



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: August 14, 2006
Week Ending: August 13, 2006
CWP WA-CW3306

Cooler Temperatures Made Fieldwork More Comfortable

Field Crops

There were 6.7 days suitable for fieldwork, according to the Washington Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Scattered showers received across the state slowed the wheat harvest slightly but the cooler temperatures made fieldwork more comfortable as producers were busy harvesting crops, irrigating and seeding for fall crops. Yields from winter wheat, potatoes, lentils and peas were reported as average or below. Christmas tree growers were busy with weed, and insect control, shearing Douglas fir and top working Noble fir. Alfalfa producers were busy with second and third cuttings.

Livestock

Range and Pasture conditions were 5% very poor, 6% poor, 39% fair and 50% good. Livestock producers were using supplemental feeding. Shellfish growers completed burrowing shrimp control assessments.

Fruit and Vegetables

Blueberry and cucumber harvest continued while apple harvest began. Cranberry producers continued weed and insect control. Greenhouse tomato growers reported an excellent yield.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.7
Last Week	7.0

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	18	40	42	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	22	38	40	0
Subsoil	5	29	66	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	15	40	45	0
Irrigation Water	3	5	92	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	5	8	87	0
Hay & Roughage	1	19	79	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 Harvested	54	28	52	47
Winter Wheat Harvested	78	55	65	67
Barley Harvested	40	22	57	42
Potatoes Harvested	31	28	49	29
Corn Silked	94	91	99	94
Corn Doughed	40	18	33	28
Corn Dented	28	18	23	19
Corn Silage Harvested	16	NA	15	6
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	18	NA	24	8
Dry Peas Harvested	80	61	83	58
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	97	93	93	97
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	46	19	57	53

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	10	43	43	4
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	2	18	65	15
Barley Dryland	0	10	45	42	3
Barley Irrigated	0	0	10	74	16
Potatoes	0	1	17	77	5
Corn	0	0	9	91	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	1	35	64	0

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.

Washington State University
Cooperative Extension Service
Linda Fox
Dean/Director, WSU Extension

USDA
Farm Service Agency
Robert C. Nordstrom
Acting State Director

USDA/NASS--Washington Field Office
Chris Messer - Director
Mark Gutierrez - Ag Statistician
Laurel Garrison - Ag Statistician

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clallam/Jefferson: Weather continued to be about the same here. Some moisture, but pretty dry with temperature in the 70's.

Grays Harbor: Christmas tree growers were busy shearing Douglas fir and top working Noble fir. Greenhouse tomato growers reported excellent yields and flavor quality. Vegetable growers reported difficulty in keeping up with irrigation requirements resulting in the loss of some crops due to the extremely dry conditions. The rural landscape remained tinder dry.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Light showers provided some moisture for drying pastures, but rainfall was generally only in the range of a tenth of an inch.

Mason: Temperatures were in the mid 70's for most of the week which made fieldwork more pleasant. Irrigation was still a high priority task as was getting seeds and seedlings in the ground for fall and winter crops. Apple harvest was starting in local orchards. Livestock producers were hoping for rain to irrigate dry pastures.

Mason (2nd Report): Even though the weather was warm during the day, cool evenings gave us a hint of late summer/early autumn flavor. The soils were dry but early morning fog pointed to the coming fall. Pastures were dormant and cows were supplemented with hay every day. The only precipitation this week was an hour long drizzle on August 10 which was very welcome but we had no real accumulation.

Pacific: Late season field activities continued with warm, dry weather conditions. Shellfish growers completed burrowing shrimp control assessments following last month's treatment program. Cranberry producers continued weed and insect control activities, and raspberry growers completed the final phases of this year's harvest. Blueberry harvest operations continued. Hay production in the northern county was somewhat affected by fish waste disposal operations, with several fields left unfit for harvest. Christmas tree growers continued weed and insect control activities.

