



Crop Progress and Condition



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC 20250

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Released: March 30, 2021

In Cooperation with...

- University of Idaho Extension
- Idaho State Department of Agriculture
- Oregon State University Extension Service
- Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Washington State University Extension
- USDA, Farm Service Agency

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Idaho

The statewide temperatures in Idaho for the month of March varied a few degrees above and below normal. In northern Idaho, pastures started to green up in the lower elevation areas. Winter wheat looked good. Most fields were still too wet for significant fieldwork and soil temperatures still cold for extensive planting. In contrast, somewhat dry conditions were reported across southwest Idaho rangelands. Crop producers and livestock owners hoped for timely spring precipitation. South central Idaho received a little rain and snow moisture the last week in March. Cereal planting started to pick up. Some potatoes and beets were planted. Alfalfa fields also started to green up. Voles looked to be a problem. Winter cereals look good. Winter calving and lambing went well with mild winter weather since January. March conditions were mixed in eastern Idaho. It was still winter in Bear Lake and Teton Counties with snow on the ground. In Power County, it was just dry enough for spring work to start. Concerns over water storage eased slightly with the late March precipitation.

Oregon

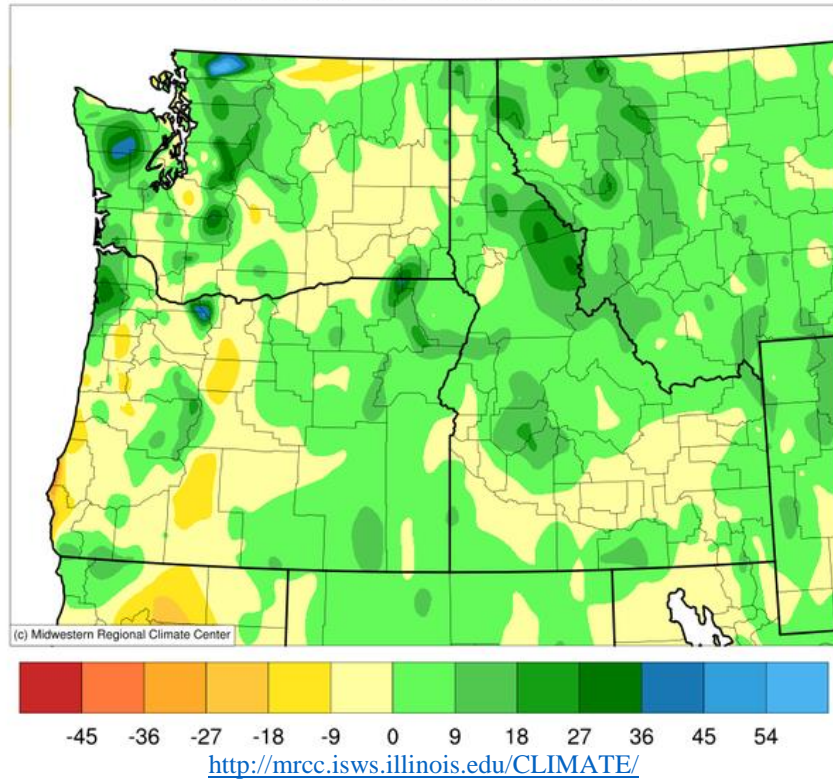
Moisture conditions through the state ranged from very wet to very dry. Temperatures were below normal to around normal. Benton and Lincoln Counties reported a good amount of sunny days with some rain for March. It was still too cold for crops, except winter wheat in Benton County. Pasture was in fair condition for introduced grasses, such as New Zealand Orchard Grass planted on high elevations. Much of the coastal pastures were underwater or in tidal zones and grazed in the late spring and summer months. Columbia, Multnomah, and Washington Counties reported plenty of moisture. More frosts were predicted. Vegetable planting was on hold until soil warmth and moisture get closer to optimum planting conditions. Nursery plants came through winter in good condition, field crops looked generally good, and pastures started to push through where they were not overgrazed. In Douglas, Jackson, and Josephine Counties, pears, apples, peaches and cherries were pushing buds. Plum crops were currently in full bloom. Blueberries were about ten days away from bloom. Wine grapes were still mostly dormant with a few varieties showing early buds. Tillamook and Clatsop Counties reported wet conditions for March, with grass growth progressing. Occasionally, some dairy herds were out on pasture. Soils were wet and saturated in some areas. North central Oregon reported an extremely dry winter with extremely dry topsoil. Pastures greened up. Cattle were calving with ideal conditions. Crops looked good for now, but needed more rain. Baker County reported wind gusts. Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson Counties reported heading toward the worst water year ever for irrigators with the potential for large amounts of acres left fallowed. The warm winter in Ochoco Mountains meant snowmelt may end up in soil and not much runoff this spring. High winds did not help with moisture retention. Wheeler County reported it was extremely dry. Pastures were fine and cattle were calving, but the area needed spring rains. Lake County precipitation was below average, and there was concern about livestock producers receiving adequate irrigation. Malheur County reported good conditions for onion planting, but progress slowed due to a couple of storms. Adequate irrigation was expected. Northeast Oregon's recent precipitation and nearly complete infiltration of snow melt increased available soil water in fields. Winter canola was doing well. Southwest Oregon reported soil moisture levels good to surplus in nearly all areas. Field crops were in good shape.

