



Washington Crop Weather

Released: July 28, 2003, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: July 27, 2003
CWP WA-CW3003

Lack of Precipitation Continued to Increase Irrigation Requirements Raspberry and Blueberry Harvest Reached its Peak

Field Crops

The lack of precipitation throughout the state continued to increase irrigation requirements. Spring wheat and barley crop conditions continued to decline due to the hot, dry weather. Bluegrass seed harvest was about complete around Pend Orielle and Spokane Counties. Early planted potato vines in Whatcom County were being killed off. Christmas tree growers continued top working Noble fir and shearing Grand fir. Potential for wildfires continued to be a concern for producers across the state.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions across Washington continued to deteriorate and livestock producers were feeding hay due to the lack of available forage. Skagit County silage producers reported yield reductions of 33% and feared there would not be a second cutting. Range and pasture conditions were 6% very poor, 17% poor, 63% fair, and 14% good. Oyster seeding in Pacific County was completed and burrowing shrimp control efforts have also been completed for the year.

Fruits and Vegetables

Raspberry and blueberry harvest reached its peak. Greenhouse tomato growers continued to report both excellent yields and fruit quality. Sweet corn growers continued with heavy irrigation schedules to replenish soil moisture. Cranberry growers irrigated bogs and continued weed control efforts. Spinach harvest began earlier than normal in Skagit County due to dry conditions. Harvest was also underway on squash, peas, radish seed, and sweet corn. Cherry harvest was almost complete north of the Yakima Valley. Pears and apples continued to develop well, despite the hot weather.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

| Week | Days |
|-----------|------|
| This Week | 7.0 |
| Last Week | 6.9 |

Moisture and Supply

| Item | Percent | | | |
|------------------|---------|----|----|---|
| | VS | SH | AD | S |
| Topsoil | 48 | 33 | 19 | 0 |
| Subsoil | 14 | 29 | 57 | 0 |
| Irrigation Water | 4 | 13 | 83 | 0 |
| Hay & Roughage | 3 | 6 | 86 | 5 |

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

Crop Progress

| Crop/Activity | Percent Completed | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------|------|------------|
| | This Week | Last Week | 2002 | 5 Yr. Avg. |
| Spring Wheat Harvested | 7 | 3 | 6 | 5 |
| Winter Wheat Harvested | 19 | 10 | 15 | 17 |
| Barley Harvested | 6 | 2 | 4 | 7 |
| Potatoes Harvested | 15 | 11 | 19 | 11 |
| Proc. Green Peas Harvested | 100 | 99 | 100 | 91 |
| Dry Peas Harvested | 15 | 9 | 11 | 9 |
| Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting | 96 | 94 | 82 | 92 |
| Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting | 3 | 2 | 14 | 11 |

Crop Condition*

| Crop | % Acreage | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|----|----|----|----|
| | VP | P | F | G | EX |
| Winter Wheat Dryland | 3 | 9 | 29 | 44 | 15 |
| Winter Wheat Irrigated | 0 | 0 | 20 | 73 | 7 |
| Spring Wheat Dryland | 8 | 30 | 48 | 14 | 0 |
| Spring Wheat Irrigated | 0 | 0 | 22 | 78 | 0 |
| Barley Dryland | 5 | 28 | 52 | 15 | 0 |
| Barley Irrigated | 0 | 0 | 25 | 75 | 0 |
| Potatoes | 0 | 0 | 12 | 46 | 42 |
| Corn | 0 | 0 | 6 | 94 | 0 |
| Dry Edible Beans | 0 | 1 | 11 | 59 | 29 |

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

Clark: Hot, dry conditions continued.

Grays Harbor: The lack of rain continued to dominate all agricultural activity throughout the county. Sweet corn growers continued with heavy irrigation schedules to replenish soil moisture. Raspberry and blueberry harvest was at its peak. Greenhouse tomato growers continued to report both excellent yields and fruit quality. Christmas tree growers were topworking Noble fir and spot spraying Canada thistle. Livestock producers were feeding hay due to the lack of available forage in pastures due to drought conditions. Ag producers continued to express concern over the potential for wildfires.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: No rain the past week probably justified the use of the word drought. Crops that were planted late were definitely showing signs of stress. Surprisingly, crops planted early looked better than one would expect given the lack of rainfall.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions remained the same for the most part. It had been a little dryer than normal for this time of year. No unusual situations were reported. No report of any crop damage due to weather conditions.

