



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: September 2, 2003, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: August 31, 2003
CWP WA-CW3503

Winter Wheat Seeding Weather Optimal in Grant County Douglas Fir Shearing Difficult due to Lack of Moisture

Field Crops

Wheat and barley harvest was practically completed in eastern Washington except for a few draws and areas in higher elevations. Fall fertilizer applications and fieldwork moved forward in the Palouse to prepare for winter wheat seeding. Grant County reported optimal weather for seeding dryland winter wheat and expect high emergence from the first planting. Christmas tree growers complained that Douglas fir appeared to be tougher to shear as a result of the lack of moisture. Turfgrass growers continued irrigating to keep newly planted fields from drying out.

Livestock

Livestock producers sprayed for Canada thistle in pastures in Grays Harbor County. Cooler temperatures in Kittitas County spurred growth in irrigated pastures. Overall, range and pastures were still in need of rain and exhibited signs of stress. Range and pasture conditions were 3% very poor, 25% poor, 56% fair, and 16% good.

Fruits and Vegetables

Raspberry and strawberry yields in Clark County were markedly down due to the hot, dry weather. Blueberry harvest was winding down. Sweet corn and green beans were available at many markets and roadside stands throughout the state. In the central region, producers were reporting earlier than expected harvest dates on apples, plums, and peaches. Harvest continued on carrots, lima beans, and onions.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	7.0
Last Week	6.7

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	40	34	26	0
Subsoil	19	29	52	0
Irrigation Water	6	8	86	0
Hay & Roughage	0	3	87	10

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	99	90	91	85
Winter Wheat Planted	19	3	0	0
Winter Wheat Harvested	99	94	97	96
Barley Harvested	99	90	86	83
Potatoes Harvested	46	31	34	26
Corn Silage Harvested	8	7	6	12
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	38	22	12	10
Dry Peas Harvested	100	92	93	85
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	92	90	93	89

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Potatoes	0	0	13	82	5
Corn	0	1	7	92	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	1	10	63	26

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: Dryland crops were greatly affected by heat and dry weather. Raspberry and strawberry yields were markedly down for the year because of hot, dry weather.

Grays Harbor: Dry conditions continued to prevail throughout the county as we completed nearly 4 months with minimum precipitation. All fields that were not under irrigation are brown. Christmas tree growers continued top-working Noble fir. U-pick blueberry harvest have peaked. Livestock growers were spraying Canada thistle in pastures. Hothouse tomato growers were having a difficult time keeping up with harvest demands. Tomato sales however, remained excellent.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: Sunny, dry weather continued to prevail. It will take a considerable amount of rainfall to green up pastures and provide enough moisture for fall planting.

Lewis: Morning temperatures were becoming cooler. Daytime temperatures were in the high 70's to low 80's. Crops continued to ripen. Corn was available at many roadside stands.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions remained good. Pastures were drying up from lack of rain. No report of crop damage due to a weather event or any unusual situations.

Skagit/San Juan: For Skagit, Island, and San Juan Counties, the weather has been extremely dry.

Snohomish/King: Warm, dry weather continued and unirrigated crops were under heavy drought stress. Most pastures were very dry with no new growth. Blueberry harvest was over. Early apple harvest was underway.

Snohomish/North King: Dry, hot weather continued to stress several crops. Local sweet corn, green beans, and other vegetables were plentiful at local farmer markets and farm stands. Dairy farmers were busy pumping manure onto grass fields, and preparing for corn silage harvest. Extremely dry conditions had everyone taking extra caution against the chance of causing a fire.

Thurston: The extended dry spell was beginning to break records for minimum amounts of precipitation over the past 4 months. Christmas tree growers complained that Douglas fir appeared to be tougher to shear as a result of the lack of moisture. The foliage was hard compared to normal soft, succulent foliage. Turfgrass growers continued irrigating around the clock to keep newly planted fields from drying out. Blueberry harvest was 99% complete.

Whatcom: The week was cooler with no rain. Bush bean harvest continued. Potato harvest just started. Blueberry harvest was winding down.

Central

Benton: Hot and dry conditions were taking a toll on some of the crops. We were getting calls on earlier than expected harvest dates on most apples, plum and peaches in the area.

Franklin: The weather was warm and dry. Wheat harvest was nearly complete. Third cutting of alfalfa was complete and fourth cutting was underway. Potato, carrot, and sweet corn harvesting continued. Apples were being picked.

Grant: Gala apple and Bartlett pear harvest was underway. Fourth cutting of alfalfa was 10% complete. Sweet corn harvest continued. Lima bean harvest began. Onion harvest was underway.

Grant (2nd report): Weather has been optimal for seeding dryland winter wheat. A lot of wheat has been seeded in the past ten days and the majority will emerge from the first planting. Good harvest weather continued.

Kittitas: Sweet corn harvest continued. Second cutting of timothy hay was underway. Third cutting of alfalfa was finishing up. Pear harvest was underway. Range and pasture conditions were stressed due to continued hot, dry weather. KRD water supply will be shut off September 15th, one month early.

