



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service  
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507  
(360) 902-1940 Fax (360) 902-2091

# Washington Crop Weather

Released: April 5, 2004, 1:00 p.m.  
Week Ending: April 4, 2004  
CWP WA-CW1404

## Spring Wheat and Barley Plantings Two Weeks Ahead of Schedule Moisture Conditions Drier than Normal

### Field Crops

Planting began for most field crops in the East. Some barley and spring wheat plantings were almost two weeks ahead of schedule. Winter wheat is in fair to good condition. Douglas and Chelan Counties report possible snow mold and Garfield County reported some recent browning of winter wheat. Favorable weather conditions in the west allowed producers to begin tilling and planting. Most Christmas tree growers finished planting and applied herbicides and fertilizers. Forage and turfgrass fields have grown rapidly. Small amounts of spring alfalfa have been planted in Grant County. In Stevens County, hay producers continued fertilizing and harrowing fields.

### Livestock

In the eastern side of the state, some producers began their first harvest of green chop and dairies had their big guns pumping onto their fields. Cattle herds were moved to new spring grass and into the mountains. Due to lack of moisture, Western Washington pastures have just started to green. Range and pasture conditions were 6% poor, 31% fair, and 63% good

### Fruits and Vegetables

Berry producers in the west were busy preparing fields and taking measures to protect against frost. Commercial daffodil and tulip fields are blooming earlier than normal. Cold nights in Thurston County affected pollination for fruit trees in bloom. In the East, fruit trees were budding and soft fruit trees were in bloom. In Grant County, sweet corn and pea planting continued, seed radish crops emerged, apricot bloom finished, and peaches started to bloom.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.4
Last Week	N/A

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	2	30	67	1
Subsoil	18	19	63	0
Irrigation Water	0	0	100	0
Hay & Roughage	0	0	82	18

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

### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2003	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	55	N/A	36	31
Spring Wheat Emerged	20	N/A	7	7
Barley Planted	40	N/A	15	19
Barley Emerged	10	N/A	1	3
Potatoes Planted	1	N/A	14	14
Corn Planted	3	N/A	3	3
Proc. Green Peas Planted	35	N/A	1	2
Dry Peas Planted	1	N/A	1	4

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	6	47	40	5
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	88	12
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	0	76	24	0
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	88	12

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

**Clark:** Producers had been busy preparing berry fields for the growing season, tilling and planting corn and oats. There were sudden heavy rainstorms with hail in some areas of Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania and Wahkiakum counties over the last couple of weeks. Overall moisture conditions since the end of February were drier than normal, with warm temperatures and nice days.

**Grays Harbor:** Unseasonably warm temperatures during the week resulted in an earlier than normal profusion of blooms in commercial daffodil and tulip fields. Christmas tree growers were finishing up on planting and had begun to apply herbicides. Livestock producers had begun their first harvest of green chop for the year. Soils were finally beginning to dry out, but remained too wet for cultivation. Home gardeners were busy planting early vegetables.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis:** Forage production was ahead of schedule due to the warm, dry weather. Crop farmers were beginning spring tillage operations.

**San Juan:** Soil conditions were very good. Adequate moisture and increased temperatures created favorable conditions for cropland and pasture growth.

**Snohomish/N. King:** Spring sunshine mixed with a few showers brought lots of April flowers. The county

landscape came alive and was doing well with above average temperatures for a few days last week. The driest fields were worked in preparation for early spring crops. Dairies had the big guns pumping onto their fields. Several cattle herds were out on new spring grass.

**Thurston:** A week of dry, sunny weather had helped to dry out super saturated soils, although most fields remained too wet to do any cultivation. Several days of temperatures in the 70's resulted in rapid growth of both forage fields and turfgrass fields. Livestock producers were harvesting the first crop of green chop for the year. Unfortunately, the warm, sunny days were followed by frigid evening temperatures, resulting in frost in most areas. With many fruit trees in bloom, there was no question that pollination will be adversely impacted. Christmas tree growers continued applying herbicides and had begun to apply fertilizer to plantations.

**Whatcom:** Spring field work was starting. The weather was nice last week, with warm daytime temperatures and cool nighttime temperatures. Raspberry vines were greening along with blueberry bushes. Concerning the blueberries, some measures were taken to protect the bushes against frost damage. Grass silage looked good, may start to chop this following week.

## Central

**Benton:** The county remained very dry and irrigation had already begun. Farmers were busy planting spring wheat.

**Chelan/Douglas:** Winter wheat was looking good in some areas. Some producers were concerned about the possibility of snow mold damage. Dry conditions from last year and low subsoil moisture were still issues of concern. Fruit trees were budding and soft fruit trees were in bloom. It was still unknown if damage was experienced due to freezing temperatures last fall and this past winter.

**Grant:** Dryland conditions were extremely dry. Cropland looked good, however will deteriorate soon if rainfall is not received. There were extremely favorable planting conditions this past week.

