



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 21, 2006
Week Ending: August 20, 2006
CWP WA-CW3406

Hot and Dry Temperatures Increased Fire Risk

Field Crops

There were 7.0 days suitable for fieldwork. The weather was hot and dry causing increased fire danger. Fires were reported in Thurston County and Mason County where 510 acres have been burned near Lake Cushman. Harvesting continued for sweet corn, green beans, wheat, potatoes, peas, lentils and alfalfa. Christmas tree growers were busy attending the National Christmas Tree Convention in Portland, Oregon.

Livestock

Range and Pasture conditions declined to 16% very poor, 6% poor, 22% fair and 56% good. Pastures were drying up due to the heat and lack of rain. Cattle producers were moving cattle to new pastures and continued to supplement feed. Shellfish growers were transplanting oysters to nurseries.

Fruit and Vegetables

Peaches, squash, tomatoes, cucumbers, carrots, pears, apples, blueberries and a variety of other fruits and vegetables kept producers and processors busy. Raspberry and cranberry producers were busy with weed control activities.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	7.0
Last Week	6.7

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	26	40	34	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	22	40	37	1
Subsoil	9	40	51	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	16	43	41	0
Irrigation Water	2	4	94	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	4	8	88	0
Hay & Roughage	1	21	77	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	69	54	70	70
Winter Wheat Harvested	83	78	76	82
Barley Harvested	61	40	72	64
Potatoes Harvested	45	31	52	33
Corn Silked	97	94	100	99
Corn Doughed	43	40	52	45
Corn Dented	30	28	34	31
Corn Mature	9	NA	7	5
Corn Silage Harvested	18	16	19	9
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	20	18	27	13
Dry Peas Harvested	97	80	86	77
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	99	97	97	99
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	61	46	68	70

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	14	45	39	2
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	1	25	69	5
Barley Dryland	0	16	45	35	4
Barley Irrigated	0	0	20	74	6
Potatoes	0	1	33	62	4
Corn	0	1	21	77	1
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	50	50	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.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Agricultural producers focused on keeping vegetable crops irrigated as another week of no rain and warm temperatures exacerbated drought conditions throughout the county. Greenhouse tomato growers reported rapid ripening and excellent yields. Christmas tree growers continued to top-work Noble Fir and shear Doug Fir. After many weeks with no measurable precipitation, the rural landscape has become kinder dry. The potential for wildfires remains very high.

Mason: Continued warm weather and dry conditions were hindering pasture conditions and hay fields. Local sweet corn was available and in high demand. Corn, beans, squash, tomatoes, cucumbers, and carrots were of abundance at local farmers markets. Lack of rain continued to spread the Bear Gulch forest fire near Lake Cushman. This led to closed roads, limited recreation access, and the fire is now up to 510 acres.

Pacific: Dry, warm conditions continued, allowing producers to complete seasonal field activities. Shellfish growers were busy applying gravel substrate to intertidal ground for clam production, and transplanting oysters to nursery and fattening grounds. Raspberry producers continued cane pruning and weeding activities, and cranberry growers were busy with irrigation and weed control operations. Pasture conditions continued to decline with dry weather.

Pierce/South King: Fields were very dry in the area. No unusual situations to report. No report of crop damage due to a weather event.

Skagit: High temperatures averaged at 71 degrees and there was no measurable precipitation recorded at the WSU North West Research and Extension Center in West Mount Vernon. With no rain in the lower delta things were moving full speed ahead. The majority of the hybrid cabbage seed had been harvested. Creating hybrid cabbage seed involves taking a male and female line of cabbage and crossing them to create a plant with hybrid vigor. Only the female line was harvested and the male line gets rototilled into the soil. Potato harvest was underway. Potatoes were the largest commercial crop in the valley with around 15,000 acres in commercial production this year. Spinach and wheat

harvest was almost complete. Only the country Denmark produces more spinach seed than farmers in the Skagit Valley. 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.

Snohomish/King: The weather continued to be warm with temperatures in the 70's. Pastures were dry but other crops seemed to be doing well. The Clallam/Jefferson Counties continued to have warm weather without much rain.

Snohomish/King (2nd Report): Local sweet corn was harvested. The area remained rain-stressed and some farmers were irrigating. Some seed crops were being harvested. Hay harvest continued and farmers finally got in a crop without rain. Most previous cuttings had been sprinkled on somewhat. Pastures were really suffering from lack of rain, especially if being grazed heavily. Potato tops were drying down in preparation for harvest, which should begin next month for some varieties.

Thurston: Another week of warm temperatures and no rain continued to exacerbate dry conditions throughout the county. There has been no measurable precipitation for nearly two months. Turfgrass growers continued to be hard pressed to keep up with irrigation demands. Non-irrigated pastures and hay fields were bone dry. Christmas tree growers continued top-working Noble fir and shearing Douglas and Grand firs. Dairy producers continued applying liquid manure to forage fields. Fire danger throughout the rural landscape remained very high due to the dry conditions. Numerous wildfires occurred during the past week along railroad lines. Home gardeners continued to harvest cucumbers, tomatoes, sweet corn, potatoes and onions.

Whatcom: Another week of dry weather allowed for cereal grains of excellent quality to be harvested. Green bean harvest was completed, and blueberry harvest was winding down. Potato digging began in some fields, while other fields await proper skin set. The hot dry weather had a detrimental affect on potato yields. Field corn was showing signs of heat and moisture stress.

