

OREGON CROP WEATHER



**NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE**

USDA, NASS, Oregon Field Office

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Weather: The weather was again cool and wet this past week. High temperatures ranged from 55 degrees at the Crescent City, North Bend, and Joseph stations, up to 66 degrees in The Dalles, Redmond, and Rome. Low temperatures ranged from 14 degrees in Christmas Valley, up to 38 degrees in Crescent City. Precipitation was reported at all stations that had positive data, with the Coastal Area stations averaging over an inch. The largest accumulation was reported at Florence, with 1.55 inches. Baker City reported the smallest accumulation, with 0.04 inches.

Field Crops: Cold and damp weather in Western Oregon has slowed field work for most growers. Grass for seed was growing rapidly and some grass for hay was showing an early heading. Alfalfa will be ready for a first cutting in early May. In Eastern Oregon, field activities were in swing for most of the week. Due to the high cost of nitrogen fertilizer, growers will need the price of hay to stay high to cover production costs. Recent showers provided moisture to winter wheat in Sherman County, where the wheat is eight inches high. Spring seeding of wheat, barley, and grass crops continued. Alfalfa was putting on good growth but there were no signs of buds

Vegetables: Vegetable seeding in Douglas County was slowed by cool, damp weather. Producers were hoping for warmer weather in the next week to finish. Onion planting was almost complete in Eastern Oregon, however some growers had frost and wind damage to the crop and were replanting. Rhubarb plants were nearing harvest in Wasco County. Early vegetables such as carrots, radishes, leeks, and lettuce were available at Farmer's Markets.

Fruits and Nuts: Final filbert eastern blight sprays were being applied to many hazelnut orchards in the Willamette Valley. Walnuts were starting to leaf out while filberts had already leafed in Washington County. Apples were in late bloom and were doing well so far. Cherries were nearing the end of their bloom. Many varieties were in the pink stage while some earlier varieties were still in full bloom. Raspberries were leafing and strawberries were budding. Wasco County reported that strawberry plants were about ten percent in bloom by the week's end. Grapevines had new shoots about three inches long, and powdery mildew control was starting up. At week's end, crop development in the lower Hood River Valley was as follows: d'Anjou pear at post bloom (WSU stage 8); Red Delicious apple at first bloom to full bloom (WSU stages 7 & 8); Bing cherry at post bloom (WSU stage 9); Pinot noir grapes at wool stage to bud burst (Eichhorn-Lorenz stages 3 & 5).

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Nurseries were very busy selling truck loads of bare root plants, balled and burlap trees, and containers to local retail outlets and eastern USA outlets. Planting of some new trees and shrubs was ongoing. Greenhouses were moving bedding plants and vegetable starts to local retail nurseries. Community plant sales were underway with at least 5 or 6 each weekend in the Portland area.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Most pastures looked good. However, there was some slight damage due to extended wintry conditions. As temperatures rise and flooded fields begin to dry, cattle are being turned out onto the improved pastures. A few late heifers were calving and a number of cattle operations were branding and vaccinating late calves. Sheep sheering was in progress.

Soil Moisture-Week Ending 04/22/07

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	2	6	62	30
Subsoil	4	8	72	16

Crop Progress-Week Ending 04/22/07

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5 year average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Barley planted	90	80	52	71
Barley emerged	75	60	37	49
Spring wheat planted	91	83	65	83
Spring wheat emerged	57	47	31	56
Days suitable for fieldwork	4.5	4.7	5.2	-

Crop Condition-Week Ending 04/22/07

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter wheat	0	0	8	82	10
Barley	0	0	12	83	5
Range and pasture	0	9	30	52	9

WESTERN OREGON

COLUMBIA: We still have very cold, wet soils and are waiting for a string of warmer days.

