

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending April 29, 2001

WEEK IN BRIEF:

Asparagus harvest underway

Above normal temperatures facilitated growth and development of winter wheat and spring seeded cereals

FIELD CROPS

Warm temperatures provided favorable conditions for spring cereal seeding and winter wheat growth and development. Potato planting was in full swing. Some bolting was reported in the canola crop. Christmas tree growers sprayed for Canada thistle and other perennial weeds. Daffodil cut-flower harvest was completed. Producers in Benton County began hop tying activities.

LIVESTOCK

Warm temperatures coupled with some precipitation improved range and pasture conditions. Range and pasture condition was reported 5% very poor, 25% poor, 50% fair, and 20% good. Some of the first cuttings of hay were reported last week. Electricity buy-outs on irrigated pasture land are causing some ranchers to question the availability of summer grazing. Cattle were being turned out on spring ranges due to low hay supplies.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Fruit trees were either blooming or in post bloom stage with warm weather providing favorable pollination conditions. Grape pruning was completed. Strawberry and raspberry blossoms were starting to develop. Raspberry growers were spot spraying for perennial weeds. Organic vegetable growers began plowing fields to be planted this spring. Asparagus harvest began in many areas. Vegetable seed crops started to bloom while carrot planting neared completion.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
5.4	5.3

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2000	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	80	66	90	78
Spring Wheat Emerged	51	25	61	55
Barley Planted	68	51	85	69
Barley Emerged	29	19	47	41
Potatoes Planted	67	49	86	75
Potatoes Emerged	21	20	49	34
Corn Planted	23	13	52	37
Dry Beans Planted				
Dry Peas Planted	45	32	50	36
Pro. Green Peas Planted	66	63	97	25
Alfalfa, 1 st cutting				

Soil Type	Soil Moisture and Supply			
	% Acreage			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	-	18	80	2
Subsoil	6	37	57	-
Irrigation Water	-	20	80	-
Hay and Roughage	-	7	93	-

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

Crop	Crop Condition *				
	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	-	5	28	60	7
Winter Wheat Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-
Spring Wheat Dryland	3	6	50	41	-
Spring Wheat Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-
Barley Dryland	1	8	22	69	-
Barley Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-
Corn					

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: Warm, sunny conditions, early in the week, enabled vegetable producers to begin field cultivation for spring planting. Daffodil cut-flower harvest was complete. Tulip harvest was in full swing. Christmas tree growers were basal pruning. Raspberry growers were spot spraying invasive perennial weeds. Commercial dahlia growers divided clumps, in preparation for planting.

Pierce/Thurston: Planting of all spring crops started in earnest. No unusual situations were reported during the week. The weather was very good—warm to hot with light rain.

Snohomish/Clallum: Fieldwork continued as the weather permitted. There was occasional rain during the week, with temperatures in the 70's. Green chopping was underway. Pastures grew well. Stone fruit bloom continued and early apples were blossoming. Strawberry and raspberry blossoms were developing.

Thurston: Ag producers were able to do some field cultivation early in the week, as warm temperatures approaching 70's and no rain quickly helped to dry soils. Dairy producers applied liquid manure to forage fields. Christmas tree growers spot sprayed for Canada thistle and other perennial weeds, which were not controlled by earlier applications of residual herbicides. Organic vegetable growers plowed fields to be planted this spring.

Whatcom: Some of the first cuttings of hay were taken during the week. Fruit trees started blooming, and the raspberries continued to leaf out. The ground was not dry enough to do normal tillage. Soil temperatures were still inadequate. Rain was received periodically, and the Nooksack River was higher than normal. Very little of the spring crops were planted, except in the lighter soil areas.

CENTRAL

Benton: Warmer temperatures helped apple pollination. Asparagus harvest started slowly. Irrigation, hop tying, and spring seeding were other ag activities.

Chelan: All fruit trees were blooming or past bloom, except at the higher elevations. Frost was not common. Most trees were past bloom with good pollination weather. The crop outlook was moderate to good.

