

OREGON CROP WEATHER



**NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE**

USDA, NASS, Oregon Field Office

Released: April 21, 2008
Week ending: April 20, 2008
Volume: 03-08

Phone: 503-326-2131
Toll Free: 1-800-338-2157
Email: nass-or@nass.usda.gov
Internet: www.nass.usda.gov/or

Weather: Conditions cooled down dramatically after the warm front from the previous week moved out, and by week's end, temperatures dropped to below freezing with snow flurries reported in some of the State. High temperatures ranged from 79 degrees in Heppner to 53 degrees in Parkdale and Astoria. Low temperatures ranged from 35 degrees in Crescent City and Portland to 10 degrees in Christmas Valley. The Florence station again received the most precipitation with 1.24 inches followed by Detroit Lake with 1.19 inches. Eight of the forty-three stations did not receive any measurable precipitation with many reporting only a trace. Despite the cool, wet weather, most stations reported lower than average precipitation levels last week. All stations reported below normal temperatures.

Field Crops: Cold temperatures across the State this past week hindered crop and pasture growth. Field work was slowed as well. The freezing weather was also preventing bees from pollinating spring crops. Red clover, alfalfa, and grass seed were doing well in Washington County this past week. Late planting of sugarbeets and potatoes in Malheur County continued.

Vegetables: The cold and wet weather has caught up with many vegetable growers, keeping them out of fields and delaying their schedule for this year's crop. There have been reports that some early pea and onion planting was taking place throughout the Willamette Valley where the ground would allow. Early rhubarb was being picked in Washington County, but it was still too early to put in tomato plants in Josephine County, especially without frost protection. The hard January freeze with

no snow cover was being blamed as reports of carrot, onion, and parsley seed crop losses were becoming evident in central Oregon.

Fruits and Nuts: Bee activity slowed due to unseasonably cool weather. Scattered snow, freezing temperatures, and hail have people anxious about the extent of damage and slowed pollination in the Willamette Valley. Plums, pears, peaches, and hazelnuts were among crops that were pushed into bloom by the previous warm snap and then faced the cool weather. Other fruit and berry crops were at least delayed. Growers applied Eastern Filbert blight sprays, while brown rot blossom sprays were applied to fruit trees.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Greenhouses were busy getting out spring starts with brisk sales reported in some areas. Nurseries were also busy with tree and shrub sales. The cold weather created concern that some nursery stock could be affected. Some garden items were becoming available, including tomato plants, but many areas remained too cold for planting.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Supplemental feeding continued in most areas of the State as pasture and range grass growth has been delayed due to the unseasonably cool weather. However, the short hay supply had ranchers in some areas turning cattle out onto spring pastures. Plenty of spring calves and lambs were out with their mothers and, overall, livestock were looking good.

Soil Moisture-Week Ending 04/20/08

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	0	13	69	18
Subsoil	3	13	63	21

Crop Progress-Week Ending 04/20/08

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5 year average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Barley planted	82	79	87	73
Barley emerged	50	39	71	51
Spring wheat planted	83	80	89	82
Spring wheat emerged	45	39	54	50
Days suitable for fieldwork	5.0	4.9	4.6	-

Crop Condition-Week Ending 04/20/08

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	5	49	35	11
Barley	0	0	47	36	17
Range and pasture	2	16	40	32	10

WESTERN OREGON

BENTON/LINN/LANE: Fertilizer application on grass seed crops was 95 percent complete. Unseasonably cool weather has slowed grass seed crop maturity. Winter wheat was looking good. Wheat on poorly drained ground was stressed. Marcola/Mohawk area: the weather was still too cold for adequate growing conditions. Soil temperature was too low. Plums, pears, and peaches continued to bloom and cherries continued to bud. Apples continued to leaf out. Most berry crops were showing growth and blueberry buds were swelling. Snow could cause major fruit loss. Weather was very cold with some snow over the weekend. Most greenhouses were growing crops and sales are brisk at the moment. Most spring wheat was planted, fertilizer applications were going on grass seed fields, and some pea plantings have been completed.

CLACKAMAS: It was wet and cold with snow levels down to 500 feet several days with hardly any accumulation. Many fruit trees such as cherries, prunes, and plums were blooming. No bees flying in this cold so no pollination was occurring. Pastures were not growing in this cold. It is getting late for planting spring grain.

