

# OREGON CROP WEATHER



**NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE**

USDA, NASS, Oregon Field Office

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Phone: 503-326-2131  
Toll Free: 1-800-338-2157  
Email: nass-or@nass.usda.gov  
Internet: www.nass.usda.gov/or

**Weather:** Despite cooler temperatures, conditions remained warm and dry throughout much of the State with temperatures reaching 90 degrees or above in most areas. High temperatures ranged from 100 degrees in Hermiston and Ontario, down to 61 degrees at the Crescent City and Bandon weather stations. Low temperatures ranged from 53 degrees in Portland, Medford, The Dalles, and Echo, down to 34 degrees in Baker City. The La Grande and Baker City weather stations were the only two stations that received measurable precipitation with 0.02 and 0.01 total inches respectively. For the second week in a row, all stations reported below normal precipitation levels last week.

**Field Crops:** Great weather for harvest and crop development continued this past week across much of the State. The cutting of alfalfa hay, grass hay, and grass seed continued. Crimson Clover harvest was completed in Washington County. Spud fields in Klamath County were blooming. Some eastern counties began harvesting wheat last week. The delay in grain harvest will most likely prolong planting this fall. So far, the barley harvest is ahead of last year compared to winter wheat. Statewide, grain crops were reported to be mostly in good condition.

**Vegetables:** The snap bean harvest was underway this past week in the Willamette Valley. Canneries now have the task of coordinating harvest and keeping the processing plants running with a steady flow of beans. Plenty of tomato blossoms have set in and summer squash was plentiful at truck gardens in southwestern Oregon. Sweet corn has finally hit its growing stride in the Willamette Valley. Seed bed

preparation and planting of many vegetable for seed crops will be delayed in central Oregon due to the cool conditions that persisted this spring as well as the delayed harvest of other crops.

**Fruits and Nuts:** Blueberries, raspberries, and everbearing strawberries were being harvested last week. Apples, pears, and grapes were doing well. The tart cherry harvest began in Yamhill County and the sweet cherry harvest was winding down in northern Wasco County. Regina cherries were being harvested in Hood River County. Pear growers continued to cut fire blight in many locations throughout the Hood River valley and summer orchard operations continued. Filberts were filling and were being sprayed for filbert worm in some areas of the Willamette Valley.

**Nurseries and Greenhouses:** Nurseries were reported to be well stocked with sales slowing in some areas. Nurseries remained busy with routine plant maintenance, watering, and feeding. Greenhouses continued with maintenance and clean-up activities in preparation for fall plantings.

**Livestock, Range and Pasture:** Dryland pasture and range conditions continued to decline, while higher elevation and irrigated pastureland were still in good shape. Livestock activities included some weaning and selling of fall calves in southwest Oregon where cattle were in good shape.

**Soil Moisture-Week Ending 07/20/08**

|         | <b>Very short</b> | <b>Short</b>   | <b>Adequate</b> | <b>Surplus</b> |
|---------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
|         | <i>Percent</i>    | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i>  | <i>Percent</i> |
| Topsoil | 28                | 38             | 34              | 0              |
| Subsoil | 17                | 45             | 38              | 0              |

**Crop Progress-Week Ending 07/20/08**

| <b>Crop</b>                 | <b>This week</b> | <b>Last week</b> | <b>Last year</b> | <b>5 year average</b> |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
|                             | <i>Percent</i>   | <i>Percent</i>   | <i>Percent</i>   | <i>Percent</i>        |
| Alfalfa hay, second cutting | 53               | 37               | 85               | 34                    |
| Winter wheat harvested      | 23               | 6                | 46               | 27                    |
| Barley harvested            | 25               | -                | 2                | 3                     |
| Spring wheat harvested      | 15               | -                | 21               | 7                     |
| Days suitable for fieldwork | 6.9              | 7.0              | 5.8              | 6.7                   |

**Crop Condition-Week Ending 07/20/08**

| <b>Crop</b>       | <b>Very poor</b> | <b>Poor</b>    | <b>Fair</b>    | <b>Good</b>    | <b>Excellent</b> |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
|                   | <i>Percent</i>   | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i>   |
| Winter wheat      | 16               | 22             | 28             | 29             | 5                |
| Spring wheat      | 8                | 28             | 28             | 30             | 6                |
| Barley            | 4                | 16             | 33             | 43             | 4                |
| Corn              | 0                | 0              | 16             | 78             | 6                |
| Range and pasture | 6                | 25             | 39             | 28             | 2                |

## WESTERN OREGON

**BENTON/LINN/LANE:** The weather was good. Squash was growing and the grass seed harvest was progressing.

**CLACKAMAS:** Summer weather last week. It was quite hot early in the week, moderating by the weekend. Grass seed was mostly swathed and combining was beginning. Fall wheat was drying down, spring grain were in soft dough stage. Pastures were growing slowly.

