



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

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Week Ending: October 31, 2004
CWP WA-CW4404

Fall Field Activities Dwindled Winter Weather Just Around the Corner

Field Crops

Cool temperatures and a little bit of wet weather caused field activities to quiet down. Winter wheat planting was mostly complete, while potato and corn silage and grain harvests were not far behind. Christmas tree producers continued to prepare fields for harvest. Turfgrass growers took advantage of rainless days to cut and harvest fields.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 4% poor, 34% fair, 61% good, and 1% excellent. Calves continued to be moved to market.

Fruits and Vegetables

U-pick pumpkin growers finished up another great season with the end of Halloween. Benton County wine grape and apple harvests neared completion. Raspberry fields in Whatcom County were being pruned and tied. Commercial blueberry growers in Thurston County mowed cover crops. Processing carrot harvest continued.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.4
Last Week	4.5

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	10	86	4
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	10	41	47	2
Subsoil	2	20	78	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	11	49	40	0
Irrigation Water	0	0	100	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	1	3	96	0
Hay & Roughage	0	2	89	9

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	99	98	100	99
Winter Wheat Emerged	92	85	89	91
Potatoes Harvested	99	96	99	98
Corn Silage Harvested	99	97	100	100
Corn Grain Harvested	62	56	47	42
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	100	99	100	100

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	0	2	31	58	9
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	100	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: Unseasonably cool temperatures and sporadic rain showers limited most agricultural activity in the county to inside chores. U-Pick pumpkin growers reported excellent sales right up until Halloween evening. Christmas tree growers were completing final wholesale sales and preparing fields for harvest slated to begin in two weeks. Home gardeners continued sprucing up the home grounds after several nights of below freezing temperatures. The growing season ended for most flowering annual plants.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Pastures were almost fully greened up, fields were generally too wet for equipment to be on, and farmers were making final waste applications in preparation for winter. Christmas tree growers were getting ready to start their harvest season.

Island/San Juan/Skagit: Weather for Skagit-Island-San Juan has been normal for this time of year. Most crops have been harvested. Potatoes continued to be harvested. No apparent crop losses have been reported.

Pierce/South King: No unusual situations to report. Also, no report of any crop damage due to a weather event.

San Juan: Soil conditions were moist, but machinery operation was still possible.

Snohomish/King: Mild fall weather continued with the first good frost of the season on Monday. A few showers during the week. Pumpkin harvest continued and corn mazes were doing good business. Apple harvest continued for the later varieties. Christmas tree farms continued

preparations for their busy season.

Snohomish/North King: Gusty winds on Friday evening scattered the brightly colored leaves around the county. The weekend weather was favorable for the end of U-pick pumpkin and corn maze activities. The dairies had the big guns out pumping manure onto the recently harvested fields.

Thurston: Cool temperatures with scattered rain showers throughout the week limited the majority of agricultural activity to inside chores. Most ag producers utilized the week to service farm machinery for winter storage. The exception were Christmas tree growers who braved the elements to prepare fields for harvest slated to begin next week. U-Pick pumpkin growers breathed a huge sigh of relief that yet another season was completed. Turfgrass growers took advantage of several days with no rain to cut and harvest vigorously growing fields. Commercial blueberry growers mowed cover crops which provided a ribbon of green color among rows of vibrant red foliage. Home gardeners continued raking leaves and cutting back herbaceous plants for the winter. Several nights of below freezing temperatures brought the end to yet another growing season.

Whatcom: Potato and corn harvest was completed. Some corn fields had been abandoned due to wet conditions in the fields. Raspberry fields were being pruned and tied. Weather was chilly in the evenings and had been in the upper 30 degrees to lower 40 degrees. Day time temperatures were in the upper 40 degree to lower 50 degree temperatures. It had been breezy off and on.

Central

Benton: Harvest was almost complete in wine grapes and apples. Good harvest conditions continued.

Grant: Processing carrot harvest continued. Sweet corn harvest was completed. Fuji Harvest finished up.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from seven degrees below normal to six degrees above normal with .02 of an inch of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: A few producers were still seeding winter wheat. Winter wheat stands were good in most areas, but spotty in other areas.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: This week was a normal fall week. Scattered rain showers and our first snow of the year fell in some parts of the county. We had freezing weather almost every night. Producers were wrapping up fall tillage operations and putting machinery away for the winter.

Stevens: Calves continued to move to market. Producers busied themselves with fall chores. The soil moisture level was better than it had been in several years.

Whitman: Temperatures cooled considerably but conditions remained fairly dry through the week enabling some operations to do some fall fertilizing.

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

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Weekly Weather Statistics

November 1, 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	31	59	47	-2	4	-3	0	0	0.22	-0.75	5	8.30	2.86	153	33
Everett	37	55	47	-2	0	-7	0	0	0.22	-0.67	2	4.52	-0.79	85	30
Hoquiam	35	56	47	-5	1	-16	0	0	1.43	-0.42	5	10.49	0.83	109	34
Kelso	37	57	48	-2	3	-9	0	0	0.68	-0.47	4	4.45	-1.84	71	19
Olympia	31	57	46	-1	0	0	0	0	1.03	-0.36	6	8.43	1.70	125	34
Sea-Tac	37	56	48	-2	3	-7	0	0	0.08	-0.93	1	5.70	0.48	109	27
Shelton	30	59	46	-3	2	-5	0	0	1.21	-0.55	4	9.74	1.37	116	31
Tacoma	32	56	46	-3	0	-7	0	0	0.15	-0.88	2	5.54	0.22	104	26
Vancouver	36	59	50	2	11	4	0	0	1.02	0.05	6	5.15	-0.11	98	28
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	26	62	45	3	0	0	0	0	0.07	-0.11	1	1.39	0.32	130	18
Stampede Pass	30	56	37	2	0	0	0	0	1.18	-0.88	3	13.99	3.84	138	32
Wenatchee	29	58	44	-2	0	-2	0	0	0.00	-0.16	0	0.90	0.04	105	14
Yakima AP	24	63	44	-2	1	-1	0	0	0.02	-0.12	2	1.27	0.40	146	9
NORTHEAST															
Colville	22	56	41	0	0	0	0	0	0.04	-0.36	1	3.71	1.31	155	19
Deer Park	21	56	41	-2	0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.38	0	3.48	1.47	173	20
Spokane AP	29	53	42	1	0	0	0	0	0.03	-0.30	2	1.63	-0.11	94	15
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	28	61	46	0	2	-5	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	1.51	0.70	186	12
Moses Lake	25	61	46	1	2	-5	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	1.06	0.25	131	9
Quincy	25	62	44	-1	2	2	0	0	0.00	-0.17	0	0.82	-0.11	88	7
Ritzville	29	59	43	-2	0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.26	0	1.00	-0.39	72	10
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	27	59	45	-5	0	-16	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	0.85	0.10	113	9
Pasco	29	63	47	-2	8	-6	0	0	0.00	-0.18	0	0.73	-0.17	81	11
Pullman	26	57	42	-3	0	-1	0	0	0.08	-0.37	2	1.12	-1.34	46	16
Whitman Miss.	27	61	46	-1	0	-7	0	0	0.01	-0.30	1	1.40	-0.34	80	19
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	30	54	42	-4	0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.52	0	3.82	0.98	135	18
Lewiston ID	35	59	47	0	0	-8	0	0	0.00	-0.21	0	1.75	0.07	104	16

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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