COLUMBIA: The weather was still very cool last week and forages were held back because of this. Very cold weather is predicted for next week as well, which could affect nursery stock, blueberry, and tree fruit production.

DOUGLAS: It was another cool week with unusually cold and wet weather on Saturday and Sunday. There was heavy hail in areas with freezing temperatures and wet conditions. There were snow flurries throughout the County. Farmers were getting anxious to do more field work and get spring crops planted but cool temperatures have been keeping vegetable growers out of fields. Tree fruit, berry, and grape growers continued to keep fungicides on crops and hope warm weather arrives soon. Plum pollination was very poor, almost no crop, and peach fruit set also looks light. Apple and pear pollination was going on and pollination could be poor too with below normal temperatures over the weekend. Prunes were also in full bloom and will be hurt. Blueberries were entering bloom and grapes were breaking bud and may have been susceptible to the cold weather as well. The next week seems critical to our fruit season.

JACKSON: The first five days of the week saw some above normal daytime temperatures, 70's to low 80's. The nights were still quite cool and we had a very cold Saturday with low snow levels. There was still some planting of spring crops last week with the good weather. Hay crops were off to a slow start, but warmer weather should really help. Pears and plums were still in bloom. Several very cold nights meant frost control to help keep temperatures up. Vineyards were starting to show some growth, but it was quite slow. Some more early vegetables were being planted, mostly peas and onions. Lots of ground preparation was being done. Greenhouses were busy getting out spring starts, mostly decoration but some garden stock. Nurseries were busy with sales of trees and shrubs. Most cattle are now out on valley pastures. Pasture growth has been a bit slow, but as more sunny days come, it should get better. Plenty of spring calves and lambs were out with their mothers.

JOSEPHINE: It was cold and blustery all week. Night time temperatures were cold with frost. Day time temperatures were in the 50 degree range with cold winds. There was a storm on Saturday with no

measurable precipitation, but there were snow flurries off and on throughout the day. We had approximately 1 inch of snow on the ground on Sunday, blustery and snowy all day but no accumulations on the valley floor. Apple, cherry, and plum trees were all in bloom. Exposed fruit trees probably suffered some freeze damage to blossoms. Truck and home gardeners continued to work the soil and prepare the ground. Nurseries were doing a brisk business in cool weather crops. There are even some tomato plants available but it is way too early for our area, especially without frost protection. Grapes were still not budded out in even the warmer areas. Most vineyards in the County are in the cooler areas of the valley and won't be showing any buds yet. Livestock was looking good and a good quantity of hay was being brought in. Pastures were greening nicely but not enough to sustain livestock. It was a very cold week overall.

MARION: Last week was cold with plenty of moisture. Earlier in the week there was some moisture during the nights, then mostly dry during the days. The last part of the week brought near-record-low high temperatures only into the 40's. The last three days treated us to snow and hail with sprinkles and sun intermixed, but overall cold weather for this time of year. Not far above the Valley floor snow accumulated over the weekend to turn the low foothills white. Field work was quite slow due to the weather. There was some lime being spread and hop vine climbing strings being strung in some areas. There was also some seedbed preparation and spring wheat being planted earlier in the week. Overall this past week was unseasonably cold and very winter-like.

POLK: Temperatures were above average on Sunday to begin the week, but there was cooler weather by mid week. There was frost with cold rain and snow over the weekend. Fruit crops were in bloom and cold temperatures may cause problems. Some spring crops remain to be planted.

TILLAMOOK: There was frost mid week, with additional cold weather, rain, and snow over the weekend. Grass was slow to grow due to the cold weather.

WASHINGTON: Freezing weather and snow over the weekend occurred throughout most of the County. Low temperatures were down to 30 degrees and high temperatures were in the low 50's. Humidity was 48-69 percent. Apple orchards were in the early blossoming stage and could have been affected by this past weekend's weather. Berry crops appeared to be delayed due to the cold conditions. Asian pears and Gravenstein apples were in bloom, grapes were showing bud burst, and cherries were probably hit hard by cold and frost. Red clover was growing normal, alfalfa was doing well, and grasses for seed were growing well with weed control to begin soon. Beds were being prepared as weather permitted and rhubarb was ready for early picking. Nurseries were rotating container shrubs, digging arborvitae, and fertilizing young tree plantations. Pastures were greening up well, but the soil was still soft.

