



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
Washington Field Office
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507
(800) 435-5883 Fax (800) 265-6275

Washington Crop Weather

Released: March 25, 2013
Week Ending: March 24, 2013
CWP WA-CW3912

Crop Progress and Condition for the Month of March 2013

Western

Clark: Fruit growers looked forward to warmer weather. Mummyberry fungicides were being applied. Farmers Market started.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions were OK for this time of year with not much field activity and no reports of any crop damage due to an adverse weather conditions.

Skagit: Conditions were wet, but with the mild winter most of the winter crops looked good.

Snohomish/North King: Compost was being spread on berries and berries leafing out. Vole damage was common. There was a bit more plowing last week in spite of the saturated soils. Lots of high tunnel plantings of early greens, etc.

Thurston (2nd Report): Weather conditions for March were wet, cold and muddy.

Whatcom: Most of the month was typical wet winter weather. Signs of spring occurred later in the month with raspberry and blueberry plants budding out. Blueberry growers were beginning pesticide applications. Grasses for pasture and silage were showing good growth.

Whatcom (2nd Report): Warmer weather and longer days led to bud break on blueberries and raspberries. Soil moisture levels limited any annual cropping field activities.

Central

Chelan: Growers finished pruning and clearing their orchards of pruning litter, and prepared for early spray applications. Tree bud development was within normal range for this time, but more advanced than in the past few years. Apricots began flowering as the weather turned cooler and wetter this past week.

Chelan/Douglas: Precipitation in the form of rain and snow occurred on several days this past week. Temperatures were cold, which caused concern for fruit growers. Calving continued, and most livestock producers reported a good season due to mild-dry conditions. All snow cover was off the winter wheat crop.

Douglas: Cattle continued calving. There were a number of "good" dry places to calve as the moisture went into the ground instead of runoff. Both winter wheat and winter canola crops looked average for this time of year.

Franklin: Temperatures this month were generally normal to a little warmer than normal. Winds and wind gusts seemed to be more consistent and heavier than normal. There was little to zero precipitation throughout the county. What rain there was did little good as the persistent winds followed them. Field activity increased county wide. There was field spraying (in the windless and light wind days), potato seeding, spring wheat seeding and general field tillage activities throughout the county. Orchard and vineyard pruning began to slow down.

Grant: Although current ground moisture was adequate, more precipitation was needed. Early land preparations were being completed. Producers were discing, mowing, and getting ready for water delivery. Green pea planting began in the Mattawa area of the county.

Grant (2nd Report): Soil temperature in the Grant-Adams area was in the mid 40s and potatoes and onions were starting to be planted.

Kittitas: Everyone was starting to get moving in the Kittitas Valley. Farmers were out in the fields for the past week getting ground ready for the season. Weather was average for March, and snowpack looked excellent. The area should have sufficient amounts of water for everyone for the year. Temperatures were cool, but it looked like it was starting to warm up. Hay prices continued to remain strong, and hay was sold out.

Kittitas (2nd Report): March temperatures were average. Precipitation was below "normal", with the current water year (Oct 1- present) at 4.34 inches compared to an average of 4.6 inches. Crop progress for timothy was as expected for this time of year.

Klickitat: Weather fluctuated between dry and semi-warm to rain and cold. Producers were able to get some plowing, spraying and fertilizing done in between the rain showers and wind. Grass was growing on the south facing slopes and some of the cows were turned out on spring pasture. Fruit trees were budding along the Columbia River but not anywhere with high elevation.

Klickitat (2nd Report): The area experienced a slow start to spring as snow continued to accumulate in the mountains. Farm work was slowly gearing up early in the month. Overnight freezing temperatures continued throughout most of the county. Pasture and range grasses showed slow growth due to continued cold night temperatures. Livestock continued on supplemental feed. Hay was expensive and in very short supply. Producers were anxious for warmer temperatures for improved grazing. Spring calving was well underway. Soil temperatures remained cold.

Okanogan: Growers in Okanogan County felt pretty good about soil moisture, due to the good late fall precipitation. Hay was in very short supply.

Yakima: Average temperatures were generally warmer than normal, varying from 8 degrees below normal to 14 degrees above normal, with .71 of an inch of precipitation. No concerns regarding possible crop damage due to weather conditions were reported.

Yakima (2nd Report): Yakima County received between 0.35 to 0.8 inches of precipitation. Sufficient precipitation was received in the higher altitudes contributing to an adequate reservoir of irrigation water for the 2013 season in the Yakima Valley. Nighttime low temperatures dropped to the mid to lower 20s, leading to frost warnings and causing concern among soft fruit producers about bud damage. Delayed dormant sprays were applied to manage overwintering insect pests and reduce the incidence of disease. Most fruit trees were experiencing bud swell with soft fruit trees showing blossom color.

Eastern

Adams: Quite a few acres were planted to spring wheat, but probably 60 percent was yet to go. A lot of other work was going on including fertilizing, herbicides and ground work. Some potatoes were planted with approximately 80 percent yet to go. Beginning the week of March 25th everyone will be in full swing with spring planting for the next 2-3 weeks. Some orchard frost control was going on in at least one orchard.

