



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: September 8, 2003, 1:00 p.m.
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CWP WA-CW3603

Rain Finally Falls in West and Brings Cooler Temperatures Apple and Pear Harvest Well Underway

Field Crops

Winter wheat seedlings emerged and appear in good condition across eastern Washington. Fieldwork across the Palouse progressed nearly uninterrupted. In Walla Walla County, nearly all harvesting was completed, except for garbanzo beans. Rainfall late Saturday and Sunday was welcomed in western Washington. The rain brought cooler weather which helped to bring the trend of record breaking temperatures to an end. Christmas tree growers began grading plantation roads in preparation for harvest. Corn silage harvest was underway.

Livestock

Dry conditions and high temperatures continued to take a toll on range and pastures. Range and pasture conditions were 4% very poor, 21% poor, 63% fair, and 12% good. Shellfish growers continued weed control efforts in preparation for major harvests next month.

Fruits and Vegetables

In central Washington, the apple and pear harvest was well underway. Gala apples were nearly completely harvested in Grant County while early Golden Delicious apples and Bartlett pears were getting started. Vegetable seeds, lima beans, sweet corn, and onions were also being harvested in the region. Gladiola and dahlia growers in Grays Harbor County continued to report excellent sales of cut flowers. Greenhouse tomato growers reported that yield on some varieties had peaked in response to the shorter days. Cranberry growers continued irrigation and prepared for the upcoming harvest. Organic vegetable growers continued to report excellent sales of potatoes, cabbage, carrots, and sweet corn.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.9
Last Week	7.0

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	37	38	25	0
Subsoil	19	29	52	0
Irrigation Water	9	11	80	0
Hay & Roughage	0	6	81	13

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	99	98	95
Winter Wheat Planted	36	19	35	30
Winter Wheat Harvested	100	99	99	99
Barley Harvested	100	99	98	95
Potatoes Harvested	47	46	54	33
Corn Silage Harvested	13	8	14	21
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	40	38	16	16
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	93	92	98	95

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Potatoes	0	0	21	72	7
Corn	0	1	11	88	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	2	12	57	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

Grays Harbor: Heavy rainfall on Sunday, September 8, finally brought some relief to the parched rural landscape. Ag producers were jubilant that enough rain fell to soak into the soil at least a couple of inches in most areas. U-Pick vegetable farmers and sweet corn growers turned off their irrigation for the first time in several months. Christmas tree growers began grading plantation roads in preparation for harvest. Both gladiola and dahlia growers continued to report excellent sales of cut flowers. Greenhouse tomato growers reported that yields on some varieties had peaked in response to the shorter days. Containerized woody plant nursery growers were especially pleased to see cooler temperatures and precipitation arrive. U-Pick pumpkin growers were preparing to open fields to the public at the end of the month.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: Drought conditions continued with above normal temperatures. Corn harvest will be two weeks earlier than normal.

Kitsap: With the last high temperatures of the summer, pasture forage was impacted unless under irrigation. Many vegetable and some fruit crops needed irrigation as well.

Lewis: Light rains were welcomed Saturday evening, September 7, with a few showers on Sunday that was only enough to dampen the dust. Temperatures remained warm during the day with a little cooler temperatures at night.

Pacific: Cranberry growers continued irrigation due to the dry conditions. Preparation for next month's harvest operations were underway, with dike work and equipment repair. Dry conditions continued to reduce pasture quality, but provided good conditions for late season vegetable crops. Shellfish growers continued weed control efforts in preparation for major harvests next month.

Pierce/South King: There were no unusual situations to report. The rains over the weekend were a welcome relief. There was no report of crop damage due to a weather event.

Skagit/San Juan: The weather continued to be dry. Grass and forage crops have suffered from drought conditions. Sunday was the first significant rainfall received for awhile.

Snohomish/King: Scattered showers by the end of the week were welcomed but did little to help non-irrigated crops and pastures, which continued to suffer from drought conditions. Corn silage harvest began, and local sweet corn was being harvested.

Snohomish/North King: Dry, hot conditions continued for another week, breaking long standing records for number of consecutive days with temperatures over 70 degrees. Rainfall late Saturday and Sunday was welcomed by everyone. Much more precipitation is needed for the stressed crops that have seen 50-60 percent below normal precipitation this year to date. Corn silage harvest was underway. Sweet corn and vegetables were plentiful at Farmer's Markets and roadside stands.

Thurston: Another week of record breaking temperatures was brought to a screeching halt on Sunday, when a major front brought both cooler temperatures and heavy precipitation. Many parts of the county recorded over an inch of rainfall. The majority of agricultural producers were jubilant that the extended dry period had finally ended. The rural landscape has been so dry with almost daily reports of small wildfires. The rain received on Sunday provided rural firefighters a chance to relax for the first time in nearly four months. Christmas tree growers continued top working Noble fir and shearing Douglas fir. Wholesale tree buyers have been out in full force securing inventories to meet their orders. Both Grand and Noble fir trees appeared to be in short supply. Organic vegetable growers continued to report excellent sales of potatoes, cabbage, carrots, and sweet corn. Some ag producers have already opened their corn mazes to the public. Strawberry growers were preparing fields for spring planting.

Whatcom: Producers began chopping corn silage. Much needed rain was received during the weekend.

Central

Grant: Lima bean and corn harvests continued. Vegetable seed harvests continued. Onion harvest was underway. Gala apple harvest was nearly complete. Early Golden Delicious apples and Bartlett pear harvest were underway.

