



## REVISED VERSION

### Wheat and Barley Harvest Began to Wind Down Blackberry Conditions Ideal in Skagit County

#### Field Crops

Wheat and barley harvest began to wind down, with a few producers still harvesting in the later areas. Winter wheat seeding began in the earliest parts of the state. In Kittitas County, the second cutting of timothy hay and the third cutting of alfalfa were underway. Commercial gladiola growers reported excellent cut flower sales in Grays Harbor. Potato harvest continued in Skagit County with very little report of late blight. Turfgrass and corn producers in western Washington raced to keep up with irrigation needs.

#### Livestock

Pend Orielle and Spokane Counties reported pasture conditions were average for this time of year and some producers reported supplemental feeding. Range and pasture conditions were 4% very poor, 47% poor, 30% fair and 19% good.

#### Fruits and Vegetables

In central Washington, peaches, pears, hops, potatoes, sweet corn, onions, carrots, and early apples were being harvested. In Grays Harbor, greenhouse tomato growers struggled to keep up with the fruit harvest. Skagit County reported ideal conditions for blackberries and the harvest completion for blueberries.

#### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

| Week      | Days |
|-----------|------|
| This Week | 6.9  |
| Last Week | 6.6  |

#### Moisture and Supply

| Item             | Percent |    |    |   |
|------------------|---------|----|----|---|
|                  | VS      | SH | AD | S |
| Topsoil          | 6       | 57 | 37 | 0 |
| Subsoil          | 2       | 45 | 53 | 0 |
| Irrigation Water | 0       | 1  | 99 | 0 |
| Hay & Roughage   | 0       | 6  | 94 | 0 |

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

#### Crop Progress

| Crop/Activity              | Percent Completed |           |      |            |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------|------|------------|
|                            | This Week         | Last Week | 2001 | 5 Yr. Avg. |
| Spring Wheat Harvested     | 94                | 75        | 90   | 88         |
| Winter Wheat Planted       | 10                | 0         | 9    | 8          |
| Winter Wheat Harvested     | 98                | 93        | 98   | 96         |
| Barley Harvested           | 90                | 64        | 88   | 87         |
| Potatoes Harvested         | 34                | 32        | 26   | 25         |
| Corn Silage Harvested      | 6                 | 5         | 13   | 13         |
| Dry Edible Beans Harvested | 12                | 10        | 14   | 15         |
| Dry Peas Harvested         | 97                | 67        | 92   | 88         |
| Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting    | 96                | 77        | 88   | 83         |

#### Crop Condition\*

| Crop             | % Acreage |   |    |    |    |
|------------------|-----------|---|----|----|----|
|                  | VP        | P | F  | G  | EX |
| Potatoes         | 0         | 0 | 14 | 80 | 6  |
| Corn             | 0         | 0 | 6  | 94 | 0  |
| Dry Edible Beans | 0         | 2 | 7  | 91 | 0  |

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

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

# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Clallam/Jefferson:** This summer has been much drier than normal. Last summer was also very dry and the results are now compounding. Clallam County corn looked good but has needed lots of irrigation. The final cutting of hay was wrapping up in both counties. Jefferson County reported low yields due to the two dry seasons back to back.

**Grays Harbor:** Very dry conditions existed throughout the county. There was almost no measurable precipitation for the past month. Soils in many areas have become parched. Some native deciduous trees began to shed their leaves due to the lack of moisture. Christmas tree growers continued shearing Douglas fir. Commercial gladiola growers reported excellent cut flower sales. Greenhouse tomato growers struggled to keep up with the fruit harvest. Livestock owners fed supplemental hay to compensate for dried up pastures.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis:** A very dry August resulted in drier than normal pastures. Sweet corn needs rain as supplemental irrigation was not keeping up with crop demand. Grain yields reported were below average due to the dry conditions.

**Pierce/South King:** There were no unusual weather conditions to report. Crop conditions were still favorable for the South Puget Sound area. More precipitation is needed as the ground was getting very dry. There were no reports of crop

damage due to weather conditions.

**Skagit:** Dust enveloped tractors as dry days continued. Many farmers were irrigating crops. Conditions were ideal for blackberries. Blueberry harvest ended. Some growers were harvesting ever bearing strawberries. Pea harvest ended August 13, with yields about average or slightly less. Potato harvest continued, with very little report of late blight.

