



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: July 25, 2005
Week Ending: July 24, 2005
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Grass Hopper Swarms in Garfield County Weather Conditions Accelerated Harvest Progress

Field Crop

Dry conditions were welcomed by many producers. Warm temperatures helped accelerate harvesting progress. However, rains near the end of the week momentarily slowed winter wheat harvest in some areas but no damage was reported. Garfield County growers have been dealing with grass hopper problems.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 7% very poor, 26% poor, 26% fair, 40% good, and 1% excellent. A week of warm weather put hay harvest in full swing. Hay quality reported lower than average due to rain damage and over maturity. Pacific County shellfish growers completed shrimp control activities, and continued on clam and oyster harvests.

Fruits and Vegetables

Benton County apricot, early peach, and nectarine harvests began. Blueberry harvest continued with a good quality. Pacific raspberry harvest winded down. Greenhouse tomato growers reported rapid fruit ripening due to the warm weather.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.6
Last Week	6.7

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	14	25	61	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	17	42	41	0
Subsoil	20	46	34	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	10	46	44	0
Irrigation Water	8	11	81	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	1	6	93	0
Hay & Roughage	3	10	83	4

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

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2004	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	7	0	3	4
Winter Wheat Harvested	16	8	14	13
Barley Headed	99	99	100	100
Barley Harvested	9	0	2	4
Potatoes Harvested	16	9	15	13
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	1	0	1	0
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	96	95	91	97
Dry Peas Harvested	45	40	7	8
Alfalfa Hay 1 st Cutting	99	99	100	100
Alfalfa Hay 2 nd Cutting	86	75	79	86
Alfalfa Hay 3 rd Cutting	6	2	11	9

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	9	25	50	15
Winter Wheat Irrigated	1	3	12	64	20
Spring Wheat Dryland	4	15	42	37	2
Spring Wheat Irrigated	4	7	17	64	8
Barley Dryland	6	21	35	36	2
Barley Irrigated	4	8	16	69	3
Potatoes	0	2	13	59	26
Corn	0	0	11	79	10
Dry Edible Beans	2	7	30	60	1

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: A week of temperatures in the high 70's and low 80's resulted in phenomenal sweet corn growth. Livestock producers continued hay harvest under nearly ideal conditions. Christmas tree growers began top working Noble fir. Greenhouse tomato growers reported rapid fruit ripening due to the warm temperatures. U-Pick raspberry and blueberry growers reported excellent fruit quality with enhanced flavor quality due to the warm temperatures. Non irrigated pastures and hayfields were beginning to show signs of drought stress.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: A week of warm dry weather put hay harvest into full swing. Scattered light showers at the end of the week put a slight damper on the harvest. Grain crops and corn really put on a growth spurt during the warm spell.

Lewis: Day temperatures were quite warm throughout the week with mild rain showers in the early morning hours on Friday. Blueberries were coming on, other crops were slowly coming on as the temperatures became warmer.

Mason: Precipitation was at .25 inches on Friday which caught several hayfields in the middle of harvesting. There seems to be quite a bit of over-mature and/or rain-damaged local hay this year. Prices were low due to quality and the fact that many people still had carry-over from 2004 in their barns. The rain coupled with the cooler temperatures so far this summer has been good for pasture regrowth. Farmers were currently irrigating around the farm on a regular schedule.

Pacific: Mid-season warm conditions were welcomed by area producers. Hay operations were nearly complete, except

on irrigated ground, and dry conditions this week were a welcome change from previously damp weather. Raspberry growers neared the end of harvest, and blueberry picking continued. Shellfish growers completed shrimp control activities and continued on clam and oyster harvesting operations.

Pierce: Thursday evening and Friday morning rain caught most local area farmers off guard. Hay was cut, and in most cases windrowed, ready for baling when the unexpected rain hit. One and a half inches according to the rain gage. While the hay can be salvaged, the quality will be very poor. Several fields have not yet been cut and while the standing hay can probably be processed and put in the barn without rain, it is so mature that it will be of poor quality also.

Pierce/King: Not much has changed over the last week the weather conditions still remained favorable for crops in the South Puget Sound area. No unusual situations to report and no reports of crop damage due to a weather event.

Thurston: A week of warm temperatures and minimal precipitation resulted in drying conditions throughout the county. All non-irrigated pastures and hayfields were beginning to show drought stress. Christmas tree growers continued shearing Grand fir and staking Noble leaders. Raspberry growers reported excellent fruit quality due to the warm temperatures which enhanced flavor quality. Blueberry growers reported rapid ripening in all varieties. Turfgrass growers were kept busy trying to keep growing fields irrigated. Livestock producers took advantage of nearly ideal conditions for making hay. Unfortunately forage quality was lacking due to over-maturity. Home gardeners were harvesting zucchini, onions, and lettuce.

Central

Benton: Wheat harvest continued in the county. Hot temperatures continued. This will continue to have an impact on some of the orchards with limited water. We received some rain.

Benton (2nd Report): Apricots and early peaches and nectarines were being harvested. Irrigation and weed control were the other activities.

Chelan/Douglas/Okanogan: Cherry harvest was slowing as the high elevation orchards were starting to pick limited acres of later varieties. It will be completed sometime the first week of August this year, a week early. Pears and apples continued to develop well, and harvest of Gala apples and Bartlett pears will start in early areas around August 7 and will continue until early September, peaking in the last half of August. The crop looked adequate throughout the state. Harvest of various crops will be continuous until early November. Labor supply was fair, and was expected to be tight as peak harvest periods come and go through the remainder of the season.

Franklin: Growing conditions were good all week with several days nearing and/or slightly exceeding record highs. Normal harvest of hay, open market potatoes, peas and other crops occurred.