Central

Chelan/Douglas: The 2006 crop winter wheat harvest continued. Yields were average. Seeding for 2007 winter wheat crop began. Some varieties of peaches were still being picked. Warm weather was affecting the apples, causing sunburn and other problems.

Grant: Dryland wheat harvest was winding down, with above average yields being reported. Seeding of 2007 wheat crop is to begin very soon. Irrigated wheat yields were down, due mostly to high temperatures. Sweet corn harvest continued. Third cutting of alfalfa was winding down. Silage corn harvest will begin in the near future.

Kittitas: The area had a nice week - not too hot, not too cold, and irrigation supplies were good. Second cutting timothy was growing, irrigated pastures growth had slowed down, and rangeland grasses were cured.

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

Eastern

Asotin: Harvest was nearing completion in most parts of the county. Winter wheat yields ranged from slightly above average to below average depending on the location. The hot, dry weather affected the test weight of some wheat samples. Pastures need rain to stimulate any growth before late fall.

Asotin/Garfield: Harvest continued with hot dry conditions. There were reports of water problems with springs and streams drying up. Fire danger was high since much of our area has not received measurable precipitation since June 14.

Ferry/Okanogan: Winter wheat harvest continued. Producers started seeding winter wheat for the 2007 crop year. A few producers started cutting their third cutting of alfalfa.

Garfield: Wheat ran average yields (60 bushels) in the Northwest part of the county. Yields were twenty bushels below average in other parts of the county. Hard red winter wheat and dark northern spring wheat helped keep profit margin overall. There was no moisture for seeding.

Lincoln: Good weather existed for harvest which was in full swing for those areas not yet done.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: A pretty good week of weather helped get a fair number of acres harvested. Some producers finished winter wheat and started on peas and lentils. Other producers finished all the fall crops and were waiting for the spring crops to ripen. The area was still seeing yields varying from area to area and crop to crop.

Stevens: Cows and calves continued to look good although grass was becoming short in some areas. A few cattle producers had to move animals to new pastures. Second cutting of hay was finished. Grain harvest continued.

Walla Walla: Weather remained hot and dry. Much of the area now finished with harvest. Most producers in Columbia and Walla Walla Counties should be done in another week.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Grain harvest was winding down. Yields have been all over the board from the best ever to below average. After the miserable first cutting of hay some really good hay has been put up. Weather has been good for curing & baling. Winter onion harvest yielded a good crop. Most non-irrigated pastures in the valley have dried up. Hot weather intensified the summer slump for grass growth.

Weekly Weather Statistics

August 21, 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	47	79	61	-2	82	-9	14	-12	0.00	-0.33	0	31.97	-3.65	90	160
Everett	51	81	64	1	99	6	29	1	0.00	-0.33	0	30.65	-5.27	85	170
Hoquiam	46	75	59	-3	68	-16	2	-18	0.00	-0.32	0	70.12	2.89	104	190
Kelso	48	88	67	3	119	17	49	13	0.00	-0.35	0	42.62	-3.29	93	156
Olympia	45	88	63	0	96	2	26	-2	0.00	-0.29	0	52.30	2.28	105	154
Sea-Tac	53	86	67	2	120	10	50	8	0.00	-0.27	0	36.42	-0.28	99	155
Shelton	45	89	65	-1	105	-2	35	-7	0.00	-0.28	0	68.15	3.84	106	160
Tacoma	46	86	64	-2	96	-9	26	-9	0.00	-0.30	0	38.58	-1.13	97	144
Vancouver	51	91	69	4	132	27	62	23	0.00	-0.28	0	41.95	1.18	103	150
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	49	99	73	6	167	43	97	40	0.00	-0.07	0	12.04	3.30	138	90
Stampede Pass	47	84	64	9	102	53	44	32	0.00	-0.45	0	68.94	-11.01	86	177
Wenatchee	59	95	77	4	189	28	119	29	0.00	-0.08	0	7.21	-0.88	89	67
Yakima AP	48	95	72	3	154	20	84	18	0.00	-0.07	0	9.70	1.93	125	77
NORTHEAST															
Colville	49	92	69	3	134	20	64	15	0.00	-0.27	0	20.34	-0.09	100	114
Deer Park	42	93	65	-4	106	-24	36	-26	0.00	-0.20	0	28.06	9.86	154	127
Spokane AP	54	92	71	3	149	19	79	16	0.00	-0.14	0	19.67	3.50	122	118
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	52	95	74	-2	165	-5	95	-5	0.00	-0.07	0	9.72	2.60	137	75
Moses Lake	50	96	71	-3	151	-19	81	-19	0.00	-0.07	0	12.05	4.93	169	92
Quincy	52	91	72	3	158	15	88	13	0.00	-0.07	0	11.71	4.06	153	89
Ritzville	50	91	70	2	145	13	75	10	0.00	-0.09	0	15.24	4.14	137	97
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	53	96	75	-3	177	-16	107	-16	0.00	-0.07	0	6.12	-0.22	97	49
Pasco	49	98	73	-1	166	-1	96	-1	0.00	-0.07	0	9.65	2.34	132	78
Pullman	43	94	67	2	123	11	53	4	0.03	-0.18	1	13.61	-7.15	66	112
Whitman Miss.	45	99	71	2	151	9	81	8	0.00	-0.14	0	17.14	3.63	127	119
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	48	90	68	-3	126	-12	56	-14	0.00	-0.30	0	10.86	-14.57	43	88
Lewiston ID	58	97	75	2	177	10	107	10	0.00	-0.19	0	11.90	-0.20	98	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.

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>