

OREGON CROP WEATHER



**NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE**

USDA, NASS, Oregon Field Office

Released: September 2, 2008
Week ending: August 31, 2008
Volume: 22-08

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Weather: Unseasonably cooler temperatures prevailed last week throughout much of the State. High temperatures ranged from 95 degrees in Ontario, Rome, and Medford, down to 64 degrees in Crescent City. Low temperatures ranged from 52 degrees in The Dalles, down to 24 degrees in Christmas Valley. The Eugene weather station received the most precipitation with 0.85 total inches followed by the Hillsboro station with 0.68 total inches. Twenty-three of the forty-two weather stations reported measurable precipitation, with most substantial rainfall concentrated along the Coast and in the Willamette Valley. Precipitation levels were below average in most other areas and temperatures were below normal throughout the State.

Field Crops: Harvest of remaining small grains was slowed due to damp weather. Sprouting continued to be a concern. Field activities for fall planting did not stop, in fact conditions for early seeding improved. The rain was welcomed for next year's crops. However, the rain was not so good for the red clover harvest. Third cuttings, as well as a few late second cuttings, of hay continued. Hops were being harvested. The Norkotah potato crop has matured in central Oregon.

Vegetables: The green bean harvest continued this past week in the Willamette Valley, despite the cool and damp conditions. The growing weather continued to be very unstable this year as many growers are looking forward to drier and warmer conditions to

finish off their harvests. Many farmer's markets and roadside stands are still going strong with an array of available locally grown vegetables. Beets for seed were being harvested, and table beets were going to processors in Washington County.

Fruits and Nuts: Summer apple and pear harvest continued in many parts of the State. Evergreen and Chester blackberries were developing slowly in Clackamas County. Fruit in Douglas County remains 7 to 10 days behind maturation schedule. Southern Oregon peaches continued to be picked. Grapes continued to mature and appeared in good shape.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Nurseries remained busy with maintenance and upkeep of stock. Greenhouse activities included rotating potted plants and keeping shrubs and small trees irrigated.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Pasture conditions improved slightly in some Willamette Valley counties due to the precipitation from last week. However, operators were still providing supplemental feed to livestock. In other areas, dry conditions continued to deteriorate non-irrigated pastures, while irrigated pastures still had ample forage. Overall, livestock were looking good throughout the State.

Soil Moisture-Week Ending 08/31/08

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	29	37	34	0
Subsoil	33	48	19	0

Crop Progress-Week Ending 08/31/08

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	59	53	62	-
Barley harvested	96	92	94	89
Spring wheat harvested	93	89	94	91
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.1	5.2	6.4	6.4

Crop Condition-Week Ending 08/31/08

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring wheat	15	39	23	21	2
Barley	11	25	34	29	1
Corn	0	0	10	72	18
Range and pasture	21	30	32	17	0

WESTERN OREGON

CLACKAMAS: It was another cool damp week. Fall grain has been mostly all harvested or is now with enough sprout damage to be headed for the feed market. Sweet corn and tomatoes were slowly coming to market. Gravenstein apples were falling. There were lots of green beans. Prunes were visible on trees. Pastures were greening up. High grain prices have narrowed the 20 cent spread between 600 lb. and 800 Lb. calves to about a nickel. There is an incentive to put on more weight if grass is available, so calves are staying on local pastures. Evergreen and Chester blackberries were ripening slowly and suffering mold damage from the wet weather.

COOS/CURRY: A little more rain from last week has encouraged pasture growth.

DOUGLAS: Weather continued to be good for crop maturation but trending toward cooler than usual. This pattern needs to hold for another month for the tree fruit and vineyard crops to finish in good shape since most are still about 7 to 10 days behind the normal maturation pace.

JACKSON: Last week wasn't quite as hot as it had been. We had a couple of cloudy days, but rain was scarce, if any at all. A good rain would really be good to get the non-irrigated ground wet, and start some fall growth. We are about 2 inches behind normal on rain fall for the season. Hay and grain crops were still being harvested. Grain was almost all in, but there were still a few fields left. A lot of second cutting of grass hay and third cutting of alfalfa was being done. The pear and peach harvests were ongoing, mostly Bartlett pears and some late peach varieties. The vegetable harvest was still going strong, with lots of local fresh vegetables at markets and roadside stands. Greenhouses were quite busy getting plants ready for fall plantings, both vegetable and decorative plants. Nurseries were mostly doing maintenance and upkeep of stock. Cattle on good irrigated pastures were looking quite good. Pastures with good irrigation still had good forage.

