



April Showers Bring ... **CANOLA**

—by Stephanie Bowen

You have heard the expression, “April showers bring May flowers.” Well, March and April showers also bring an excellent canola crop. This year’s rains are proving to bring just that, and it is definitely a big change from last year.

“I’ve never seen a year like last year where it didn’t rain a little bit in the spring,” said Heath Sanders, agronomist and field services at Producers Cooperative Oil Mill in Oklahoma City. “This year, along with the wheat crop, the canola looks exceptional. We have tremendous potential for a great harvest. It is a night and day difference compared to last year.”

Last year, statewide average rainfall for March was 0.7 inches, 2.41 inches below normal. April 2011 provided more rainfall in portions of the state, but 35 Mesonet stations still received less than one inch of rain. The statewide average was 3.44 inches.

Looking at this year, March 2012 provided an average of 4.52 inches statewide, and it was the sixth wettest March on record since 1895. The statewide average rainfall for April 2012 was 3.81 inches.

“One of the most critical times for canola is right when the crop starts to green up coming out of dormancy into the spring,” Sanders said. “When the canola is getting ready to

flower, it will go from a rosette plant and shoot up to a stalk and start flowering. If you can get a rain in that March and April time frame, it is a crucial time, and we did get rainfall at that time this year.”

With a mild winter, the canola crop stayed greener throughout the season. This meant the crop didn’t have to produce new leaves in the spring. A lot of producers say the years when the plant stays greener are the years they have better yield, Sanders said. With the crop being ahead of schedule, it has put some farmers behind schedule getting weeds sprayed, but the aphid pressure has been fairly low, he added.

“Every year we plant canola, we learn something new,” Sanders said. “This year, we are seeing worms. They are variegated cutworms, so farmers need to be scouting fields and checking things.”

Overall though, Sanders said the canola crop is looking really good, and he is pleased with how things are turning out.

“When we were planting canola in September, we didn’t know if it was ever going to rain again,” Sanders said. “Mother nature gave us some good rains to get it up in the fall. We had a little bit longer growing season in the fall, and the canola looks pretty good right now.” ■

*Southwest Oklahoma Canola Crop
April 2011*



*Southwest Oklahoma Canola Crop
March 2012*



Recent Rainfall Table

- The Recent Rainfall Table allows you to view recent rainfall at all sites. To view this table, click on the Weather tab on the Mesonet website, then click on Rainfall in the sidebar. Then click on the Recent Rainfall Table in the first row.

30, 60, 90-day Rainfall Tables

[Add estimated values](#)

Mesonet Rainfall Totals (in inches)
Data complete through 7:00 pm CDT May 02, 2012

Station Name	7 Day	10 Day	14 Day	30 Day	60 Day	90 Day	May	Year to date	2011
Acme	0.88	0.88	1.27	3.33	7.95	8.91	0.71	10.86	20.09
Ada	0.67	0.67	0.80	3.25	9.20	10.41	0.47	12.92	23.69
Altus	0.28	0.28	0.35	1.75	4.82	5.46	0.28	6.04	*
Alva	2.96	2.96	2.96	3.69	6.71	10.08	0.00	10.25	17.12
Antlers	0.03	0.03	0.17	2.29	9.65	11.83	0.01	17.47	*
Apache	0.64	0.64	1.21	3.69	7.97	9.12	0.55	10.91	17.71
Ardmore	0.17	0.20	0.22	3.74	9.87	10.90	0.11	15.10	24.22
Arnett	1.58	1.58	1.58	3.31	7.94	11.34	0.01	11.67	9.52
Beaver	0.34	0.34	0.34	1.87	3.93	5.28	0.00	5.46	11.11
Bessie	0.13	0.13	0.14	1.70	3.82	4.34	0.00	4.92	16.57
Bixby	1.51	1.51	1.67	3.36	9.42	10.42	0.81	11.24	33.91
Blackwell	10.90	10.90	10.90	12.61	15.90	18.58	2.44	18.89	27.76
Boise City	0.24	0.24	0.26	1.53	2.49	2.59	0.00	2.86	9.02
Bowlegs	0.52	0.52	1.01	2.88	8.75	10.12	0.33	11.39	26.08
Breckinridge	3.42	3.42	3.42	7.05	9.81	12.91	0.20	13.78	26.08
Bristow	1.46	1.46	1.80	3.80	10.38	11.20	0.95	12.42	32.93
Broken Bow	0.28	0.28	0.75	2.89	10.76	13.15	0.00	18.59	47.58
Buffalo	0.58	0.58	0.58	2.72	4.62	6.15	0.00	6.28	12.47
Burbank	5.11	5.11	5.11	8.67	12.55	15.35	0.41	15.52	26.52
Burneyville	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.88	6.49	7.84	0.00	11.61	22.40
Butler	1.17	1.17	1.17	2.10	4.45	5.48	0.05	6.15	12.77
Burns	0.38	0.38	0.58	3.63	9.22	10.64	0.25	12.66	24.56