COOS/CURRY: Temperatures were near average for the week in Coos, but the high temperature in Curry was over 11 degrees below the 5-year average for the week. Six days of precipitation throughout the week with the heaviest on Thursday and Friday. We received 1.3 inches of rain this week in the two events. Pastures are growing, but slowly as daytime temperatures stay fairly low. The ground is mostly saturated except in the best drained sites. Many are still wet, with standing water in many bottom land pastures. Bandon (Coos & Northern Curry): Low temperature for the period was 37.36 degrees, 1.12 degrees below the 5-year average. High temperature for the period was 58.09 degrees, 0.67 degrees above the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 0.9 inches, compared to a 5-year (including drought years 2002-2004) average of 1.3 inches. Precipitation for current weather year stands at 51.78 inches, 2.03 inches above the 5 year average. Historical average precipitation through April is 52.85 inches. Brookings (Southern Curry) Low temperature for the period was 39.93 degrees, 1.28 degrees below the 5-year average. High temperature for the period was 54.65 degrees, 11.39 degrees below the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 2.61 inches (over an inch on Friday) compared to a 5-year average (including drought years 2002-2004) of 1.36 inches. Current weather year precipitation stands at 72.19 inches, 0.34 inches above the 5 year average. Historical average precipitation through April is 64.54 inches.

DOUGLAS: A cold and damp week has slowed crop progress for most perennial crops. Grapevines have new shoots about 3 inches long and powdery mildew control is starting up. All stone fruit has finished flowering and have set fruit. Most stone fruit crops look good so far. Brown rot and leaf spot fungicides have gone on stone fruit. Pear set is very good. Apples are in late bloom and are doing well so far. Pollination has gone well in our area with no major bee colony losses to report. Vegetable seeding has been slowed by cool damp weather. Next week will warm up and most producers will get vegetable seedings in. Nursery crops reported to be in good shape.

LANE: Plums are done blooming while some varieties are still blooming late. Pears are nearing the end and have experienced some frost hits. Asian pears may have had some frost damage, but only time will tell. Cherries are nearing the end of their bloom. Many varieties are in the pink stage while some early varieties are still in full bloom. Carrots, radishes, leeks, and lettuce are being sold at farmer's markets. More farmer's markets started up again this past weekend. Most fields are still not plowed due to wet weather. Greenhouse and nursery crops are off and running and greenhouse sales are doing well.

LINCOLN: Pasture is looking good but does not have same luster like past years due to the prolonged cold and moisture.

LINN: The weather has been on the wet side this past week making it hard for the farmers to get much field work done. The strawberry crops are starting to bloom and leaves are appearing on the vines of grapes and other various cane crops.

POLK: Weather has been a little cooler than normal. Rainfall is beginning to pick back up. Grass seed is looking good. Clover has had issues with root borer.

WASHINGTON: Grass for seed is growing rapidly, wheat has been sprayed for weed control, and some grass for hay is showing an early heading. Clovers are growing well and alfalfa will be ready for a first cutting in early May. Raspberries are leafing and strawberries are budding. Walnuts are starting to leaf out while filberts have already leafed. Hot house plants and vegetables are doing well. Nurseries are selling truck loads of bare root, balled, and burlap trees. Planting of some trees and shrubs is ongoing. Pastures are wet and growth, after grazing, is slow. Low temperature of 31 degrees with a high of 66 degrees. Rain totaled 1.3 inches while the humidity high was 76 percent and low was 48 percent.

YAMHILL: Hail on Tuesday. Cooler than normal weather may keep bees from working. Final bloom sprays are being applied to cherries. Final Eastern filbert blight sprays are being applied to many hazelnut orchards.

EASTERN OREGON

BAKER/UMATILLA: Cattle are being turned out onto the spring range. Fields are being prepped for planting. The Baker area has seen a few showers over the past week. Temperatures have been down near freezing some nights.

CROOK: Nitrogen fertilizer prices could have an effect on grass hay production this coming year. Price of hay has been up and will need to stay up, to pay for much higher fertilizer prices this year than last year. Cost of producing hard red spring wheat will be up as well with higher nitrogen prices. There will be some new small grape vineyard plantings going in this spring. Central Oregon had a good rain on Saturday until Sunday morning. Fields are greening up. Still had some good frosts during the week. Many of the crops have greened up and emergence dates are up for BOR Agri-met weather stations at Madras, Powell Butte, and Bend for better irrigation monitoring and scheduling purposes.