**Snohomish/North King:** The weather was drier than normal but not at drought conditions. Most crops were normal. The corn crop looked good. Pastures and hay fields were much drier than normal. There were no reports of crop problems due to the weather conditions.

**Thurston:** Record breaking hot temperatures, early in the week, continued to exacerbate drought conditions throughout the county. Turfgrass producers raced to keep up with irrigation requirements. Silage corn showed symptoms of drought in some areas where irrigation was not adequate to replenish plant moisture requirements. Blueberry harvest continued at full force as berries continued to ripen quickly. Christmas tree growers reported some tree mortality in areas where root fungus disease was prevalent; thereby restricting water uptake. U-Pick pumpkin fields were beginning to show color.

## Central

**Benton:** Warm, dry weather conditions continued. Peaches, pears, and early apples were being harvested. Hop harvest was underway. Grape growers were happy about optimum ripening conditions.

**Franklin:** Weather conditions continued to be warm and dry. Potatoes, sweet corn, onions, and carrots were harvested for processing and fresh market. Wheat and barley harvest continued. The third cutting of alfalfa was nearly complete. Apples were being picked.

**Kittitas:** The second cutting of timothy hay was underway, as was the third cutting of alfalfa. Sweet corn harvest continued. Range and pasture conditions were good.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures ranged from 3 to 9 degrees above normal, with a trace of precipitation on August 29. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

## Eastern

**Asotin/Garfield:** Harvest began to wind down, as many producers had completed cutting. There were still a few producers harvesting in the later areas. Even though seeding of fall wheat was still two weeks away, many producers were concerned about the moisture conditions. With the dry summer, moisture for fall seeding was poor. Rain was also needed to help with grazing conditions that were poor in many areas.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** Rain was received in parts of the county while there was no rain in other areas. One area received about 1.25" of rain in the southern end of the county and the northern area

received no rain. Winter wheat harvest was mostly complete, with a small amount of stragglers left. Some spring wheat and barley were still a little too green to cut. Most producers have completed the acreage that was ripe. Pasture conditions were average for this time of the year, and some producers reported supplemental feeding. Thankfully, hay was plentiful this year. Fieldwork started in some areas of the county but not much winter wheat was being seeded.

**Whitman:** Wheat harvest neared completion, while lentil harvest continued.

National weather website: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/pubs.htm>

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service website: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa>

E-mail: [nass-wa@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-wa@nass.usda.gov)

