



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
Washington Field Office
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507
(360) 902-1940 Fax (360) 902-2091

Washington Crop Weather

Released: July 3, 2006
Week Ending: July 2, 2006
CWP WA-CW2706

Conditions Remained Hot and Dry Haying Moved Rapidly

Field Crops

Hay producers took advantage of nearly ideal harvest conditions to bale hay fields. First cutting neared completion while second cuttings were off to a good start. Winter wheat, spring wheat and barley conditions decreased modestly as a result of the hot weather. Irrigation was in full swing as producers tried to minimize the impact of decreasing soil moisture.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 3% very poor, 2% poor, 24% fair, and 71% good. Producers tried to keep ample water available for livestock. The mid-season harvest of oysters continued as growers looked forward to strong prices.

Fruit and Vegetables

Raspberry harvest progressed in full swing while strawberry harvest wound down. Cranberry growers continued to irrigate bogs and performed routine weed and pest management.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	7.0
Last Week	6.9

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	4	42	54	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	7	33	60	0
Subsoil	2	30	68	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	7	37	56	0
Irrigation Water	0	0	100	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	1	5	94	0
Hay & Roughage	0	23	76	1

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

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2005	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Headed	70	59	97	92
Winter Wheat Headed	99	98	99	100
Winter Wheat Harvested	0	0	0	0
Barley Headed	65	52	97	89
Potatoes Emerged	100	99	100	100
Potatoes Harvested	1	0	2	16
Corn Emerged	100	99	100	100
Corn Silked	3	2	13	3
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	37	35	47	27
Dry Peas Harvested	3	0	0	0
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	97	92	99	98
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	40	27	41	38

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	5	22	61	11
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	9	76	15
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	10	32	56	2
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	15	80	5
Barley Dryland	0	8	37	52	3
Barley Irrigated	0	0	10	80	10
Potatoes	0	2	15	73	10
Corn	0	1	16	83	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	25	45	30

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: Extremely warm temperatures throughout the week quickly depleted soil moisture. Hayfields and pastures without irrigation began turning brown. Sweet corn grew very fast as a result of the increased temperatures although growers were hard pressed to keep up with irrigation requirements. Greenhouse tomato growers were removing suckers from plants. Home gardeners were harvesting cherries, strawberries and early blueberries in addition to early vegetables.

Grays/Lewis/Pacific: Farmers were making hay in the sunshine. With the wet spring, yields were good. Record temperatures were at or near 100 degrees which provided excellent curing. Generally all crops flourished with the warm days and excellent soil moisture.

Mason: Area farmers put up their hay amidst hot, dry, and windy weather. We were irrigating at full speed and hoping to keep up soil moisture enough to maintain pastures and nurse them through the hot weather. There appears to be no break from the current weather pattern for a while, hot and dry.

Mason (2nd Report): With temperatures running as much as 20 degrees above normal, crop producers were struggling to keep things irrigated. It was great weather for hay, but special attention was paid to keeping livestock comfortable and hydrated.

Pacific: Hot, dry conditions were ideal for many field activities. Hay producers finished their operations with relatively good yields, somewhat below last year's levels. Cranberry growers continued irrigation of bogs, along with mid-season weed and fire worm control. Raspberry producers were in full harvest mode, with good yields, and lower levels of fungus problems. Oyster growers continued mid-season harvest of triploid oysters, with strong market prices for shucked and half-shell products.

Pierce/S. King: The area continued to experience warm and dry conditions with a little cooling. Crop growers should be watching for spider mites and aphids as plants become water stressed.

Pierce/S. King (2nd Report): Crop conditions remained good for the area. Corn was growing well. No unusual situations to report. No report of any crop damage due to a weather event.

Skagit: Crops in the Skagit Valley were looking very good. The area was beginning to run out of soil moisture and more and more farmers were getting out their irrigation equipment. There were many good crops of spinach seed in the valley and it will be interesting to follow this crop through to harvest. Potatoes were the main crop being irrigated in the Skagit Valley. Potatoes look to be doing very well and at least one field was being topped. Typically it is one month from topping to harvest. This puts harvest slightly ahead of the normal middle of August harvest start. The strawberry harvest was slowing down for the season and raspberries were beginning to start up with the majority of berries being harvested mechanically for IQF (individual quick freeze). Peas were just coming out of bloom and beginning to set their pods. It seems to be a good crop, but some precipitation would help to get them through to harvest that is still a few weeks away and later than usual. The grass seed crop will begin being cut in the next week or two. This crop is a bright spot for the Skagit Valley given that the price is up this year due to a horrible crop last year in Oregon's Willamette Valley. There was also some very nice local hay. All in all, the Skagit Valley was doing well.

