

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending August 12, 2001

WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Hot, Dry Weather Aided Grain Harvest
Summer Variety Apple and Pear Harvest Began**

FIELD CROPS

Hot, dry weather across Washington benefitted grain, potato, and onion harvests. Lower yields continued to be reported on re-crop grains. Christmas tree growers reported heat scorch damage. Pea and lentil harvests continued. Turfgrass growers were irrigating around the clock. Daffodil bulb harvest began. Warm weather induced dahlia fields into full bloom.

LIVESTOCK

Second cutting hay and silage harvest were winding down, with third cutting in full swing. Grasshopper damage to range and pastures continued to be reported in Adams and Garfield Counties. Eastern Washington received reports of ranchers supplement feeding and thinning or liquidating herds due to feed shortages. Range and pasture conditions deteriorated due to hot and dry weather, with 10% very poor, 55% poor, 30% fair, and 5% good.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Blueberry farmers were harvesting at night to take advantage of firmer berries. Raspberry and peach harvests continued. Summer variety apple and pear harvests began. Cauliflower, broccoli, cucumber, carrot, sweet corn, and green pea harvests continued. Hothouse tomato harvest continued with excellent yields reported.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
6.9	6.7

Soil Moisture	Soil Moisture and Supply			
	% Acreage			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	17	50	33	-
Subsoil	20	55	25	-
Irrigation Water	5	5	90	-
Hay and Roughage	-	20	80	-

VS=Very Short, SH=Short, AD=Adequate, S=Surplus

Crop/Activity	Crop Progress			
	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2000	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	30	22	42	29
Winter Wheat Harvested	57	45	71	55
Barley Harvested	20	13	45	35
Potatoes Harvested	16	15	20	15
Dry Peas Harvested	30	16	42	41
Alfalfa, 2 nd cutting	95	92	97	97
Alfalfa, 3 rd cutting	40	30	41	38

Crop	Crop Condition *				
	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	11	42	41	4
Winter Wheat Irrigated	-	-	10	90	-
Spring Wheat Dryland	9	30	41	20	-
Spring Wheat Irrigated	-	-	10	90	-
Barley Dryland	5	29	38	28	-
Barley Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-
Dry Beans	-	-	-	100	-
Corn	-	-	-	100	-
Potatoes	-	-	5	95	-

VP=Very Poor, P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good, EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

WESTERN

Clallam/Jefferson: The weather was normal with temperatures mild and in the 70's. Wheat harvest was about to begin. Irrigation of over 1,000 acres was shut off in the Dungeness River watershed. Land owners were participating in a Department of Ecology conservation program.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: Looks like summer came the 2nd week of August this year!

Grays Harbor (2nd Report): The county sizzled under near record breaking temperatures, exacerbating drought conditions on non-irrigated crops. Christmas tree growers complained about heat scorch on Noble firs. Sweet corn growers struggled to keep up with irrigation requirements. Daffodil bulb harvest continued. Commercial hothouse tomato growers continued to report prolific yields as a result of additional heat units. Commercial dahlia growers reported the heat brought fields into full bloom.

Skagit: Swathing began on spinach seed and grass seed. Harvest of early potatoes began. Harvest continued on peas, cauliflower, broccoli, cucumbers, and blueberries. Most crops were

running about one week behind normal development due to cool summer temperatures. A heat wave in the high 80's kicked things into high gear.

Snohomish/Clallam: Summer weather was back with above normal temperatures. Hay harvest continued with reports of good yields and quality. Blueberry and raspberry harvests continued. Winter wheat harvest started in north Snohomish County.

Thurston/Pierce: The weather conditions were favorable for crop production.

Thurston (2nd Report): Very warm temperatures with no moisture, greatly increased drought conditions throughout the county. Fields and pastures with no available irrigation were bone dry. Turfgrass producers were irrigating around the clock. Blueberry growers were mechanically harvesting fruit at night to take advantage of firmer berries in cooler temperatures. Christmas tree growers continued to report heat scorch damage to fir trees.

CENTRAL

Chelan/Douglas/Okanogan: Summer variety apple harvest began. Main Gala apple harvest was projected to start Aug 20. Apples continued to develop well, with a moderate crop predicted. Bartlett pear harvest started, with heavy harvest activity coming up. Pear harvest will continue from present until late September. Harvest labor was "short" last season, with slightly larger production forecast for this year.

Chelan/Douglas (2nd Report): Winter wheat harvest was in full swing. Yields appeared to be average, which is good news considering the drought situation. Pastures continued to be severely affected by the dry conditions. Livestock producers were looking for alternate water sources.

Franklin: The weather was dry, with very high temperatures. Wheat, potatoes, carrots, onions,

and sweet corn were being harvested. The third cutting of alfalfa continued.

Grant: Peach harvest continued. Dry bean cutting and lifting began. Wheat harvest was almost complete. Potato desiccation was in progress. Sweet corn harvest continued.

Kittitas: Irrigation water was turned off for much of the county. Hot weather and lack of precipitation continued to hurt pasture and rangeland. Hay production suffered from lack of irrigation water. Field crops like corn and potatoes were in good condition.

