



Weekly Special Agriculture Bulletin



Punjab Agricultural University Ludhiana

17.03.2026

WEATHER FORECAST: Cloudy sky with possibility of light to moderate rain at isolated places on 18th & 19th March, at few places on 20th March. Thunderstorms & Lightning/Gusty wind (30-40 kmph) may occur at isolated placed during 19-20 march.

EXPECTED WEATHER CONDITIONS:

WEATHER PARAMETERS	SUB-MONTANEOUS ZONE	CENTRAL PLAIN ZONE	SOUTH-WESTERN ZONE
Maximum Temperature (°C)	24 - 27	24 - 27	24 - 27
Minimum Temperature (°C)	10 - 13	10 - 13	10 - 13
Morning Relative Humidity (%)	61 - 99	65 - 99	65 - 97
Evening Relative Humidity (%)	26 - 82	26 - 82	26 - 78

WEATHER CROP OUTLOOK: Cloudy sky with possibility of light to moderate rain at isolated places on 18th & 19th March, at few places on 20th March. Thunderstorms & Lightning/Gusty wind (30-40 kmph) may occur at isolated placed during. Keeping in view the possible rainfall and gusty wind, farmers are advised to withhold irrigation and application of chemicals during the next 4-5 days.

CROPS:

Wheat: Do not irrigate the crop and apply chemicals during next 3-4 days. Depending upon rainfall irrigate the timely sown crop upto end of March to avoid the harmful effect of unusual rise in temperature at grain filling stage. Care should be taken not to irrigate the crop on windy days to avoid lodging. In timely sown crop, apply two sprays of 2% potassium nitrate (13:0:45) by dissolving 4 kg potassium nitrate in 200 litres of water at boot leaf and at anthesis stage or apply 2 sprays of salicylic acid by dissolving 15 gram salicylic acid in 450 ml of ethyl alcohol using 200 litres of water per acre at boot leaf and early milk stages to mitigate the effect of high temperature at grain filling and enhance the wheat yield. Observe the wheat fields for appearance of yellow rust. As soon as the disease appears, spray the crop with Taqat @ 300g or Caviet @ 200g or Nativo @ 120g or Impact Xtra or Opera or Custodia or Tilt or Shine or Bumper or Stilt or Compass or Markzole @ 200 ml in 200 litres of water per acre. Repeat the spray at 15 days interval. Observe the fields for appearance of aphids, if the population reach the economic threshold level (ETL) i.e. 5 aphids/ear-head, give two sprays of 2 litre PAU Homemade neem extract at weekly interval or single spray of 20g Actara/Taiyo 25 WG (thiamethoxam) in 80-100 liter of water per acre. Observe the crop on earing stage for attack of loose smut. If loose smut symptoms appear, cover the ears with polythene and remove those ears from crop and bury removed ears in soil. A single spray of 200 ml Tilt 25 EC (propiconazole) per acre using 200 litres of water at ear emergence stage for the control of Karnal bunt is recommended in wheat meant for seed production only.

Sugarcane: Apply need-based irrigation to the young crop when weather become clear. Complete the sowing of recommended varieties of sugarcane upto end March i.e. CoPB-95, CoPB-96, Co15023, CoPB-92, Co118, CoJ-85, CoJ-64 (early maturing), CoPB-94, CoPB-93, CoPB-98, CoPB-91, Co-238, CoJ-88 for mid-season and late maturing. Application of Atrataf 50 WP/Sencor 70 WP/Karmex 80 WP/Klass 80 WP (diuron) @ 800 g/acre or Authority NXT 58 WP @ 1000 g/acre as pre-emergence application provides effective control of annual grasses and broadleaf weeds.

Spring Maize: The ridge sown crop should be earthed up after the application of second dose of urea at knee high stage of crop. Depending upon the rainfall irrigate the crop at 2 weeks interval up to April.

Pulses: **Summer Moong:** Start sowing of summer moong varieties SML 1827, SML 832 and SML 668 from 20 March. Sow moong at 22.5 cm row to row distance by using 15 kg seed of SML 668 and 12 kg seed per acre for other varieties.

