



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: October 4, 2004, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: October 3, 2004
CWP WA-CW4004

Weather Ideal for Wheat Seeding and Remaining Harvests Potato Harvest Resumed

Field Crops

Many producers found weather conditions favorable for seeding winter wheat. Winter wheat that had already been seeded emerged quickly due to ideal growing conditions. Corn silage harvest in Whatcom, Snohomish, and King Counties neared completion. Potato harvest resumed at a slow pace, but still remained above the previous year and five year average. Spokane County's third cutting alfalfa hay was nearing completion while Grant County was currently working on completing their fourth cutting of alfalfa hay.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 8% very poor, 16% poor, 34% fair, and 42% good. In Stevens County, calves started moving to market at good prices. Oyster growers in Pacific County finished seed transplants, and continued harvest activities.

Fruits and Vegetables

Cranberry producers in Pacific County prepared equipment and dikes for harvest in October. U-Pick pumpkin farms opened in Thurston and Grays Harbor Counties. Apple harvest continued statewide with focus on Red Delicious and Golden varieties. Grape harvest, sweet corn, and onion harvests continued. In Grant County, lima bean harvest was completed, while processing carrot harvest started.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	7.0
Last Week	6.5

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	4	29	67	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	22	44	33	1
Subsoil	2	32	66	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	14	49	37	0
Irrigation Water	0	5	95	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	4	6	90	0
Hay & Roughage	2	5	86	7

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

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2003	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	73	55	75	78
Winter Wheat Emerged	48	33	39	54
Potatoes Harvested	65	61	59	61
Corn Silage Harvested	60	48	46	62
Corn Grain Harvested	15	5	6	5
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	69	59	94	64
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	99	98	99	100

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	0	3	92	5

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: Ag producers were jubilant with an entire week of beautiful sunny weather. The warm, sunny days provided ideal conditions for the opening of U-Pick pumpkin farms. Sweet corn harvest was completed under nearly ideal harvest conditions. A number of ag producers in the Wynoochee Valley held “Open Houses” for the public on Saturday, October 2, as participants in the 5th Annual Harvest Celebration. Spring flower bulb planting was completed. Potato harvest began. Sweet corn growers were cultivating harvested fields and planting cover crops. Commercial dahlia growers were pleased that a killing frost did not bring an end to brisk cut flower sales. Christmas tree growers were servicing harvest equipment with tree harvest slated to begin at the end of the month.

Kitsap: The weather was excellent with ideal conditions for squash and pumpkins. Area Farmer’s Markets were featuring a great selection of fall produce. One south Kitsap County farmer measuring heat units reported 2,000 + heat units as of October 1.

Pacific: Growers completed many end-of-the-season activities with the continued good weather. Cranberry producers prepared equipment and dikes for harvest in October, with somewhat higher than average production expected. Oyster growers finished seed transplants and continued harvest activities. Final hay operations were underway before the fall rains.

Pierce/South King: Conditions remained good for the fall crop harvest. Corn silage harvest began in the South Puget Sound area.

There were no unusual situations to report and no reports of crop damage due to a weather event.

Snohomish/North King: The weather was mild throughout the week. Grass silage continued to be put up. Pastures were still growing well. Apple harvest was underway, but some varieties were still ripening. Farms prepared for fall Festivals. Pumpkins were ripening early this year.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report): The weather was very favorable for the completion of corn silage harvest. Corn mazes and U-Pick pumpkin fields opened for business. Pastures and grass fields continued to show improved growth. Cool, foggy mornings, warm afternoons, and the bright colors of chrysanthemums and leaves remind us that fall has come.

Thurston: Ag producers took advantage of beautiful autumn weather to do last minute seeding of pastures. Turfgrass growers cultivated harvested fields and quickly seeded them to get germination prior to frosty weather. Truck gardeners were jubilant that a killing frost had not yet occurred, thereby extending the growing season. U-Pick pumpkin farms were doing a brisk business as urbanites took advantage of sunny days and warm temperatures to shop for the perfect Halloween Jack-O-Lantern. Christmas tree growers continued to prepare harvest roads and service equipment. Home gardeners were busy making apple cider!

Central

Benton: Favorable conditions helped apple and grape harvest. Potatoes and other summer vegetable harvests were nearly complete.

Benton (2nd Report): Grape and apple harvests continued.

Chelan/Douglas: Apple harvest was in full swing. Red Delicious apples were being picked. The weather was good for the apple crop with warm days and cool nights. Replanted winter wheat was emerging.

Grant: Sweet corn harvest continued. Lima bean harvest was completed. Processing carrot harvest began. Onion harvest was about 60 percent completed. Apple harvest continued. The fourth cutting of alfalfa was 90 percent completed and 50 percent was baled.

Kittitas: Some second cutting of timothy hay was continuing to be harvested. Thankfully, farmers still had water to help fall growth

and new seedings. Continued fair weather helped everyone. There were spotty frosts during the week, as temperatures dipped into the mid-30's towards morning.

Kittitas (2nd Report): Great weather conditions allowed producers to finish up the second cutting of timothy hay. Potato harvest was underway. Apple harvest continued, with some yield reductions due to frost and hail damage. Irrigation season will end October 15.

