



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: August 29, 2005
Week Ending: August 28, 2005
CWP WA-CW3505

Winter Wheat Harvest Came to an End for Many Producers Supplemental Forage Needed for Livestock

Field Crop

Scattered showers were welcomed by some producers, but created a brief shutdown of field activities. Otherwise, it was a week of fairly good weather for harvest. Grain harvest continued. Many Walla Walla, Whitman, Ferry, and Okanogan County producers completed harvest of winter wheat with above average yields. However, spring crop yields were below average. Lentil harvest wound down in Pend Oreille and Spokane Counties with below normal yields reported. Corn and oat plants were reported shorter than normal due to the shortage of moisture. Christmas tree growers continued shearing Douglas and Grand Fir and top working Nobles.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 13% very poor, 29% poor, 37% fair, and 21% good. Hay and forage crops were affected by moisture conditions. Livestock producers started feeding supplemental forage due to dried up pastures.

Fruits and Vegetables

Early apple varieties, sweet corn, and other summer vegetable harvest continued. Bartlett pear and peach harvest was underway. In Grays Harbor County commercial tulip and daffodil growers sorted harvested bulbs.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.9
Last Week	6.7

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	32	31	37	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	23	47	30	0
Subsoil	39	38	23	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	14	49	37	0
Irrigation Water	15	12	73	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	3	6	91	0
Hay & Roughage	7	18	67	8

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	84	73	88	87
Winter Wheat Planted	0	0	3	5
Winter Wheat Harvested	90	78	90	95
Barley Harvested	90	74	87	84
Potatoes Harvested	53	52	42	34
Corn Silage Harvested	22	20	12	10
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	30	27	19	17
Dry Peas Harvested	95	86	94	87
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	98	98	100	100
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	70	69	86	85

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	2	18	65	15
Dry Edible Beans	3	16	37	40	4

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

Clark/Skagit/Cowlitz/Wakiakum: Hot, dry weather continued throughout the week in southwest Washington. Hay and forage crops were affected by drought conditions. Many crops planted late in the spring due to excess rain were showing the effects of the drought also. Much of the corn and oats in the area were shorter than normal. This is expected to affect tonnage of hay and silage.

Grays Harbor: Very dry conditions and warm temperatures with no rainfall have resulted in drought conditions throughout the county. Sweet corn producers were hard pressed to maintain adequate soil moisture levels for crop growth. Christmas tree growers continued shearing Douglas fir, and several growers reported early tree sales. Greenhouse tomato growers reported prolific fruit set and brisk sales. U-Pick vegetable growers reported excellent produce sales. The warm weather was perfect for pumpkin crop growth with growers reporting excellent sizing for the Halloween market. Commercial peony growers were preparing fields for fall planting. Commercial tulip and daffodil growers were sorting harvested bulbs. Commercial dahlia growers reported excellent cut flower sales at Farmer's Markets.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Warm days and cool nights were an indication that fall is just around the

corner. August has had very little precipitation, and pastures were starting to dry up.

King/Snohomish: Dry weather continued throughout the week. Rain was received Sunday night – a quarter of an inch in some areas. The rain was good news for dry pastures but wasn't enough to do much good. Irrigated pastures were in excellent shape. Sweet corn harvest continued along with other summer vegetables. Early apple harvest also continued.

Lewis: Fall crops were germinating. Main summer crops were at their prime.

Thurston: Another week of very warm temperatures reaching into the high 80's and no rain continued to exacerbate drought conditions throughout the rural landscape. Fire danger remained very high. Christmas tree growers continued shearing Douglas and Grand fir and top working Nobles. Livestock producers began feeding supplemental forage due to dried up pastures. Turfgrass growers continued cultivating fields in preparation for fall seeding. Ag producers who have irrigation available worked overtime to harvest a bounty of produce from their gardens. Fruit set in home orchards was almost non-existent due to very poor pollination weather during the cold, wet spring.

Central

Okanogan/Ferry: Winter wheat harvest was coming to an end with yields average or above average reported. There was still about 75 percent of spring grain crops yet to be harvested. Irrigators in the Pleasant Valley area received notification that they will not receive approximately 45 percent of their allocation. Bartlett pear harvest was well underway. Approximately 50 percent of pears have been picked.

Kittitas: The weather was hot and windy during the week. Sweet corn was being picked in the Valley.

Klickitat: No regulations have been imposed on

irrigation allocations but many producers were out of water due to drought. Severe grasshopper and/or Mormon cricket damage in central and western portions of the county were affecting primarily vineyards and pastures.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from five degrees below normal to 10 degrees above normal with no precipitation. There were no new crop losses reported due to weather conditions.

Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: The School Fire in the Blue Mountains was 100 percent contained but was still burning in the interior. It burned nearly 50,000 acres. Harvest was complete for most producers with only a few producers left harvesting in the higher elevations. Winter wheat yields have been good. Spring crops yields were very poor in many areas due to the drought. Pastures and rangeland were in very poor condition in the lower elevations of both counties. Moisture was needed for pasture growth this fall. Moisture is also needed for planting winter wheat which should begin next month.