Thurston: A thermal blast with temperatures ranging from the low eighties to the mid-nineties had turfgrass growers racing to keep up with irrigation requirements. The intense heat accompanied with strong winds quickly depleted soil moisture resulting in water stressed plants where irrigation was not available. The heat brought a quick end to the commercial strawberry harvest. Livestock producers took advantage of the very dry, sunny weather to harvest hay. Home gardeners kept busy setting sprinklers and retiring to the shade in the warm afternoons.

Whatcom: Strawberry picking was in full swing while raspberry harvest just began. A dry June allowed much of second cutting grass to be put into hay. Second cutting of grass was completed and a few farmers had initiated third cutting. Potatoes started to bloom. Corn doubled its size in the past ten days in ideal growing conditions.

Central

Franklin: There were warmer than average temperatures. Those who just cut second cutting of alfalfa hay should have good crop.

Franklin (2nd Report): The area received a week of slightly above normal temperatures with sunny days. Crop conditions were good. Alfalfa hay was fully involved in second cutting.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from one degree below normal to thirteen degrees above normal, with a trace of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Garfield: The north east corner of the county was in tough shape with hail damage to winter wheat and too many hot days with wind. Wheat was in anthesis during this current heat wave and was suffering into soft dough stage. The area west and below Hwy 12 was in fair to good condition, but wheat will run out of moisture soon without rain. Wheat luxuriated through early cool, wet periods, and failed to root down into moisture. Yield estimates for county were average, but below average for usual high yield areas.

Lincoln: Continued hot weather was deteriorating the winter and spring crops. The winter wheat has shed a kernel across the mess in this hot weather. Most winter wheat heads were only filling three across now. With continued hot weather most wheat will suffer and ripen earlier than normal.

Pend Orielle: Hay cutting was in full swing, and grass hay was tall with adequate leaf. Livestock were on full time pasture and range grasses.

Weekly Weather Statistics

July 3, 2006

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	82	65	5	106	32	36	22	0.00	-0.35	0	31.93	-1.61	95	158
Everett	50	83	65	4	106	26	36	17	0.00	-0.39	0	30.44	-3.49	90	162
Hoquiam	45	84	60	2	73	10	11	4	0.00	-0.38	0	69.51	4.27	107	184
Kelso	48	97	68	7	127	43	57	36	0.00	-0.37	0	42.17	-1.99	95	153
Olympia	44	93	67	6	116	40	46	32	0.00	-0.29	0	52.03	3.47	107	151
Sea-Tac	50	90	70	7	141	48	71	43	0.00	-0.28	0	36.35	0.98	103	150
Shelton	45	95	67	5	122	32	52	24	0.00	-0.32	0	67.91	5.14	108	157
Tacoma	46	88	66	4	116	26	46	21	0.00	-0.32	0	38.46	0.30	101	141
Vancouver	53	101	73	11	162	72	92	64	0.00	-0.28	0	41.71	2.37	106	148
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	53	102	76	11	183	74	113	69	0.00	-0.07	0	11.99	3.68	144	88
Stamper Pass	46	90	69	17	133	106	64	64	0.00	-0.50	0	68.45	-9.08	88	170
Wenatchee	60	101	79	10	207	64	137	64	0.00	-0.09	0	7.18	-0.48	94	65
Yakima AP	52	101	74	7	172	49	102	47	0.00	-0.07	0	9.64	2.21	130	75
NORTHEAST															
Colville	53	95	73	10	167	67	97	61	0.00	-0.27	0	19.66	0.69	104	108
Deer Park	45	93	70	5	139	30	69	24	0.00	-0.22	0	28.03	11.05	165	126
Spokane AP	58	94	75	10	175	66	105	60	0.00	-0.22	0	19.56	4.40	129	114
EAST															
CENTRAL	57	102	78	7	201	47	131	46	0.00	-0.09	0	9.64	2.97	145	74
Ephrata	53	102	76	5	182	28	112	27	0.00	-0.09	0	11.95	5.28	179	90
Moses Lake	55	98	78	9	193	62	123	61	0.00	-0.07	0	11.69	4.47	162	88
Quincy	52	98	74	9	167	55	97	51	0.00	-0.14	0	15.16	4.64	144	96
Ritzville															
SOUTHEAST	57	108	82	8	223	52	153	51	0.04	-0.03	1	6.12	0.11	102	49
Hanford	56	106	78	6	196	40	126	39	0.02	-0.05	1	9.63	2.66	138	76
Pasco	53	93	72	10	154	66	84	56	0.03	-0.24	1	13.46	-6.06	69	107
Pullman	52	101	76	8	184	54	114	53	0.05	-0.09	1	17.10	4.40	135	118
Whitman Miss.															
ID	54	93	73	8	163	50	93	47	0.00	-0.34	0	10.83	-12.97	46	87
PANHANDLE	62	102	80	10	209	63	139	63	0.09	-0.13	1	11.51	0.47	104	92
Coeur D'A' AP															
Lewiston ID															

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 2006: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2006/summary/weth1606.pdf>
 Washington Agricultural Statistics Service website: http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington
 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>