**COOS/CURRY:** Temperatures were below the 5-year average for the week, both in Coos and northern Curry and in Southern Curry County. The cool conditions were mostly due to the overcast, breezy conditions. Hay production remained active with the good weather (once the dew burned off) and the breezy conditions sped up the drying process. Bandon (Coos & Northern Curry): The low temperature for the period was 45.01 degrees, 6.38 degrees below the 5-year average. The high temperature for the period was 60.71 degrees, 10.12 degrees below the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 0.00 inches, compared to a 5-year (including drought years 2003-2004) average of 0.14 inches. Precipitation for Current weather year precipitation (began 10/07) stands at 50.59 inches, 4.79 inches below the 5 year average. Historical average precipitation through July is 57.92 inches. Brookings (Southern Curry): The low temperature for the period was 51.71 degrees, 0.27 degrees below the 5-year average. The high temperature for the period was 67.17 degrees, a 40 degree drop from last week's high temp, and 5.45 degrees below the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 0.01 inches compared to a 5-year (including drought years 2003-2004) average of 0.22 inches. Precipitation for Current weather year precipitation (began 10/07) stands at 64.16 inches, 16.63 inches below the 5 year average. Historical average precipitation for Brookings area through July is 70.49 inches.

**DOUGLAS:** The hot spell finally ended. Temperatures were back to normal, nice July weather with highs in the 80's. Temperatures and conditions were great for the berry harvest. We were in the middle of the raspberry and blueberry harvest. Yields were good and quality was excellent. Wine grapes were still behind normal development but only by about 10 days.

**JACKSON:** Weather has been quite hot and very dry. It was good weather for hay making and good for growth. There was some alfalfa and grass haying being done. Grain crops were starting to ripen, but not much has been harvested yet. Plenty of irrigating was being done. Apples, pears, and grapes were looking good. There were still some fresh strawberries and blueberries available, and some peaches were being picked. Vegetable gardens were busy getting crops picked and sold mostly to farmers markets. This included onions, beans, some early sweet corn, and zucchini squash. Greenhouses were still in the clean-up and maintenance phase, and getting ready for fall plantings. Nurseries were mostly doing routine plant maintenance, watering, and feeding. All livestock were in good shape. Most were on irrigated valley pastures or have been moved to higher ranges. There was some weaning and selling of last fall calves being done.

**JOSEPHINE:** Weather was hot and dry with gusty winds. Day time temperatures were in the 90's, nights were in the high 50's to mid 60's with no precipitation. Truck gardens were starting to offer some local product; raspberries, blueberries, and for a short time they had cherries. Summer squash was plentiful for truck and home gardeners alike. Walla Walla onions were also available. Green beans were about a week out. Lots of tomato blossoms set in several varieties. Table and wine grapes were doing well. Irrigation was a problem with the heat, wind, and night time temperatures being so warm. Local and out-of-state fires have had the Southern Oregon Valleys filled with bitter and heavy smoke.

**MARION:** The grass seed harvest was well underway and could be found in all stages from not yet swathed, to swathed and curing, to thrashed, straw baled, bales stacked in field, and finally to bales hauled away. Grains were maturing and will soon be ready for combining. Temperatures were cooler but still warm and dry, which are ideal conditions for seed harvests. More and different varieties of flowers continue to bloom, while harvest of some cut flowers is finishing up. A lot of wildflower seed fields were also in bloom. The Caneberry harvest continued, but informal production reports are that the crop is well below average. The green bean harvest was underway, so now the canneries have the task of coordinating plant readiness for picking, harvest, and keeping the processing plants running with a steady flow of beans. Most crops looked good and were finally progressing with the season. Nurseries seemed to be well stocked; however, sales have most likely slowed since spring. Since we've had no measurable moisture for several weeks, irrigation was going steadily where available.