**Weekly Weather Statistics**  
**September 2, 2002--Corrected Version of Table**

| 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    |          |      |
| <b>WEST</b>            |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |        |          |      |
| Bellingham             | 51              | 83 | 64  | 4   | 103                 | 24  | 33       | 15  | 0.00                    | -0.35 | 0    | 33.10                | -3.12  | 91       | 158  |
| Everett                | 51              | 82 | 65  | 4   | 103                 | 21  | 33       | 10  | 0.00                    | -0.40 | 0    | 31.13                | -5.44  | 85       | 165  |
| Hoquiam                | 50              | 78 | 61  | -1  | 80                  | 0   | 12       | -9  | 0.00                    | -0.46 | 0    | 63.76                | -4.21  | 94       | 179  |
| Kelso                  | 52              | 93 | 67  | 5   | 123                 | 29  | 53       | 20  | 0.00                    | -0.42 | 0    | 40.70                | -5.90  | 87       | 154  |
| Olympia                | 45              | 91 | 65  | 4   | 108                 | 26  | 38       | 16  | 0.00                    | -0.38 | 0    | 58.86                | 8.21   | 116      | 170  |
| Seattle-Tacoma         | 53              | 87 | 66  | 3   | 116                 | 16  | 46       | 12  | 0.00                    | -0.34 | 0    | 38.25                | 1.01   | 103      | 153  |
| Shelton                | 47              | 93 | 66  | 3   | 115                 | 18  | 45       | 11  | 0.00                    | -0.39 | 0    | 68.55                | 3.62   | 106      | 161  |
| Tacoma                 | 48              | 90 | 66  | 3   | 112                 | 18  | 42       | 14  | 0.02                    | -0.33 | 1    | 30.11                | -10.20 | 75       | 131  |
| Vancouver              | 52              | 96 | 69  | 7   | 137                 | 41  | 67       | 36  | 0.00                    | -0.36 | 0    | 37.45                | -3.91  | 91       | 154  |
| <b>CENTRAL</b>         |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |        |          |      |
| Ellensburg             | 52              | 90 | 70  | 6   | 141                 | 36  | 71       | 28  | 0.00                    | -0.13 | 0    | 7.03                 | -1.92  | 79       | 85   |
| Omak                   | 52              | 95 | 75  | 12  | 177                 | 77  | 107      | 67  | 0.01                    | -0.21 | 1    | 9.29                 | -5.79  | 62       | 74   |
| Stampede Pass          | 43              | 81 | 58  | 5   | 60                  | 20  | 21       | 14  | 0.00                    | -0.59 | 0    | 76.52                | -4.59  | 94       | 173  |
| Wenatchee              | 60              | 93 | 76  | 6   | 182                 | 42  | 112      | 40  | 0.00                    | -0.14 | 0    | 5.42                 | -2.91  | 65       | 64   |
| Yakima AP              | 50              | 93 | 72  | 6   | 154                 | 38  | 84       | 32  | 0.00                    | -0.14 | 0    | 7.02                 | -0.97  | 88       | 63   |
| <b>NORTHEAST</b>       |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |        |          |      |
| Colville               | 50              | 98 | 73  | 10  | 159                 | 66  | 89       | 52  | 0.04                    | -0.24 | 1    | 15.56                | -5.70  | 73       | 86   |
| Deer Park              | 47              | 89 | 68  | 4   | 129                 | 22  | 59       | 13  | 0.05                    | -0.16 | 2    | 21.33                | 2.77   | 115      | 124  |
| Spokane AP             | 47              | 87 | 69  | 5   | 137                 | 27  | 67       | 20  | 0.07                    | -0.14 | 1    | 15.15                | -1.37  | 92       | 113  |
| <b>EAST CENTRAL</b>    |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |        |          |      |
| Ephrata                | 56              | 94 | 75  | 5   | 176                 | 28  | 106      | 28  | 0.00                    | -0.07 | 0    | 5.77                 | -1.47  | 80       | 64   |
| Moses Lake             | 52              | 94 | 74  | 3   | 167                 | 19  | 97       | 19  | 0.00                    | -0.07 | 0    | 5.78                 | -1.46  | 80       | 66   |
| Quincy                 | 55              | 92 | 75  | 7   | 173                 | 48  | 103      | 44  | 0.00                    | -0.13 | 0    | 6.30                 | -1.54  | 80       | 61   |
| Ritzville              | 50              | 90 | 71  | 6   | 151                 | 38  | 81       | 32  | 0.00                    | -0.13 | 0    | 9.97                 | -1.36  | 88       | 80   |
| <b>SOUTHEAST</b>       |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |        |          |      |
| Hanford                | 57              | 97 | 77  | 3   | 190                 | 18  | 120      | 19  | 0.00                    | -0.10 | 0    | 5.64                 | -0.87  | 87       | 51   |
| Pasco                  | 55              | 97 | 75  | 5   | 174                 | 28  | 104      | 27  | 0.00                    | -0.10 | 0    | 6.13                 | -1.38  | 82       | 60   |
| Pullman                | 45              | 86 | 66  | 3   | 114                 | 19  | 44       | 4   | 0.00                    | -0.21 | 0    | 18.00                | -3.12  | 85       | 112  |
| Whitman Mission        | 46              | 92 | 72  | 6   | 155                 | 34  | 85       | 30  | 0.00                    | -0.16 | 0    | 13.20                | -0.57  | 96       | 97   |
| <b>IDAHO PANHANDLE</b> |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |        |          |      |
| Coeur D'A' AP          | 52              | 90 | 69  | 3   | 132                 | 13  | 62       | 9   | 0.06                    | -0.25 | 1    | 21.35                | -4.64  | 82       | 121  |
| Lewiston ID            | 59              | 93 | 74  | 4   | 170                 | 25  | 100      | 22  | 0.84                    | 0.63  | 1    | 11.45                | -1.01  | 92       | 110  |

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2001

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

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

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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(360) 902-1940

Olympia, WA 98507

P.O. Box 609

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service

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