

OREGON CROP WEATHER



**NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE**

USDA, NASS, Oregon Field Office

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Weather: The State experienced some cool and wet fall weather this past week. High temperatures ranged from 87 degrees in Florence, McMinnville, Salem, and Roseburg, down to only 64 degrees in Joseph. Low temperatures ranged from a chilly 20 degrees in Christmas Valley, up to 47 degrees in Bandon in the coastal region. Moisture was reported all across the State, with only 6 stations not reporting any measurable accumulation. Four stations reported over an inch, with Tillamook reporting the greatest total of 1.83 inches. Astoria/Clastsop and Tillamook reported 5 days of moisture.

Field Crops: Fall field preparation continued throughout most of the State. Some field work was interrupted in many areas of the State last week due to rains and cooler temperatures. High winds in Sherman County slowed farm work as well. However, more moisture is needed to get growth started on winter wheat. Corn for silage was harvested in Jackson and Yamhill counties. All in all good moisture this past week has helped dry conditions across the State.

Vegetables: There was still plenty of sweet corn, tomatoes, bell peppers, squash, and cucumbers being harvested in Jackson County. The sweet corn harvest in Washington County is ongoing, although the yields look like they are down a bit this year. Pumpkins and winter squash were being harvested in Benton, Linn, and Lane counties. Josephine County also reported harvesting winter squash.

Fruits and Nuts: Willamette Valley berries, peaches, and prunes/plums were winding down. Grape harvest is underway with some reports of powdery mildew and bunch rot in the southern Willamette Valley and Umpqua Valley. Most growers applied fungicide sprays to grapes that were more than a week from harvest. Hazelnut harvest is to begin this week throughout the Willamette Valley. Apples and pears continued to be picked. Winter pear harvest began in upper Parkdale and continued throughout the Hood River Valley. Mid-week rain caused only slight disruptions to harvest. Picker shortages continued to slow harvest operations.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Watering was still required for both nurseries and greenhouses. Some fall sales of potted and balled and burlap stock was reported. Retail garden centers were selling fall plants, both decorative and fall vegetables.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Pastures and rangeland continued to need additional precipitation to jump start fall growth. Scattered rainfall was reported across the State, but more is needed. Cattle producers starting weaning spring calves, with some being shipped to back-grounding facilities. Livestock continued to look good throughout the State.

Soil Moisture-Week Ending 09/24/06

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	25	46	29	0
Subsoil	35	40	25	0

Crop Progress-Week Ending 09/24/06

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5 year average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Alfalfa hay, third cutting	87	82	-	-
Winter wheat planted	39	21	11	10
Winter wheat emerged	13	-	2	1
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.2	6.6	-	-

Crop Condition-Week Ending 09/24/06

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Range and pasture	23	31	32	13	1

WESTERN OREGON

BENTON/LINN/LANE: Blueberries are done. A few “day neutral” varieties of strawberries are being picked. Blackberries are still going, but are nearly done. Powdery mildew is showing up on grapes. The crop looks mediocre to good, and are turning color. Asian pears are being harvested. Peaches are finishing up. Prunes are finishing up very late this year. Apple harvest is continuing. Bartlett pears are very late in ripening this year. Hazelnuts look like a large crop by the look of the nuts. Early harvest has started and nuts are falling nicely. Pumpkins and squash are being harvested.

COOS/CURRY: Almost 0.75 inches of rain fell this week in several events. Soils are still very parched, and pasture continues to deteriorate. Temperatures were above normal for the week for Coos and Northern Curry, with a high temperature in Southern Curry of 85.2 degrees and 83.4 in Bandon. About 0.3 inches to 0.5 inches of rainfall in the area. Some cranberry growers are concerned about the lack of "growing degrees" - cool and foggy or cloudy weather in the mornings and not warming until afternoon, just in time to cool down with the evening breezes. The lack of heat may delay some harvests. Hay producers still reporting 50% hay crops. Brookings (South Curry): The low temperature for the period was 46.36 degrees, 1.99 degrees below the 5-year average. The high temperature for the period was 85.2 degrees, 5.73 degrees above the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 0.28 inches, compared to a 5-year (including drought years 2001-2004) average of 0.16 inches. Precipitation for the Weather year stands at 107.61 inches, 40.15 inches above the 5-year average (including drought years 2001-2004). The historical average (through September) is 73.48 inches precipitation. Bandon (Coos & Northern Curry): The low temperature for the period was 46.88 degrees, 3.11 degrees above the 5-year average. The high temperature for the period was 83.4 degrees, 13.41 degrees above the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 0.45 inches compared to a 5-year average (including drought years 2001-2004) of 0.85 inches. The Weather year precipitation stands at 69.87 inches, 20.63 inches above the 5-year average (including 4 drought years, 2001 – 2004). The historical average is 60.4 inches through September.

