

# OREGON CROP WEATHER



**NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE**

USDA, NASS, Oregon Field Office

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**Weather:** Conditions were generally cold and wet last week with night time temperatures dropping to below freezing in many areas of the State. High temperatures ranged from 70 degrees in Grants Pass to 49 degrees in Joseph. Low temperatures ranged from 34 degrees in Crescent City to 6 degrees in Christmas Valley. The Detroit Lake station received the most precipitation with 1.81 inches, followed by 1.25 inches received in Florence. Thirty-four of the forty-three stations received precipitation with only five receiving more than one inch. All stations reported cooler than normal temperatures and most reported wetter than average precipitation levels last week.

**Field Crops:** Spring planting has begun across most of the State, but has been slow due to wet conditions. Crops already in the ground, especially small grains and grasses, can benefit from warmer, dry weather. Minimal winter kill to fall planted crops was reported. Some frost damage to winter wheat was reported in north central areas. Winter wheat fields in lower elevations seem to be doing better than those in higher elevations due to colder spring temperatures.

**Vegetables:** Farmer's Markets have started up the beginning of their season this past week throughout the Willamette Valley. Some early spring planting was done, weather permitting, consisting of some onions, peas, and early cabbage. For the most part, it has been too wet and cold to get much outside work done. Root-to-seed carrots were still being planted in Jefferson County.

**Fruits and Nuts:** Recent cool, wet weather in conjunction with hail and frost has slowed tree fruit and nut development in many areas. It is a little early to know how much damage has been done, if any. Frost protection was used on fruit trees throughout Wasco County. The fruit most likely to be affected in the Willamette Valley would be cherries, plums, and peaches. Douglas County pears, apples, grapes, and cherries were all in pre-bloom stages so damage does not seem likely. Crop development in the lower Hood River Valley was as follows: d'Anjou pear at first white to full white (WSU stages 4 & 5); Red Delicious apple at half-inch green (WSU stage 3); Bing cherry at green tip to tight cluster (WSU stages 3 & 4); Pinot noir grapes at Eichhorn-Lorenz stages 1 & 2.

**Nurseries and Greenhouses:** Most nurseries and greenhouses were getting a good start for the season. Some areas did report the need for frost protection during the week. Activities included preparing special flower stands, balling and burlapping small shrubs for shipping, and fertilizing and pruning evergreen plants and trees.

**Livestock, Range and Pasture:** Supplemental feeding of livestock continued throughout the State. There was slow grass growth due to cooler than normal temperatures. Some cattle were being moved to spring pastures in Jackson County, which also reported a good crop of calves and lambs this spring.

**Soil Moisture-Week Ending 04/06/08**

	<b>Very short</b>	<b>Short</b>	<b>Adequate</b>	<b>Surplus</b>
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	0	10	55	35
Subsoil	0	16	50	34

**Crop Progress-Week Ending 04/06/08**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>This week</b>	<b>Last week</b>	<b>Last year</b>	<b>5 year average</b>
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Barley planted	75	-	50	47
Barley emerged	37	-	38	26
Spring wheat planted	76	-	64	59
Spring wheat emerged	36	-	28	24
Days suitable for fieldwork	4.7	2.0	5.3	5.0

**Crop Condition-Week Ending 04/06/08**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>Very poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter wheat	0	7	60	30	3
Range and pasture	4	18	38	30	10

## WESTERN OREGON

**BENTON/LINN/LANE:** Voles are proving to be a challenge again in Lane County this spring. Plums and peaches were blooming and cherries were beginning to bud. Time will tell if there was any damage to these crops from the hail and cold weather from previous weeks. Blueberry buds were beginning to swell. Farmers markets began last weekend. Most greenhouses were getting a good start for the season.

**CLACKAMAS:** We had nice bright days last week, but conditions were cold at night with subsequent frosty mornings. It turned wet and cold again by Friday with rain and hail over the weekend. Pastures were growing slowly.

