



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: August 21, 2005
CWP WA-CW3405

Rains Brought Some Relief To Dry, Hot Summer Conditions Early Grape and Peach Harvest Underway

Field Crop

Dry conditions were interrupted by a few rain showers throughout parts of the state. Grain harvest continued. Winter wheat yields were reported as average to above average. However, spring wheat yields were being reported as below average. Rains in Grant County caused some damage to bean crops. Turfgrass growers were busy cultivating harvested fields for fall planting. Christmas tree growers were in the middle of shearing both Douglas and Grand Fir and top working Noble Fir.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 8% very poor, 27% poor, 31% fair, and 34% good. Cattle were being fed supplemental hay in some areas of the state. Second and third cuttings of alfalfa hay were rained on in some areas, but otherwise kept producers busy.

Fruits and Vegetables

Early apple varieties continued to be harvested. Grape harvest also began in Benton County. Blueberry growers reported excellent yields and fruit quality. Peach harvest was underway in Grant County. Pear size is expected to be down in Douglas County due to reduced irrigation water supplies. Summer vegetable harvest continued.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.7
Last Week	6.8

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	27	33	40	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	21	45	33	1
Subsoil	28	42	30	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	14	49	37	0
Irrigation Water	11	13	76	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	4	94	0
Hay & Roughage	5	15	76	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	73	53	79	72
Winter Wheat Harvested	78	66	85	86
Barley Harvested	74	60	80	67
Potatoes Harvested	52	50	36	28
Corn Silage Harvested	20	15	11	7
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	27	25	14	9
Dry Peas Harvested	86	85	90	73
Alfalfa Hay 2 nd Cutting	98	93	99	99
Alfalfa Hay 3 rd Cutting	69	60	75	71

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	1	11	63	25
Dry Edible Beans	2	12	31	52	3

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: Several weeks of very warm temperatures and no rainfall have transformed the rural landscape into a tapestry of green and brown colors. Christmas tree growers have crews starting at 6:00 a.m. in order to avoid the extremely warm afternoon temperatures. Growers were in the middle of shearing both Douglas and Grand Fir and top working Noble Fir. Livestock producers were pulling the invasive noxious weed tansy ragwort. U-Pick vegetable farms were pleased that the additional heat units of the past two weeks have resulted in rapid plant growth. Greenhouse tomato growers reported prolific fruit set and rapid ripening due to the warm temperatures. Blueberry growers reported excellent yields and fruit quality. Home gardeners were overjoyed with this year's tomato crop.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: A few light showers fell mid-week, otherwise warm dry weather dominated the weather picture.

Jefferson: Water levels in local rivers and streams were at a 76 year low according to recorded records. We had about .25 inches of rain mid-week but organic farmers were very concerned about plant loss. It's been warmer than historic levels averaging in the low 80's. The hay has all been cut about two weeks ago. Bumper blueberry crops this year.

King/Snohomish: Showers mid-week cooled things off a bit and dropped half an inch or so of rain on thirsty fields. Mostly warm weather continued. Some pastures were being over-grazed. Blueberry harvest is over. Early apples were being picked. Sweet corn harvest was underway and harvest of other summer vegetables continued. Farmers with irrigation capabilities continued with watering and more grass was being bagged for silage.

Mason: Warm dry weather all week, although there were morning clouds several days which kept temperatures in the 80's. Irrigating of vacant fields ready for the autumn rotations. Grass was in good shape for this time of year, we hoped we were over the summer slump. Nights were cool so dew was present in the morning.

Mason (2nd Report): Good weather with only one day of measurable precipitation meant irrigation was at typical levels. Berries were nearing their end as the season's first

apples were just about ready. Livestock were still out on pastures. Sweet corn was the highlight of many a dinner plate this week.

Pierce: The current dry spell and associated heat was taking its normal toll on hay and pasture conditions in Western Washington.

Pierce/King: Things were looking good on the local farms the weather was great and the crops were growing. The little bit of rain during the week helped but the area could use more. Corn was still lagging behind normal but may catch up. No unusual situations to report. No report of crop damage.