DOUGLAS: The first real rain in Douglas County in four months fell on Tuesday with most of the agricultural areas receiving 0.75 inches. The rain was excellent for recently planted wheat, cover crops, turf, and pastures. The rain will cause some problems with grape quality as wine grapes are entering the harvest period. Some reports of Botrytis bunch rots. Most growers were applying fungicides to grapes that were still more than one week from harvest. Tree crops were mostly ok after the rain. Some damage to late prune harvesting. Brown rot is doing damage where no fungicides were used.

JACKSON: The grain harvest is over and the ground preparation for next year is underway. Some ground is ready for fall planting, but we need some rain to get the moisture for starting growth. Still some haying being done, mostly grass, but some alfalfa. Some corn silage was made. Pears, apples, and some grapes were being harvested. Fruit harvest for pears and apples looking good. Still lots of corn, tomatoes, bell peppers, squash, and cucumbers were being harvested. Some summer onions also being pulled. Greenhouses still getting out fall garden, and decorative starts. Nurseries still busy with feeding and watering of stock on hand. Some fall sales of potted, and burlap stock. Some weaning of spring calves and shipping to backgrounding operations. Most all livestock is in good to excellent condition. Lots of irrigation of pastures to keep forage growing. Fruit harvest, some haying, and working cattle (spring calves) have been the busiest work. Some ground preparation for fall planting being done. Vegetable gardens are busy getting harvest done before frost time. The weather has been ideal for crop ripening. Days are warm, and nights are getting cooler. There was not enough rain to get fall pastures going, and still not too much dew at night. All in all, quite a nice week for any farm and ranch chores. Some fall rains are needed.

JOSEPHINE: Weather has been delightful. Cool mornings, warm days. Daytime temperatures were in the lower 80's. Sunday morning temperature was the coolest in months at 34 degrees. Cleaning up gardens. Harvesting winter squash. Grapes are sugaring up. Fire danger has been lowered but there is still an explosive situation here. The second cutting of hay fields continues. These are mostly grass hayfields. Principle reason for alfalfa fields here are in rotation for truck gardens, although they do cut and bail for one or two seasons, it is mostly for personal use.

MARION: Fields continue to be prepared for fall plantings. The week started out with scattered rains and cooler temperatures slowing some field work. A few showers this week, but not enough to get the ground wet.

WASHINGTON: Cutting field corn for ensilage on many fields. Yield is average. Red clover harvested for seed is done. Filberts are nearing harvest as nuts are dropping well in some orchards and walnuts are turning color, prunes about finished, berries winding down, peaches are ripe. The sweet corn harvest is ongoing and the yield is down a bit. Fall preparation for winter continues. Feeding is ongoing, cow/calf pairs look good, getting ready to wean in some herds. The high temperature was 71 degrees, and the low was 43 degrees. Recent moisture improved seed bed preparation and planting.

YAMHILL: Hazelnut harvest operations are beginning this week. Corn silage just getting started and grape harvest is underway.

EASTERN OREGON

GILLIAM/WHEELER: The temperatures have been around freezing this week, but the days have been warm enough to make things grow. There was around .08 inches of rain that has just dampened the soil enough for some wheat seeded two weeks ago to pop up. Light scattered showers earlier last week did not significantly change seed-zone moisture conditions.

HARNEY: Cool "fall" weather setting in.

HOOD RIVER: The winter pear harvest began in upper Parkdale and continued throughout the Hood River Valley. Mid-week rain caused only slight disruptions to harvest. The picker shortage continued to slow harvest operations.

JEFFERSON: Kentucky bluegrass planting is complete.

KLAMATH: Light rain last week slowed grain harvest. Frost on two nights. Potato and onion harvest continues. Mixture of late third and fourth cutting alfalfa down. Cooler day and night temperatures.

LAKE: Colder temperatures during the week and weekend--frost in some areas. Frost has delayed the third cutting in some areas. No precipitation.

MALHEUR: Cool weather and rain on Wednesday and Thursday. Ontario reported 0.24 inches. Amounts varied. Some harvest operations stopped for a day depending on location.

SHERMAN: High winds again slowed farm work, creating a dust storm and taking part of the roof off the Extension Office. Could use some rain.

UMATILLA: Received .06 inches of rain. Not enough to cause growers to go out and seed, but enough to germinate cheat grass. Should see more seeding in the next couple of weeks. Early seeded wheat is up and looks pretty good, spotty in places but generally good.

WALLOWA: Good moisture throughout the week has helped dry conditions. Some third cuttings of hay have been delayed. Range conditions are a little better. Snow pack is 106% of normal.

Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: September 24, 2006 (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	42	81	58	+1	56	+2	1.20	0.45	5	1.44	-0.74	66	9
Bandon ⁸	47	83	59	+3	68	+19	0.45	0.03	3	0.74	-0.53	58	5
Crescent City	44	79	57	-2	48	-8	0.17	-0.28	2	0.23	-1.06	18	4
Florence	38	87	59	-2	62	-3	1.01	0.36	3	1.04	-0.80	57	4
Tillamook	38	84	58	+1	55	+6	1.83	0.86	5	2.22	-0.62	78	10
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Aurora ⁸	42	85	61	+1	77	+5	0.62	0.16	3	0.84	-0.55	60	6
Corvallis	40	85	60	-2	70	-3	0.27	-0.11	3	0.66	-0.49	57	5
Detroit Lake ⁸	40	84	56	+3	46	+6	0.89	0.32	4	1.33	-0.39	77	7
Eugene	37	85	58	-5	57	-24	0.45	0.03	4	0.52	-0.79	40	6
Hillsboro	37	84	59	-2	61	-5	0.41	0.06	4	0.59	-0.56	51	5
McMinnville	39	87	61	+0	76	+3	0.41	-0.01	4	0.74	-0.50	60	6
Portland	45	85	61	-1	80	-4	0.61	0.19	4	0.86	-0.53	62	8
Salem	40	87	60	-1	72	+1	0.52	0.11	4	0.56	-0.63	47	5
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	40	84	59	-5	64	-30	0.05	-0.18	1	0.18	-0.48	27	3
Medford	40	86	61	-4	76	-22	0.02	-0.19	1	0.06	-0.62	9	3
Roseburg	43	87	61	-3	75	-12	0.34	0.06	3	0.65	-0.25	72	6
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	33	73	52	-5	22	-23	0.10	-0.04	2	0.14	-0.47	23	4
Echo ⁸	37	77	58	-3	60	-18	0.15	0.08	3	0.17	-0.21	45	5
Heppner	37	73	55	-5	38	-27	0.42	0.21	4	0.49	-0.15	77	6
Hermiston	37	77	58	-3	59	-19	0.23	0.16	3	0.25	-0.13	66	4
John Day	35	79	53	-5	28	-27	0.28	0.07	3	0.42	-0.30	58	5
Madras ⁸	31	76	52	-6	19	-36	0.16	0.02	3	0.19	-0.29	40	5
Moro	36	74	54	-4	35	-20	-	-0.14	-	0.24	-0.24	50	2
Parkdale ⁸	33	76	54	-5	28	-33	0.03	-0.25	1	0.14	-0.76	16	3
Pendleton	37	76	57	-5	51	-28	0.38	0.24	4	0.40	-0.07	85	5
The Dalles	40	82	61	+3	74	+15	0.05	-0.09	1	0.05	-0.43	10	1
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Agency Lake ⁸	26	73	48	-6	4	-29	0.03	-0.11	2	0.11	-0.37	23	4
Bend	28	73	48	-6	10	-28	0.05	-0.02	2	0.13	-0.28	32	4
Burns	26	76	50	-4	11	-22	0.07	-0.07	2	0.33	-0.15	69	4
Christmas Valley ⁸	20	75	46	-12	3	-54	0.05	-0.09	2	0.05	-0.41	11	2
Klamath Falls	28	75	51	-7	16	-41	-	-0.14	-	0.06	-0.37	14	2
Klamath Falls ⁸	27	74	51	-8	14	-43	-	-0.14	-	-	-0.43	-	-
Lakeview	25	75	51	-6	18	-29	-	-0.14	-	0.07	-0.41	15	1
Lorella ⁸	25	76	49	-10	4	-53	-	-0.14	-	0.05	-0.38	12	2
Redmond	27	78	51	-5	14	-31	0.12	0.05	2	0.27	-0.08	77	3
Worden ⁸	22	76	48	-11	4	-53	-	-0.14	-	0.12	-0.31	28	2
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	27	72	49	-7	1	-42	0.39	0.25	4	0.44	-0.18	71	8
Joseph	34	64	46	-5	4	-21	1.16	0.81	4	1.83	0.77	173	8
La Grande	34	72	53	-6	22	-36	0.57	0.36	4	0.59	-0.16	79	5
Prairie City ⁸	29	75	50	+2	11	-9	0.82	0.61	3	1.06	0.17	119	6
Union	36	73	54	-3	28	-18	0.49	0.28	4	0.65	-0.21	76	6
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	34	77	56	-5	48	-29	0.31	0.18	3	0.36	-0.11	77	6
Rome	27	82	52	-6	23	-35	0.02	-0.12	1	0.05	-0.43	10	2

¹ Summary based on NWS data. Copyright 2006: 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, 2006.

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.