



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 28, 2006
Week Ending: August 27, 2006
CWP WA-CW3506

Fire Risk Continued to be High

Field Crops

There were 7.0 days suitable for fieldwork. Temperatures were high and rain continued to be in short supply. Fire danger continued to be high and some pasture was lost due to fire. Christmas tree growers were busy top working Noble fir and shearing Douglas fir. Wheat harvest continued with most of the wheat cut, and the 2007 winter wheat seeding was in progress. Garbanzo beans were being harvested with good quality and below average yields being reported.

Livestock

Range and Pasture conditions were 6% very poor, 7% poor, 42% fair and 45% good. Cows and calves looked good but were being supplement fed as pastures continued to dry up.

Fruit and Vegetables

Pumpkins were ripening and apple harvest was underway. Spinach seed harvest was almost complete and broccoli harvest continued.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	7.0
Last Week	7.0

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	38	37	25	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	23	39	36	2
Subsoil	12	34	54	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	18	41	41	0
Irrigation Water	3	5	92	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	7	9	84	0
Hay & Roughage	1	23	72	4

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	88	69	82	83
Winter Wheat Harvested	95	83	88	93
Barley Harvested	81	61	88	82
Potatoes Harvested	47	45	53	38
Corn Silked	100	97	100	100
Corn Doughed	45	43	76	65
Corn Dented	35	30	48	43
Corn Mature	15	9	17	16
Corn Silage Harvested	20	18	22	10
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	25	20	30	20
Dry Peas Harvested	98	97	94	88
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	100	99	98	100
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	76	61	70	81

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	0	21	79	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	1	53	46	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: The weather continued to be dry and warm.

Grays Harbor: Drought conditions continued to exist throughout the county due to an extended period without rain. The rural landscape turned brown in areas where no irrigation was available. Sweet corn growers continued to be challenged to keep fields irrigated. Christmas tree growers were top working Noble fir and shearing Douglas fir. Greenhouse tomato growers reported rapid fruit ripening due to the warm temperatures. Livestock producers continued making haylage on irrigated hayfields. Home gardeners were feasting on sweet corn, tomatoes, and cucumbers.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: The drought continued, which was good news for grain farmers who were starting to harvest small grains. Dryland pastures were very dry. Only irrigated and sub-irrigated fields had any real forage value left, which has been the trend for the past several years.

Mason: The weather was very dry. Pastures were dormant except for irrigated areas. Even the wooded trails down to the creeks were dry. Warm weather later in the week got into the upper 80's and lower 90's. Evenings were cooling down, so there was dew in the early morning hours. Rain was badly needed.

Mason (2nd Report): Irrigation, irrigation, irrigation! Continued warm, dry weather was taking its toll on newly seeded and transplanted fall and winter crops. Lack of rain has also meant some producers have had only one cutting of hay, which will translate into problems later on. Days were getting shorter, which reminds us that fall will be here soon.

Pierce/South King: Crops were looking good in the South Puget Sound area. Corn that had been a month behind because of the wet spring was about two weeks behind schedule. A few crops were showing signs of stress because of the long dry spell. There were no other unusual conditions to report.

Skagit: High temperatures for the week averaged 72 degrees, and there was no measurable precipitation. With no rain in the lower delta, fieldwork was moving full speed ahead. A new crop of hybrid cabbage seed was being

planted and irrigated. This crop is usually started in greenhouses and then transplanted into the field. The small plants are typically six inches in length and grow a head of cabbage the size you might purchase at the grocery store. Late next winter the cabbage head will be cut so the cabbage can 'bolt' or send shoots to begin producing seed. Potato harvest was underway. Yields of the first sample plots seem to be doing quite well, which was partly due to the fact that they received supplemental irrigation. Broccoli and spinach harvests were also underway. Some fields of spinach have been producing over a thousand pounds to the acre, which is good for a cash crop that can only be grown every 10-15 years in the same field. The commercial blueberry and cucumber harvest was slowly coming to an end. Pumpkins were beginning to turn orange, so fall must be just around the corner!