Garfield: The wild fire was contained and continued smoldering in some places. Growers were allowed to harvest wheat not burned above 3,000 feet elevation. Without significant rain very soon, it will be the 9th year of drought in a row. Harvest was low to average for this crop year.

Lincoln: Soil moisture for winter wheat planting was good.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Harvest continued mostly in the north and east portions of the county, with good weather and cutting conditions.

Pend Oreille: The high was 86 degrees and the low was 30 degrees with precipitation of .02 inches. Rains received were less than expected. Pastures were showing heat stress and a shortage of moisture. New rain is expected early this week. Livestock were thriving during early mornings and late evenings but were seeking shade mid-day. Topsoil was very dry causing dust on dirt roads, which can cause mites in crops. Not all hay was cut. Some large farms need 9-10 days of no rain to cut, turn, and bale. Producers

have had little opportunity to finish haying due to the weekly thunderstorms.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The week had fairly good weather for harvesting. Monday there were some scattered showers but only a brief shut down was required for most producers. A fair number of producers finished harvesting wheat and barley and were cleaning up peas and lentils. One more week and everything should be done. Lentil yields have been very disappointing for most farmers. Chemicals or lack of control by chemicals was the cause for most of the yield loss due to weed competition. Grazing land was turning dry, which was normal.

Stevens: Weather conditions have gradually turned more fall-like over the past week. The area experienced cool evening temperatures with warm days most of the week. Grain harvest continued. Pastures continued to support cattle, but there were some reports of range cattle wandering.

Walla Walla: The weather remained hot and dry. Most producers completed wheat and barley harvest. However, some crops remained to be harvested in higher elevations. Rangeland was drying up.

Whitman: Harvest was finishing up in the majority of the county. Some cereal grains continued to be cut in eastern sections of the county. Some operations were waiting to cut garbanzo beans. Conditions remained very dry which made it difficult to plow stubble and fertilize pea ground. Significant rains will be needed in the next few weeks to recharge topsoil and subsoil for seeding the 2006 winter wheat crop.

Weekly Weather Statistics

August 29, 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	62	1	85	2	16	-5	0.01	-0.34	1	38.72	2.60	107	158
Everett	52	79	65	3	104	16	34	7	0.00	-0.36	0	26.61	-9.82	73	154
Hoquiam	48	84	62	0	84	1	17	-4	0.14	-0.27	1	56.10	-11.48	83	186
Kelso	45	91	66	3	113	15	43	8	0.00	-0.40	0	28.12	-17.94	61	123
Olympia	43	88	64	2	97	9	27	1	0.00	-0.35	0	39.27	-11.35	78	155
Sea-Tac	53	84	67	3	118	14	48	10	0.00	-0.30	0	31.51	-5.66	85	136
Shelton	42	90	64	-1	102	1	34	-5	0.01	-0.33	1	53.84	-11.13	83	153
Tacoma	46	84	64	1	101	3	31	-1	0.00	-0.35	0	27.00	-12.62	68	123
Vancouver	49	93	68	4	127	28	57	22	0.00	-0.34	0	29.18	-12.12	71	148
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	43	94	70	4	140	27	70	21	0.00	-0.13	0	6.85	-2.06	77	82
Stampede Pass	45	77	61	7	80	36	20	13	0.00	-0.54	0	61.06	-20.06	75	174
Wenatchee	54	90	73	3	164	16	94	14	0.00	-0.14	0	5.23	-3.04	63	61
Yakima AP	42	92	68	1	129	6	59	1	0.00	-0.13	0	5.79	-2.14	73	76
NORTHEAST															
Colville	40	94	66	3	117	15	47	6	0.00	-0.28	0	21.91	0.86	104	108
Deer Park	34	90	63	-5	90	-26	22	-31	0.00	-0.21	0	20.95	2.57	114	121
Spokane AP	46	88	68	3	131	13	61	8	0.00	-0.21	0	14.78	-1.66	90	101
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	50	90	71	-2	150	-6	80	-6	0.01	-0.06	1	6.21	-1.01	86	63
Moses Lake	46	91	70	-3	143	-13	73	-13	0.00	-0.07	0	6.49	-0.73	90	60
Quincy	48	94	72	3	152	20	82	17	0.00	-0.11	0	5.64	-2.06	73	53
Ritzville	46	99	69	2	131	11	61	7	0.00	-0.14	0	9.46	-1.84	84	69
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	52	98	75	-2	173	-6	103	-6	0.00	-0.07	0	3.37	-2.92	54	44
Pasco	45	96	71	-1	152	-2	82	-3	0.00	-0.13	0	5.39	-2.08	72	61
Pullman	37	90	65	1	110	8	44	0	0.00	-0.21	0	5.95	-15.11	28	67
Whitman Miss.	42	98	70	2	142	13	72	10	0.00	-0.16	0	10.17	-3.49	74	99
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D' A' AP	43	93	66	-3	110	-17	40	-20	0.00	-0.35	0	11.95	-13.96	46	86
Lewiston ID	52	104	75	5	180	26	110	25	0.00	-0.21	0	11.52	-0.83	93	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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