**COOS/CURRY:** Temperatures remained unseasonably cool early in the week, but warmed up to near normal by the end of the week. Precipitation fell late in the week with .1 inches on Friday and up to .2 inches on Sunday in Brookings. Pastures remain wet, although they are beginning to grow a little as the days get longer. We are considerably behind "average" forage production for this time of year because of the unseasonably cool spring weather. Curry County: The low temperature for the period was 37.89 degrees, 1.17 degrees below the 5-year average. The high temperature for the period was 62.17 degrees, 0.6 degrees above the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 0.47 inches, compared to a 5-year (including drought years 2003-2004) average of 2.24 inches. Precipitation for Current weather year precipitation (began 10/07) stands at 59.99 inches, 8.63 inches below the 5 year average. Historical average precipitation through March is 61.13 inches.

**DOUGLAS:** Last week was dry with a lot of sunshine to help dry out the soil surface a little. Grape growers and orchardists were able to spray fungicides and oil for pest control. With the drier weather pattern, we had clear skies and many frosty freezing mornings. These cold mornings reached 26-28 degrees in some areas causing some concern for plum and peach crops that were blooming. We will see some fruit and flowers drop, but at this time it is early to have a good estimate. Pear, apple, grapes, and cherries were all at the pre-bloom stage and damage does not seem likely.

**JACKSON:** This week had some sunny days, and warmer temperature, but cooled off on the weekend. Days were mostly mid 60 degrees for daytime temperatures, and low 30 degrees at night. A lot of ground preparation was being done last week on

ground that was very rough. Grain crops that were planted are off to a good start. Clover crops were showing fair growth. Hay crops were looking fair but in need of some more sun. Peaches and apricots were blooming and should be ok, even with some cold nights. Nursery and greenhouses had to do some frost protecting last week. Some early spring planting was done, as weather permitted; mostly onions, some peas, and early cabbage, but for the most part it has been too wet and cold. Greenhouses were very busy getting out special flower stands and getting some lightings shorts cut. Nurseries were busy cutting bare root stock and balling burlapping trees and shrubs. Some cattle were being put on spring pasture, but some were still getting supplemental feed. It looks like a good spring crop of calves, and baby lambs.

**MARION:** Last week went from beautiful days to blustery spring weather. There was wind, rain, hail, snow and sunshine on some days and during mid-week there were three very nice sunny days with high temperatures reaching as high as 65 degrees. Fertilizing and spraying commenced when weather permitted. Grass seed fields were getting their last applications of fertilizer. Soil was being tilled and prepared for spring and summer crops as soil conditions allowed. A lot more wheat is being planted this year.

**TILLAMOOK:** Last week was wet and cold. We need warmer temperatures for good grass growth. We received snow on March 28, 29, and 31st. Freezing temperatures at the end of March and the first few days of April.

**WASHINGTON:** The low temperature last week was 28 degrees and the high was 61 degrees. Humidity was 60-70 percent. Winter wheat was being fertilized, red clover was growing rapidly, and alfalfa was looking about average. Cuttings dropped from filberts, pruning debris removed. Nurseries were balling and burlapping small shrubs for shipping, and fertilizing and pruning evergreen plants and trees. Supplemental feeding continued on livestock.

**YAMHILL:** Last weeks freezing nights have caused some reports of possible damage to fruit buds on stone fruits especially in the northern portions of the County. Below freezing temperatures occurred overnight in the Willamette Valley and there was some scattered hail. Some peach blooms in some orchards were damaged by hail. The overall cool weather has slowed the development of tree fruit and nuts in the Valley.

## EASTERN OREGON

**BAKER/UNION:** Spring planting got underway as fields dried out. The cold weather continued. Hay was in short supply.

**HOOD RIVER:** Conditions were cool and wet at the beginning and end of the week with mid-week skies clear and dry. Temperatures were in the 20's and required frost protection on three nights mid-week. At week's end, crop development in the lower Hood River Valley was as follows: d'Anjou pear at first white to full white (WSU stages 4 & 5); Red Delicious apple at half-inch green (WSU stage 3); Bing cherry at green tip to tight cluster (WSU stages 3 & 4); Pinot noir grapes at Eichhorn-Lorenz stages 1 & 2.

**JEFFERSON:** Root-to-seed carrots were still being planted. Kentucky bluegrass was a little moisture stressed. Cold nights have kept most things from growing much. Peppermint had started to re-grow but frost injured new growth.