Skagit: High temperatures for the week averaged 69 degrees and there was 0.25 of an inch of precipitation recorded at the WSU Northwest Research and Extension Center in West Mount Vernon. The rain was received in the Skagit Valley with mixed emotions. A quarter of an inch isn't enough to sufficiently water crops. In farmer talk you might hear sayings like "It was just enough to wet

the dust". That wetting of dust was welcomed by potato farmers this week as they were beginning harvest. It's no fun trying to direct trucks where they are supposed to be under a potato digger when the dust makes it difficult to see ten feet in front of you. However that wetting of dust will have adverse impacts on hay that was down as well as the majority of the spinach seed crop that has been windrowed. This means that the crop has been cut and placed into rows so it can be dried in the sun then harvested. If the crop gets too wet it will have to be "turned". Turning spinach is a very laborious job that requires taking a long stick and rolling over the row of spinach without knocking the seed off so the bottom side of the row can dry in the sun. The wheat harvest was approximately half way complete. A very good cucumber and blueberry harvest was underway, which indicates we are at the peak of summer and fall is just around the corner so be sure to get out there and enjoy it.

Snohomish/King: There were scattered showers in the middle of the week which settled the dust but did little to wet the soil. Despite the dry weather, most crops appeared to be in good condition. Irrigation continued on farms that had the capability. Some sweet corn looked nearly ready for harvest and pumpkins were sizing up nicely.

Snohomish/King (2nd Report): Weather patterns continued in the 70's with some rain and overcast skies. The moisture helped because it has been so dry.

Thurston: Another week with no rain and warm temperatures continued to exacerbate drought conditions throughout the county. Christmas tree growers continued to top work Noble fir and shear Douglas fir plantations. Dairymen applied liquid manure to forage crop fields. Organic vegetable growers were kept busy meeting irrigation requirements. Home gardeners were feasting on sweet corn, tomatoes and cucumbers.

Whatcom: We received a couple of mornings of rain this week. Temperatures were in the high 60's to high 70's. Producers were still irrigating. Blueberry harvest continued. Some producers were reporting that production was not there. They think the berries had some frost damage. The producers with wind machines or frost protection were doing okay. We have received some reports of producers opening their corn fields to have better access to irrigation. A few raspberry pickers were still picking, but most of the producers were done with harvest.

Central

Benton: Harvest continued in the county with only a few producers to finish. Weather conditions continued to be in the 90's. The third cutting for alfalfa hay should be done by now.

Franklin: Warm temperatures, and a good 10 to 15 degrees cooler on average over what was experienced in July. No precipitation during the week. Wheat harvest was nearly done with dryland yields in the mid 40 bushel range and for most producers, a little above average. Irrigated yields were also a little better than average. Early (fresh market) potato harvest was nearly complete with the processing crop being harvested as well (due to shed shortages). Third cutting alfalfa hay was being cut and baled in all parts of the irrigated county, with timothy hay

down as well. Sweet corn harvest was in full swing as well. Early apple varieties and peaches were near harvest if not started this last week on nominal acreage. A good growing week weather wise and welcome for farmers in the field over the scorching 100 plus days of later July and first week of August.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from seven degrees above normal to four degrees below normal, with a trace of precipitation. Several vegetable producers have reported crop damage due to recent hot weather and related conditions.

Eastern

Adams: Winter wheat yields were less than expected but still greater than average for the most part throughout the county. Seeding conditions should be close to ideal especially if night time temperatures remained cool.

Adams (2nd Report): Grain harvest wrapped up with mostly average yields.

Asotin/Garfield: A few showers slowed harvest. Temperatures returned to normal. Conditions were still very dry.

Ferry: Things were drying out fast.

Lincoln: Harvest was continuing throughout the county with farmers complete in the southern end and farmers just getting started in the northern end of the county. Overall initial yield reports have been good with no grain quality issues.

Lincoln (2nd Report): A thunder shower in the week postponed harvest in some isolated county areas, but grain harvest was in full swing with producers in some of the eastern and northern parts of the county also beginning.