GILLIAM: Drier conditions allowed spring grain seeding to resume at higher elevations. Freezing temperatures in the early morning are slowing spring grain germination and growth due to cool soil temperatures at higher elevations.

HARNEY: Moisture has been sufficient, but cool temperatures have limited grass growth.

HOOD RIVER: Unsettled weather prevailed during the week with several days of cool temperatures and rain showers with a couple of warmer, drier days. Clear skies and cold temperatures required frost protection on two nights. At week's end, crop development in the lower Hood River Valley was as follows: d'Anjou pear at post bloom (WSU stage 8); Red Delicious apple at first bloom to full bloom (WSU stages 7 & 8); Bing cherry at post bloom (WSU stage 9); Pinot noir grapes at wool stage to bud burst (Eichhorn-Lorenz stages 3 & 5).

JEFFERSON: Cool conditions have persisted. Most crop development is behind "normal" for mid-April.

LAKE: Received precipitation during the week and over the weekend in the form of rain and snow. Colder temperatures are affecting the growth of the pastures.

MALHEUR: Sugarbeet and onion planting is almost done. Growers have been busy re-planting sugarbeets and onions lost to frost and wind damage. Widely scattered showers early in the week brought rain from 0.15 inches to 0.35 inches. The high and low temperatures have been cooler than normal early in the week, but more normal at the end of the week. A couple of good rain showers over the weekend helped the crop outlook considerably. The Jordan Valley area south to the Nevada line received about seven inches of snow. This will help the range water situation. However, cold temperatures have knocked the growth of range grass down. Field work, planting, and irrigating continues.

SHERMAN: Recent showers provided a needed drink for wheat. Winter wheat is 8 inches high and green. Hoping for some more rain to keep it that way. Spring tillage is in full swing with increased acres directed to chemical fallow rather than conventional tillage methods.

WALLOWA: Good moisture received this week but we still need more. Crops so far are doing okay. Some producers are commenting on lack of water in their ponds. April showers are still needed.

WASCO: Windy spring weather occurred most of the past week. This has been a very cold spring with numerous frost events and cool pollination weather. A few showers were reported in the early and later parts of the week. Field activities were in full swing for most of the week, including moldboard plowing, field cultivation, and weed spraying. Spring seeding continued for spring wheat, barley, and grass crops. Sweet cherry bloom is complete for the majority of varieties and locations in Wasco County. Cherry orchards in The Dalles area are in full bloom, while the eight mile and Dufur valley are just getting underway. A few frost fans were operated several nights early in the week. Developing new variety orchards continued along with planting new trees and putting in more efficient irrigation systems. Alfalfa crops are putting on good growth, but no buds yet. Strawberry plants are about 10 percent in bloom by week's end, and rhubarb plants are nearing harvest. Beef cattle are doing well on improving pastures. A few late heifers are still calving and sheep shearing is in progress. A number of cattle operations are branding and vaccinating new crop calves.

Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: April 22, 2007 (as of 11:00 am) ¹

