



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: September 5, 2006
Week Ending: September 3, 2006
CWP WA-CW3606

Hot, Dry Weather Persists

Field Crops

Dry weather conditions allowed for 6.8 days suitable for fieldwork. Crop losses were reported due to wildfires. Winter wheat seeding continued while harvest wound down. Harvest of seed crops such as corn, cabbage and beets started. Potato harvest was in full swing.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 6% very poor, 8% poor, 40% fair and 46% good. Producers continued feeding hay to livestock, as pastures remained dry and dormant. Cooler weather in northern counties promoted new wool growth in sheep and weight gain for hogs. Strong oyster demand from coastal counties continued.

Fruit and Vegetables

Raspberry growers continued post-harvest activities while cranberry growers applied late season herbicides. Peach and nectarine harvest neared completion with pear harvest starting. Apple harvest progressed.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.8
Last Week	7.0

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2005	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	94	88	94	96
Winter Wheat Harvested	98	95	98	98
Barley Harvested	93	81	96	95
Potatoes Harvested	50	47	54	42
Corn Doughed	60	45	84	79
Corn Dented	50	35	54	51
Corn Mature	22	15	24	24
Corn Silage Harvested	23	20	23	14
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	40	25	33	26
Dry Peas Harvested	99	98	98	98
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	86	76	83	92

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	36	40	24	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	22	41	35	2
Subsoil	11	35	54	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	16	42	43	0
Irrigation Water	3	6	91	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	5	8	86	0
Hay & Roughage	1	21	75	3

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

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	0	20	78	2
Dry Edible Beans	0	1	43	56	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.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clallam/Jefferson: No extreme heat. Ten days of high 60's and ten days of mid-70's made for wonderful growing weather. They have begun harvesting and cutting seed crops such as cabbage and beets.

Grays Harbor: Sweet corn growers continued to be challenged to keep up with irrigation demands. Christmas tree growers were shearing Douglas fir and top working Noble fir. Greenhouse tomato growers continued to report excellent yields and flavor quality due to abundant heat units. The rural landscape validates that we are experiencing one of the driest summers on record with many plants showing drought symptoms.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: The dry spell continued as grain harvest began. The recent warm weather has helped the late seeded corn advance toward maturity. Pastures that were not irrigated or sub-irrigated are virtually straw.

Mason: Still no rain, conditions were very dry here. Harvesting of fruit trees (apples, pears, plums) and picking of corn have begun. The quality was good, but everything needs to be harvested so producers can quit watering.

Pacific: Dry summer conditions continued for growers. Raspberry producers continued post harvest cane pruning and weed control, and cranberry growers were busy with bog irrigation and late season herbicide application. With dry and poor quality pasture conditions, livestock were being fed early season hay. Shellfish growers continued to benefit from strong demand for oysters due to lower production in the Gulf of Mexico. There were closures in Puget Sound due to vibriosis.

Pierce/South King: The corn crop still looked good but needs some rain soon. No unusual situations to report. There were no reports of any crop damage due to a weather related event.

Skagit: High temperatures for the week averaged 72 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. A new crop of hybrid cabbage seed was being planted and irrigated. Potato, broccoli and cucumber harvest was still underway. Corn harvest was just beginning to pick up. Spinach

harvest was almost complete and many farmers have begun to windrow beets, placing the seed into rows so it can be dried in the sun. If the warm days continue, as the weather report suggests, the beet seed harvest will begin 10-14 days from now. With low temperatures for the week in the mid-40's, there has been no frost on the pumpkins as of yet, but fall is less than three weeks away.

Skagit/Island/San Juan: The weather has been hot and dry. Soil moisture has been minimal. There was possible crop damage due to lack of water. There have been reports of cabbage crops being affected by the lack of water.

Snohomish/King: Had a break in the dry spell around mid-week with up to 0.75 of an inch of rain falling in some areas, which was just enough to settle the dust. Manure spreading and irrigation continued. Sweet corn and summer vegetable harvest was in full swing. Early apple varieties were ripe. Lots of apple maggot were found in untreated home orchards.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report): The weather was cooler this week with rain. Crops were still on time for this time of year. It's another good year for apples, plums and other fruits.

Thurston: Another week of warm temperatures and no rainfall continued to exacerbate drought conditions throughout the county. Blueberry harvest was finished. Turf grass growers were cultivating bone dry fields. Christmas tree growers continued top working Noble fir. Non-irrigated pastures and hayfields were totally brown except for deep rooted perennial weeds.

Thurston (2nd Report): The western Washington desert was acting true to form. Not a drop of water for weeks now. Everything was tinder dry. The cattle were on hay.

Whatcom: A one day light shower this past week cooled temperatures but added little relief for the dry conditions. Some irrigation wells have been depleted. Field corn in sub-irrigated areas was flourishing in the hot weather, but was stressed in areas of low water tables. Higher ground pastures were drying up where irrigation was unavailable.

Central

Chelan/Douglas: Winter wheat harvest was winding down. Spring wheat was behind normal maturity so harvest has not yet begun. The 2007 winter wheat crop seeding was proceeding. Many producers have reported good sub-soil moisture. Harvest for early variety apples (Gala) and pears has begun.

Franklin: Fairly normal climatic week. Air conditions were quite smoky from the Dayton and Oregon fires (with little breeze blowing). Peas and beans were down in the windrow as well as the last of the third cutting of hay, with some fourth cutting down in the south end of the county. Some acreage of field corn, and in particular corn seed was being harvested. Potatoes continued to be harvested, though with a big push

yet to come in the next three weeks. Peaches and nectarines were at the end of harvest and early apple varieties were being harvested throughout the county.