Pend Orielle: Temperatures were 89 degrees for the highs and 32 degrees for the lows with zero precipitation. Very dry conditions have left pasture grasses wilting with rye grasses dry and dead. Livestock were being fed hay and doing well. Some livestock were being moved to cut and baled hay fields to feed off of the stubble. Later, part of the week was cool in the mid 70's. Hogs were gaining weight fast. Poultry was laying in cool weather and have begun to molt. With dry grasses, fire has become a

concern while working the fields.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: A good week of harvest with an evening shower that stopped harvest for approximately one day. More reports of yields from harvest indicated that yields were just average and a little disappointing because they have looked better in the past. The week of hot weather in May and all the hot weather in June and July was just more than the crops could take. Farmers have not harvested enough spring crops to know how they are yielding. More normal temperatures were making harvest comfortable and the cooler evenings were helping the pastures.

Stevens: Second cutting of alfalfa harvest was winding up. Grain harvest continued with a surprising amount of grain still standing. Last Thursday the northern part of the county received a half inch of rain.

Walla Walla: Hot, dry, no rain, but harvest was going well.

Whitman: Minor weather fronts have moved through the area creating minimal delays to the pace of harvest. Rain forced a short shut down in some areas but only to rapidly start back again. Most areas did not receive any measurable rainfall. Harvest was moving quickly with yields reported at around average for winter wheat and average to below average for spring crops. Low yields on winter wheat, peas and lentils have been reported in the Oakesdale area.

Weekly Weather Statistics

August 14, 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	48	75	61	-2	81	-10	12	-16	0.00	-0.28	0	31.97	-3.32	91	160
Everett	50	76	62	-3	82	-16	12	-21	0.04	-0.24	2	30.65	-4.94	86	170
Hoquiam	50	73	60	-2	73	-7	5	-9	0.17	-0.11	2	70.12	3.21	105	190
Kelso	46	88	66	2	114	9	44	4	0.06	-0.22	1	42.62	-2.94	94	156
Olympia	42	84	64	-1	98	0	28	-6	0.13	-0.12	1	52.30	2.57	105	154
Sea-Tac	51	83	66	0	113	1	43	1	0.01	-0.20	1	36.42	-0.01	100	155
Shelton	44	85	64	-3	99	-13	29	-13	0.00	-0.21	0	68.15	4.12	106	160
Tacoma	46	82	64	-2	98	-7	28	-10	0.01	-0.26	1	38.58	-0.83	98	144
Vancouver	54	89	69	5	135	30	65	23	0.00	-0.23	0	41.95	1.46	104	150
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	49	99	73	4	161	29	91	28	0.00	-0.07	0	12.04	3.37	139	90
Stampede Pass	46	83	60	5	74	25	18	4	0.05	-0.33	1	68.94	-10.56	87	177
Wenatchee	58	97	76	2	182	14	112	14	0.00	-0.07	0	7.21	-0.80	90	67
Yakima AP	47	98	70	1	144	4	74	4	0.00	-0.07	0	9.70	2.00	126	77
NORTHEAST															
Colville	45	94	69	2	137	18	67	15	0.24	0.03	2	20.34	0.18	101	114
Deer Park	38	95	66	-5	114	-23	44	-24	0.00	-0.14	0	28.06	10.06	156	127
Spokane AP	48	94	70	0	142	4	72	2	0.01	-0.13	1	19.67	3.64	123	118
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	53	97	75	-1	174	-2	104	-2	0.00	-0.03	0	9.72	2.67	138	75
Moses Lake	48	98	72	-4	157	-19	87	-19	0.01	-0.02	1	12.05	5.00	171	92
Quincy	53	94	73	3	165	17	95	16	0.00	-0.07	0	11.71	4.13	154	89
Ritzville	47	97	70	0	140	0	70	0	0.00	-0.07	0	15.24	4.23	138	97
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	52	104	77	-3	189	-10	119	-11	0.00	-0.07	0	6.12	-0.15	98	49
Pasco	50	100	74	-2	173	-2	103	-2	0.01	-0.06	1	9.65	2.41	133	78
Pullman	41	96	67	0	121	2	52	3	0.09	-0.12	2	13.58	-6.97	66	111
Whitman Miss.	44	98	72	2	158	11	88	10	0.00	-0.14	0	17.14	3.77	128	119
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	46	93	70	-2	139	-7	69	-8	0.00	-0.28	0	10.86	-14.27	43	88
Lewiston ID	54	103	77	2	187	12	117	13	0.18	0.04	2	11.90	-0.01	100	96

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.
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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](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington)
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