



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: October 20, 2003, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: October 19, 2003
CWP WA-CW4203

Rains Bring Much Needed Precipitation

Field Crops

Heavy rains and unseasonably warm temperatures have resulted in rapid growth of newly seeded turf farms. There have been no reports of crop damage due to the recent rains. Stormy weather did hamper operations for a number of producers. In eastern Washington, rain showers brought much needed precipitation to the area, but conditions are still dry and more rain is needed for good growing conditions this fall.

Livestock

Warm temperatures and ample moisture have boosted forage growth in pastures. Livestock producers were continuing to put cattle out to fall pastures, and were weaning calves to sell or for delivery. Oyster growers were unable to harvest produce due to high winds and rough conditions.

Fruits and Vegetables

Christmas tree growers were doing last minute grooming on trees to be sold this year. U-Pick pumpkin growers reported excellent sales Saturday, with the beautiful weather.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	4.7
Last Week	6.1

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	15	31	35	19
Subsoil	10	37	53	0
Irrigation Water	1	3	96	0
Hay & Roughage	0	7	80	13

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

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2002	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	98	92	96	95
Winter Wheat Emerged	82	69	81	83
Potatoes Harvested	89	78	88	87
Corn Silage Harvested	86	76	94	97
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	100	96	93	95

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	1	16	83	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

Grays Harbor: Heavy rainfall throughout the week resulted in surface water puddles on many farms. Christmas tree growers were doing last minute grooming on trees to be sold this year. U-pick pumpkin growers reported excellent sales last Saturday when temperatures reached the mid-70's. The warm temperatures and ample moisture really boosted forage growth on pasture ground.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: A mid-winter weather pattern has set in which appeared to have brought an end to the drought and replaced it with localized flooding of streams that generated from the Olympic mountains.

Pacific: Cranberry harvest was underway with good color and yields. Stormy weather hampered operations for a number of producers. Oyster growers were unable to harvest produce due to high winds and rough conditions. Shellfish operations continued seeding, and Spartina weed control efforts were nearly completed for the season.

Pierce/King: Crop conditions remained good. No unusual situations occurred. There were no reports of crop damage due to weather related events. The rain was needed, but not the high winds. The fall crops looked good and plentiful.

Skagit/San Juan: There were heavy wind and rain storms throughout the week. There was some flooding along Francis Road and upriver between Hamilton and Marblemount. No

crop damage was reported.

Snohomish/King: Rains continued throughout the week. Some areas of the counties received over 4 inches of rain. Pastures were recovering nicely and growth was good. Apple and pumpkin harvests continued with good yields.

Snohomish/King (2nd report): Wind storms and heavy rain for several days prevented fall field work. Several rivers crested at 100 year flood stage. No crop damage was reported. There were a few reports of damage to field fences by flood waters. The weekend's weather was sunny with above average temperatures. Corn mazes and pumpkin patches had great attendance.

Thurston: Heavy rain showers throughout the week and unseasonably warm temperatures resulted in rapid growth of newly seeded turf farms. U-Pick farms reported excellent sales Saturday when sunny weather and temperatures in the mid-70's resulted in dry, pleasant field conditions. A rash of burglaries on south Thurston County farms have left many producers frustrated to the point of not wanting to leave their farms for any period of time.

Whatcom: Last week record rainfall was received, resulting in flooding of cropland. Producers with crops in their fields may not have an opportunity to harvest due to wet conditions.

Central

Douglas/Chelan: Apple harvest continued. Dry conditions were still present. Temperatures began to cool down. Slight precipitation was received which helped the current winter wheat crop. Livestock producers continued to report forage losses and problems with water.

Franklin: The temperatures were cool. Sweet corn carrots harvest continued. Winter wheat planting was complete.

Grant: Onion harvest was complete. Sweet corn and carrot harvest continued. Pink Lady and Fuji apple harvest was underway, and Red Delicious apple harvest was complete. The fourth cutting of alfalfa was 80 percent harvested.

Kittitas: Light rain was received twice during the week provided the first significant moisture in many months. With continued warm weather pastures have continued to grow slowly where soil moisture remained. Livestock producers were still shipping calves.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 6 degrees below normal to 12 degrees above normal, with a trace of precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to weather conditions.

Eastern

Adams: Precipitation maintained current moisture conditions. Winter wheat was mostly emerged and looked in fair condition.