Grant: Early Golden and early Gala apple harvest was underway in the southern areas of Grant County. Peach and nectarine harvest was in its last two weeks.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from four degrees below normal to 11 degrees above normal, with no precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams: Winter wheat seeding continued with reports of good moisture and tall furrows. Earlier seeding began to emerge.

Asotin/Garfield: Harvest has been completed and producers were turning their attention to fall planting. Rain was needed before seeding of winter wheat as topsoil moisture was very low due to lack of rain this summer. The last significant rain was on June 14, 2006. The Columbia Complex fire continued to burn out-of-control and has entered Garfield County in the national forest.

Ferry: There has been no rain for most of the last half of summer and the moisture we had picked up in late spring and early summer, was disappearing fast. The range was drying up fast and cows were pushing fences.

Ferry/Okanogan: Bartlett pear harvest was about complete. Producers were starting to pick early variety apples and Anjou pears. Winter wheat harvest was almost complete except in the higher elevations. The third cutting of alfalfa hay was about complete.

Garfield: The drought continued, making everything hot and very dry.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Grain harvest was winding down, and many producers were seeding or beginning to seed their fall crops. Rain was needed especially for fall pastures which were showing the effect of no recent precipitation.

Pend Oreille: Temperatures were 89 degrees for the high and 26 degrees for the low with a trace of precipitation. Pastures were still dry not only due to lack of rain but also freezing temperatures at night. Any fruit or vegetables left in gardens or fields have suffered frost damage if not protected. Livestock were supplemented with hay and doing well. Hogs were eating more with the cooler temperatures and gaining

weight. Sheep were starting to show new wool growth in preparation for winter.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: It was another nice week for harvest. Rain was received, with rain showers in the northern part of the county, but it did not amount to very much. Harvest was pretty much complete except for some clean-up work and some green areas that were left. Some fieldwork has started but most were going to wait for rain. The grazing was getting dry with very little rain. Cooler nights made the evenings comfortable.

Stevens: The beginning of September brought fall-like conditions with cool mornings and evenings and high afternoon temperatures in the upper 80's and low 90's. Grain harvest was winding down with just a few machines still in the field. Haying was nearly finished for the season.

Walla Walla: The weather was still hot and dry. It was smoky from the Columbia County fire. Sub-moisture was mostly okay for seeding, but rain is needed soon for seeding to go well. Seeding will start soon. The third cutting of hay was looking good. Range and pastures were starting to run out.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): The Columbia Complex Fire continued to be an issue. Approximately 65,000 acres of private land has been affected and approximately 2,500 acres of standing crop was lost in Columbia County. The weather remained hot and dry.

Whitman: Harvest was finishing up. Most cereal crops were completed. Garbanzo beans were still being cut with average yields and good quality being reported. Winter wheat seeding was starting in the western areas of the county.

Weekly Weather Statistics

September 5, 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	43	84	62	1	84	9	16	0	0.00	-0.35	0	31.97	-4.35	88	160
Everett	50	84	63	2	94	14	33	13	0.26	-0.16	2	30.91	-5.78	84	172
Hoquiam	47	91	63	2	94	16	26	5	0.09	-0.41	1	70.21	2.08	103	191
Kelso	46	93	65	2	106	14	37	6	0.45	0.01	1	43.07	-3.67	92	157
Olympia	39	92	63	3	93	13	27	7	0.00	-0.40	0	52.30	1.53	103	154
Sea-Tac	51	89	67	4	124	27	54	22	0.01	-0.34	1	36.43	-0.91	98	156
Shelton	39	94	64	0	98	3	30	-2	0.00	-0.42	0	68.15	3.09	105	160
Tacoma	40	90	63	1	93	2	27	1	0.00	-0.37	0	38.58	-1.85	95	144
Vancouver	45	94	67	5	123	29	53	24	0.11	-0.27	1	42.07	0.59	101	152
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	40	99	65	2	108	8	40	1	0.00	-0.12	0	12.04	3.06	134	90
Stampede Pass	40	87	61	8	81	43	37	30	1.22	0.61	2	70.21	-10.88	87	180
Wenatchee	49	93	69	0	137	2	67	-1	0.00	-0.14	0	7.21	-1.16	86	67
Yakima AP	39	94	64	-3	100	-12	36	-12	0.00	-0.14	0	9.70	1.67	121	77
NORTHEAST															
Colville	37	93	65	4	109	20	47	14	0.06	-0.22	1	20.40	-0.59	97	115
Deer Park	29	95	63	-3	89	-14	37	-6	0.03	-0.18	1	28.09	9.47	151	128
Spokane AP	40	93	66	2	112	7	52	7	0.24	0.03	2	19.91	3.33	120	120
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	44	97	70	0	142	-1	72	-2	0.00	-0.07	0	9.72	2.46	134	75
Moses Lake	42	98	68	-4	123	-20	54	-20	0.00	-0.07	0	12.05	4.79	166	92
Quincy	43	92	68	1	124	3	54	-1	0.00	-0.13	0	11.71	3.83	149	89
Ritzville	38	98	65	0	109	1	50	4	0.08	-0.03	1	15.32	3.97	135	98
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	43	101	71	-4	146	-22	76	-21	0.00	-0.12	0	6.12	-0.41	94	49
Pasco	42	98	68	-3	124	-17	54	-18	0.00	-0.10	0	9.65	2.10	128	78
Pullman	37	95	64	2	100	8	39	1	0.00	-0.21	0	13.61	-7.57	64	112
Whitman Miss.	36	97	65	-3	104	-13	39	-13	0.00	-0.15	0	17.14	3.33	124	119
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	43	93	66	-1	110	-4	49	-1	0.09	-0.20	1	10.95	-15.12	42	89
Lewiston ID	47	103	71	2	148	8	81	7	0.00	-0.21	0	11.90	-0.62	95	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>

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