Station	Air temperature ²				Growing degree days ³		Last week precip. ⁴			Season cum. precipitation ⁵			
	Low	High	Avg.	DFN ⁶	Total	DFN ⁶	Total inches	DFN ⁶	Days ⁷	Total inches	DFN ⁶	Pct. normal	Days ⁷
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria/Clatsop	32	56	46	-3	-	-7	1.35	0.34	6	65.65	8.16	114	141
Bandon ⁸	37	58	49	-1	4	-9	0.90	-0.02	6	52.55	0.21	100	135
Crescent City	38	55	47	-5	-	-23	1.37	0.43	5	55.31	-3.35	94	102
Florence	33	59	46	-4	1	-13	1.55	0.42	6	79.34	12.40	119	124
North Bend	37	55	48	-3	1	-13	1.05	0.06	6	57.19	0.78	101	115
Tillamook	32	57	48	+0	1	-6	0.95	-0.34	5	50.30	-26.00	66	135
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Aurora ⁸	32	62	47	-4	3	-16	0.72	0.11	4	38.90	3.98	111	125
Corvallis	31	62	46	-5	-	-16	0.70	0.15	5	43.53	5.96	116	122
Detroit Lake ⁸	30	59	43	-2	-	-7	1.44	0.50	5	81.33	22.47	138	140
Eugene	31	62	46	-5	-	-21	0.71	0.05	5	36.49	-7.04	84	109
Hillsboro	32	62	46	-5	1	-17	0.75	0.31	6	32.22	-0.26	99	119
McMinnville	33	63	47	-4	2	-19	0.71	0.19	5	33.61	-4.89	87	120
Portland	35	62	48	-4	4	-18	0.74	0.21	6	31.03	0.55	102	126
Salem	32	62	47	-4	2	-12	0.86	0.35	5	37.51	3.45	110	110
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	34	65	47	-7	1	-34	0.66	0.29	5	27.91	-0.33	99	87
Medford	32	63	47	-6	1	-28	0.55	0.27	5	16.52	0.26	102	84
Roseburg	36	62	48	-5	4	-24	0.84	0.35	4	28.97	0.10	100	98
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	27	64	44	-1	1	-6	0.31	0.03	2	11.61	1.27	112	84
Echo ⁸	29	65	50	-3	6	-24	0.23	0.09	4	7.40	0.32	105	82
Heppler	30	65	46	-4	2	-16	0.50	0.22	2	10.90	0.73	107	91
Hermiston	27	65	50	-3	8	-22	0.27	0.13	2	6.81	-0.27	96	76
Madras ⁸	26	62	43	-5	-	-19	0.20	0.06	5	5.35	-2.38	69	71
Moro	26	58	44	-4	-	-13	0.22	0.05	3	10.16	1.34	115	72
Parkdale ⁸	23	59	42	-9	-	-21	0.37	0.02	5	33.30	5.30	119	93
Pendleton	30	62	47	-5	-	-25	0.27	0.06	3	8.50	-0.77	92	79
Prairie City ⁸	26	62	43	-5	-	-19	0.20	0.06	5	5.35	-2.38	69	71
The Dalles	34	66	50	+3	11	-3	0.21	0.05	1	12.11	1.83	118	70
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Agency Lake ⁸	29	59	39	-4	-	-7	0.70	0.50	4	13.93	0.86	107	88
Bend	23	65	40	-5	-	-8	0.34	0.20	2	8.68	-0.16	98	62
Burns	18	62	39	-5	-	-7	0.43	0.29	2	7.34	0.42	106	71
Christmas Valley ⁸	14	65	36	-10	-	-14	0.10	-0.04	2	4.18	-4.92	46	61
Klamath Falls	20	63	38	-8	-	-13	0.17	0.03	4	8.72	-2.11	81	66
Klamath Falls ⁸	20	62	38	-8	-	-13	0.20	0.06	6	9.81	-0.74	93	83
Lakeview	21	61	37	-8	-	-7	0.13	-0.15	1	3.10	-8.72	26	42
Lorella ⁸	20	65	38	-8	-	-13	0.27	0.13	4	8.57	-2.26	79	78
Redmond	19	66	42	-3	-	-9	-	-0.12	-	4.03	-1.94	68	47
Worden ⁸	21	65	38	-7	-	-13	0.09	-0.05	4	7.22	-3.61	67	86
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	17	62	40	-7	-	-10	0.04	-0.17	2	3.71	-2.76	57	67
Joseph	25	55	37	-5	-	-7	0.62	0.20	4	10.65	-8.01	57	87
La Grande	28	61	44	-4	-	-14	0.30	-0.02	2	5.78	-6.73	46	60
Union	27	63	44	-4	1	-13	0.28	0.00	4	7.36	-1.31	85	73
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	28	64	46	-7	1	-31	0.24	0.10	2	4.65	-2.78	63	58
Rome	17	66	41	-8	-	-17	0.42	0.28	3	2.47	-2.76	47	53

¹ Summary based on NWS data. Copyright 2007: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

² Air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

³ Growing degree days base-50 degrees Fahrenheit.

⁴ Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

⁵ Season cumulative precipitation starts September 1, 2006.

⁶ DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-1990 normals period).

⁷ Precipitation days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

⁸ Agri-Met weather stations.