Kittitas: Grain harvest began. Also, 2nd cutting hay. The weather was hot and windy.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from two degrees below normal to six degrees above normal with .12 inches of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams: Harvest was progressing with most yield reports above average with good grain quality. Soil moisture conditions were still a concern throughout the county.

Adams (2nd Report): Wheat harvest progressed rapidly throughout the county. Reports began to come in of average, to above average, and some excellent yields, depending upon the luck of location relative to rain patterns earlier in the growing season. A little rain on Friday slowed the process but caused no damage.

Asotin/Garfield: Harvest progressed well. Winter wheat yields were average to above average. Spring crops were well below normal.

Garfield: Grass hopper swarms in "hot spots" were all over the county. USDA APHIS PPQ staff were investigating. Damage to grain occurred in the drought areas. Only a few fires were reported as harvest began.

Lincoln: Harvest of winter wheat will get into full swing next Monday.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Rains near the end of the week slowed winter wheat harvest but it continued to progress throughout the county as it moved further north.

Lincoln (3rd Report): Showers were received one day during the week in pockets of the county. Wheat harvest began in the southwest part of the county. It will continually progress and begin next week to the north and central section of the county as the crop ripens.

Pend Oreille: Temperatures were 88 degrees for the highs and 38 degrees for the lows and precipitation was at .2 inches. Hay cutting was in full swing with large hay farms still in mid-cutting, most small farms were finished. It was still too early to tell if a second cutting was possible for dry farmers. Those who irrigated should get a second cutting. Livestock were still fattening up on lush green pasture.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: A week of more settled weather. Bluegrass seed harvest was in full swing with some producers starting to swath lentils and harvesting dry peas. A good week for hay as producers finished up their first cutting and some started second cutting. Wheat harvest was still a week away for most growers and two weeks for some.

Stevens: First cutting hay harvest was nearly completed. A few producers began second cutting. Grain crops and pastures continued to look good.

Walla Walla: Very hot and dry. Pastures were drying up. Harvest was underway. Yields were reported as average or below. Rivers were low, some irrigators have shut down.

Whitman: Hot dry harvest weather was briefly interrupted by a passing cold front that cooled temperatures and brought wind and rains to much of the county. Harvest continued to progress eastward and many operations in the western part of the county were cutting with the central area beginning within days. The eastern part of the county was still a week or so away. Some lentils have been swathed. Reports on yields have varied. Downed winter wheat experienced damage from rodents. Hay production appeared to be lower than average.

Weekly Weather Statistics

July 25, 2005

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	45	78	63	2	96	7	26	5	0.09	-0.19	1	37.41	2.82	108	155
Everett	52	81	65	2	104	13	34	10	0.06	-0.19	1	26.38	-8.54	76	152
Hoquiam	48	77	61	1	81	4	13	-1	0.10	-0.18	1	55.73	-10.33	84	183
Kelso	48	91	67	3	118	20	48	18	0.08	-0.12	1	28.12	-16.44	63	123
Olympia	46	90	66	3	111	18	41	14	0.00	-0.14	0	39.23	-10.09	80	154
Sea-Tac	54	87	66	1	117	6	47	5	0.25	0.11	1	31.46	-4.57	87	135
Shelton	46	88	65	-1	109	2	39	1	0.09	-0.11	1	53.64	-10.11	84	150
Tacoma	48	90	64	-1	103	-2	33	-2	0.25	0.11	1	26.99	-11.29	71	122
Vancouver	52	94	70	6	141	36	71	36	0.08	-0.06	1	29.18	-10.87	73	148
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	49	100	74	6	171	38	101	38	0.14	0.13	1	6.84	-1.66	80	81
Omak	49	99	74	7	171	45	101	45	0.34	0.20	1	9.68	-4.17	70	79
Stampede Pass	45	87	62	6	84	41	22	15	0.56	0.28	1	60.79	-18.32	77	172
Wenatchee	60	99	77	3	188	20	118	20	0.06	0.04	1	5.22	-2.61	67	60
Yakima AP	46	98	73	3	159	16	89	17	0.00	0.00	0	5.70	-1.84	76	75
NORTHEAST															
Colville	47	96	73	7	164	45	94	45	0.24	0.09	1	21.62	1.76	109	106
Deer Park	42	92	67	-4	116	-24	46	-24	0.00	-0.17	0	20.76	3.22	118	118
Republic	41	92	68	5	128	30	59	24	0.34	0.13	1	13.82	-0.21	99	92
Spokane AP	55	94	73	4	161	23	91	23	0.01	-0.13	1	14.32	-1.35	91	98
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	57	98	77	2	189	8	119	9	0.07	0.00	1	6.05	-0.86	88	60
Moses Lake	53	98	75	-1	177	-4	107	-3	0.08	0.01	1	6.25	-0.66	90	58
Quincy	53	97	75	4	178	27	108	28	0.13	0.11	1	5.52	-1.79	76	52
Ritzville	48	100	72	3	154	14	84	14	0.11	0.04	1	9.13	-1.72	84	68
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	55	102	78	-1	200	1	130	1	0.00	-0.01	0	3.37	-2.57	57	44
Pasco	53	100	77	3	190	14	120	15	0.00	-0.02	0	5.32	-1.73	75	60
Pullman	46	97	70	4	142	30	72	29	0.00	-0.14	0	5.95	-14.15	30	67
Walla Walla	60	106	80	5	211	29	141	29	0.01	-0.09	1	12.05	-6.53	65	92
Whitman Miss.	49	107	75	4	176	24	106	25	0.00	-0.07	0	10.16	-2.80	78	98
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D' A' AP	48	93	70	0	143	3	73	3	0.00	-0.15	0	11.55	-12.96	47	84
Lewiston ID	60	105	81	6	217	42	147	42	0.00	-0.14	0	11.47	-0.05	100	92

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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