Thurston: Another week of temperatures in the 80's and no rainfall continued to exacerbate drought conditions on all non irrigated farmland in Thurston County. Fire danger was at an extremely high level. Although the temperatures were very warm, ag producers were pleased that irrigated crops were doing well due to the additional heat units. Turfgrass growers were busy cultivating harvested fields for fall planting. Blueberry growers were pleased that fruit quality remained high due to the lack of rainy harvest conditions. Christmas tree growers continued to shear Douglas and Grand Fir and top work Noble Fir. Livestock producers continued making conventional square bale hay and mowing infestations of the noxious weed tansy ragwort. Home gardeners continued to enjoy feasting off home grown produce. Due to the very wet and cool spring, there has been very little tree fruit in most home orchards this year.

Thurston (2nd Report): Starting to feed hay. Starting with the dry round swamp grass bales. Should last until the fall. Then switch to haylage.

Whatcom: Precipitation was at .98 inches in Lynden last Wednesday, but it didn't seem to slow down the harvesting of green beans as combines crept through an excellent crop. Growers reported yields of four to six tons an acre. Haying and green chopping of grass continued, as did the seed potato devining process. Blueberries awaited to be harvested just west of Sumas. More field corn reached the soft dough stage as daytime highs ran two degrees below normal and nighttime lows seven degrees above normal.

Central

Benton: Received some rain showers. No calls were received about damaged crops.

Benton (2nd Report): Early apple and grape harvest have begun. Summer vegetable harvest continued. Irrigation water supplies remained short and crops were beginning to show drought stress symptoms.

Chelan/Douglas: Apple harvest has begun for early varieties. Irrigation water in the Peshastin area has been reduced. Pear size is expected to be down because of this. Winter wheat harvest continued. Yields were above average. Spring wheat yields were below average. Conditions were dry, but temperatures have cooled off.

Franklin: Growers on a four cut system for alfalfa have completed their third cut while growers on a five cut system were nearing completion of the fourth cut. Apple harvest has begun in earnest. Many late summer seeding for alfalfa were completed and alfalfa seedings will continue through September.

Franklin (2nd Report): One excessive wind event dusted the county out in the past two weeks, but otherwise we had exceptional growing and harvesting weather. Temperatures have been hot and dry and near or slightly above normal.

Grant: Rains were received last week, causing some damage to bean crops in the county. Reports were also received from hay producers who had third cutting rained on. Sweet corn harvest continued. Seed pea harvest was winding down.

Grant (2nd Report): Gala apple, Golden apple and Peach harvest was underway.

Kittitas: Grain harvest and second cutting hay were keeping producers busy. Hot and windy weather all week.

Lincoln: A major cloud burst washed the summer fallow fields on Wednesday afternoon. Water was over the road in many places.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Harvest was winding down in Lincoln County.

Lincoln (3rd Report): A mid-week shower in some parts of the county had a cooling effect, and briefly delayed harvest for these producers. Winter wheat yields have generally been reported to be better than average, while spring yields have been less than average.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from normal to nine degrees above normal, with .09 of an inch of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams: Harvest was complete in Adams County and growers were starting to focus on winter wheat seeding, which should be started by the end of the week.

Adams (2nd Report): With dryland grain harvest wrapping up, most turned their attention to preparation for seeding activities. Early reports indicated adequate moisture levels to germinate crops.

Asotin/Garfield: Many producers have completed harvest with few weather delays. Winter wheat yields were average to above average in most areas. Re-crop of wheat and barley yields were very poor in many areas due to drought. Rangeland was in very poor condition in the lower elevations due to drought. The "School" fire was 90 to 100 percent contained as fire crews mop up. Several producers lost grazing land due to the fire and were in need of pasture or hay.

Ferry/Okanogan: Winter wheat harvest was almost complete. Yields were average or slightly above average. Pear harvest was near with some producers starting to pick Bartlett pears. Some cattle producers were still experiencing water problems.

Garfield: Fire was still burning, questioning the value of scorched winter wheat as to quality. No harvesting was being allowed inside the fire's perimeter. Some rains have helped and fall seeding will probably occur in the rest of the county during the window. Cattle were being fed hay as needed.