Chelan/Douglas: Pears and early apple varieties were being harvested. Winter wheat was being seeded, however; dry conditions were a concern.

Okanogan/Chelan/Douglas: Apple harvest continued and will be at a high level of activity through mid-October. Some apple harvesting will continue until early November. Gala apple harvest was 75 percent complete while Golden Delicious

harvest was just beginning. Bartlett pear harvest was almost complete. The main pear crop, D'Anjou and Bosc, will be harvesting this week, with the bulk of the harvest occurring September 10-24. Warmer weather brought harvest dates somewhat forward compared to average years.

Okanogan/Ferry: Pear harvest was well underway. Early apples were starting to be harvested. The third cutting of alfalfa hay was 80 percent complete.

Yakima: Average temperatures ranged from 6 to 16 degrees above normal, with .05" of precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to weather conditions.

Eastern

Adams: Winter wheat seeding was nearly complete. About 35-40 percent of the winter wheat seeded has emerged.

Adams (2nd Report): September debuted with hot days and more dry weather. Early seeded wheat was emerging from the depths and looked pretty good considering the dry summer. Sunday, September 7, brought a change for the cooler, although none were hoping for rain at this point, until all seedings have emerged.

Lincoln: Harvest was complete and winter wheat seeding was about 50 percent complete, with some of the first seedings emerged.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Rain was received on Sunday evening. Spokane received a total of 1.3" of precipitation. The rain was a welcome sight. Another week of 90 degree plus temperatures were not welcomed. Hopefully, additional rain will be received within a few days.

Stevens: Hot, dry weather continued, although mornings and evenings were cooler. Much needed rain arrived Sunday night,

helping firefighters and hopefully softening pasture grasses for fall grazing.

Walla Walla: Drought conditions continued. The temperatures were very hot during the past few days. Nearly all harvesting was complete, except for garbanzo beans. Producers were waiting for rain.

Whitman: Fieldwork progressed uninterrupted during a week of hot, dry conditions. A few scattered thundershowers moved through the area late Saturday and Sunday. Some deep furrow seeding of winter wheat began, along the western edge of the county. Grazing conditions continued to be mostly poor to fair, with some supplemental feeding reported. Rainfall was definitely needed.

Whitman (2nd Report): Hot, dry conditions prevailed throughout the week. Many producers who normally seed winter wheat early chose to hold off for cooler conditions. Producers were generally concerned about the impact of heat and the lack of moisture on summer fallow conditions.

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Weekly Weather Statistics

September 8, 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	4	95	24	25	11	0.00	-0.37	0	26.25	-10.29	72	147
Everett	51	83	67	7	119	44	49	33	0.02	-0.41	1	24.76	-12.18	67	147
Hoquiam	45	83	61	-1	79	1	14	-7	0.66	0.09	1	61.22	-7.25	89	164
Kelso	48	91	69	7	133	44	63	35	0.00	-0.48	0	23.70	-23.32	50	105
Olympia	42	92	66	6	114	40	44	28	0.19	-0.24	1	37.38	-13.64	73	153
Sea-Tac	52	88	69	6	133	40	63	36	0.03	-0.34	1	31.59	-5.97	84	144
Shelton	44	94	67	5	117	28	47	19	0.12	-0.35	1	54.66	-10.68	84	150
Tacoma	45	90	67	6	119	33	49	27	0.31	-0.10	1	27.14	-13.53	67	134
Vancouver	53	94	72	10	157	69	87	61	0.07	-0.35	1	34.33	-7.39	82	139
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	45	95	73	10	160	69	90	57	0.00	-0.12	0	7.90	-1.16	87	80
Omak	50	97	75	13	174	88	104	73	0.02	-0.19	1	11.84	-3.42	78	62
Stamper Pass	46	86	66	15	116	84	56	49	0.04	-0.62	1	58.90	-22.78	72	150
Wenatchee	56	95	77	9	188	62	118	60	0.00	-0.14	0	8.90	0.45	105	75
Yakima AP	49	97	73	10	165	62	95	53	0.00	-0.14	0	8.29	0.18	102	61
NORTHEAST															
Colville	45	102	70	10	143	64	83	55	0.00	-0.28	0	17.75	-3.75	83	79
Deer Park	43	94	69	6	132	39	62	25	0.00	-0.21	0	20.47	1.73	109	102
Spokane AP	52	95	73	11	163	68	93	55	0.00	-0.21	0	15.34	-1.36	92	106
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	57	96	76	8	187	54	117	52	0.00	-0.07	0	7.88	0.58	108	59
Moses Lake	52	96	74	6	170	37	100	35	0.00	-0.07	0	8.27	0.97	113	75
Quincy	54	94	75	10	180	68	110	62	0.00	-0.13	0	6.31	-1.65	79	56
Ritzville	53	99	75	12	180	81	110	71	0.00	-0.10	0	11.29	-0.13	99	86
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	56	101	78	6	195	36	125	38	0.00	-0.12	0	8.53	1.92	129	71
Pasco	50	99	75	7	178	47	108	44	0.00	-0.13	0	7.13	-0.49	94	74
Pullman	45	95	70	9	141	57	71	40	0.05	-0.16	1	10.37	-10.93	49	90
Whitman Miss.	45	99	74	10	169	62	99	54	0.00	-0.14	0	14.46	0.57	104	118
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	50	93	73	9	160	56	90	47	0.00	-0.28	0	18.33	-7.90	70	102
Lewiston ID	58	100	79	12	206	75	136	71	0.00	-0.21	0	13.06	0.42	103	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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