Okanogan/Ferry: Apple harvest was in full swing. Golden Delicious apples were finishing up. Red Delicious apples were being picked. Warm days and cool nights made for good crop conditions. Most of the winter wheat was emerged.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 2 to 11 degrees above normal, with no precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to weather conditions.

Eastern

Adams: Weather conditions were warm, which benefitted winter wheat as it continued to grow and emerge.

Adams (2nd Report): Producers were planning to begin the corn grain harvest on high moisture grain. Potato digging continued under sunny skies.

Asotin/Garfield: Dry weather allowed farmers to proceed rapidly with winter wheat planting. Moisture in summer fallow was adequate in most areas, but more rain was needed in other areas for re-cropping and continued emergence. Temperatures were above average most of the week. Pastures benefitted from the early September rain, but were in need of additional rain for normal fall growth.

Lincoln: Winter wheat benefitted from warm conditions as seeding neared completion with approximately 60 percent emerged.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Warm weather continued during the week and winter wheat seeding progressed at a steady pace towards completion. Wheat emerged, although some reseeding was necessary in some areas of the county. Range conditions were mostly typical of this time of year, but precipitation is needed.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The week was dry with above normal temperatures. Cool nights and heat during the days contributed to good growing conditions for the winter wheat. Growers will be

working on wrapping up seeding and finishing up the rest of the fall work this week. Rain is predicted and will be welcomed.

Stevens: Hay producers finished putting up their last cutting of alfalfa. Grain harvest was finally completed. Winter wheat seeding was nearly 50 percent completed. Calves began moving to market at good prices.

Walla Walla: Fall work continued in full swing. The northern portion of the county was wrapping up the deep furrow seeding, while other areas continued. Weather conditions were favorable for late harvests.

Whitman: Most operations worked on finishing up seeding winter wheat. Those that were finished turned their attention to fall tillage. Stubble fields had a green tint to them this year with volunteer growth and newly emerged weeds such as cheat grass. Weather conditions continued to be ideal for completion of fall work, although; some producers were becoming concerned about the need for more precipitation and hoped to see rain clouds on the horizon.

Whitman (2nd Report): The temperatures warmed as the week progressed. Fall farm work was progressing throughout the county. Farmers may need to make additional applications of herbicides to control volunteer plants and weeds.

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Weekly Weather Statistics

October 4, 2004

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	40	71	55	1	34	5	0	0	0.00	-0.58	0	3.81	1.58	171	16
Everett	47	69	57	3	49	17	0	0	0.00	-0.56	0	2.10	-0.31	87	16
Hoquiam	45	75	57	0	54	2	1	-6	0.00	-1.01	0	4.04	0.27	107	17
Kelso	43	79	61	5	80	33	11	4	0.00	-0.63	0	1.36	-1.31	51	7
Olympia	38	74	56	3	46	17	0	0	0.00	-0.66	0	3.86	1.27	149	15
Sea-Tac	48	72	59	3	63	17	1	-5	0.00	-0.52	0	2.83	0.69	132	14
Shelton	38	76	58	3	58	16	1	-6	0.00	-0.82	0	3.59	0.49	116	14
Tacoma	39	73	57	2	48	9	0	-3	0.00	-0.52	0	2.56	0.37	117	14
Vancouver	44	80	63	7	90	47	20	13	0.00	-0.55	0	1.68	-0.59	74	11
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	37	87	62	9	83	55	20	14	0.00	-0.08	0	0.42	-0.11	79	9
Stampede Pass	46	75	58	13	55	48	8	8	0.00	-1.00	0	6.99	3.07	178	16
Wenatchee	43	83	63	6	94	44	24	12	0.00	-0.07	0	0.35	-0.07	83	8
Yakima AP	37	87	60	6	74	34	15	7	0.00	-0.07	0	0.15	-0.27	36	3
NORTHEAST															
Colville	33	84	58	8	60	38	7	4	0.00	-0.21	0	1.61	0.40	133	9
Deer Park	30	79	56	4	41	12	2	-5	0.00	-0.16	0	1.33	0.39	141	10
Spokane AP	42	79	60	8	73	43	13	6	0.00	-0.14	0	0.55	-0.23	71	8
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	43	87	66	8	111	57	41	26	0.00	-0.07	0	0.19	-0.20	49	5
Moses Lake	38	88	62	5	85	31	21	6	0.00	-0.07	0	0.12	-0.27	31	3
Quincy	28	84	63	8	91	48	32	23	0.00	-0.07	0	0.06	-0.40	13	1
Ritzville	38	84	62	8	83	48	22	15	0.00	-0.14	0	0.40	-0.23	63	5
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	40	88	66	5	113	37	43	18	0.00	-0.07	0	0.21	-0.16	57	4
Pasco	36	87	61	3	80	22	18	4	0.00	-0.07	0	0.16	-0.22	42	3
Pullman	34	83	57	4	52	21	5	-1	0.00	-0.24	0	0.36	-0.73	33	7
Whitman Miss.	34	82	59	4	65	23	10	2	0.00	-0.18	0	0.29	-0.46	39	6
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'Alene AP	36	75	59	5	64	27	8	1	0.00	-0.27	0	1.75	0.44	134	9
Lewiston ID	49	85	66	9	116	59	46	30	0.00	-0.18	0	0.33	-0.51	39	9

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2004

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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