Snohomish/North King: Hot, dry weather continued. Crops and pastures were showing drought stress. The weather was good for haying. Irrigation and manure spreading continued. Sweet corn harvest was in full swing. Pumpkins and apples were ripening up. Potato harvest began to die down.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report): The weather continued to be dry and in the 70's. Spinach, beet seed crops, and some corn silage were being harvested.

Thurston: Drought conditions were prevalent throughout the county due to the continued lack of rainfall and warm temperatures. Even native plant material was showing signs of water stress. Turfgrass growers continued to be challenged to keep up with irrigation requirements. By the same token, the very dry soil conditions allowed field cultivation for fall seeding. Christmas tree growers continued to top work Noble fir and shear Douglas fir. Growers reported increased sales activity as both wholesale buyers and retailers were out in full force securing trees for holiday sales. The blueberry harvest was nearly complete, with reports of both excellent yields and quality. Livestock producers continued applying liquid manure from storage lagoons onto forage fields. The rural landscape remains very dry with the potential for wildfires high.

Whatcom: There were no unusual conditions to report. Zero precipitation increased the demand for irrigation.

Central

Chelan/Douglas: Winter wheat harvest continued with average yields. Spring wheat maturity was behind normal and not being cut. Many producers stopped harvest to seed next year's winter wheat crop. Warm temperatures continued, with no precipitation. Reports continued to come from Chelan County growers regarding fruit crop losses due to the July 5-6 hailstorm.

Franklin: The temperatures were good for growing. The temperatures were normal, with no precipitation all week. Harvest began on early apple varieties along with nectarines and peaches. Potato harvest continued. Dry bean harvest began.

Grant: Excellent hay making conditions resulted in better supplies of export and feed store hay.

Kittitas: Many hay growers began the second cutting of timothy. Grains growers were harvesting grain. Corn harvest began. Anything not irrigated was very dry.

Klickitat: Typical summer weather—hot and dry days, cool nights.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from two degrees below normal to eight degrees above normal, with no precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to a weather condition reported.

Eastern

Adams: Winter wheat seeding was about 30 percent complete and was in full swing.

Asotin/Garfield: Hot dry conditions continued. Fire danger was very high. Large wildfires were burning in neighboring counties. Harvest was nearly complete. Lack of water in springs and streams was causing problems for livestock watering.

Garfield: Too dry to seed without significant rain. Some spring wheat above 4,000 feet was not ready to cut. It will be at least mid-September until final harvest. Growers were oriented toward soft white wheat mixes or hard red for fall seeding.

Lincoln: Harvest was wrapping up. Growers were looking forward to seeding winter wheat which began in the southern end of the county.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Soil moisture was declining. Seeding conditions will be average at best.

Pend Oreille: Rangeland was becoming dangerously dry. Oat harvest was half finished. Livestock on some ranges were being fed hay to supplement the lack of grass. Hogs were fattening up and will be ready for butcher/market in October. Lack of rainfall and high temperatures have made pastures and rangeland a loss for this year. Irrigated pastures were doing well, but a lot of water was being used to keep them usable.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The weather was good for harvest. The majority of producers completed winter wheat harvest. Most of the peas and lentils have been harvested, but producers were still plugging away at the last of the crops. Yields have been disappointing for most. Grazing conditions declined considerably due to the lack of moisture. There was very little third cutting of hay

because of the dry conditions. Peaches and early apples were being picked at Green Bluff.

Stevens: A few grain fields remained to be harvested. A handful of irrigated producers began a third cutting of hay. Cows and calves continued to look good, although some pastures began to dry out.

Walla Walla: Grain harvest was nearly finished. Fire danger was extremely high. Alfalfa seed harvest began. In most areas, the subsoil moisture looked good for seeding.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): The Columbia Complex fire ignited late Monday night due to lightning. The fire burned standing wheat, stubble, pasture and rangeland, as well as timberland. Although it is too early for many specifics, reports of significant loss of pastures raised concern about lack of fall grazing and a potential shortage of available hay.

