



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507
(360) 902-1940 Fax (360) 902-2091

Washington Crop Weather

Released: September 6, 2005
Week Ending: September 4, 2005
CWP WA-CW3605

Winter Wheat Seeding Continued Moisture Is Needed

Field Crops

Dry conditions continued throughout the state and helped many producers complete grain harvest, although some spot rain was experienced in some areas of the state. Potato digging continued. However, below normal moisture levels have many producers concerned for planting fall crops. Many cornfields showed signs of drought stress in Whatcom and Thurston Counties. Winter wheat seeding was underway in Adams and Lincoln Counties.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 10% very poor, 25% poor, 33% fair, and 32% good. Pastures continued producing below normal due to drought conditions. Stevens County irrigated hay producers began their third cutting.

Fruits and Vegetables

Early apple harvesting was about done. Blueberry harvest was completed with below average yields reported. Sweet corn, and other summer vegetable harvests continued. Pumpkins turned color and were ripening.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.9
Last Week	6.9

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	29	36	35	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	24	47	29	0
Subsoil	30	39	31	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	15	49	37	0
Irrigation Water	12	13	75	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	3	5	92	0
Hay & Roughage	4	14	76	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	96	84	97	96
Winter Wheat Planted	15	0	18	19
Winter Wheat Harvested	99	90	97	99
Barley Harvested	97	90	96	96
Potatoes Harvested	54	53	45	39
Corn Silage Harvested	23	22	13	15
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	33	30	33	25
Dry Peas Harvested	98	95	98	97
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	100	98	100	100
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	85	70	97	92

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	1	16	66	17
Dry Edible Beans	0	11	34	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: Sporadic rain showers over the weekend did little to alleviate drought conditions. The rural landscape remained very dry, and fire danger continued to remain high. Commercial peony growers were busy planting new fields. Daffodil and tulip growers continued sorting bulbs and preparing fields for planting. Greenhouse tomato production was rapidly dwindling as cooler nighttime temperatures slowed plant growth and flowering. All cornfields with no available irrigation were showing signs of drought stress. Christmas tree growers continued shearing Douglas, Noble, and Grand fir. Home gardeners continued harvesting a bounty of produce from their gardens.

Mason: Very dry conditions required careful attention to irrigation. Even established trees and shrubs were suffering without supplemental water. Pastures were providing very little forage for livestock and even large rivers were dry in some spots. Local corn harvest was in full swing, even making it to grocery shelves. Home gardeners and truck farmers were harvesting the fruits of their labor - with zucchini, tomatoes, eggplants, and cabbage abundant. Nursery growers were clearing out annuals in anticipation of the fall planting season.

Mason (2nd Report): No rain during the past two weeks caused pastures to dry out. Sweet corn was three quarters harvested for the local Farmer's Market, and the quality was excellent.

Pierce: Continuing dry conditions had the expected negative effect on hay and grazing conditions.

San Juan: Conditions were warm and dry. Pastures were beginning to go dormant. Early apples began showing up at Farmer's Markets.

Snohomish/King: Summer weather continued, but there was a touch of autumn in the air. A few scattered

showers were received during the week, and farmers with irrigation were still using it. Early apple harvest was nearly complete, and the main crop was still ripening. Pumpkins turned orange and were ripening nicely. Harvest of sweet corn and other summer vegetables continued.

Thurston: The first rain in several weeks fell over the weekend but did nothing to increase soil moisture levels. The majority of pasture land and hayfields with no available irrigation were dried up. Even deeply rooted perennial weeds were showing signs of drought stress. Turfgrass growers continued cultivating very dry soils in preparation for seeding later this fall. Blueberry harvest was completed on some farms. This year's crop yield was reported down about 10 percent from last year. However, prices remained above average. Christmas tree growers continued shearing Douglas and Grand fir. Growers reported Noble fir appeared in good supply this year compared to the shortage of the previous three years.

Thurston (2nd Report): Conditions remained very dry with only a small amount of rain received. The cattle were on haylage and dry, round, reed canary grass bales. Hay was plentiful. There were no yellow jackets and no apples this year. Did the wet March and April kill the hornets in larvae stage and interfere with honey bee pollination?

Whatcom: Precipitation of .70 inches that fell on Sunday did not delay the start of potato harvest for seed potato growers. Average yields were reported. Green chopping of grass continued. Several farmers early chopped corn silage, while most growers waited patiently for field corn to reach the hard dough stage. Blueberry harvest finished up. Weekly high temperatures averaged six degrees below normal at 68 degrees, while lows remained warmer at 54 degrees.

Central

Ferry: The area was very dry.

Franklin: Alfalfa growers on a five-cut system took their fourth cutting of alfalfa. Many growers were just beginning potato harvest.

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

Kittitas: Conditions continued to be warm and windy.



Eastern

Adams: Winter wheat seeding was 50 percent complete and should be nearly 75 percent complete by the week's end.