Skagit: Another week with no precipitation. Growers were requesting that county commissioners declare Skagit as a drought county. Spinach harvest began earlier than normal due to drought conditions. Squash harvest was underway. Harvest continued on raspberries, blueberries, and peas. The first apple maggot in the county was caught July 16, triggering spray programs for commercial producers. Growers of silage grass were reporting yield reductions of 33 percent and fears there would not be a second cutting.

Snohomish/North King: Hot and very dry conditions all last week, more hot and dry weather forecast for this week. Fire danger is very high especially in north Snohomish County with only half of the normal precipitation received for the crop year. Wheat harvest will be starting any day in the Stanwood area. Most vegetable crops were showing good growth during the summer heat except cool weather crops like lettuce which were very stressed. Blueberry harvest was in full swing, and farmers markets were busy. Grass hay harvest continued, leaving harvested fields very dry with little signs of new growth.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report): Unirrigated crops and pastures suffered from the drought. Haymaking and greenchopping continued. Blueberry harvest was underway. Apples continued ripening.

Thurston: As the drought continued, anxiety over the potential for wildfires and dry wells continued. Ag producers continued with tight irrigation schedules on blueberries and turfgrass to compensate for the lack of soil moisture. Livestock producers were feeding hay due to the lack of available forage in pastures. Christmas tree growers continued topworking Noble fir and shearing Grand fir. Raspberry harvest has peaked. Fall webworm hatched on native cottonwoods this week.

Whatcom: Raspberry harvest was winding down. Blueberry harvest was underway. Some of the earlier planted potato vines were being killed off. The weather has been warm with no rain in sight.

Central

Douglas/Chelan: Cherry harvest was almost complete but continued with late varieties at higher elevations until about August 10. Pears and apples continued to develop well, despite hot weather. Irrigation continued to be the key orchard operation.

Grant: Radish seed was being swathed. Sweet corn harvest continued. Cherry harvest was completed.

Klickitat: Severe grasshopper infestation in the northwest area of county affected pasture and hayfields. Very hot weather, no rain for many weeks.

Okanogan/Ferry: The past week brought very hot and dry conditions. Most of the alfalfa hay has been cut. Pasture conditions were declining due to lack of moisture.

Yakima: Average temperatures ranged from 6 to 16 degrees above normal with no precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: Very hot weather allowed harvest to progress rapidly. Winter wheat crops have been reported to be about average. Spring wheat and spring barley yields have been well below normal due to the dry, hot weather in late June and July. Fire danger was high.

Douglas/Chelan: Hot, dry conditions were experienced last week. Pastures were suffering due to hot temperatures and lack of moisture. Winter wheat harvest began. Spring wheat and barley crop continued to decline due to the hot, dry weather.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Another week of above average temperatures and no rain. Bluegrass seed harvest was about complete. Cherry harvest was about complete. Timothy haying was about done in Pend Oreille County with an average hay crop. Some peas and lentils were starting to be harvested. A little winter wheat was cut but the majority was still off about a week. Condition of the spring crops suffered as the days went by without rain. Pasture conditions were also suffering from the lack of rain and excessive heat.

Stevens: The past week was hot and dry with no precipitation. Grain fields looked good and harvest should begin within one week. Hay producers were finishing up grain hay and second cutting.

Walla Walla: Extremely hot and dry conditions continued. Harvest progressed well. Pasture and rangeland was in poor condition. High risk for fire.