JOSEPHINE: Very cool night time temperatures last of week. The lows ranged from 60 to 40 degrees, day time temperatures ranged from 95 to 65 degrees. We had some marine air late in the week with a bit of clouds, but no measurable precipitation. Garden harvest continued with lots of local melon, green beans,

tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, some okra, summer squash, and corn. Growing weather has been very unstable this year. Grapes continued to mature and harvest is looking good for this year. Second cutting of grass hay was being done. It was very dry and winds make it a very explosive situation in some areas.

MARION: The week started unseasonably cool and wet then warmed up enough to restart combining of wheat and any of the grasses left to harvest. A lot of wheat sprouted from the rains the last 1 to 2 weeks. Fields were getting worked for fall planting. The hops and bean harvests continued. Other harvests were slowed where dry weather is required. We are looking forward to drier and warmer weather.

POLK: Cooler temperature with rain. Most small grains have been harvested. Grain that has not been harvested may have sprout damage due to moisture.

TILLAMOOK: Cooler temperatures combined with some rain were making the grass grow.

WASHINGTON: The high temperature was 85 degrees and the low was 39 degrees. Humidity ranged from 61 percent to 37 percent. Cumulative rainfall for the past 8 days was 1.2 inches. It was colder than usual last week in for August. Red clover harvest was underway. Some spring wheat was still unharvested. Field corn was setting ears. Beets for seed were being harvested. Blackberries were still producing, apples and pears were ripe, and filberts and walnuts were filling. Tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, and other vegetables were abundant. Table beets were going to processors. Greenhouses were moving potted plants to new locations, and irrigating shrubs and small tree plantings. The rain helped pastures green up a bit, but supplemental feed was still needed. Livestock were in good condition.

YAMHILL: Rain was welcomed for all perennial crops as we approach fall and winter, but not so good for red clover that had been swathed and on the ground or for still standing wheat. There have been reports of possible sprout issues on some of the standing wheat.

EASTERN OREGON

BAKER/UNION: Light showers occurred early in the week. The grain and peppermint harvests re-started late in the week following last weeks thunderstorm events. It is too early to determine the actual impact on grain quality and peppermint oil yields.

CROOK/DESCHUTES/JEFFERSON: The Norkotah potato crop has matured and vine senescence is nearly complete.

GILLIAM: High grain moisture from recent rains has slowed the harvest of remaining acres.

KLAMATH: The area experienced cooler temperatures during the week. We received the first freezing night time temperatures for the year. The grain harvest continued. The third cutting of hay was still being dropped. Favorable day time temperatures should help curing.

LAKE: No precipitation during the week. Temperatures have cooled off dramatically, both day time and night time. Some producers may not get a third cutting of alfalfa due to the lateness of the first cutting.

SHERMAN: There were a number of growers with 1 to 4 days of spring barley, waiting for green berries to complete. They got held up in finishing harvest due to short showers that passed over the County during first part of fair week and again Monday of this week. They were finally going again, but slow morning starts due partially to humidity. Showers were mostly short and light but kept things damp. Plans were being made for earlier grain fall seeding with the moisture received. Other than that, vacations and back to school readiness and all was quiet on the western front.

WASCO: Field cultivation and fertilization continued on summer-fallow and no till acreage being readied for fall winter wheat planting. Grain planting will start first in the Tygh Ridge and Center Ridge areas. Rain would be welcome before seeding is started. The fruit harvest continued in The Dalles and Mosier areas on pears and apples. Final alfalfa hay cutting was under way. Livestock were holding their own on dwindling pasture conditions. No rain fell last week.

Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: August 31, 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	48	74	61	+0	75	+5	0.59	0.15	4	64.03	-2.44	96	202
Bandon ⁸	47	70	58	+1	60	+4	0.03	-0.25	2	53.49	-5.45	91	189
Crescent City	47	64	57	-2	52	-11	0.10	-0.18	2	45.35	-19.90	70	126
Florence	39	74	58	-4	56	-21	0.57	0.17	2	88.48	11.97	116	172
North Bend	46	72	60	-1	68	-2	0.28	0.00	4	58.97	-4.37	93	162
Tillamook	41	77	60	+1	70	+7	0.37	-0.20	3	58.85	-29.86	66	187
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Aurora ⁸	45	85	63	-3	96	-9	0.17	-0.13	3	43.26	2.16	105	178
Corvallis	38	85	61	-4	80	-25	0.39	0.12	2	43.89	1.15	103	163
Detroit Lake ⁸	47	84	61	+1	75	+1	0.58	0.20	4	91.90	24.29	136	191
Eugene	38	87	63	-4	91	-24	0.85	0.52	3	35.72	-13.70	72	147
Hillsboro	38	83	61	-4	79	-22	0.68	0.40	2	31.95	-5.66	85	149
McMinnville	38	83	62	-4	84	-22	0.27	0.03	1	34.31	-8.90	79	152
Portland	48	83	65	-3	104	-18	0.30	-0.03	3	34.02	-2.33	94	169
Salem	43	86	63	-3	92	-17	0.59	0.35	2	37.20	-2.00	95	141
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	47	92	67	-3	123	-13	-	-0.14	-	28.23	-2.80	91	125
Medford	46	95	69	-3	133	-10	-	-0.14	-	16.39	-2.48	87	105
Roseburg	47	90	66	-2	114	-9	0.01	-0.20	1	31.92	-0.84	97	142
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	37	91	62	-1	86	-4	-	-0.21	-	12.14	-1.94	86	107
Echo ⁸	49	93	66	-3	117	-16	-	-0.14	-	7.92	-1.06	88	100
Heppner	42	90	64	-3	102	-14	0.01	-0.19	1	14.05	0.12	101	122
Hermiston	48	94	67	-3	117	-16	-	-0.14	-	7.91	-1.07	88	86
Madras ⁸	38	90	60	-5	69	-29	-	-0.14	-	8.13	-2.31	78	100
Moro	42	86	62	-3	89	-14	0.01	-0.13	1	9.68	-1.46	87	90
Parkdale ⁸	45	81	58	-7	60	-42	0.03	-0.18	1	22.63	-8.22	73	116
Pendleton	48	89	65	-5	104	-30	-	-0.13	-	11.64	-0.39	97	100
Prairie City ⁸	38	90	60	-5	69	-29	-	-0.14	-	8.13	-2.31	78	100
The Dalles	52	89	67	+4	120	+18	0.04	-0.10	1	13.23	0.70	106	85
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Agency Lake ⁸	27	85	56	-5	48	-22	-	-0.15	-	12.90	-3.33	79	97
Bend	30	88	56	-5	53	-21	-	-0.14	-	11.84	0.12	101	78
Burns	28	89	58	-4	60	-17	-	-0.14	-	9.12	-0.86	91	103
Christmas Valley ⁸	24	91	55	-10	46	-55	-	-0.14	-	7.36	-5.03	59	74
Klamath Falls	34	89	59	-6	69	-30	-	-0.14	-	9.72	-3.80	72	84
Klamath Falls ⁸	35	89	60	-5	71	-28	-	-0.14	-	10.96	-2.56	81	108
Lakeview	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lorella ⁸	33	90	58	-7	59	-40	-	-0.14	-	9.40	-4.12	70	110
Redmond	29	91	59	-5	69	-19	-	-0.13	-	2.90	-5.69	34	45
Worden ⁸	32	88	57	-8	52	-47	-	-0.14	-	8.38	-5.14	62	102
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	36	90	58	-6	56	-36	0.03	-0.18	2	10.10	-0.80	93	121
Joseph	34	84	57	-2	51	-10	0.30	0.02	1	19.65	-5.24	79	135
La Grande	43	90	61	-5	80	-31	0.04	-0.20	1	14.93	-2.56	85	109
Union	42	92	63	-1	94	-1	0.15	-0.13	1	12.35	-1.48	89	107
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	44	95	69	-2	133	-7	-	-0.14	-	6.33	-3.37	65	71
Rome	43	95	66	+0	114	+1	-	-0.14	-	7.10	-1.20	86	88

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.