

OREGON CROP WEATHER



**NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE**

USDA, NASS, Oregon Field Office

Released: August 11, 2008
Week ending: August 10, 2008
Volume: 19-08

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

Weather: Conditions became warmer throughout much of the State with light scattered precipitation reported in many areas. High temperatures ranged from 102 degrees in The Dalles, down to 64 degrees at the Crescent City weather station. Low temperatures ranged from 57 degrees in Ontario, down to 32 degrees in Christmas Valley. The Agency Lake weather station received the most precipitation with 0.28 total inches followed by the Worden weather station with 0.27 total inches. Eight of the forty-two weather stations did not report measurable precipitation, and of those that did, most reported only a trace. Temperatures were above average and precipitation levels were still below normal in most regions of the State.

Field Crops: The grass seed harvest was complete or nearing completion. Red clover was nearing harvest in Marion County. The abnormal spring weather conditions this year have affected wheat yields in north central areas. Statewide, the third cutting of alfalfa hay started ahead of the five year average.

Vegetables: Sweet corn was tasseling and silking this past week in the Willamette Valley, while some first plantings of sweet corn were already picked in southwestern Oregon. Green beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, cantaloupes, and some watermelons were being harvested on the western side of the State. Carrots, onions, and parsley were all finishing their flowering period in central Oregon. Recent conditions have been favorable for pollination and seed ripening. Planting for the 2009 carrot seed crop will begin next week.

Fruits and Nuts: The tart cherry harvest was finishing up in the higher elevations of the Willamette Valley. Peaches continued to be picked.

Gravenstein apples and various summer berries were available at local markets. Some spraying continued for filbert worm in hazelnuts. Douglas County hazelnut growers have seen more filbert worm flies in traps this year. Additionally, orchardists in the area have seen heavy codling moth pressure on apples, pears, and walnuts. Summer orchard operations continued throughout the Hood River Valley. Pear growers continued cutting fire blight in many locations throughout the valley. Cherry harvest was nearly complete in the mid and upper valley. Wasco County peaches and apricots continued to be picked. Southern Oregon peach harvest continued. Bartlett pears were about ready to be picked; other pears continued to size but were about two weeks behind in development.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Greenhouses and nurseries were busy with weed control and irrigation activities. Nurseries were trimming small shrubs and trees.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Supplemental feeding continued across the State, especially on dryland pastures and range. Cattle were still in fine shape, with spring calves showing good growth. Clackamas County reported that pastures were no longer growing and most re-growth was gone, which was about two weeks later than in past years. Gilliam County reported several wildfires that decreased pasture quality. Lincoln County reported a couple of days of light rain that their pastures responded well to. Watering holes were drying up in Wasco County.

Soil Moisture-Week Ending 08/10/08

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	44	31	25	0
Subsoil	37	41	22	0

Crop Progress-Week Ending 08/10/08

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	11	7	10	1
Winter wheat harvested	86	65	87	78
Barley harvested	64	55	81	71
Spring wheat harvested	71	61	68	63
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.5	6.8	6.8	6.7

Crop Condition-Week Ending 08/10/08

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter wheat	4	32	47	14	3
Spring wheat	9	46	29	11	5
Barley	0	30	43	23	4
Corn	0	0	29	53	18
Range and pasture	14	30	41	15	0

WESTERN OREGON

BENTON/LINN/LANE: The peppermint harvest was underway. Most grass seed fields have been harvested. Fescue yields were good; ryegrass varieties were average; winter wheat yields have been good. Harvest weather was almost perfect. Beans were being harvested with some fields being bypassed. Corn was coming along. Grass seed fields were being prepared for another year.

CLACKAMAS: The area experienced normal August weather with slightly cooler evenings and more morning moisture. The grass seed harvest was grinding on. Perennial ryegrass yields are off by 20 to 25 percent. Tall fescue yields are close to normal or better. Fall wheat yields have been good. Blueberries were doing well. Pastures were no longer growing and most re-growth was gone. Supplemental feeding was the main meal, although it was about two weeks later than past years. The green bean and summer squash harvest started.

DOUGLAS: Hot weather was allowing our late fruit crops to move along; although they were still about 10 days later than normal for grapes, apples, pears, and many vegetables. Irrigation was still running strong with no rain all summer in crop areas. Incidences of disease have been way down this year with the dry summer. Orchardists, however, have seen heavy codling moth pressure on apples, pears, and walnuts this year. Filberts have been seeing more filbert worm flies in traps too. Insect cycles have been later this year, like fruit crops.