YAMHILL: Last week's 70 degree temperatures pushed cherries, prunes, hazelnuts, apples, and peaches into bloom. Some grapes went into bud break. Then this week's daily temperatures didn't get above 60 degrees to let the bees pollinate. This past weekend saw temperatures dipping down to freezing with icy conditions, snow, hail and just generally bad conditions for fruit and nursery stock. Possible damage is unknown at this time. Brown rot blossom sprays were being applied to fruits and Eastern filbert blight sprays were being applied to hazelnuts.

EASTERN OREGON

BAKER/UNION: Minimum temperatures were below freezing 5 nights last week. An unusual cold front moved into the region at the end of the week. Some ranchers were turning out livestock due to the lack of hay. Grass needs some warmer weather to take off and grow! Some parts of the County still have too much snow for spring field work.

CROOK/DESCHUTES: There were some reports of carrot, onion, and parsley seed crop losses that are becoming evident. The hard January freeze with no snow cover is being blamed for the losses.

GILLIAM: Continued cold weather has slowed germination of spring planted crops and inhibited plant development of fall planted crops.

HARNEY: The cool, dry weather continued last week. Growth of forage crops and rangeland pastures has been delayed this spring by cooler than normal temperatures. Hay supplies have been tight this spring and few producers have been able to turn out onto rangeland pastures because cool temperatures have delayed plant phenology and most ranges are not ready.

HOOD RIVER: Cool to unseasonably cold and cloudy weather prevailed for much of the week resulting in generally poor pollination conditions for fruit crops. Night time low temperatures during the second half of the week dipped into the low 30's in the lower Hood River Valley and mid 20's in upper valley, causing considerable concern about freeze damage. Active frost protection was minimal due to lack of inversion conditions. At week's end, crop development in the lower Hood River Valley was as follows: d'Anjou pear near full bloom (WSU stage 7); Red Delicious apple at tight cluster to first pink (WSU stages 4&5); Bing cherry at first bloom (WSU stage 7); Pinot noir grape at Eichhorn-Lorenz stages 2 to 3.

JEFFERSON: The irrigation season has fully begun. Cool night time temperatures were keeping things from growing much though.

KLAMATH: Cooler temperatures continued during the week. Conditions were rainy and cold. Field preparation work continued during the week.

LAKE: There were small amounts of snow during the week and over the weekend. Cold temperatures are preventing crops and pastures from growing.

MALHEUR: Last week, 2 or 3 days had high temperatures, around 60 to 65 degrees, but most nights were cold with threatening frost. Overall temperatures were too cold for good growing conditions. Most planting is late but planting continued for onions, sugarbeets, and potatoes. Range conditions varied. All areas were waiting for warmer weather to promote green grass growth. Some areas were dry and some had adequate moisture.

SHERMAN: Last week was still very cold at night and cold and windy day time conditions. There were only spotty traces of moisture last week.

UMATILLA: Cool weather persisted throughout the County. Windy conditions had also taken some of the moisture off the top soil. Cool over night weather has still kept soil below optimal crop growing temperatures. Some disease was showing up in irrigated wheat, mosaic virus in susceptible cultivars. The cold weather has put early planted potatoes behind. Continued cold, which is predicted, could put planted seed at risk.

WALLOWA: Snowpack was 100% of normal.

WASCO: Cool temperatures and a lack of rain have slowed the growth of spring pastures. The winter wheat crop was looking good and spraying continued, but windy conditions did not help. Very unseasonable cold temperatures on Friday and Saturday night had fruit growers concerned and ready with appropriate frost protection. Fruit trees were in full bloom in most places. The Dalles Cherry Blossom Festival is scheduled for Saturday, April 26. Range and pastures were growing slowly due to the cold weather and more rain is needed.

Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: April 20, 2008 (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	33	53	44	-5	-	-7	0.55	-0.47	7	52.68	-4.67	92	152
Bandon ⁸	33	57	44	-6	-	-12	1.02	0.08	5	49.39	-2.84	95	151
Crescent City	35	56	46	-5	-	-22	0.29	-0.67	3	41.89	-16.64	72	103
Florence	31	58	43	-7	-	-14	1.24	0.09	5	76.27	9.48	114	136
North Bend	34	55	45	-5	-	-14	0.78	-0.23	5	52.60	-3.68	93	127
Tillamook	32	54	44	-4	-	-7	0.97	-0.34	6	49.40	-26.72	65	145
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Aurora ⁸	33	58	44	-6	-	-18	0.30	-0.32	5	37.56	2.72	108	138
Corvallis	32	59	43	-7	-	-15	0.43	-0.13	4	39.81	2.31	106	134
Detroit Lake ⁸	31	63	41	-4	1	-6	1.19	0.24	6	76.55	17.82	130	145
Eugene	31	60	45	-7	1	-20	0.33	-0.34	5	32.52	-10.92	75	116
Hillsboro	28	58	42	-8	-	-17	0.23	-0.22	5	28.35	-4.07	87	118
McMinnville	28	59	43	-8	-	-20	0.39	-0.14	6	31.46	-6.96	82	128
Portland	35	58	46	-6	2	-19	0.33	-0.21	4	28.48	-1.93	94	128
Salem	31	59	44	-7	-	-14	0.38	-0.14	6	33.63	-0.36	99	118
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	31	77	48	-5	16	-19	0.18	-0.20	2	25.68	-2.51	91	104
Medford	34	74	47	-6	7	-21	0.26	-0.02	3	14.85	-1.36	92	89
Roseburg	32	65	45	-8	3	-25	0.64	0.15	5	29.89	1.09	104	118
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	18	78	41	-5	9	+2	0.13	-0.16	2	9.35	-0.95	91	81
Echo ⁸	28	68	46	-6	2	-27	0.03	-0.11	1	6.74	-0.32	95	83
Heppner	26	79	44	-5	10	-7	0.17	-0.11	2	9.95	-0.18	98	91
Hermiston	31	68	48	-5	5	-24	0.07	-0.07	1	6.60	-0.46	93	66
Madras ⁸	20	63	38	-10	-	-18	0.02	-0.12	1	5.59	-2.12	73	75
Moro	22	70	41	-6	4	-8	-	-0.18	-	8.04	-0.76	91	68
Parkdale ⁸	29	53	39	-11	-	-21	0.06	-0.29	3	19.47	-8.48	70	87
Pendleton	29	66	45	-7	-	-24	0.08	-0.13	1	8.25	-0.99	89	73
Prairie City ⁸	20	63	38	-10	-	-18	0.02	-0.12	1	5.59	-2.12	73	75
The Dalles	28	64	46	-3	2	-12	-	-0.17	-	11.92	1.66	116	71
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Agency Lake ⁸	24	63	38	-5	-	-7	-	-0.21	-	10.20	-2.86	78	79
Bend	21	76	38	-7	3	-4	0.01	-0.13	1	11.51	2.69	130	67
Burns	17	67	37	-7	1	-6	0.01	-0.13	1	7.15	0.25	104	82
Christmas Valley ⁸	10	70	34	-13	-	-14	0.03	-0.11	2	3.94	-5.13	43	57
Klamath Falls	20	68	38	-8	-	-12	-	-0.14	-	7.54	-3.27	70	68
Klamath Falls ⁸	20	67	37	-9	-	-12	0.02	-0.12	2	8.22	-2.59	76	92
Lakeview	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lorella ⁸	18	68	37	-9	-	-12	0.01	-0.13	1	6.88	-3.93	64	91
Redmond	12	69	37	-8	-	-8	0.01	-0.11	1	1.58	-4.37	27	31
Worden ⁸	16	67	37	-9	-	-12	0.01	-0.13	1	6.81	-4.00	63	88
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	18	64	37	-9	-	-9	0.01	-0.20	1	6.26	-0.18	97	83
Joseph	22	70	38	-4	4	-3	0.26	-0.16	4	13.10	-5.50	70	95
La Grande	23	68	41	-7	-	-14	-	-0.32	-	8.58	-3.89	69	71
Union	24	75	43	-4	8	-6	-	-0.28	-	7.14	-1.50	83	73
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	26	73	47	-5	15	-16	-	-0.14	-	5.15	-2.26	70	59
Rome	22	72	43	-5	13	-3	0.07	-0.07	2	6.04	0.83	116	68

¹ Summary based on NWS data. Copyright 2008: 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, 2007.

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.