Whitman: Grazing pasture was very limited, and additional grazing areas should be looked into—such as CRP. The weather continued to be hot and dry, and the fire potential was extremely high.

Whitman (2nd Report): Harvest activity continued. Most of the winter wheat and a lot of the spring crop were cut. However, many operations in the central and eastern end of the county were idled, waiting for spring crops to ripen. Garbanzo beans were being sprayed to dry them out, and harvest began on some strands. The quality was good, but yields on the garbanzos have been average to below average. A 600 acre fire near Colfax burned a private crib elevator and some timberland. Little to no crops burned; just a little standing stubble.

Weekly Weather Statistics

August 28, 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	78	62	-1	83	-1	14	-7	0.00	-0.35	0	31.97	-4.00	89	160	
Everett	49	81	63	0	91	2	22	-6	0.00	-0.35	0	30.65	-5.62	85	170	
Hoquiam	51	76	60	-3	70	-14	7	-14	0.00	-0.40	0	70.12	2.49	104	190	
Kelso	52	91	66	3	116	18	46	11	0.00	-0.39	0	42.62	-3.68	92	156	
Olympia	44	90	63	0	89	0	24	-3	0.00	-0.35	0	52.30	1.93	104	154	
Sea-Tac	52	87	66	1	111	6	41	2	0.00	-0.29	0	36.42	-0.57	98	155	
Shelton	44	91	63	-2	95	-7	25	-15	0.00	-0.33	0	68.15	3.51	105	160	
Tacoma	46	86	63	-2	90	-8	24	-9	0.00	-0.35	0	38.58	-1.48	96	144	
Vancouver	50	94	67	3	120	20	50	15	0.01	-0.32	1	41.96	0.86	102	151	
CENTRAL																
Ellensburg	50	98	72	7	158	43	88	37	0.00	-0.12	0	12.04	3.18	136	90	
Stampede Pass	46	85	62	8	86	41	33	26	0.05	-0.48	1	68.99	-11.49	86	178	
Wenatchee	58	96	75	5	178	28	108	27	0.00	-0.14	0	7.21	-1.02	88	67	
Yakima AP	46	98	70	3	141	17	71	12	0.00	-0.12	0	9.70	1.81	123	77	
NORTHEAST																
Colville	48	94	70	6	143	39	73	30	0.00	-0.28	0	20.34	-0.37	98	114	
Deer Park	42	99	67	0	121	3	51	-3	0.00	-0.21	0	28.06	9.65	152	127	
Spokane AP	49	97	70	4	144	24	74	20	0.00	-0.20	0	19.67	3.30	120	118	
EAST CENTRAL																
Ephrata	55	102	75	3	177	19	107	19	0.00	-0.07	0	9.72	2.53	135	75	
Moses Lake	50	103	73	0	160	2	90	2	0.00	-0.07	0	12.05	4.86	168	92	
Quincy	51	96	73	5	161	27	91	25	0.00	-0.10	0	11.71	3.96	151	89	
Ritzville	47	102	71	4	147	25	77	21	0.00	-0.14	0	15.24	4.00	136	97	
SOUTHEAST																
Hanford	52	99	75	-1	179	-2	109	-2	0.00	-0.07	0	6.12	-0.29	95	49	
Pasco	49	98	73	1	160	4	90	3	0.00	-0.14	0	9.65	2.20	130	78	
Pullman	43	99	68	4	125	21	56	11	0.00	-0.21	0	13.61	-7.36	65	112	
Whitman Miss.	47	98	69	1	137	7	67	3	0.00	-0.15	0	17.14	3.48	125	119	
ID PANHANDLE																
Coeur D'A' AP	45	97	69	1	136	7	67	6	0.00	-0.35	0	10.86	-14.92	42	88	
Lewiston ID	56	101	76	5	185	29	115	28	0.00	-0.21	0	11.90	-0.41	97	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>