Pend Oreille: The highs were at 89 degrees and the lows were at 32 degrees and precipitation was .35 inches. Thunderstorms brought in much needed moisture with the northern area receiving 1 1/2 inches of rain. Pastures were again greening up along with already cut hay fields. Some farmers were waiting until forecasted summer thunderstorms

passed by (Tuesday) to continue cutting hay. Most second cutting alfalfa was completed with some starting on third cutting. Livestock was thriving on new grass shoots and were fattening up for winter. Most fruit crops (apples) in the area were beginning to ripen. Although no known commercial orchards in this immediate area.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: A week with rain showers that stopped harvest for two to three days depending on where the showers were worse. Winter wheat harvest was going slow due to downed wheat and good yields, but very few were complaining. Spring wheat yields were a little disappointing for those that have harvested. Frost and lack of a deep root system were being blamed. With rain predicted this week, growers were concerned about sprouting and hoped the weather straightens out so they can get the remainder of it cut. Range conditions were typically dry for this time of year. Most of the second cutting has been completed.

Stevens: Weather conditions have been hot and dry, although it did rain during the middle part of last week. Harvest continued at a steady pace with yields higher than average. Pastures continued to hold up well and cows and calves were both in good condition.

Walla Walla: Cooler temperatures throughout the week provided some relief. One light shower which resulted in no measurable precipitation in most areas of the county. "School House Fire" in Blue mountain was 95 percent contained.

Whitman: Harvest was coming to a close in the west and central parts of the county. Combines continued to roll in the eastern part of the county. A short rain break last week was only of limited help to very limited soil moisture conditions. Many producers were hoping for continued rains once harvest wraps up to recharge low subsoil and topsoil moisture conditions.

Weekly Weather Statistics

August 22, 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	50	77	63	0	91	1	21	-4	0.99	0.65	1	38.71	2.94	108	157
Everett	53	80	64	2	101	9	31	3	0.18	-0.16	1	26.61	-9.46	74	154
Hoquiam	52	71	60	-2	72	-12	6	-15	0.19	-0.14	1	55.96	-11.21	83	185
Kelso	54	86	68	4	126	25	56	21	0.00	-0.35	0	28.12	-17.54	62	123
Olympia	47	85	66	3	110	17	40	12	0.04	-0.26	1	39.27	-11.00	78	155
Sea-Tac	54	86	67	2	117	8	47	5	0.05	-0.23	1	31.51	-5.36	85	136
Shelton	48	86	66	1	109	3	39	-3	0.14	-0.14	1	53.83	-10.80	83	152
Tacoma	48	86	66	2	116	12	46	11	0.01	-0.30	1	27.00	-12.27	69	123
Vancouver	56	90	70	6	144	39	74	36	0.00	-0.28	0	29.18	-11.78	71	148
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	48	99	74	7	169	46	99	43	0.01	-0.06	1	6.85	-1.93	78	82
Stampede Pass	49	81	65	10	107	58	43	32	0.25	-0.21	1	61.06	-19.52	76	174
Wenatchee	56	100	76	4	185	26	115	26	0.01	-0.08	1	5.23	-2.90	64	61
Yakima AP	48	98	72	4	154	22	84	19	0.09	0.02	1	5.79	-2.01	74	76
NORTHEAST															
Colville	40	99	68	2	127	14	57	8	0.31	0.03	1	21.91	1.14	105	108
Deer Park	33	96	64	-5	98	-31	31	-30	0.18	-0.03	2	20.95	2.78	115	121
Spokane AP	49	94	69	0	132	3	62	0	0.45	0.31	2	14.78	-1.45	91	101
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	52	98	73	-2	163	-5	93	-5	0.15	0.08	2	6.20	-0.95	87	62
Moses Lake	48	98	72	-3	152	-16	82	-16	0.24	0.17	2	6.49	-0.66	91	60
Quincy	50	95	72	3	157	15	87	13	0.12	0.05	1	5.64	-1.95	74	53
Ritzville	49	93	70	2	141	10	71	7	0.33	0.23	1	9.46	-1.70	85	69
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	53	99	75	-4	173	-19	103	-19	0.00	-0.07	0	3.37	-2.85	54	44
Pasco	46	99	73	-1	164	-2	94	-2	0.07	-0.01	1	5.39	-1.95	73	61
Pullman	43	99	67	2	121	9	51	2	0.00	-0.21	0	5.95	-14.90	29	67
Whitman Miss.	43	101	71	2	148	8	78	6	0.01	-0.13	1	10.17	-3.33	75	99
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	45	90	66	-4	114	-23	46	-23	0.19	-0.12	1	11.95	-13.61	47	86
Lewiston ID	54	99	76	2	180	14	110	14	0.01	-0.19	1	11.52	-0.62	95	95

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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