Adams (2nd Report): Fall wheat seeding continued amidst nice weather, with moderate temperatures and no crusting rainfalls. The third cutting of hay was mostly up.

Asotin/Garfield: Harvest was complete for all but a couple of producers. Moisture was needed for planting fall crops. Pastures continued to produce below normal due to drought conditions. Water supplies for livestock continued to dry up as were many small streams. Many wells and springs were not producing normally.

Lincoln: Winter wheat seeding began and will continue. Hopefully, the seeding will be 45-50 percent complete by week's end.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Conditions for seeding winter wheat were good.

Pend Oreille: The high was 78 degrees and the low was 30 degrees with a trace of precipitation. Very cool nights, heavy dew in the mornings, and overcast days slowed the growth of hay in the fields. Livestock were putting on winter weight and coats were showing winter growth. Trees were beginning to show fall color. Indications lead one to believe that a long, cold winter is just around the corner. Producers are hoping for heavy snowfall. Some wells in the area were showing the strain of drought.

Stevens: The grain harvest wound down with only a few combines left in the field. Irrigated hay producers began swathing the third cutting.

Whitman: Harvest came to a close except for the remaining acres of garbanzo beans left to cut. Yield reports were average. Rising fuel prices had many operations concerned, and fall tillage operations may be reduced. Rainfall is needed as conditions remained very dry.

Weekly Weather Statistics

September 6, 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	49	73	61	0	77	3	9	-6	0.74	0.39	4	0.03	-0.17	15	1
Everett	54	72	62	1	84	5	14	-5	0.15	-0.27	3	0.00	-0.24	0	0
Hoquiam	50	71	62	0	84	6	14	-7	0.01	-0.51	1	0.00	-0.31	0	0
Kelso	46	82	63	-1	91	0	22	-8	1.02	0.57	2	0.00	-0.27	0	0
Olympia	46	82	61	-1	79	0	10	-9	0.34	-0.07	3	0.05	-0.19	21	1
Sea-Tac	53	78	63	-1	95	-1	25	-6	0.25	-0.10	2	0.00	-0.20	0	0
Shelton	46	82	63	-1	90	-4	20	-11	0.13	-0.31	3	0.04	-0.22	15	1
Tacoma	48	81	62	-2	84	-5	16	-9	0.01	-0.37	1	0.00	-0.23	0	0
Vancouver	53	84	65	3	106	13	36	8	1.16	0.77	2	0.00	-0.24	0	0
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	48	88	65	2	106	8	36	-2	0.00	-0.12	0	0.00	-0.06	0	0
Stampede Pass	44	76	54	2	34	-3	4	-3	0.99	0.37	2	0.00	-0.36	0	0
Wenatchee	52	84	68	-2	127	-6	57	-8	0.00	-0.14	0	0.00	-0.08	0	0
Yakima AP	40	87	64	-3	98	-12	30	-16	0.00	-0.14	0	0.00	-0.08	0	0
NORTHEAST															
Colville	40	88	63	2	93	7	29	-3	0.88	0.60	1	0.00	-0.16	0	0
Deer Park	33	83	57	-8	55	-45	5	-36	0.05	-0.16	1	0.00	-0.12	0	0
Spokane AP	43	83	63	-2	94	-9	28	-15	0.00	-0.21	0	0.00	-0.12	0	0
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	46	85	67	-3	125	-16	55	-17	0.00	-0.07	0	0.00	-0.04	0	0
Moses Lake	46	83	65	-6	108	-33	38	-34	0.01	-0.06	1	0.00	-0.04	0	0
Quincy	48	87	67	1	122	3	52	-1	0.00	-0.13	0	0.00	-0.07	0	0
Ritzville	41	91	64	-2	97	-9	31	-14	0.05	-0.05	1	0.05	0.01	125	1
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	52	90	70	-4	142	-24	72	-22	0.00	-0.13	0	0.00	-0.08	0	0
Pasco	45	89	67	-3	120	-19	50	-20	0.00	-0.11	0	0.00	-0.08	0	0
Pullman	40	82	62	-1	86	-4	17	-19	0.00	-0.21	0	0.00	-0.12	0	0
Whitman Miss.	44	95	66	0	116	2	46	-4	0.00	-0.14	0	0.00	-0.08	0	0
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	43	90	63	-3	93	-19	26	-22	0.01	-0.27	1	0.00	-0.16	0	0
Lewiston ID	53	95	72	3	155	17	85	13	0.00	-0.21	0	0.00	-0.12	0	0

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2005

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.

Copyright 2005: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

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

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service website: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa>

E-mail: nass-wa@nass.usda.gov

Free e-mail subscriptions are available via automated mailing list for National and State reports. You can subscribe to individual reports and they will be sent directly to your e-mail address soon after the official release time.

Subscribe at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/sub-form.htm>