JACKSON: The grain harvest continued, as well as hay making. So far, it has been a pretty good hay year. Blackberries were ripe, and a lot of field picking was being done. Pears were sizing up, but seem to be about two weeks behind in growth. Lots of peaches were being picked. Bartlett pears were about ready for picking. Plenty of watering was being done on orchards. A lot of good fresh vegetables are now available at farmers markets, road side stands, and some u-picks. Some first planting of sweet corn was about all picked. Greenhouses were still getting ready for fall plants. Nurseries were mostly doing plant maintenance with watering and feeding of stock. All livestock were looking quite good. They were on irrigated pastures or high ranges. Spring calves were showing good growth. It was another good week for field work, a lot of irrigating was being done to keep crops coming on.

JOSEPHINE: Weather was very hot and dry, with lots of smoke from California fires last week. This has created breathing problems for everyone but especially for those with asthma and those with lung problems. Harvesting was on-going; corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, cantaloupes, and some watermelons. Peaches were available and still

some blueberries. The grape harvest should be phenomenal this year. Livestock were looking good.

LINCOLN: We had two days of light rain and pastures were responding well.

MARION: The grass seed harvest was almost over except for the later maturing grasses. The wheat harvest was entering full swing. The week ended with cooler weather and some light precipitation. Red clover fields almost looked ready for swathing. Some fields were getting worked to prepare for fall planting.

POLK: About normal temperatures first of the week with cooling towards the weekend and light moisture Friday night. Harvest continued for small grains, most of the grass seed has been harvested.

TILLAMOOK: It was cooler than normal last week with some light moisture. It was foggy along the coast and warmer inland. Moisture fell on raked hay.

WASHINGTON: Temperatures ranged from 95 degrees to 41 degrees with humidity ranging from 63 percent for the high and 33 percent for the low. There was some rain early Saturday morning. Field corn was looking good, grass hay was done, and alfalfa was in its third cutting and cured to perfection. Most grass straw was removed from fields. The winter wheat harvest was finished in most areas. Apples were looking good with Gravensteins at markets. Blackberries and blueberries were selling well, and filberts were filling well but were a week or two late. Sweet corn was tasseling and ear silking was underway. All vegetables are now available at markets. Greenhouses and nurseries were weeding and trimming small shrubs and trees, and irrigating. Cows and calves were in good shape. Pastures were drying and supplemental feeding was required.

YAMHILL: The tart cherry harvest was finishing up in the higher elevations of the Willamette Valley. The peach harvest continued. Some spraying continued for filbert worm in hazelnuts.

EASTERN OREGON

BAKER: The area received some scattered thunder showers. The grass seed harvest was almost complete. The grain harvest was just starting. Cherry harvest should finish this week.

CROOK/DESCHUTES/JEFFERSON: Carrots, onions, and parsley were all finishing their flowering period. Conditions have been favorable for pollination and seed ripening. Planting for the 2009 carrot seed crop will begin next week.

GILLIAM: There were several wildfires this past week which decreased pasture quality.

HOOD RIVER: High temperatures ranged from the low 70's to near 100. A thunderstorm produced brief but intense rain and hail Thursday night. Summer orchard operations continued throughout the Hood River Valley. Pear growers continued cutting fire blight in many locations throughout the valley. Cherry harvest was nearly complete in the mid and upper valley.

KLAMATH: Temperatures were high during the first part of the week with some rain during the middle of the week. Most second cutting hay was done. Early variety potatoes were blooming. Grain crops were turning.

LAKE: Lack of precipitation and warm temperatures were negatively impacting dryland pastures.

SHERMAN: The area received thunder and lightning storms at the end of the week, which sparked a few fires. These fires, along with the small

amount of rain that came with the storm, delayed harvest completion for some. The largest two fires from last weeks storms burned 7,000 and 15,000 acres while the smaller ones were kept under 25 acres each. Fortunately, the rainfall was enough to put out the 7,000 acre blaze. One storm brought some hail with it as well. The largest portion of the County is reporting poor and light wheat crops, with test weights at 55 to 56 pounds. Presumably, the lack of a real spring and going from winter temperatures to a heat wave, and lack of a good rain had much to do with the quality and quantity of the 2008 crop in Sherman County. The far north, however, has reported average or better yields. The barley harvest was delayed as they are still showing occasional green kernels. All barley that is uncut is spring planted varieties.

UMATILLA: With the wheat harvest coming to a close, most producers have seen yields ranging from average in deeper soils, to below average in the southern portion of the County. Yields ranged from 40 percent of average yield to average. Losses found in wheat consisted of white caps and pinching, which point to hot and dry conditions in March and April.

WALLOWA: The cooler weather was nice, but crop conditions were not getting any better.

WASCO: Rain towards the end of week slowed the grain harvest. The wheat harvest moved rapidly through Wasco County. Ninety percent of the wheat crop has been harvested. Third cutting of alfalfa hay was looking good. Apricots and peaches continued to be harvested. Cattle continued doing well despite pastures rapidly being used up. Cattle watering holes were also drying up.

Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: August 10, 2008 (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	49	75	60	-1	75	-2	0.04	-0.18	1	60.97	-4.44	93	193
Bandon ⁸	49	68	58	-2	59	-4	0.07	-0.10	4	52.60	-5.58	90	180
Crescent City	45	64	56	-3	47	-16	0.08	-0.09	4	44.31	-20.19	69	121
Florence	46	74	59	-3	63	-13	0.18	-0.06	3	85.82	10.35	114	165
North Bend	52	73	59	-1	67	-3	0.03	-0.13	1	57.91	-4.67	93	152
Tillamook	50	77	62	+3	85	+22	0.04	-0.26	1	57.04	-30.29	65	179
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Aurora ⁸	50	93	69	+3	138	+19	0.01	-0.15	1	41.70	1.36	103	169
Corvallis	46	91	67	-1	119	+0	0.01	-0.13	1	42.33	0.28	101	156
Detroit Lake ⁸	49	95	70	+7	139	+47	0.03	-0.20	3	89.55	22.94	134	183
Eugene	47	94	69	+1	136	+10	0.03	-0.17	1	34.65	-13.92	71	141
Hillsboro	47	96	69	+3	134	+19	0.12	-0.09	1	30.70	-6.10	83	143
McMinnville	49	94	69	+2	133	+14	-	-0.14	-	33.84	-8.79	79	148
Portland	55	96	71	+2	147	+14	0.18	-0.03	2	32.99	-2.51	93	161
Salem	51	92	69	+2	136	+16	0.02	-0.12	1	35.97	-2.64	93	136
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	52	97	73	+1	163	+9	-	-0.07	-	28.20	-2.44	92	124
Medford	56	99	75	+2	180	+14	0.03	-0.05	2	16.38	-2.07	89	104
Roseburg	53	94	71	+2	152	+12	-	-0.14	-	31.86	-0.39	99	139
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	43	88	68	+3	131	+15	0.24	0.10	2	11.74	-1.82	87	104
Echo ⁸	46	98	73	-1	160	-1	-	-0.07	-	7.79	-0.88	90	98
Heppner	47	94	72	+2	152	+12	0.05	-0.09	1	13.70	0.28	102	118
Hermiston	47	99	75	+2	175	+14	-	-0.07	-	7.64	-1.03	88	83
Madras ⁸	43	94	68	+2	130	+7	0.07	-0.03	2	7.90	-2.12	79	98
Moro	47	94	71	+3	146	+16	0.09	-0.02	1	9.46	-1.30	88	87
Parkdale ⁸	44	94	67	-1	121	-3	-	-0.09	-	21.99	-8.37	72	111
Pendleton	52	98	76	+3	181	+17	0.04	-0.05	3	10.93	-0.69	94	97
Prairie City ⁸	43	94	68	+2	130	+7	0.07	-0.03	2	7.90	-2.12	79	98
The Dalles	53	102	75	+8	178	+58	0.01	-0.06	1	12.95	0.83	107	82
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Agency Lake ⁸	40	88	64	+1	100	+5	0.28	0.14	2	12.81	-2.88	82	95
Bend	41	91	66	+3	112	+14	-	-0.14	-	11.69	0.39	103	77
Burns	38	95	70	+5	142	+31	0.05	-0.09	2	9.00	-0.52	95	101
Christmas Valley ⁸	32	91	64	-5	101	-29	-	-0.14	-	7.34	-4.63	61	72
Klamath Falls	44	89	67	-2	119	-7	0.25	0.11	2	9.68	-3.42	74	83
Klamath Falls ⁸	43	88	66	-3	112	-14	0.20	0.06	2	10.96	-2.14	84	108
Lakeview	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lorella ⁸	40	89	65	-4	108	-18	0.01	-0.13	1	9.40	-3.70	72	110
Redmond	42	95	69	+3	132	+18	0.13	0.01	1	2.04	-6.14	25	42
Worden ⁸	38	88	62	-7	89	-37	0.27	0.13	2	8.38	-4.72	64	102
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	41	94	70	+3	138	+17	0.06	-0.15	1	9.90	-0.34	97	116
Joseph	42	88	68	+7	126	+48	0.22	0.01	2	18.93	-5.13	79	130
La Grande	45	97	72	+3	158	+18	0.09	-0.12	3	14.22	-2.61	84	105
Union	46	99	72	+5	153	+30	0.10	-0.09	1	11.25	-1.87	86	102
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	57	99	79	+4	203	+23	0.10	0.03	1	6.33	-3.02	68	71
Rome	49	97	76	+6	187	+36	0.01	-0.06	1	7.07	-0.83	89	86

¹ Summary based on NWS data. Copyright 2008: 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, 2007.

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.