Douglas/Chelan: Much needed precipitation was received late in the week. This should help the already stressed winter wheat, and the below normal pasture conditions. More precipitation was expected.

Franklin: Weather conditions were variable, with temperatures generally cool, with brief periods of rain and strong wind. Potato and sweet corn planting continued. Carrot planting neared completion. Onion planting was complete. Peas and some potatoes have emerged. Asparagus harvest got underway. Apples were in bloom.

Grant: Sweet corn planting continued. Turnip and other vegetable seed crops began to bloom. Apples and pears were in bloom. Fire blight infection period will be on Friday, May 27th.

Okanogan/Ferry: Cattle were turned out to spring range, although grass conditions were not ideal. Hay supplies were either low or out, and producers had no choice but to turn out or reduce the herd size. The weather was windier than normal, and the precipitation was less than normal.

Kittitas: Kittitas Reclamation District forecasted that producers will receive around 25 percent of the normal water delivery. This district serves approximately 60,000 acres in the valley. A cool, wet spring was needed to offset this reduced water supply. Farmers were already reporting to the office their decisions to fallow some acreage.

Klickitat: Seeding of spring wheat and barley progressed well. Lack of warm growing weather this spring, resulted in some ranchers continuing to feed cattle. Subsoil conditions were very poor, and some spring ranges had very little feed for livestock to eat. Rain is needed.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied between 5 degrees below normal and 18 degrees above normal. The lowest temperature was 33 degrees on April 29. One tenth of an inch of rain was received. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Yakima (2nd Report): Tree crops in most of the Yakima Valley were entering the post bloom phase. There was

very little frost damage.

EASTERN

Adams: Temperatures went from above normal (70's), early in the week, to below normal with showers and blustery conditions over the weekend. Potato planting continued, and winter canola began to bolt. Asparagus harvest was underway, which was later than normal for many growers. Reductions in availability of irrigated pastures due to electricity buyouts, had some ranchers wondering where summer grazing would come from.

Adams (2nd Report): Warm weather, early in the week, was a great boost to the winter wheat growth and development. Weather conditions improved spring planted cereals, as most of the spring wheat and barley was emerged and looking fair.

Asotin: Winter wheat was in good condition and spring planting progressed. There continued to be interruptions due to showers, which added a little moisture.

Garfield: Spring planting continued, with some good days in between the showers. Winter wheat was in good condition and will continue to do good, if it continues to receive moisture when needed. Pasture and rangeland were beginning to look better due to a few warm days, but are still behind normal.

Lincoln: Warm weather was a nice "shot in the arm" for winter wheat. The weather was also favorable for spring cereal planting, as well as for spring cereals already planted.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The weather cooperated, for the most part, for fieldwork being done. The warm weather helped start crops that needed warm weather growing. The grass in the pastures and the hay fields were starting to grow. The winter wheat was starting to look pretty good. Moisture was received in parts of Spokane County several days during the week, with varying amounts between .25" to .60". Some hail was reported in the southern end of the county. Spring wheat and barley were

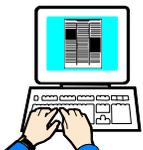
planted on approximately 35 percent of the acreage. Fieldwork will be slow this week, with the weekend rain, and more rain was forecast this week.

Stevens: The temperatures were warm for a few days last week. Late Friday night and through the weekend, welcomed moisture was received. Pasture and hay crops were beginning to grow.

Walla Walla: Temperatures were up to 84 degrees, early in the week, for Walla Walla and Dayton. More rain was received later in the week. A short, heavy, cloudburst with pea sized hail created runoff in some areas. The storm affected only a small area of Columbia and Walla Walla Counties, with a duration of approximately 15 minutes. The temperature was cooler over the weekend, with periods of rain.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Apples were in bloom. The rains abated by the end of the week. The second largest run of native steelhead since counts have been made for eight years, now peaked on the Walla River. Due to new competition for surface water in the basin between agriculture and fish, as a result of the Endangered Species Act, local agriculture was being challenged to be more sensitive to the ecology of the whole hydrological basin. Pea planting continued. Pea leaf weevils were active. The wheat crop appeared to be progressing favorably, after a somewhat mild, dry winter and a cool, wet spring. Grape pruning was complete.