Adams (2nd Report): Spring work progressed across the county as an estimated 50 percent of the spring crop was planted.

Asotin/Garfield: The area received moisture 1-2 times per week. Producers began to seed in Garfield County. Asotin County producers were doing some mowing and spraying. Spring Barley was seeded in Asotin County as well as some Canola. Spring crops including wheat were being seeded in Garfield County. Fields were greening up nicely. Temperatures dropped down to low 30s to high 20s in the evenings.

Ferry: Cold mornings required orchardists to use frost control.

Lincoln: Snow mold affected the winter wheat in some areas. Any ground that slopes to the north and especially areas that captured more snow were damaged.

Lincoln (2nd Report): March was much more dry than in previous years, however it was still too wet to be in the fields. Although Lincoln County was not too dry, more moisture would be helpful.

Lincoln (3rd Report): Cold soil temperatures prevented a lot of field activity.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The area experienced a week of dry and warm weather in the early part of March. Some producers actually started doing a little spring work in the Mead area. Temperature and precipitation were fairly normal. Winter wheat looked pretty good and started to grow with the warmer weather. It was a pretty good year for the cattlemen due to lower snowfall and milder weather. Calves were being born on a number of ranches and hay was still in demand at a high price. Some herds will be turned out early just because there was not enough hay to continue to feed the animals.

Stevens: Most fields were clear of snow as crop producers began some tillage operations. Cattle continued calving. Hay supplies continued to be tight.

Walla Walla: March was drier than last year by about 3 inches of precipitation. Temperatures were mild and allowed plants and crops to begin to grow. The area was above average on precipitation for the crop year, but the growing crops will need moisture over the next month.

Whitman: The month of March provided a wide range of weather in Whitman County. High temperatures for the month were anywhere between 62 to 39 degrees while nightly lows were between 42 and 22 degrees. Monthly precipitation was below normal for the month with a total of 0.89 of an inch received, mostly in the form of rain along with a couple snow showers. Area producers began spring operations at full speed and were working whenever the weather allowed.

Whitman (2nd Report): Growers were getting anxious to get into the field and some started preparation of fields for seeding

Weekly Weather Statistics
March 1 - March 24, 2013

STATION	PRECIPITATION				HDD TOTAL	OF		TOT	DFN	COLD	COLD
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN		HDD	32 28 DFN DAYS				
WEST											
Bellingham Intl	59	29	45	+2	3.45	+1.04	14	479	-38	5	0
Hoquiam	54	30	44	-2	5.66	-0.21	19	489	+31	4	0
Kelso	61	28	46	+2	2.61	-0.96	16	448	-29	6	1
Olympia	58	25	44	+2	3.78	-0.18	17	492	-27	10	3
Seattle-Tacoma	59	32	47	+2	2.71	-0.13	14	437	-35	1	0
Shelton	56	24	43	-2	6.15	+0.68	18	510	+25	11	2
Tacoma WA AP	60	26	44	-2	2.49	-0.62	17	500	+18	10	5
Vancouver WA	64	26	47	+2	1.55	-1.69	12	438	-42	5	3
CENTRAL											
Ellensburg	65	20	42	+4	0.43	-0.15	6	536	-75	12	9
Omak AP	63	19	41	+6	0.78	-0.22	4	562	-133	15	8
Stampede Pass	48	16	34	+5	4.75	-1.31	13	747	-107	18	16
Wenatchee AP	63	26	43	+1	0.81	+0.33	4	533	-17	13	4
Yakima AP	68	20	44	+2	0.71	+0.18	5	500	-45	12	11
NORTHEAST											
Colville	62	21	41	+4	1.39	-0.10	9	566	-93	14	10
Deer Park	57	16	37	+0	1.12	-0.21	9	660	-6	15	11
Republic	59	16	37	+3	0.92	+0.13	6	528	-204	18	11
Spokane AP	61	22	40	+3	0.73	-0.47	7	596	-54	15	7
EAST CENTRAL											
Ephrata	64	22	42	+0	0.54	+0.02	5	546	-6	14	7
Moses Lake	65	22	44	+3	0.59	+0.07	4	497	-55	10	6
Quincy	63	22	43	+2	0.74	+0.21	3	523	-32	13	8
Ritzville	60	20	40	+0	0.68	-0.22	7	600	-8	18	13
SOUTHEAST											
Hanford	67	22	44	-3	0.32	-0.16	2	489	+37	10	5
Pasco	69	18	45	-1	0.23	-0.31	3	465	+5	10	8
Pullman	62	22	40	+2	1.01	-0.67	12	593	-48	14	7
Walla Walla Rgn	69	27	47	+2	0.56	-1.09	7	436	-34	7	1
Whitman Mission	69	20	44	-1	0.84	-0.26	9	497	-1	12	11
IDAHO											
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE											
Lewiston ID	65	26	47	+4	0.43	-0.38	8	437	-81	7	3

Summary based on NWS data.
 Season Cumulative Precip Starts: September 1, 2012
 DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1971-2000 Normal 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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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1393> Washington
 Agricultural Statistics Service website: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics> by State/Washington
 E-mail: nass-wa@nass.usda.gov