Asotin/Garfield: Showers continued throughout the week, but conditions were still considered dry. More rain is still needed for good growing conditions this fall. Winter wheat was struggling to emerge due to the dry weather. Pastures were in mostly poor condition. It is getting too late in the growing season to expect much fall growth even if more rain is received.

Ferry/Okanogan: Apple harvest was winding down. Ranchers continued to put cattle out to fall pastures. They started to wean calves to sell or for future delivery. The counties received up $\frac{1}{2}$ " of rain.

Lincoln: Winter wheat remained in fair condition. Precipitation maintained current moisture conditions.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The area finally saw some normal fall temperatures until the latter part of the week when temperatures were 10 degrees above normal. The two

counties received rainfall on Wednesday and Thursday. Amounts received varied, but were around $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch of rainfall. Fall work was winding down with additional rain needed to get winter wheat sprouted and growing. Cattle producers were still supplementing feed and grazing land was being over grazed in a number of situations.

Stevens: Ranchers continued to gather cattle and ship calves to market. Rain showers helped emerging winter wheat.

Whitman: Winter wheat seeding was mostly complete, but a few farms along the eastern edge of the county will be finishing up as of this week. Winter wheat germination and emergence was helped by rain showers, but additional rain is needed to boost crop development.

Whitman (2nd Report): Rain showers brought needed precipitation to the area. Totals of $\frac{2}{3}$ of an inch of rain were reported in some areas. Unusually warm temperatures were also recorded late in the week. The rain and warmer weather improved conditions for emerging winter wheat, but more precipitation is needed.

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Weekly Weather Statistics

October 20, 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	37	67	55	5	41	31	4	4	3.80	3.05	5	5.65	1.87	149	17
Everett	43	68	56	6	46	32	4	4	1.29	0.62	5	2.56	-1.26	67	16
Hoquiam	44	62	56	2	41	11	1	1	3.84	2.48	5	8.87	2.35	136	22
Kelso	43	73	59	7	66	44	15	15	1.05	0.23	4	1.11	-3.26	25	5
Olympia	38	76	57	8	50	42	7	7	3.78	2.86	5	7.11	2.67	160	22
Sea-Tac	42	69	57	4	50	28	5	5	1.63	0.94	4	3.38	-0.17	95	18
Shelton	37	67	55	4	38	20	4	4	7.42	6.25	5	10.46	5.02	192	22
Tacoma	37	73	56	6	49	33	7	7	1.06	0.36	5	3.82	0.21	106	20
Vancouver	45	73	60	8	71	52	16	16	0.59	-0.08	5	3.45	-0.21	94	18
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	32	71	52	5	29	25	1	1	0.21	0.07	4	0.22	-0.56	28	5
Omak	31	73	52	6	37	35	6	6	0.69	0.48	2	1.04	-0.24	81	6
Stampede Pass	35	61	45	5	5	5	0	0	2.86	1.46	6	9.96	3.23	148	20
Wenatchee	38	71	52	2	29	14	0	0	0.31	0.23	3	0.34	-0.26	57	4
Yakima AP	35	74	55	6	42	30	7	7	0.17	0.06	3	0.24	-0.39	38	5
NORTHEAST															
Colville	27	73	52	7	36	35	5	5	0.45	0.18	4	1.01	-0.75	57	6
Deer Park	33	72	50	3	16	12	0	0	0.64	0.42	4	2.15	0.74	152	9
Spokane AP	35	75	52	5	24	19	0	0	0.51	0.30	3	1.10	-0.11	91	7
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	36	73	54	3	43	26	7	7	0.20	0.12	3	0.41	-0.15	73	4
Moses Lake	34	76	54	4	43	26	8	8	0.12	0.04	3	0.32	-0.24	57	6
Quincy	35	73	56	7	47	36	10	10	0.15	0.05	2	0.22	-0.43	34	3
Ritzville	35	77	51	3	21	12	2	2	0.25	0.09	3	0.72	-0.24	75	6
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	35	79	57	3	58	23	11	10	0.06	-0.01	2	0.34	-0.20	63	4
Pasco	37	82	58	5	59	34	10	10	0.23	0.09	4	0.48	-0.14	77	7
Pullman	34	75	51	3	27	17	2	2	0.52	0.22	3	1.47	-0.26	85	9
Whitman Miss.	33	82	53	4	35	21	1	1	0.29	0.08	3	1.60	0.38	131	9
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	37	73	51	1	18	7	0	0	0.62	0.28	3	2.23	0.22	111	9
Lewiston ID	35	71	53	2	31	7	0	0	0.16	-0.05	3	1.28	-0.04	97	8

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2003

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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