



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service  
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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: August 15, 2005  
Week Ending: August 14, 2005  
CWP WA-CW3305

## Swathed Lentils Damaged by Thunderstorms Early Apple Harvest Underway

### Field Crop

Warm, hot August weather continued. Benton County reported drought symptoms were beginning to show in several crops as growers scrambled to spread reduced water supplies to crops. Grain harvest and lentil swathing progressed throughout the week in Spokane and the Palouse. However, on Friday a line of severe thunderstorms rolled into the area and piles of swathed lentils were blown away. Also, grass seed that was still needing to be harvested was blown all over, shattering seed. Potato growers continued with the de-vining process.

### Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 4% very poor, 19% poor, 27% fair, and 50% good. Late summer seedings of alfalfa were in full swing in Franklin County.

### Fruits and Vegetables

Harvest of early apple varieties started in Benton and Franklin Counties. Stone fruit and summer vegetables were being harvested.

#### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.8
Last Week	6.9

#### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	29	33	38	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	21	44	34	1
Subsoil	29	42	29	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	12	49	39	0
Irrigation Water	16	23	61	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	4	94	0
Hay & Roughage	3	11	80	6

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	53	43	61	50
Winter Wheat Harvested	66	58	73	71
Barley Harvested	60	36	51	43
Potatoes Harvested	50	46	30	24
Corn Silage Harvested	15	12	10	4
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	25	20	9	4
Dry Peas Harvested	85	73	83	54
Alfalfa Hay 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cutting	93	92	96	98
Alfalfa Hay 3 <sup>rd</sup> Cutting	60	40	71	54

#### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Spring Wheat Dryland	7	13	38	40	2
Spring Wheat Irrigated	12	21	15	40	12
Barley Dryland	4	19	37	37	3
Barley Irrigated	7	18	22	47	6
Potatoes	0	1	16	49	34
Corn	0	0	3	62	35
Dry Edible Beans	5	15	40	34	6

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/Lewis/Pacific:** Three weeks without rain meant it must be summer. The warm dry weather has really pushed the corn.

**Mason:** A cool spell in the heat mid-week was a welcome break. However, weekend temperatures in the mid-90's brought us back to August reality. Farmers Markets and produce stands were in full swing and most of the winter's supply of hay was up in the barn.

**Mason (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Hot dry weather experienced late in the week. Irrigation was used all week. Still had a good rotation pasture pattern, right on schedule for this time of year. All week felt like autumn was just around the corner. In the early part of the week, the morning dew and cool nights felt like September. There seemed to be fewer flies and yellow jackets this year. We were having a small hatch right now but it has been very minimal compared to other years and we are not sure why. We have asked several other people in the area with animals and they concur. Apples were starting to ripen. Gravensteins, Wynoochees and

Tyndeman Reds were harvested for the farmer's market.

**Pierce:** Dry and hot weather assisted in satisfactory hay harvest. The same conditions, combined with the continued dumping of potential irrigation water hampered potential second cutting on the west side.

**Pierce/King:** Conditions remained strong for crops and pasture production. No unusual situations reported.

**Thurston:** Weather conditions were hot and dry. Pasture was burned up and brown. Cattle were on hay already.

**Whatcom:** Another dry week made for ideal hay baling conditions. Daytime high temperatures averaged 3 degrees below the normal of 76. Earliest planted field corn began to change from the milk to dough stage. Potato growers continued with the de-vining process. Winter wheat was harvested.

## Central

**Benton:** Early apple harvest began. Drought symptoms were beginning to show in several crops as growers scrambled to spread reduced water supplies around their crops. Summer vegetables and stone fruit were being harvested.

**Benton (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Harvest of wheat was completed. Some apple producers continued to harvest early varieties. We have not received any call for crop loss.

**Franklin:** Late summer seedings of alfalfa was in full swing. Fourth cutting of alfalfa for those on a five cut system will begin next week. Apple harvest had begun.

**Kittitas:** Hay growers who still had some water were preparing

for a second cutting. Because so many farmers did not have enough water for the second cutting, the price is expected to be up some. Corn was tasseling.

**Lincoln:** Harvest was just about complete in south Lincoln county.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures ranged from normal to 12 degrees above normal, with a trace of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

## Eastern

**Pend Oreille:** Temperature high was at 89 degrees, low at 34 degrees with 3.5 inches of precipitation.

A mid summer thunder storm dumped 0.35 inches to 0.5 inches in the area. The much needed rain revitalized the pastures and helped the dry top soil. Some large hay farmers will be cutting hay for at least another twenty days while most medium to small farmers completed haying. Second cutting of alfalfa was in progress. Barley was almost all cut but not bailed as of yet. Livestock was grazing on new growth of grass coming up from recent rain showers.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** A good week of harvest with most producers starting with wheat harvest. Friday, a nasty wind and thunder storm went through parts of Spokane County. The result was trees blown over power lines and fires started. Lentils that were swathed were piled up in piles or no where to be found. Grass seed remaining to be harvested was blown all over shattering seed in return reducing yields. Actual crops burned due to fires was minimal. Rainfall varied considerably across the county. Reports of 0.5 inch of precipitation to just a trace. Hail was a concern in some areas. Damage from the hail has yet to be determined.