Washington

The Statewide temperatures in Washington for the month of March were slightly above normal to below normal. In western Washington, the fields were too wet for fieldwork. Grass was putting on new growth. Winter crops were looking good, with the exception of where crops were drowned out from the winter ponded water. The temperatures were cool. Many operators with high tunnels planted crops and some of the spring vegetables were starting to show up. Some vegetable producers were able to do outdoor tilling. In Snohomish County, cane berries were mostly pruned and tied. In central Washington, apricot orchards were in full bloom. Peach orchards were showing pink buds and bloom had started for some varieties. Apple orchard trees were a half-inch green with some varieties showing buds at tight cluster. Buds on trees in pear orchards were at swollen bud stage and growers sprayed their blocks with oils and kaolin clay to discourage pear psylla. There was a fair amount of orchard tear-out still left to be disposed. Growers hilled asparagus blocks in anticipation of an early harvest. Vegetable fields had been tilled and were ready to plant. There was activity in the hop yards with workers tilling the groundcover, planting cover crops, rolling out irrigation lines, and stringing up the trellises. Winter wheat and alfalfa were presenting a vivid green color in an otherwise drab landscape. Vegetation along the irrigation canals was cleaned up and ready to receive water. Klickitat County and east central Washington had very dry conditions. Winter wheat was in mostly good condition, with a few areas that looked excellent and a few areas that looked poor. There was a significant amount of snow mold, but it was too early to know if the wheat will recover. In southeast Washington, snow showers were a weekly occurrence with some freezing temperatures. Spring work commenced. Columbia and Walla Walla Counties were dry and needed moisture.

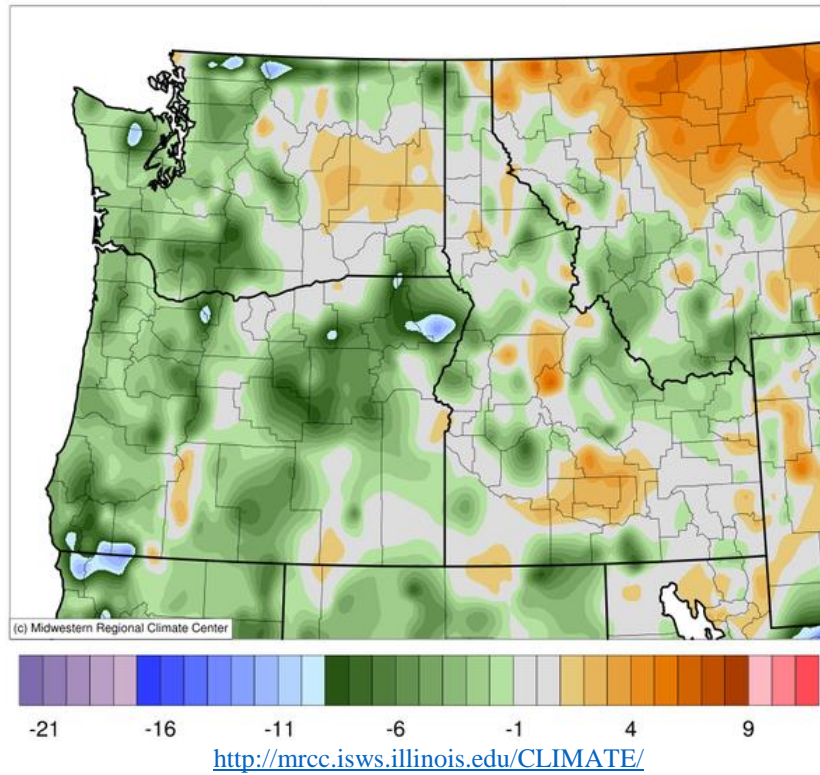
Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals

October 01, 2020 to March 28, 2021



Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals

March 01, 2021 to March 28, 2021



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