**POLK:** Conditions were warm and dry. The grass seed harvest continued.

**TILLAMOOK:** Dry conditions prevailed in the area.

**WASHINGTON:** The high temperature last week was 92 degrees and the low was 48 degrees with 30 to 60 percent humidity. Grasses were being combined, crimson clover was done, and most hay was in the shed. Field corn was doing well and irrigation continued. Blueberries were ripe, filberts were filling, and some everbearing strawberries were on market stands. Sweet corn was finally hitting its growing stride. Nurseries were pruning and irrigating shrubs and trees. Pastures were drying with the hot winds and low humidity.

**YAMHILL:** Some hazelnut growers were spraying for filbert worm. The tart cherry harvest was beginning.

## EASTERN OREGON

**BAKER:** Farmers started to combine grass seed. Hot, dry weather was stressing dryland crops. This summer, the County has been experiencing the worst grasshopper infestation in over twenty years.

**CROOK/DESCHUTES/JEFFERSON:** The cool conditions that persisted this spring are going to make timely harvest and planting very difficult this year. Kentucky bluegrass harvest was underway, but is about 5 to 7 days later than normal. This will, in turn, delay the wheat harvest, which will delay seed bed preparation and planting for many vegetable seed crops. Fortunately, the weather for bluegrass harvest has been excellent and looks to remain so. If rain interferes with harvest, this will only further exacerbate the time crunch.

**GRANT:** Conditions were hot and dry last week.

**HARNEY:** No precipitation was received and high temperatures were slightly above normal last week. The grass hay harvest continued.

**HOOD RIVER:** Fair weather prevailed through the week with high temperatures ranging from the mid 70's to low 90's. Summer orchard operations continued throughout the Hood River Valley. Pear growers continued cutting fire blight in many locations throughout the valley. Regina cherries were harvested in the lower valley.

**KLAMATH:** Temperatures were high during the week with warm night time temperatures. Some potatoes were blooming. Some second cutting hay dropped because of bug problems.

**LAKE:** The area did not receive any precipitation during the week or over the weekend. The grass hay harvest was completed throughout the County. The first cutting of alfalfa was about two weeks late and will delay the start of the second cutting.

**MALHEUR:** Hot weather continued. Lows were around 60 degrees and the high was 95 degrees with no rain. Irrigation reserves were still adequate.

**MORROW:** The spring wheat harvest started last week.

**SHERMAN:** Reports of wheat crop delivered to the elevator in north east Sherman County indicate very low weights; in the 55-56 pound range. The harvest has been generally late in all areas of the County with green still showing in the southern half of County.

**UNION:** The grass seed harvest started its second week. Small grains were maturing rapidly. Conditions continued to be hot and dry. As with many other crops, the sweet cherry harvest was delayed about 10 to 14 days later this year with some harvest at low elevations beginning this week.

**WALLOWA:** It was a warm week. There was plenty of irrigation water. Dry cropland was showing stress as it has been a while since it rained. Wheat should see normal to above normal yields. Lots of haying was being done. With the late spring, growers that waited were getting normal yields.

**WASCO:** It was good harvest weather last week. The hot, dry weather continued all week. The wheat harvest started at the beginning of the week in the north end of the County. Approximately five percent of wheat harvest was completed by weeks end. The second cutting of alfalfa hay and irrigation were active through week. The sweet cherry harvest was winding down in The Dalles area and orchard clean-up was underway. The Dufur valley harvest was underway. Irrigation sprinklers were seen in many fruit orchards. Grapes were starting to size on the vines. Livestock were doing well, but dryland pastures were starting to show signs of depletion.

**Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: July 20, 2008 (as of 11:00 am) <sup>1</sup>**

| Station                       | Air temperature <sup>2</sup> |      |      |                  | Growing degree days <sup>3</sup> |                  | Last week precip. <sup>4</sup> |                  |                   | Season cum. precipitation <sup>5</sup> |                  |             |                   |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------|------|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|--|------------------|-------------|-------------------|
|                               | Low                          | High | Avg. | DFN <sup>6</sup> | Total                            | DFN <sup>6</sup> | Total inches                   | DFN <sup>6</sup> | Days <sup>7</sup> | Total inches                           | DFN <sup>6</sup> | Pct. normal | Days <sup>7</sup> |
| <b>COASTAL AREAS</b>          |                              |      |      |                  |                                  |                  |                                |                  |                   |  |                  |             |                   |
| Astoria/Clatsop               | 48                           | 71   | 58   | -3               | 58                               | -12              | -                              | -0.21            | -                 | 60.46                                  | -4.31            | 93          | 186               |
| Bandon <sup>8</sup>           | 45                           | 61   | 55   | -5               | 33                               | -23              | -                              | -0.07            | -                 | 52.42                                  | -5.40            | 91          | 173               |
| Crescent City                 | 47                           | 61   | 54   | -5               | 32                               | -24              | -                              | -0.07            | -                 | 44.20                                  | -19.93           | 69          | 115               |
| Florence                      | 41                           | 71   | 55   | -6               | 39                               | -31              | -                              | -0.14            | -                 | 84.61                                  | 9.72             | 113         | 159               |
| North Bend                    | 46                           | 63   | 55   | -5               | 40                               | -25              | -                              | -0.07            | -                 | 57.80                                  | -4.42            | 93          | 149               |
| Tillamook                     | 46                           | 73   | 58   | +0               | 57                               | +0               | -                              | -0.33            | -                 | 56.79                                  | -29.68           | 66          | 173               |
| <b>WILLAMETTE VALLEY</b>      |                              |      |      |                  |                                  |                  |                                |                  |                   |  |                  |             |                   |
| Aurora <sup>8</sup>           | 50                           | 92   | 68   | +3               | 131                              | +17              | -                              | -0.14            | -                 | 41.64                                  | 1.72             | 104         | 167               |
| Corvallis                     | 46                           | 93   | 67   | +2               | 123                              | +11              | -                              | -0.07            | -                 | 42.30                                  | 0.63             | 102         | 153               |
| Detroit Lake <sup>8</sup>     | 47                           | 93   | 69   | +6               | 135                              | +44              | -                              | -0.17            | -                 | 89.50                                  | 23.48            | 136         | 179               |
| Eugene                        | 44                           | 95   | 68   | +0               | 127                              | +2               | -                              | -0.07            | -                 | 34.58                                  | -13.55           | 72          | 139               |
| Hillsboro                     | 44                           | 92   | 66   | +0               | 116                              | +4               | -                              | -0.07            | -                 | 30.56                                  | -5.77            | 84          | 140               |
| McMinnville                   | 42                           | 93   | 67   | +1               | 119                              | +7               | -                              | -0.09            | -                 | 33.84                                  | -8.49            | 80          | 148               |
| Portland                      | 53                           | 91   | 69   | +1               | 135                              | +4               | -                              | -0.11            | -                 | 32.77                                  | -2.24            | 94          | 157               |
| Salem                         | 50                           | 94   | 69   | +4               | 138                              | +21              | -                              | -0.12            | -                 | 35.92                                  | -2.36            | 94          | 134               |
| <b>SW VALLEYS</b>             |                              |      |      |                  |                                  |                  |                                |                  |                   |  |                  |             |                   |
| Grants Pass                   | 52                           | 99   | 74   | +2               | 167                              | +13              | -                              | -0.01            | -                 | 28.20                                  | -2.23            | 93          | 124               |
| Medford                       | 53                           | 99   | 76   | +3               | 184                              | +21              | -                              | -0.02            | -                 | 16.35                                  | -1.88            | 90          | 102               |
| Roseburg                      | 52                           | 95   | 72   | +3               | 154                              | +21              | -                              | -0.07            | -                 | 31.86                                  | -0.11            | 100         | 139               |
| <b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>          |                              |      |      |                  |                                  |                  |                                |                  |                   |  |                  |             |                   |
| Condon                        | 47                           | 94   | 70   | +4               | 142                              | +28              | -                              | -0.07            | -                 | 11.50                                  | -1.71            | 87          | 102               |
| Echo <sup>8</sup>             | 53                           | 98   | 76   | +3               | 180                              | +19              | -                              | 0.00             | -                 | 7.79                                   | -0.67            | 92          | 98                |
| Heppner                       | 48                           | 95   | 72   | +3               | 156                              | +18              | -                              | -0.07            | -                 | 13.73                                  | 0.61             | 105         | 119               |
| Hermiston                     | 51                           | 100  | 76   | +3               | 183                              | +22              | -                              | 0.00             | -                 | 7.62                                   | -0.84            | 90          | 82                |