**Stevens:** Winter wheat harvest continued. In general, producers were reporting above average yields thanks to timely May/June precipitation. Spring wheat yields were expected to be below average because possible frost damage in late spring. Pastures were showing signs of lack of moisture. Livestock water projects through the Emergency Conservation Program continued to be

put into place. Soft fruit crops continued to be harvested. Apple and pears crops looked to be normal for this time of year. Crops were expected to be average. Hot-dry windy conditions continued.

**Walla Walla:** Harvest was wrapping up in most areas. Weather remained hot and dry. Fire in Blue mountains continued. The area experienced a huge dust storm on Friday evening with winds out of the North, accompanied by 40 to 50 mph gusts.

**Whitman:** Harvest progressed quickly through the week until Friday when a line of severe thunderstorms rolled through the Palouse. Heavy rains and high winds were experienced Friday afternoon. Harvesting activity was briefly brought to a halt but began picking up again on Saturday. Damage to swathed lentils will be assessed, this storm comes a little over a year after the August 2, 2004 storm that brought damaging high winds to the Palouse blowing away much of the swathed lentils. Much of the 2005 lentil crop had been swathed and was awaiting harvest when Friday's storm hit.

**Whitman (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** This past week was hot and dry. Harvest progressed well throughout the central and eastern parts of Whitman County. The western part of the county was completely harvested and farmers were making preparations for fertilizing and fall planting. With the hot and dry conditions everyone was on alert for fire danger and taking the necessary precautions.

# Weekly Weather Statistics

August 15, 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		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	52	85	64	2	99	8	29	1	0.00	-0.28	0	37.72	2.29	106	156
Everett	53	86	66	2	110	12	40	7	0.00	-0.28	0	26.43	-9.30	74	153
Hoquiam	52	73	60	-2	74	-7	9	-5	0.00	-0.28	0	55.77	-11.07	83	184
Kelso	54	93	68	4	130	25	60	19	0.00	-0.29	0	28.12	-17.19	62	123
Olympia	48	92	65	2	106	8	38	5	0.00	-0.26	0	39.23	-10.74	79	154
Sea-Tac	54	88	67	2	119	7	49	7	0.00	-0.21	0	31.46	-5.13	86	135
Shelton	52	93	65	-1	111	-1	41	-1	0.00	-0.22	0	53.69	-10.66	83	151
Tacoma	50	90	66	2	114	9	44	7	0.00	-0.28	0	26.99	-11.97	69	122
Vancouver	50	95	70	6	141	36	71	29	0.00	-0.24	0	29.18	-11.50	72	148
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	50	97	75	7	176	45	106	43	0.00	-0.07	0	6.84	-1.87	79	81
Stampede Pass	47	84	63	7	91	42	30	16	0.02	-0.37	1	60.81	-19.31	76	173
Wenatchee	55	97	78	5	193	25	123	26	0.00	-0.07	0	5.22	-2.82	65	60
Yakima AP	48	97	74	5	172	32	102	32	0.00	-0.07	0	5.70	-2.03	74	75
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	44	98	71	5	151	32	81	30	0.08	-0.13	2	21.60	1.11	105	107
Deer Park	39	94	66	-4	117	-19	47	-20	0.01	-0.13	1	20.77	2.81	116	119
Spokane AP	50	92	71	2	148	11	78	9	0.01	-0.13	1	14.33	-1.76	89	99
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	54	97	77	2	187	12	117	12	0.00	-0.03	0	6.05	-1.03	85	60
Moses Lake	51	97	74	-2	170	-5	100	-5	0.00	-0.03	0	6.25	-0.83	88	58
Quincy	49	94	75	5	179	32	109	31	0.00	-0.07	0	5.52	-2.00	73	52
Ritzville	49	94	71	2	149	10	79	9	0.00	-0.07	0	9.13	-1.93	83	68
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	53	100	77	-2	193	-5	123	-6	0.00	-0.07	0	3.37	-2.78	55	44
Pasco	46	99	77	2	188	14	118	14	0.00	-0.07	0	5.32	-1.94	73	60
Pullman	41	92	66	-2	111	-7	42	-7	0.00	-0.21	0	5.95	-14.69	29	67
Whitman Miss.	41	98	73	3	163	16	93	16	0.00	-0.14	0	10.16	-3.20	76	98
<b>ID PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D'A' AP	46	93	69	-3	133	-12	63	-13	0.21	-0.07	1	11.76	-13.49	47	85
Lewiston ID	53	97	76	2	186	12	116	13	0.02	-0.12	1	11.51	-0.43	96	94

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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