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

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Weekly Weather Statistics

July 28, 2003

| 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 | 49 | 82 | 65 | 3 | 107 | 16 | 37 | 16 | 0.00 | -0.28 | 0 | 26.05 | -8.56 | 75 | 145 | |
| Everett | 53 | 81 | 65 | 3 | 108 | 15 | 38 | 11 | 0.00 | -0.22 | 0 | 24.46 | -10.45 | 70 | 142 | |
| Hoquiam | 53 | 78 | 62 | 2 | 87 | 10 | 19 | 5 | 0.00 | -0.28 | 0 | 60.45 | -5.84 | 91 | 159 | |
| Kelso | 50 | 94 | 68 | 4 | 129 | 29 | 59 | 26 | 0.00 | -0.20 | 0 | 23.65 | -21.30 | 53 | 104 | |
| Olympia | 46 | 90 | 67 | 3 | 117 | 21 | 47 | 19 | 0.00 | -0.14 | 0 | 36.87 | -12.31 | 75 | 147 | |
| Sea-Tac | 53 | 86 | 69 | 3 | 132 | 20 | 62 | 20 | 0.00 | -0.14 | 0 | 31.27 | -4.69 | 87 | 140 | |
| Shelton | 48 | 91 | 68 | 3 | 127 | 17 | 57 | 16 | 0.00 | -0.17 | 0 | 54.40 | -9.13 | 86 | 144 | |
| Tacoma | 50 | 88 | 67 | 3 | 124 | 19 | 54 | 19 | 0.00 | -0.15 | 0 | 26.48 | -12.36 | 68 | 128 | |
| Vancouver | 54 | 93 | 71 | 6 | 148 | 43 | 78 | 43 | 0.00 | -0.14 | 0 | 34.22 | -5.74 | 86 | 136 | |
| CENTRAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ellensburg | 51 | 99 | 75 | 7 | 180 | 47 | 110 | 47 | 0.00 | -0.04 | 0 | 7.90 | -0.60 | 93 | 80 | |
| Omak | 55 | 103 | 79 | 12 | 207 | 81 | 137 | 80 | 0.00 | -0.14 | 0 | 11.82 | -2.06 | 85 | 61 | |
| Stampede Pass | 49 | 87 | 68 | 12 | 126 | 80 | 56 | 49 | 0.00 | -0.28 | 0 | 58.76 | -20.11 | 75 | 147 | |
| Wenatchee | 62 | 101 | 81 | 8 | 219 | 51 | 149 | 51 | 0.00 | -0.05 | 0 | 8.86 | 1.02 | 113 | 73 | |
| Yakima AP | 55 | 103 | 78 | 8 | 199 | 53 | 129 | 54 | 0.00 | -0.01 | 0 | 7.98 | 0.45 | 106 | 58 | |
| NORTHEAST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colville | 52 | 107 | 78 | 11 | 195 | 76 | 125 | 76 | 0.00 | -0.18 | 0 | 17.33 | -2.67 | 87 | 73 | |
| Deer Park | 46 | 100 | 72 | 3 | 159 | 19 | 89 | 19 | 0.00 | -0.14 | 0 | 20.24 | 2.58 | 115 | 96 | |
| Spokane AP | 57 | 99 | 78 | 9 | 197 | 57 | 127 | 57 | 0.00 | -0.14 | 0 | 14.90 | -0.79 | 95 | 100 | |
| EAST CENTRAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ephrata | 59 | 102 | 80 | 5 | 211 | 29 | 141 | 29 | 0.00 | -0.07 | 0 | 7.56 | 0.64 | 109 | 54 | |
| Moses Lake | 55 | 102 | 78 | 3 | 195 | 13 | 125 | 13 | 0.00 | -0.07 | 0 | 7.87 | 0.95 | 114 | 72 | |
| Quincy | 61 | 98 | 79 | 8 | 205 | 51 | 135 | 52 | 0.00 | -0.05 | 0 | 6.13 | -1.28 | 83 | 51 | |
| Ritzville | 55 | 101 | 76 | 7 | 187 | 47 | 117 | 47 | 0.00 | -0.07 | 0 | 11.14 | 0.30 | 103 | 82 | |
| SOUTHEAST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hanford | 57 | 107 | 82 | 4 | 223 | 21 | 153 | 21 | 0.00 | -0.04 | 0 | 8.00 | 1.88 | 131 | 67 | |
| Pasco | 55 | 106 | 79 | 4 | 204 | 25 | 134 | 26 | 0.00 | -0.05 | 0 | 7.08 | 0.01 | 100 | 71 | |
| Pullman | 50 | 96 | 74 | 8 | 167 | 54 | 97 | 51 | 0.00 | -0.14 | 0 | 9.71 | -10.39 | 48 | 88 | |
| Whitman Miss. | 54 | 106 | 78 | 7 | 200 | 46 | 130 | 46 | 0.00 | -0.08 | 0 | 14.32 | 1.29 | 110 | 114 | |
| ID PANHANDLE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Coeur D'A' AP | 55 | 99 | 76 | 6 | 182 | 39 | 112 | 40 | 0.00 | -0.18 | 0 | 18.23 | -6.29 | 74 | 100 | |
| Lewiston ID | 66 | 104 | 83 | 9 | 236 | 61 | 166 | 61 | 0.00 | -0.14 | 0 | 12.67 | 1.10 | 110 | 110 | |

Summary based on NWS data.
 Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2002
 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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