**Grant (2nd Report):** A small amount of spring alfalfa was planted. Sweet corn and seed pea planting continued. Seed radish crops had emerged. Apricot bloom was complete and peaches were in bloom.

**Kittitas:** Fieldwork activities consisting of fertilizing, corrugating, and discing continued. Range and pasture conditions were in good shape. Irrigation water supplies looked favorable.

**Okanogan:** Weather conditions for the past week was really nice.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures varied from 3 degrees below normal to 11 degrees above normal, with .05 of an inch of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Dry weather continued. Spring barley and spring wheat were both 100 percent planted. No emergence for either occurred as it was too cold.

**Adams (2nd Report):** Crops were mostly in fair condition and moisture remained adequate to short supply.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Winter wheat was in fair to good condition. Warm, dry weather allowed wheat to grow and for farmers to proceed with planting ahead of normal schedule. Rain was needed in all areas as March had record dry conditions.

**Garfield:** Things looked better than they have in years. More moisture was needed for pastures to green up as some do not have much feed value to them. Cattle were moved into the mountains already. Spring wheat just started to be seeded. Some winter wheat kill as much as five to ten percent had been reported. Winter wheat that looked fine during the winter had browned up recently.

**Lincoln:** Spring planting was moving along and was about 40 percent complete. Winter wheat remained in

mostly fair condition and moisture was in adequate to short supply.

**Lincoln (2nd Report):** Spring seeding wrapped up in some areas, and was well underway in other parts. Some reseeded of winter wheat occurred, but the crop looked mostly in fair condition, although there were some fields that looked good. Rain was needed for all crops as well as for pasture.

**Stevens:** Producers continued tillage operations last week. Due to dry conditions, tractors were going across spots that normally would be too wet this time of year. Hay producers continued fertilizing and harrowing fields. Winter wheat appeared to have come through the winter in good condition.

**Whitman:** Favorable conditions moved spring work and the seeding of spring cereals along at a rapid pace. Spring work seemed to be running about two weeks ahead of normal.

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## Weekly Weather Statistics April 5, 2004

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		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	29	76	48	4	10	7	0	0	0.23	-0.40	2	23.98	-3.18	88	110
Everett	37	78	50	4	17	10	0	0	0.71	-0.03	2	23.19	-3.95	85	108
Hoquiam	30	71	49	3	16	9	0	0	0.24	-1.07	1	54.67	-1.58	97	134
Kelso	32	77	51	4	17	10	0	0	0.00	-0.91	0	27.24	-9.46	74	99
Olympia	26	79	48	4	11	9	0	0	0.06	-0.87	1	39.74	-2.38	94	124
Sea-Tac	37	78	52	5	21	14	4	4	0.07	-0.59	1	28.97	-1.25	96	107
Shelton	28	78	49	2	11	4	0	0	0.07	-1.14	1	55.79	0.46	101	126
Tacoma	28	75	50	4	21	14	0	0	0.07	-0.69	2	27.59	-4.48	86	111
Vancouver	31	75	52	5	26	19	0	0	0.30	-0.45	1	26.28	-6.76	80	115
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	29	72	51	8	16	14	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	5.53	-1.20	82	67
Omak	30	70	50	9	13	13	0	0	0.02	-0.20	1	6.66	-2.84	70	55
Stampede Pass	25	58	39	8	0	0	0	0	0.27	-1.13	2	61.05	-6.14	91	128
Wenatchee	34	70	52	5	21	12	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	7.15	1.13	119	59
Yakima AP	29	72	49	3	10	3	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	5.01	-1.01	83	53
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	28	73	50	7	8	2	0	0	0.00	-0.35	0	5.84	-8.67	40	49
Deer Park	24	69	48	7	11	8	0	0	0.09	-0.26	1	12.90	0.02	100	91
Spokane AP	28	69	48	7	14	9	0	0	0.11	-0.17	2	8.55	-2.90	75	80
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	35	70	51	5	17	9	0	0	0.01	-0.13	1	3.37	-1.93	64	49
Moses Lake	30	72	51	4	18	10	0	0	0.02	-0.12	1	3.67	-1.63	69	48
Quincy	33	71	52	6	22	15	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	3.43	-2.32	60	44
Ritzville	28	72	47	4	7	4	0	0	0.00	-0.21	0	7.23	-0.98	88	56
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	32	70	52	2	24	4	0	0	0.02	-0.10	1	4.50	-0.48	90	49
Pasco	29	74	51	1	18	0	0	0	0.13	-0.01	1	5.23	-0.39	93	59
Pullman	26	72	49	7	20	20	0	0	0.00	-0.42	0	12.06	-3.14	79	80
Whitman Miss.	26	78	48	0	10	-1	0	0	0.15	-0.13	1	12.04	2.32	124	81
<b>ID PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D'A' AP	27	72	48	6	15	12	0	0	0.12	-0.30	1	7.77	-10.52	42	71
Lewiston ID	32	78	53	7	39	26	4	4	0.13	-0.10	2	5.67	-1.77	76	59

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2003

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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