Yakima: Average temperatures ranged from 2 to 10 degrees above normal. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

EASTERN

Adams: Temperatures were hot, with producers enjoying another very warm week of harvest. The majority of the wheat harvest in the south and west portions of the county wrapped up, with Ritzville in full swing. Grasshopper infestations in the Cow Creek area were wrecking havoc with pastures and alfalfa. Some spraying on alfalfa occurred in these areas.

Adams (2nd Report): Harvest was mostly complete in Adams County, and growers were starting to think about fall planting.

Asotin/Garfield: The weather was hot and dry, which was very good for harvesting. Harvest continued on schedule.

Garfield (2nd Report): Farmers were picking around fields trying to find ripe grain. Yields were average, at best. Pastures were dried up, and grasshopper damage was a problem on rangeland and CRP land.

Lincoln: Hot temperatures brought harvest into full swing with the exception of the eastern part of the county. Yields were reported as low due to frost and drought. Some irrigated yields were

reported as lower than the dryland yields. Pasture and hay losses continued to be well below normal.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Harvest progressed throughout the county. Harvest was nearly complete in the southern end of the county and getting into full swing in the northern end.

Stevens: Pasture conditions were very poor in most of the county. Cow herds were being heavily culled with complete liquidation in some cases. The county has not received rain during the month of August.

Walla Walla: The wheat harvest wound down. As usual, daytime highs were up to 100+ degrees Fahrenheit. The alfalfa seed crop was in good condition at this time. Defoliation of alfalfa seeds was likely to begin in about a week, followed by harvest one week later.

Whitman: Grain harvest progressed smoothly across the county, with very good yields of winter wheat reported, along with relatively poor yields on re-crop ground. Grazing conditions were mostly poor in all upland pastures, and supplemental feeding was reported in some areas

WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

August 13, 2001

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation				
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days	
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN			
WEST																
Bellingham	47	82	65	3	108	17	38	10	0.01	-0.27	1	27.40	-7.95	78	145	
Everett	53	84	67	3	116	18	46	13	0.01	-0.27	1	24.62	-11.03	69	144	
Hoquiam	49	85	62	2	89	10	19	5	0.29	0.01	1	43.91	-23.21	65	166	
Kelso	52	93	70	5	139	34	69	30	0.00	-0.28	0	19.95	-25.73	44	125	
Olympia	45	91	67	4	122	24	52	17	0.01	-0.23	1	30.33	-19.56	61	141	
Seattle-Tacoma	55	88	70	5	140	28	70	27	0.00	-0.21	0	25.11	-11.42	69	130	
Shelton	44	91	68	3	127	15	57	15	0.03	-0.18	1	41.21	-23.07	64	147	
Tacoma	48	90	69	4	131	26	61	22	0.00	-0.26	0	26.53	-12.98	67	134	
Vancouver	56	98	74	9	166	61	96	54	0.00	-0.22	0	23.38	-17.22	58	143	
CENTRAL																
Ellensburg	45	100	73	5	162	29	92	29	0.00	-0.07	0	6.98	-1.71	80	72	
Omak	56	101	79	12	208	82	138	80	0.00	-0.21	0	6.08	-8.29	42	66	
Stampede Pass	48	83	65	9	107	58	40	27	0.00	-0.37	0	54.21	-25.79	68	171	
Wenatchee	60	98	79	5	202	34	132	34	0.00	-0.07	0	5.53	-2.49	69	67	
Yakima AP	51	99	75	6	179	39	109	39	0.00	-0.07	0	4.75	-2.96	62	63	
NORTHEAST																
Colville	49	101	76	9	182	63	112	59	0.00	-0.21	0	12.85	-7.68	63	79	
Deer Park	47	99	72	2	152	14	82	13	0.00	-0.14	0	13.21	-4.81	73	115	
Spokane AP	56	99	76	7	182	43	112	42	0.00	-0.14	0	10.32	-5.73	64	100	
EAST CENTRAL																
Ephrata	58	102	80	5	211	34	141	34	0.00	-0.03	0	5.27	-1.79	75	69	
Moses Lake	57	103	78	3	194	17	124	17	0.00	-0.03	0	6.51	-0.55	92	65	
Quincy	56	98	77	6	192	43	122	42	0.00	-0.07	0	5.15	-2.45	68	57	
Ritzville	55	97	75	6	178	38	108	38	0.00	-0.07	0	9.92	-1.12	90	76	
SOUTHEAST																
Hanford	60	101	82	4	223	23	153	22	0.00	-0.07	0	6.17	-0.12	98	64	
Pasco	52	101	76	2	185	10	115	10	0.00	-0.07	0	7.63	0.39	105	73	
Pullman	45	99	71	5	152	33	82	33	0.00	-0.21	0	13.12	-7.46	64	106	
Walla Walla AP	61	100	81	6	217	35	147	36	0.00	-0.14	0	15.44	-3.52	81	95	
Whitman Mission	48	101	75	5	178	30	108	29	0.00	-0.14	0	14.09	0.71	105	101	
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE																
Coeur D'A'AP	46	93	72	2	158	11	88	11	0.00	-0.28	0	16.33	-8.84	65	101	
Lewiston ID	61	100	81	7	218	43	148	43	0.00	-0.14	0	11.80	-0.10	99	104	

Summary based on NWS data.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Season CUMulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2000 Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

NA = Data Unavailable

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