| Madras <sup>8</sup>           | 42                           | 91   | 68   | +2               | 128                              | +9               | -                              | -0.07            | -                 | 7.83                                   | -1.94            | 80          | 96                |
| Moro                          | 47                           | 94   | 72   | +4               | 155                              | +29              | -                              | -0.04            | -                 | 9.37                                   | -1.18            | 89          | 86                |
| Parkdale <sup>8</sup>         | 42                           | 92   | 66   | -2               | 115                              | -4               | -                              | -0.02            | -                 | 21.99                                  | -8.15            | 73          | 111               |
| Pendleton                     | 47                           | 94   | 73   | -2               | 160                              | -4               | -                              | -0.07            | -                 | 10.89                                  | -0.50            | 96          | 94                |
| Prairie City <sup>8</sup>     | 42                           | 91   | 68   | +2               | 128                              | +9               | -                              | -0.07            | -                 | 7.83                                   | -1.94            | 80          | 96                |
| The Dalles                    | 53                           | 98   | 75   | +9               | 179                              | +60              | -                              | -0.03            | -                 | 12.94                                  | 1.03             | 109         | 81                |
| <b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>          |                              |      |      |                  |                                  |                  |                                |                  |                   |  |                  |             |                   |
| Agency Lake <sup>8</sup>      | 45                           | 89   | 67   | +4               | 122                              | +24              | -                              | -0.07            | -                 | 12.51                                  | -2.85            | 81          | 92                |
| Bend                          | 43                           | 89   | 68   | +5               | 126                              | +28              | -                              | -0.07            | -                 | 11.64                                  | 0.66             | 106         | 76                |
| Burns                         | 37                           | 93   | 69   | +3               | 135                              | +16              | -                              | -0.07            | -                 | 8.76                                   | -0.41            | 96          | 98                |
| Christmas Valley <sup>8</sup> | 37                           | 91   | 65   | -5               | 106                              | -27              | -                              | -0.07            | -                 | 7.16                                   | -4.48            | 62          | 71                |
| Klamath Falls                 | 47                           | 89   | 67   | -2               | 124                              | -2               | -                              | -0.07            | -                 | 9.38                                   | -3.39            | 73          | 80                |
| Klamath Falls <sup>8</sup>    | 46                           | 90   | 68   | -1               | 128                              | +2               | -                              | -0.07            | -                 | 10.73                                  | -2.04            | 84          | 105               |
| Lakeview                      | -                            | -    | -    | -                | -                                | -                | -                              | -                | -                 | -                                      | -                | -           | -                 |
| Lorella <sup>8</sup>          | 38                           | 92   | 66   | -3               | 112                              | -14              | -                              | -0.07            | -                 | 9.13                                   | -3.64            | 71          | 107               |
| Redmond                       | 39                           | 93   | 68   | +2               | 128                              | +15              | -                              | -0.07            | -                 | 1.86                                   | -6.03            | 24          | 40                |
| Worden <sup>8</sup>           | 38                           | 90   | 64   | -5               | 100                              | -26              | -                              | -0.07            | -                 | 8.07                                   | -4.70            | 63          | 99                |
| <b>NORTHEAST</b>              |                              |      |      |                  |                                  |                  |                                |                  |                   |  |                  |             |                   |
| Baker City                    | 34                           | 90   | 65   | -3               | 106                              | -13              | 0.01                           | -0.07            | 1                 | 9.68                                   | -0.07            | 99          | 113               |
| Joseph                        | 46                           | 83   | 66   | +6               | 114                              | +40              | -                              | -0.14            | -                 | 18.51                                  | -4.99            | 79          | 127               |
| La Grande                     | 39                           | 93   | 68   | -3               | 130                              | -10              | 0.02                           | -0.08            | 1                 | 14.05                                  | -2.30            | 86          | 101               |
| Union                         | 41                           | 91   | 68   | +2               | 131                              | +12              | -                              | -0.10            | -                 | 11.13                                  | -1.55            | 88          | 99                |
| <b>SOUTHEAST</b>              |                              |      |      |                  |                                  |                  |                                |                  |                   |  |                  |             |                   |
| Ontario                       | 52                           | 100  | 78   | +2               | 199                              | +10              | -                              | 0.00             | -                 | 5.90                                   | -3.28            | 64          | 68                |
| Rome                          | 44                           | 99   | 73   | +0               | 161                              | +3               | -                              | -0.07            | -                 | 7.01                                   | -0.68            | 91          | 84                |

<sup>1</sup> Summary based on NWS data. Copyright 2008: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

<sup>2</sup> Air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

<sup>3</sup> Growing degree days base-50 degrees Fahrenheit.

<sup>4</sup> Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

<sup>5</sup> Season cumulative precipitation starts September 1, 2007.

<sup>6</sup> DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-1990 normals period).

<sup>7</sup> Precipitation days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

<sup>8</sup> Agri-Met weather stations.