

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending April 28, 2002

WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Winter Snow and Hail Storm Hit Western Washington Tuesday, April 23rd
Fruit Damage was Reported in Kittitas and Stevens Counties from Freezing Temperatures**

FIELD CROPS

Slow progression on eastern Washington crops resulted from below average temperatures for the majority of last week, no crop damage was reported. Spotty precipitation received across eastern Washington was welcomed by dryland crop producers. Sweet corn, radish seed, onion, dry edible bean, dry pea and processing green pea planting was in full swing. Potato planting was 55% complete and 25% emerged. Christmas tree growers were busy fertilizing and checking fields for Cooley spruce adelgid infestation. A winter storm hit Snohomish, King, Pierce and Jefferson Counties, no crop damage was reported.

LIVESTOCK

Eastern Washington range and pastures progressed slowly due to little precipitation and cool temperatures. Ranchers continued to turn cattle out on range pastures. Dairy producers were beginning to harvest green chop, while others continued to apply liquid manure to fields. Wool harvest was 75% complete in Grant County. Range and pasture conditions were 3% very poor, 10% poor, 55% fair and 32% good.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Below freezing temperatures harassed orchards this past week. Apple and pear damage was reported in Kittitas and Stevens Counties. Asian pear growers were troubled by freezing temperatures that may have damaged blossoms. Nurseries reported good sales of bedding plants. Vegetable planting was in full swing in most western Washington counties. Asparagus harvesting continued. Several tulip fields were still in full bloom.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
5.9	5.5

Soil Moisture and Supply				
Soil Type	% Acreage			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	10	87	3
Subsoil	0	12	87	1
Irrigation Water	0	0	100	0
Hay and Roughage	8	20	72	0

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

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2001	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	80	70	78	81
Spring Wheat Emerged	50	35	47	55
Barley Planted	65	50	66	72
Barley Emerged	35	18	28	39
Potatoes Planted	55	40	64	73
Potatoes Emerged	25	18	18	21
Corn Planted	29	16	22	35
Dry Peas Planted	39	24	43	39
Dry Edible Beans Planted	9	7	0	0
Proc. Green Peas Planted	35	25	25	66

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	3	36	48	12
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	95	5
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	0	68	32	0
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	95	5
Barley Dryland	0	0	70	30	0
Barley Irrigated	0	0	5	90	5

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: Ribbons of freshly tilled soil unfurled across the rural landscape of Grays Harbor County this past week, as ag producers raced to prepare fields for spring planting. The chartreuse color of newly emerged foliage, brown fields of tilled soil, tulip fields in full bloom, and emerald green of native conifers created a spectacular tapestry of color throughout the county. Asian pear orchardists worried that several nights of below freezing temperatures may have injured blossoms, resulting in reduced yields. Christmas tree growers continued fertilizer applications. Dairymen began the first harvest of “green chop.” Nurserymen reported strong sales of bedding plants.

Jefferson/Clallam: Winter weather on Tuesday, April 23, provided winds strong enough to shut down ferry service in Jefferson County. Fieldwork is several weeks behind normal because of the cold, rainy, windy weather received over the past few weeks. Grass and hay fields were growing rapidly, but Jefferson County’s grass silage was later than normal. The snowpack was 120 percent of normal for the Olympic Peninsula.

Pierce/South King: In South King County, snow was received on April 23. The temperature was down to a low of 28 degrees in some places, from

April 23-25. There were no reports of crop damage. Most vegetable growers finished planting but were about 2 weeks behind schedule.

Snohomish/North King: Winter returned briefly on Tuesday, April 23, with an inch of snow and/or hail in several areas. Spring weather was received the rest of the week and allowed fieldwork to continue; though it was several weeks behind schedule due to the recent heavy rains. Dairy farmers began the grass harvest. Mornings were still frosty and afternoon temperatures were about ten degrees below normal.

Thurston: Almost an entire week with no rain resulted in a flurry of activity, as agricultural producers focused on field cultivation. Christmas tree growers finished fertilizer applications and were surveying fields for cooley spruce adelgid infestations. Dairymen started forage harvest by making “green chop.” Organic truck gardeners began planting warm season vegetable crops on lighter soils.

Whatcom: Producers have started green chopping, which is about 2-3 weeks late. The nights were cool and the days were sunny.

CENTRAL

Benton: Frost continued to harass growers. Asparagus harvest was very slow because of cold weather. Irrigation and apple thinning were other agricultural activities.

Benton (2nd Report): The temperatures were cooler than normal this past week, dipping into the freezing zone. Much needed rain was received which was welcomed by dryland producers. No notice of crop losses were received.

Grant: Sweet corn planting was about 25 percent complete. Radish seed and onion planting was complete. Wool harvesting was 75 percent finished. Cattle were being turned onto rangeland.

Kittitas: Reports received from orchardists indicated that crop damage was apparent in apple and pear orchards. It was still too early to tell what the full damage assessment will be. Ground preparations were underway for sweet corn plantings. Most spring wheat planting was complete. New seeding hay stands were in good condition. The recent rain helped native ranges and pasture conditions.

Yakima: Average temperatures were colder than normal, ranging from 1 to 8 degrees below normal, with a low temperature of 24 degrees on April 24. Precipitation, in the amount of .58 inches was received. The low temperatures may have caused damage to fruit crops.