Whitman: Good field conditions allowed spring planting to progress rapidly across the county. Spring crop emergence improved significantly with the warmer weather, as did pasture growth. Another welcomed rain came on Friday evening, and extended through the weekend, bringing fieldwork to a halt. Crop conditions were improving, but the expected cool and rainy weather for the upcoming week may delay further fieldwork in much of the county.



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WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

April 29, 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	45	71	54	5	28	17	0	0	0.62	0.00	4	20.96	-8.45	71	115
Everett	44	69	54	4	30	16	0	0	0.11	-0.46	3	18.39	-10.99	63	112
Hoquiam	44	67	53	3	22	8	0	0	1.65	0.76	5	35.39	-24.59	59	129
Kelso	43	79	56	5	42	24	7	7	0.12	-0.58	3	16.14	-23.39	41	103
Olympia	40	75	53	4	30	21	1	1	0.78	0.13	4	24.64	-20.24	55	113
Seattle-Tacoma	43	71	54	3	30	14	0	0	0.28	-0.19	4	18.72	-13.44	58	101
Shelton	40	77	54	3	29	8	3	3	1.41	0.65	5	33.85	-24.89	58	118
Tacoma	43	72	54	3	31	13	0	0	0.52	-0.04	4	19.96	-14.43	58	110
Vancouver	44	82	57	6	47	28	9	9	0.42	-0.14	4	19.02	-16.32	54	115
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	31	78	53	5	28	13	2	2	0.42	0.30	1	5.75	-1.47	80	59
Omak	33	81	55	7	41	27	3	3	0.21	-0.07	2	4.36	-6.05	42	49
Stampede Pass	28	66	44	9	12	12	0	0	1.30	0.30	4	42.35	-29.07	59	132
Wenatchee	38	79	58	5	60	27	14	9	0.03	-0.11	1	4.49	-2.05	69	55
Yakima AP	33	82	57	5	49	24	9	9	0.10	0.03	2	3.66	-2.78	57	50
NORTHEAST															
Colville	34	80	54	5	34	20	0	0	0.28	-0.07	2	9.34	-6.43	59	62
Deer Park	32	77	51	3	21	7	0	0	0.45	0.10	5	9.89	-4.18	70	87
Spokane AP	34	77	53	5	33	20	1	1	0.46	0.18	4	7.62	-4.81	61	77
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	34	80	57	3	48	12	8	2	0.23	0.14	3	4.07	-1.60	72	53
Moses Lake	34	80	57	4	49	13	6	0	0.17	0.08	3	5.53	-0.14	98	50
Quincy	35	79	58	6	57	26	10	5	0.14	0.04	2	4.71	-1.48	76	48
Ritzville	32	80	55	6	44	30	9	9	0.24	0.03	2	7.78	-1.15	87	66
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	37	83	61	4	77	23	26	17	0.20	0.13	2	4.82	-0.47	91	49
Pasco	41	85	61	6	80	33	18	11	0.24	0.11	2	6.75	0.78	113	59
Pullman	33	76	54	7	44	35	9	9	0.04	-0.31	2	10.98	-5.49	67	88
Walla Walla AP	38	80	59	5	64	27	17	10	0.30	-0.05	3	12.63	-2.89	81	77
Whitman Mission	35	84	60	7	69	39	18	18	0.56	0.31	4	11.18	0.51	105	81
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D' A' AP	34	77	53	4	37	22	4	4	0.63	0.22	3	10.71	-9.01	54	78
Lewiston ID	37	81	58	6	65	32	20	18	0.58	0.30	3	9.04	0.65	108	81

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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