**KLAMATH:** Cold spring temperatures continued. There were some light scattered rain showers. Pasture growth has been slow. Some spring field work began, but fields still have a lot of moisture. Limited reports were received of winter kill to fall planted crops due to standing water during the winter. Spring small grain planting has been on the late side. There has not been as much of an increase in wheat acreage seen as in the Willamette Valley.

**LAKE:** Cooler evening and morning temperatures were preventing very much plant growth. Several areas had significant amounts of snow left.

**MALHEUR:** Planting resumed last week for some and started for others. Some fields were still not dry enough. Most winter wheat fields were looking good. Forecasted rainy weather did not materialize in most areas and conditions remained cold. Despite sufficient moisture, grass growth has been delayed due to below normal temperatures. As a result, cattle were not turned out yet last week.

**MORROW:** The condition of winter wheat was "fair" due to poor seeding conditions last fall and unseasonably cool temperatures in March. Night time temperatures have consistently dipped below the freezing mark and the growth and development

of young wheat plants, which are now at the 1-to-2 tiller stage of growth, have been hampered. Emergence of spring-planted grains has been slow and much of the wheat and barley that was planted two-to-three weeks ago is still below ground level. Testing for soil moisture showed that over-winter recharge was very limited, and most fields had about three inches of plant-available water in the soil profile. Yield potential of the crop is currently less than our long term average (40 bu/acre) and can only be improved by substantial (and timely) rains this spring. Colder than normal temperatures for this time of year, in addition to marginal spring rains, have resulted in below average grass production for cattle. Spring field work was winding down for non-irrigated areas.

**SHERMAN:** Other than being very cold (14 degrees in south County), a few mornings and spray rigs freezing up, it was a good week for field work. Later seeded fall wheat was only in fair condition. A good rain and sun would help all the crops considerably. Warmer weather last week really helped wheat growth but cold nighttime temperatures frosted the tips of bigger wheat. Wheat condition was also dependent upon soil profile. Wheat growing in deeper soils was much healthier than that growing in shallow ones. South facing slopes were also looking much better than north facing ones (north facing slopes needed more warm sunshine), and lower elevation wheat was in better conditions than higher elevation wheat.

**UMATILLA:** Recent cool weather has brought precipitation to the area. Overnight light frost has kept soil temperatures cool and out of the optimal range for crop emergence. This has also kept area producers from planting and spraying crops. Low temperatures and over night frost has also held off the planting of peas. Periods of light rain have been followed by light to moderate dry wind which has a "wick-effect" pulling moisture off of the ground. An earlier window of favorable weather followed by more cool weather will result in both early and late spring wheat plantings.

**WALLOWA:** Snowpack is 100% of normal.

**WASCO:** Nights were very cold the past 10 nights. Fruit trees suffered some damage as frost protection was used through out the County.

**Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: April 6, 2008 (as of 11:00 am) <sup>1</sup>**

Station	Air temperature <sup>2</sup>				Growing degree days <sup>3</sup>		Last week precip. <sup>4</sup>			Season cum. precipitation <sup>5</sup>			
	Low	High	Avg.	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Total	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Total inches	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Days <sup>7</sup>	Total inches	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Pct. normal	Days <sup>7</sup>
<b>COASTAL AREAS</b>													
Astoria/Clatsop	29	52	42	-6	-	-7	1.12	-0.16	4	51.55	-3.63	93	141
Bandon <sup>8</sup>	31	54	44	-5	-	-7	0.68	-0.60	4	48.08	-2.11	96	143
Crescent City	34	55	46	-4	-	-21	0.19	-1.24	2	41.46	-14.96	73	97
Florence	28	58	43	-6	-	-7	1.25	-0.31	3	73.93	9.62	115	127
North Bend	28	55	44	-5	-	-7	1.05	-0.30	4	51.23	-2.87	95	119
Tillamook	27	55	43	-4	-	-7	1.08	-0.66	4	47.75	-25.56	65	135
<b>WILLAMETTE VALLEY</b>													
Aurora <sup>8</sup>	28	62	44	-4	-	-11	0.59	-0.15	4	36.92	3.37	110	128
Corvallis	27	63	43	-5	-	-10	0.49	-0.25	3	39.09	2.78	108	127
Detroit Lake <sup>8</sup>	25	62	41	-1	-	-1	1.81	0.57	4	74.39	17.69	131	135
Eugene	27	62	44	-6	-	-14	0.26	-0.65	3	32.06	-9.93	76	107
Hillsboro	25	61	43	-6	-	-11	0.36	-0.28	4	27.76	-3.68	88	109
McMinnville	27	62	44	-6	-	-13	0.31	-0.46	4	30.47	-6.80	82	119
Portland	31	62	46	-4	-	-14	0.29	-0.35	4	27.78	-1.51	95	120
Salem	27	61	44	-5	-	-8	0.25	-0.43	3	33.03	0.15	100	109
<b>SW VALLEYS</b>													
Grants Pass	23	70	44	-8	1	-21	0.07	-0.47	2	25.43	-1.93	93	100
Medford	23	69	45	-5	1	-18	0.01	-0.31	1	14.38	-1.27	92	84
Roseburg	28	68	46	-5	-	-20	0.15	-0.49	4	28.87	1.12	104	110
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>													
Condon	19	61	36	-7	-	-4	0.03	-0.25	1	9.03	-0.70	93	76
Echo <sup>8</sup>	22	65	43	-7	-	-16	0.05	-0.16	2	6.71	-0.03	100	82
Heppner	20	62	39	-8	-	-8	0.07	-0.28	3	9.62	0.06	101	86
Hermiston	16	65	43	-7	-	-16	-	-0.21	-	6.53	-0.21	97	65
Madras <sup>8</sup>	16	64	37	-8	-	-11	0.01	-0.20	1	5.47	-1.92	74	72
Moro	20	61	38	-7	-	-7	0.02	-0.19	2	8.01	-0.40	95	66
Parkdale <sup>8</sup>	23	61	39	-9	-	-12	0.10	-0.37	2	19.33	-7.85	71	83
Pendleton	24	62	42	-7	-	-13	0.06	-0.22	2	8.17	-0.58	93	72
Prairie City <sup>8</sup>	16	64	37	-8	-	-11	0.01	-0.20	1	5.47	-1.92	74	72
The Dalles	25	65	45	-2	-	-7	0.08	-0.13	1	11.92	2.04	121	71
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>													
Agency Lake <sup>8</sup>	14	56	36	-4	-	-1	-	-0.26	-	10.16	-2.48	80	78
Bend	15	61	35	-7	-	-7	-	-0.14	-	11.49	2.95	135	65
Burns	12	58	34	-7	-	-6	0.03	-0.15	1	7.03	0.41	106	79
Christmas Valley <sup>8</sup>	6	63	32	-11	-	-7	-	-0.20	-	3.86	-4.93	44	54
Klamath Falls	12	61	36	-6	-	-7	-	-0.21	-	7.44	-3.02	71	66
Klamath Falls <sup>8</sup>	15	62	38	-5	-	-7	0.01	-0.20	1	8.08	-2.38	77	88
Lakeview	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lorella <sup>8</sup>	14	61	36	-6	-	-7	0.02	-0.19	1	6.76	-3.70	65	89
Redmond	10	63	35	-8	-	-7	0.02	-0.12	2	1.56	-4.13	27	29
Worden <sup>8</sup>	16	61	38	-5	-	-7	-	-0.21	-	6.75	-3.71	65	85
<b>NORTHEAST</b>													
Baker City	16	57	35	-8	-	-7	0.02	-0.17	1	5.99	-0.09	99	79
Joseph	21	49	32	-7	-	+0	0.18	-0.24	3	12.38	-5.38	70	88
La Grande	19	57	39	-5	-	-7	0.02	-0.33	1	8.48	-3.32	72	70
Union	21	60	38	-7	-	-7	0.02	-0.26	1	6.92	-1.16	86	70
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>													
Ontario	19	59	40	-9	-	-16	-	-0.17	-	5.13	-2.00	72	57
Rome	12	60	37	-8	-	-7	-	-0.20	-	5.85	0.92	119	64

<sup>1</sup> Summary based on NWS data. Copyright 2008: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

<sup>2</sup> Air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

<sup>3</sup> Growing degree days base-50 degrees Fahrenheit.

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

<sup>5</sup> Season cumulative precipitation starts September 1, 2007.

<sup>6</sup> DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-1990 normals period).

<sup>7</sup> Precipitation days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

<sup>8</sup> Agri-Met weather stations.