Kittitas (2nd report): Sweet corn harvest was 50% complete. Larger growers had second timothy hay cut and drying, 40% baled and stacked. Dryland pasture and range conditions were what would be expected this time of year. Cooler temperatures have spurred irrigated pasture growth.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from normal to 8 degrees above normal, with no precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams: Winter wheat seeding was progressing throughout the county and was about 50% complete.

Asotin/Garfield: Hot and dry weather continued. Harvest was complete in most areas. Rain was needed for planting of fall crops. Pasture and rangeland was in need of rain for fall grazing.

Ferry/Okanogan: Pear harvest had begun. Third cutting of alfalfa hay was well underway. A few irrigated producers have been affected by low water levels and reports of producers with interruptible water rights may or have been affected.

Lincoln: Harvest was mostly complete and winter wheat seeding had started.

Pend Oreille: Another week of warm/hot weather and no rain. Pasture conditions were very slim and supplemental feeding was taking place. Winter wheat as well as the

majority of the crops have been harvested. Some draws were yet to be harvested. Some fall work had began, but most were waiting for rain.

Stevens: Harvest wound up last week with winter wheat yields about average and spring crop yields slightly below average. Hot summer weather was blamed for reduced yields. Hay harvest was completed with only a handful of irrigated producers still baling third cutting alfalfa.

Walla Walla: Continued hot and dry weather. Harvest was wrapping up with only those in higher elevations still cutting. Spring crop yields were very poor.

Whitman: Harvest was completed this week. Fall fertilizer applications and fieldwork moved forward in preparation for seeding winter wheat. The far western portion of the county should begin winter wheat seeding this next week.

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

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Weekly Weather Statistics

September 2, 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	48	79	63	3	96	16	26	7	0.00	-0.35	0	26.25	-9.92	73	147
Everett	52	81	65	3	106	22	36	12	0.00	-0.39	0	24.74	-11.77	68	146
Hoquiam	48	76	61	-1	76	-4	9	-12	0.00	-0.45	0	60.56	-7.34	89	163
Kelso	50	88	67	4	123	28	53	19	0.00	-0.42	0	23.70	-22.84	51	105
Olympia	43	89	65	4	105	21	35	12	0.00	-0.37	0	37.19	-13.40	74	152
Sea-Tac	55	84	68	4	125	24	55	20	0.00	-0.33	0	31.56	-5.63	85	143
Shelton	44	89	66	3	114	16	44	8	0.00	-0.38	0	54.54	-10.33	84	149
Tacoma	45	86	65	2	105	10	35	6	0.01	-0.34	1	26.83	-13.43	67	133
Vancouver	50	93	70	7	139	42	69	37	0.00	-0.35	0	34.26	-7.04	83	138
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	43	90	67	3	124	17	54	9	0.00	-0.14	0	7.90	-1.04	88	80
Omak	50	93	72	8	154	52	84	42	0.00	-0.23	0	11.82	-3.23	79	61
Stampede Pass	46	79	61	8	81	40	25	18	0.00	-0.58	0	58.86	-22.16	73	149
Wenatchee	56	91	73	3	162	20	92	18	0.00	-0.14	0	8.90	0.59	107	75
Yakima AP	47	92	70	4	141	23	71	18	0.00	-0.14	0	8.29	0.32	104	61
NORTHEAST															
Colville	45	96	71	8	146	50	76	38	0.00	-0.28	0	17.75	-3.47	84	79
Deer Park	39	89	66	1	113	3	43	-5	0.00	-0.21	0	20.47	1.94	110	102
Spokane AP	48	89	69	4	133	21	63	14	0.00	-0.21	0	15.34	-1.15	93	106
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	53	91	73	2	161	11	91	11	0.00	-0.07	0	7.88	0.65	109	59
Moses Lake	49	91	71	-1	145	-5	75	-5	0.00	-0.07	0	8.27	1.04	114	75
Quincy	51	89	71	3	145	18	75	15	0.00	-0.14	0	6.31	-1.52	81	56
Ritzville	48	93	69	4	137	22	67	16	0.00	-0.14	0	11.29	-0.03	100	86
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	51	96	75	-1	175	1	105	2	0.00	-0.09	0	8.53	2.04	131	71
Pasco	49	95	71	0	151	3	81	2	0.00	-0.10	0	7.13	-0.36	95	74
Pullman	41	91	65	2	108	11	38	-3	0.00	-0.21	0	10.32	-10.77	49	89
Whitman Miss.	42	93	68	1	128	5	58	1	0.00	-0.16	0	14.46	0.71	105	118
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	45	88	68	2	128	7	58	3	0.00	-0.32	0	18.33	-7.62	71	102
Lewiston ID	54	98	75	5	176	29	106	26	0.00	-0.21	0	13.06	0.63	105	115

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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