Monthly Rainfall Table

- The Monthly Rainfall Table allows you to select a site and view rainfall monthly and yearly totals. Numbers in red are estimated values. To view this table, click on the Weather tab on the Mesonet website, then click on Rainfall in the sidebar. Then click on the Monthly Rainfall Table in the first row.

Mesonet Rainfall by Month Table

[Remove estimated values](#)

Select a site:

Acme (ACME) rainfall in inches per month

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Total
30-Year Normal	1.32	1.77	2.83	3.32	5.37	4.31	2.42	2.79	3.80	3.89	2.39	1.93	36.15
Mesonet Average	1.46	1.47	2.51	3.43	3.87	3.93	2.40	3.02	2.55	3.68	1.72	1.49	31.52
1994	0.37	2.56	3.01	3.22	3.91	1.74	3.75	1.25	2.89	4.31	3.95	0.69	31.65
1995	1.66	0.75	2.57	6.28	5.58	2.23	2.90	3.93	5.60	0.67	0.63	1.71	34.51
1996	0.46	0.00	2.64	1.85	1.34	3.66	4.93	7.40	5.34	2.38	3.67	0.02	33.69
1997	0.22	4.05	0.43	6.35	4.87	3.55	3.67	3.92	2.53	6.22	0.81	3.88	40.50
1998	4.45	1.16	5.26	3.76	0.49	1.32	0.01	1.62	1.09	3.22	3.72	1.58	27.68
1999	2.42	0.77	3.70	5.75	4.55	6.00	0.38	1.40	1.87	2.31	0.04	2.82	32.01
2000	0.84	1.42	3.49	3.63	2.85	6.68	1.25	0.00	1.08	10.50	4.19	1.44	37.37
2001	3.53	2.73	0.93	0.54	6.56	1.65	0.02	2.83	0.95	1.71	1.54	1.29	24.28
2002	2.42	0.94	2.20	5.67	2.22	3.53	3.31	2.10	2.86	6.69	0.59	2.44	34.97
2003	0.01	1.11	0.81	0.72	2.97	6.73	0.07	2.68	1.20	0.41	0.89	0.71	18.31
2004	2.09	2.63	3.60	2.38	0.74	3.94	3.41	2.72	0.37	5.25	6.04	0.51	33.68
2005	1.94	2.10	0.58	0.40	2.46	3.70	3.11	3.91	1.74	2.01	0.00	0.19	22.14
2006	0.19	0.17	2.33	5.25	1.79	1.47	0.99	4.92	3.53	3.22	1.21	3.14	28.21
2007	1.96	0.46	6.56	1.71	10.17	9.57	2.95	6.54	1.48	2.98	0.37	2.12	46.87
2008	0.12	1.62	2.35	4.14	3.43	4.56	0.71	4.55	1.17	2.25	0.22	0.52	25.64
2009	1.06	1.07	1.49	6.58	7.32	2.29	8.02	1.38	4.16	6.25	0.18	1.60	41.40
2010	2.10	2.81	1.13	2.94	2.55	7.87	3.64	0.16	7.05	2.13	0.60	0.15	33.13
2011	0.04	0.60	0.07	1.38	5.86	0.27	0.03	2.97	0.99	3.66	2.25	1.97	20.09
2012	1.95	0.96	4.62	2.62	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Grape Black Rot Advisor

In Oklahoma, black rot, caused by the fungus *Guignardia bidwellii*, is the most important foliar disease of grapes. Black rot can be managed using cultural practices and chemical control. The first step in using the Mesonet Grape Black Rot Advisor is to determine which Oklahoma Mesonet weather station you will use. The next step is to consider the number of days a fungicide will protect the grape plants from infection. This is referred to as the fungicide protection period or interval. The Grape Black Rot Advisor allows you to enter your last spray date and a 7, 10 or 14-day protection window. If the fungicide protection interval has lapsed and a “Spray Fungicide” warning is given, then the grower should apply a fungicide application as soon as possible.