Summer Mash: Start sowing of summer mash varieties Mash 1137 and Mash 1008 from 15 March. Sow mash at 22.5 cm row to row distance by using 20 kg seed per acre.

Oilseed: **Rapeseed & Mustard:** Apply irrigation/spay when weather become clear. In case mustard aphid population reach the economic threshold level (ETL), spray the crop with 40 g Actara 25 WG or 400 ml Rogor 30 EC or 600 ml of Dursban/ Coroban 20 EC in 80-125litres of water per acre. The spray must be carried out in the after-noon when the pollinators are less active.

Sunflower: Irrigate sunflower at two weeks interval.

Millets: **Proso Millet:** Best sowing time for millet variety Punjab Cheena 1 to get higher grain yields is between 10 March to 30 March under Punjab conditions. Use 3.0 to 4.0 kg seed per acre to sow the crop by *kera* or *pora* method at a row-to-row spacing of 22.5 cm and depth of 2-3 cm. Apply 52 kg urea per acre in two equal splits, with half as a basal dose before sowing and the remaining half at 20 days after sowing or after first irrigation.

Fodder: Irrigate Berseem and Lucerne at 15-20 days interval depending upon the weather conditions and soil type. Have regular cuttings of Berseem. Avoid delay for next cutting. Make silage of oats in late February to early March when the crop is at milk stage if the fodder is surplus.

- Vegetables:**
- Apply irrigation at regular interval in view of dry weather and increasing temperature in coming days.
 - Transplant CH-52, CH-27 (hybrids) and Punjab Sindhuri, Punjab Tej varieties of chilli at the recommended spacings. Irrigate immediately after transplanting and later on 10-12 days intervals depending upon the soil & climate.
 - Sow Punjab Lalima and Punjab Suhawani variety of okra in this season. Apply light irrigation after 10 to 12 days depending upon soil & climatic conditions.
 - For the control of purple blotch in onion, spray the crop with 300g of Caviet or 600g of Indofil M-45 mixed with 200 ml of Triton or linseed oil in 200 litres of water per acre as soon as first symptom of purple blotch appears in the crop. The spray should be repeated at 10 days interval.
 - Irrigate the tomato crop regularly at 10 to 12 days interval to encourage the maximum fruit setting. Late blight disease may appear on tomato early in this month. The crop may be sprayed with Indofil M-45 @ 600 g/acre at 7 days intervals to control this disease. Spray tomato crop with 60 ml Coragen 18.5 SC (chlorantriliprole) or 30 ml of Fame 480 SL (flubendiamide) or 200 ml of Indoxacarb 14.5 SC per acre in 100litres of water to check the attack of fruit borer.

- Fruits:**
- Apply light irrigation to ber, citrus, peach and plum orchards and apply recommended doses of inorganic fertilizers.
 - Regularly monitor the incidence of sucking pests in different fruit plants and manage these as per the recommendations. To control citrus psylla, spray 200 ml Crocodile/Confidor 17.8 SL (imidacloprid) or 160g Actara 25 WG (thiamethoxam) in 500 litres of water per acre basis on spring flush in citrus.
 - Planting of evergreen fruit plants like citrus, mango, guava, loquat, ber etc. can be started.
 - To check foot rot of citrus (gummosis) drench the affected trees with 25 g Curzate M-8 in 10 litres of water per tree. Application of sodium hypochlorite (5%) @ 50ml per tree in 10 litres of water can be done on the main trunk and on soil surface under the canopies of the trees.
 - To check powdery mildew, give one spray of 1g Karathane or 2.5 g Wettable Sulphur or 1.0 ml Contaf per liter of water before flowering in mango.
 - For management of mango hopper, spray 200 ml Confidor 17.8 SL (imidacloprid) in 500 litres of water per acre basis on spring flush before opening of the flowers.

Animal Husbandry: Keep animals under shed during thunderstorm/lightning/gusty wind. Supply clean and adequate amount of drinking water in view of increasing temperature. Regularly deworm the calves with piperazine liquid (5ml/kg body weight) first at 15 days of age then 22 days and then one month up to 6 months of age and then 3monthly by using different drug combinations to avoid resistance.