EASTERN

Adams: Cold weather conditions were slowing spring cereal emergence and development. An estimated 25 percent of the winter wheat was in good/excellent condition, with the majority being in fair condition. Precipitation received was enough to keep moisture levels at their current condition.

Lincoln: Precipitation last week was spotty, but helped improve topsoil moisture conditions. Spring cereal seeding was mostly complete by the end of the week. Winter wheat was mostly in fair condition and an estimated 25 percent of it was in good/excellent condition.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Planting of spring crops progressed. Winter wheat weed spraying continued. Cool temperatures contributed to slow plant growth, although crops looked good. Moisture conditions were adequate in most cases, but more is needed to offset last year's drought. Pastures were later than normal but have improved. Some livestock were still on feed.

Stevens: Low overnight temperatures inhibited pasture growth. The growth of hay crops has been

slow due to lack of moisture and cold temperatures.

Walla Walla: The evening temperatures were very cold, down to 27 degrees. Some crops were affected but it was thought to be of minimal consequence. Pastures and hay fields showed slow growth. The county needs more heat unit days to bring on a better emergence.

Whitman: Bitterly cold overnight and early morning temperatures hit mid-week, with temperatures reported in the teens. Fieldwork was not slowed by the cold, as tractors continued to roll. The southern half of the county saw enough measurable rain on the weekend to briefly bring work to a halt, but the remainder of the county could use some rain and warmer temperatures.

Whitman (2nd Report): Crop conditions continued to look generally good across the county. Pasture growth has been slow due to cool soil conditions, despite good soil moisture in the eastern half of the county.

WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS
April 29, 2002

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	31	60	46	-4	0	-10	0	0	0.27	-0.36	3	29.35	0.12	100	130	
Everett	36	60	47	-4	1	-13	0	0	0.38	-0.20	4	28.07	-1.13	96	137	
Hoquiam	34	61	46	-6	0	-14	0	0	0.27	-0.63	2	60.14	0.53	101	147	
Kelso	34	68	49	-3	3	-14	0	0	0.13	-0.58	3	37.68	-1.59	96	131	
Olympia	28	66	47	-3	0	-8	0	0	0.31	-0.35	2	54.71	10.12	123	139	
Seattle-Tacoma	34	62	48	-4	1	-14	0	0	0.69	0.21	3	34.87	2.90	109	125	
Shelton	29	65	46	-6	0	-21	0	0	0.63	-0.15	2	67.04	8.68	115	139	
Tacoma	30	63	46	-5	0	-17	0	0	0.66	0.09	2	27.03	-7.14	79	105	
Vancouver	36	71	50	-1	12	-6	0	0	0.42	-0.15	2	33.90	-1.21	97	128	
CENTRAL																
Ellensburg	22	65	46	-4	0	-14	0	0	0.25	0.12	1	6.12	-1.06	85	68	
Omak	19	69	48	-1	11	-2	0	0	0.00	-0.28	0	7.78	-2.56	75	59	
Stampede Pass	24	48	35	-2	0	0	0	0	1.07	0.06	4	68.65	-2.27	97	133	
Wenatchee	33	66	50	-4	10	-22	0	-4	0.51	0.37	1	4.73	-1.77	73	50	
Yakima AP	24	67	47	-6	0	-24	0	0	0.58	0.51	1	5.51	-0.90	86	50	
NORTHEAST																
Colville	24	67	48	-2	3	-11	0	0	0.08	-0.27	1	12.29	-3.38	78	68	
Deer Park	21	60	44	-5	0	-13	0	0	0.00	-0.35	0	18.41	4.43	132	99	
Spokane AP	21	61	44	-5	0	-12	0	0	0.00	-0.28	0	11.03	-1.32	89	89	
EAST CENTRAL																
Ephrata	28	66	49	-6	8	-26	0	-5	0.28	0.20	1	4.64	-0.99	82	50	
Moses Lake	25	65	48	-6	3	-31	0	-5	0.58	0.50	1	4.69	-0.94	83	53	
Quincy	29	66	48	-6	3	-27	0	-4	0.37	0.28	1	5.57	-0.57	91	50	
Ritzville	22	63	45	-5	1	-13	0	0	0.05	-0.16	1	8.53	-0.33	96	64	
SOUTHEAST																
Hanford	31	68	51	-6	15	-37	0	-8	0.30	0.23	2	4.80	-0.47	91	43	
Pasco	26	71	51	-6	14	-32	0	-7	0.12	0.00	1	4.11	-1.83	69	44	
Pullman	22	60	43	-5	0	-8	0	0	0.09	-0.26	1	14.94	-1.42	91	91	
Walla Walla AP	31	68	51	-4	14	-22	0	-7	0.30	-0.05	1	11.87	-3.56	77	85	
Whitman Mission	25	69	50	-4	14	-15	0	0	0.45	0.20	2	10.08	-0.52	95	77	
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE																
Coeur D'A'AP	21	61	45	-5	0	-14	0	0	0.01	-0.39	1	15.36	-4.22	78	97	
Lewiston ID	30	68	51	-3	19	-13	0	-3	0.25	-0.03	1	7.94	-0.40	95	78	

Summary based on NWS data.
 Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2001
 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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