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Grape Black Rot Advisor

Local Mesonet Site – Black Rot Spray Advisor for Norman

Please select a site:

Please select last spray date (month/day): / Protection window:

Mesonet Data		Forecast		
<p>Sat, Apr 21</p> <p>No Fungicide Needed</p> <p>Threshold Hours: 13</p> <p>Leaf Wetness Hours: 6</p>	<p>Sun, Apr 22</p> <p>No Fungicide Needed</p> <p>Threshold Hours: 11</p> <p>Leaf Wetness Hours: 6</p>	<p>Mon, Apr 23</p> <p>No Fungicide Needed</p> <p>Threshold Hours: 13</p> <p>Leaf Wetness Hours: 0</p>	<p>Tue, Apr 24</p> <p>No Fungicide Needed</p> <p>Threshold Hours: 7</p> <p>Leaf Wetness Hours: 0</p>	<p>Wed, Apr 25</p> <p>No Fungicide Needed</p> <p>Threshold Hours: 5</p> <p>Leaf Wetness Hours: 0</p>

AGWEATHER
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▼ Local Mesonet Site
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Grape Black Rot Advisor

Local Mesonet Site – Black Rot Spray Advisor for Norman

Please select a site:

Please select last spray date (month/day): / Protection window:

Mesonet Data		Forecast		
<p>Tue, Apr 24</p> <p>No Fungicide Needed</p> <p>Threshold Hours: 6</p> <p>Leaf Wetness Hours: 0</p>	<p>Wed, Apr 25</p> <p>No Fungicide Needed</p> <p>Threshold Hours: 6</p> <p>Leaf Wetness Hours: 0</p>	<p>Thu, Apr 26</p> <p>Spray Fungicide</p> <p>Threshold Hours: 6</p> <p>Leaf Wetness Hours: 8</p>	<p>Fri, Apr 27</p> <p>Spray Fungicide</p> <p>Threshold Hours: 5</p> <p>Leaf Wetness Hours: 10</p>	<p>Sat, Apr 28</p> <p>No Fungicide Needed</p> <p>Threshold Hours: 8</p> <p>Leaf Wetness Hours: 0</p>

Grape Black Rot Advisor

—by Stephanie Bowen



The Oklahoma Mesonet is providing a new tool for grape producers, the Grape Black Rot Advisor. The tool will help grape producers across the state decide when a fungicide application is necessary.

Using the Mesonet Black Rot Advisor last year, Willow Pond Vineyard saved approximately 18 hours of spray application time, spraying preparation, and spraying clean up. As a result of the unusually dry summer and because of the Black Rot Advisor, the last fungicide spray at Willow Pond Vineyards was June 3rd. Under normal circumstances, three additional fungicide spray applications would have been made prior to harvest.

“I was somewhat skeptical and hesitant about turning the fate of the grape crop over to the Black Rot Advisor, but decided to use it after the June 3, 2011 fungicide spray application,” said Jill Stichler, owner/operator of Redland Juice Company and Willow Pond Vineyard. “A quick check of the website daily has made a true believer of me – no fungicide sprays after June 3, 2011, and no Black Rot on the crop at harvest! It saved me about \$400 last year in chemicals I didn’t have to buy. It’s kind of scary, but it works.” ■

“It helps take some of the guess work out for them,” said Damon Smith, Assistant Professor and State Extension Specialist in Horticulture Pathology at Oklahoma State University, and co-creator of the Grape Black Rot Advisor. “The other unique thing about this is it has the forecast in there as well. We want to know when we have those infection periods coming in before they get here.”

Looking at the advisor on the top of page three, Saturday, April 21 shows you need 13 hours of threshold hours for the disease to exist (13 hours at or above 85% relative humidity). However, the advisor shows only six hours of leaf wetness hours above 85%. So we are looking at a day that is dry and cool which is unfavorable for grape black rot.

The mathematical model inputs weather data – temperature and relative humidity – to correlate leaf wetness in Oklahoma. Leaf wetness drives disease. Producers using the model have the ability to put their last spray date in and choose their fungicide protection window.

“Traditionally a grape grower would go out every 10-14 days and make a fungicide application,” Smith said. “They would be spraying whether they needed it or not. So if we only spray when disease is present, we are saving time and money. We are using the model to look for periods where sprays are needed. So we are saving on sprays throughout the year.”

Left: Grape Black Rot symptoms are prevalent on these vine leaves. Below: A healthy vineyard is free of Grape Black Rot.





