58	97
Shelton	34	64	49	-2	2	-13	0	0	0.68	-0.20	3	32.44	-25.54	56	113
Tacoma	34	64	50	-1	7	-7	0	0	0.68	0.05	3	19.44	-14.39	57	106
Vancouver	35	66	50	1	11	-3	0	0	0.47	-0.16	4	18.60	-16.18	53	111
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	29	68	48	1	4	-7	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	5.33	-1.77	75	58
Omak	29	71	50	4	12	5	0	0	0.00	-0.28	0	4.15	-5.98	41	47
Stampede Pass	27	53	39	5	0	0	0	0	0.29	-0.80	4	41.05	-29.37	58	128
Wenatchee	38	69	52	1	17	-8	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	4.46	-1.94	70	54
Yakima AP	30	71	52	3	24	4	0	0	0.02	-0.10	1	3.56	-2.81	56	48
NORTHEAST															
Colville	30	71	49	3	6	-3	0	0	0.00	-0.35	0	9.06	-6.36	59	60
Deer Park	27	67	47	0	8	1	0	0	0.17	-0.17	3	9.44	-4.28	69	82
Spokane AP	31	67	47	1	6	-1	0	0	0.12	-0.14	1	7.16	-4.99	59	73
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	33	74	52	1	21	-4	1	1	0.00	-0.07	0	3.84	-1.74	69	50
Moses Lake	32	73	53	1	22	-3	0	0	0.00	-0.07	0	5.36	-0.22	96	47
Quincy	36	71	53	3	24	1	0	0	0.00	-0.10	0	4.57	-1.52	75	46
Ritzville	34	72	49	3	10	0	0	0	0.09	-0.08	2	7.54	-1.18	86	64
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	39	72	55	-1	37	-6	0	-7	0.09	0.02	1	4.62	-0.60	89	47
Pasco	32	75	53	-2	26	-12	0	-7	0.17	0.10	2	6.51	0.67	111	57
Pullman	28	70	46	0	7	0	0	0	0.40	0.05	2	10.94	-5.18	68	86
Walla Walla AP	38	77	52	-1	18	-12	0	-2	0.32	-0.06	1	12.33	-2.84	81	74
Whitman Mission	31	76	50	-2	14	-9	0	-3	0.06	-0.22	1	10.62	0.20	102	77
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A'AP	30	66	47	-2	8	-1	0	0	0.07	-0.28	1	10.08	-9.23	52	75
Lewiston ID	35	77	52	1	27	1	5	-2	0.19	-0.09	3	8.46	0.35	104	78

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.
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