Heat, Tornadoes Dominate Weather Headlines During April

By Gary McManus, Associate State Climatologist

APRIL WRAP-UP

Oklahoma's exceptionally warm weather continued into April following the warmest March on record, and significant severe weather plagued the state right through the month's final moments. April was not warm enough to earn a number one ranking, but still mustered enough heat to crack the top 10. According to data from the Oklahoma Mesonet, the statewide average temperature finished at 63.9 degrees to rank as the 10th warmest April on record for the state, 4.8 degrees above normal. Statewide statistics date back to 1895. April's heat helped propel the January-April period to the warmest on record at 52.3 degrees, 5.5 degrees above normal. The Mesonet sites at Altus and Erick each reached 105 degrees on the 25th, the second highest April temperature ever recorded in Oklahoma dating back to 1893. Mangum holds the record at 106 degrees from April 12, 1972. Frigid weather, normally a frequent visitor during the first half of April, was largely missing during the month. Of the 120 Oklahoma Mesonet stations, only two – Beaver and Boise City – reached the freezing point, and both for less than an hour.

Parts of the state, north central Oklahoma in particular, experienced a two or three month's worth of rainfall in just a few storms. The Mesonet site at Blackwell received 12.6 inches of rainfall during April, shattering that town's previous record for April of 8.59 inches, set back in 1991. Official rain gauges in Ponca City recorded between 11.54 inches and 12.12 inches of rain, breaking that location's April record as well. Normal April rainfall for those locations is approximately 3.5 inches. While much of northern Oklahoma was experiencing deluges, the southeastern half of the state was largely going without. North central Oklahoma recorded an average of 6.03 inches of rainfall during the month and finished with the fifth wettest April on record. In contrast, the southeast recorded an average of 2.63 inches, the 19th driest April on record for that section of the state. The Mesonet site at Burneyville recorded a meager 0.89 inches of rain during April, nearly 3 inches below normal.

As is often customary during the spring, the abundance of rainfall was accompanied by a surplus of severe weather. According to preliminary counts from the National Weather Service, more than 25 tornadoes touched down during April, doubling the average number of 11 for the month. The most significant of those tornadoes struck Woodward after midnight on the 15th. The tornado tore through the western side of the city, killing six, including three children. The storm damaged 224 homes and businesses in Woodward County and injured 39. The tornado was rated an EF3 on the Enhanced Fujita tornado intensity scale. The northern one-third of the state saw several tornadoes touch down the evening of the 30th. The twisters and associated severe storms left several small towns without power, damaged homes and outbuildings, and produced widespread flooding. Large hail reports, from golf ball to softball size, were numerous with each bout of severe weather throughout the month.

10th WARMEST

April since records began in 1895

4.8°F above normal

average temperature across
the state for April

6.03" RAINFALL

North central Oklahoma average
precipitation for April

2.63" RAINFALL

Southeast Oklahoma average
precipitation for April

CALENDAR

MAY

- ▶ 1st-2nd: Mesonet exhibit, State FFA Convention, OKC
- ▶ 3rd-4th: EarthStorm Fieldtrip, Sequoyah Middle School
- ▶ 9th: Centennial Middle School, Broken Arrow Field Trip at NWC
- ▶ 15th-16th: OK-First at the Inter-Tribal Emergency Management Conference (ITEM-C), Thackerville
- ▶ 22nd: Pottawotatomie County Cattlemen's Meeting, Shawnee
- ▶ 30th: Mesonet site tour, OSU Extension Legislative Field Day

JUNE

- ▶ 7th: Mesonet OSU Tour, Stillwater
- ▶ 10th-15th: Oklahoma Mesonet Weather Camp
- ▶ 21st-23rd: OK Pecan Growers' Convention, Norman
- ▶ 22nd: Mesonet Steering Committee Meeting, Norman
- ▶ 26th: Weather Program at Mustang Library

JULY

- ▶ 8th-10th: OAEAA Conference, Bartlesville
- ▶ 26th-28th: OK Cattlemen's Convention, Midwest City

CONTACTS

Accessing recent (within the past 7 days)
Mesonet data

Contact: [Mesonet Operator](#)

Instrumentation, telecommunications, or
other technical specifications

Contact: [Chris Fiebrich](#)

Mesonet agricultural data and products

Contact: [Al Sutherland](#)

Mesonet meteorological data

Contact: [OCS Data Requests](#)

K-12 educational outreach

Contact: [Andrea Melvin](#)

OK-First

Contact: [James Hocker](#)

OK-FIRE

Contact: [J.D. Carlson](#)

Not sure?

Contact: 405-325-2541 or [Chris Fiebrich](#).

FORECAST FOR MAY

[Click here to view the original maps from the Climate Prediction Center.](#)

