



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: September 11, 2006  
Week Ending: September 10, 2006  
CWP WA-CW3706

## Temperatures Decreased as Fall Weather Began to Set in

There were 7.0 days suitable for fieldwork. Fall weather set in with light moisture across western Washington and cooler temperatures across the state. Winter wheat seeding was in full swing. The potato harvest and garbanzo bean harvest continued while the dry pea and lentil harvest wended down.

### Livestock

Range and Pasture conditions were 17% very poor, 10% poor, 33% fair and 40% good. Range and pasture land was dry with very little growth. Cattle producers continued supplemental feeding and livestock's winter coats were thickening.

### Fruit and Vegetables

Broccoli harvest was underway while the pumpkin harvest was just beginning. Apple and pear harvesting continued.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	7.0
Last Week	6.8

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	46	35	19	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	22	41	36	1
Subsoil	10	33	57	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	18	39	43	0
Irrigation Water	0	2	98	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	6	9	85	0
Hay & Roughage	1	25	73	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	99	94	99	99
Winter Wheat Planted	29	NA	23	34
Winter Wheat Harvested	100	98	100	99
Barley Harvested	99	93	99	99
Potatoes Harvested	60	50	59	49
Corn Doughed	80	60	94	87
Corn Dented	55	50	66	59
Corn Mature	30	22	34	31
Corn Silage Harvested	25	23	24	20
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	48	40	41	34
Dry Peas Harvested	100	99	100	100
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	94	86	87	95

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	0	16	81	3
Dry Edible Beans	0	1	29	70	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 pattern held steady with a little cooler temperatures. Farmers were busy working the fields cutting and harvesting crops.

**Grays Harbor:** Drought symptoms continued to prevail throughout the county on all nonirrigated lands. A tapestry of early fall color evolved across the rural landscape as the foliage on native trees and shrubs expressed the lack of soil moisture. Sweet corn fields were showing signs of drought damage where irrigation was not available. Christmas tree growers continued top-working Noble fir. Some growers were reporting heavy loss to this year's seedlings due to the lack of soil moisture. Dairy producers continued making haylage from irrigated forage fields.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** Many areas received a light mist over the weekend which had no real impact on soil moisture. Since July 1st, most areas have received less than one third of an inch of precipitation.

**Mason:** There were 0.2 inches of rain was received on Friday night. Producers were hoping for more rain in the coming week. The soil was very dry and growers were still watering, but the nights were cool with dew on the ground in the mornings. Apple trees were ripening in succession as well as corn and tomatoes. Leaves were turning everywhere and, a little early due to the dry August. Mushroom pickers at the farmer's market bemoaned the slow start to their season due to the lack of rainfall and the fact that quite a bit of the private forestlands were closed due to high fire danger.

**Pierce/South King:** Crop conditions remained favorable in the South Sound area. Everyone was looking forward to a little rain this weekend as the area can use it. No unusual situations to report. No reports of any crop damage due to a weather related event.

**Skagit:** High temperatures for the week averaged at 70 degrees and there were two tenths of an inch of precipitation recorded at the WSU North West Research and Extension Center in West Mount Vernon. A new crop of hybrid cabbage seed was currently being planted and irrigated. Potato and broccoli harvest were still underway. Cucumber harvest was beginning to slow down and should

be done for the season in the next few weeks. Corn harvest was just beginning to pick up. Spinach seed harvest was complete and beet seed harvest will begin next week. Pumpkin harvest was just beginning.

**Skagit/Island/San Juan:** Recent rain was not enough to provide adequate moisture for crops. The rain basically settled the dust. The soil was dry and crops recently planted were being watered manually. No crop losses have been reported.

**Snohomish/King:** Some much needed rain fell on some parts of the County late in the week. Only about one third of an inch of rain fell in many areas. Summer vegetable harvest continued and potato harvest was underway. Experimental oilseed crops were being cut.

**Snohomish/North King (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The temperatures continued to be in the 70's with the cooler nights of autumn. Crops were all on target for this time of year. Farmers were busy harvesting and cutting crops.

**Thurston:** Agricultural producers welcomed cooler temperatures, but were disappointed that predicted rainfall amounted to only a few light sprinkles which did nothing to alleviate drought conditions. Most native deciduous plants were now showing symptoms of drought damage. Dairy producers continued applying liquid manure to forage fields. Christmas tree growers continued top-working Noble fir and shearing Douglas fir plantations. Truck gardeners reported brisk sales of late season vegetables at the Olympia Farmer's Market.

**Whatcom:** Temperatures cooled slightly, but dry conditions prevailed over this past week. Potato harvest continued. Growers with irrigation availability watered potato fields prior to harvest in an effort to alleviate severe dust conditions which hampers vision during digging. Field corn producers voiced concerns over the possibility of high nitrates in non-irrigated fields. Yields of early planted green beans were reported down from last year. Later planted beans were exhibiting a split set which will greatly reduce yields.

## Central

**Grant:** Wheat harvest, both dryland and irrigated, is ending. Planting of dryland wheat acreage for 2007 crop year is also coming to an end. Dry edible bean cutting is continuing. Vegetable seed crop harvest is also winding down. Gala apple harvest is underway. Potato harvest is to begin in the near future. The third cutting of alfalfa is in full swing.

**Kittitas:** With cooler nights and shorter days the grasses were coming back into their fall root growth cycle. Hay growers were watering up new seeding, with more acres seeded this year than last year because of the lack of available water last fall.

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

## Eastern

**Adams:** Winter wheat was emerging fine as moisture conditions remained good despite no measurable precipitation. Winter wheat seeding will be nearing completion by the end of week.

**Adams (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Another hot week allowed quick dry down and baling of third cutting hay, while wheat growers noted nice emergence of seeded fields. Another week of good weather should get most deep seeded fields up and running.

**Asotin:** Dry conditions continued this past week. Rainfall is needed for fall seeding and to improve pastures that are in poor condition.

**Asotin/Garfield:** The weather continued to be hot and dry. The Columbia Complex fire continued to burn in the Umatilla National Forest. Smoke blanketed the area most days. Water shortages in springs and small streams were becoming more of a problem.

**Ferry:** Crop and pasture land continued to dry out.

**Garfield:** Still no moisture received for fall seeding. There was lots of smoke in the area from fires.

**Lincoln:** Harvest was complete and winter wheat seeding was in full swing. Seeding conditions remained pretty good throughout the area.

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Winter wheat seeding was moving right along. Some fields in the area have gone eighty five days without rain.

**Pend Oreille:** Pasture lands and range lands were extremely dry with little to no growth on them. Livestock

were putting on weight for the winter with hay as feed. Shedding has stopped and coats were starting to thicken for winter. Fowl were putting on winter feathers and down. Hogs were eating more due to cool weather and doubling weight every month with October as projected butcher month.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** A week of cleaning up draws and other areas left to ripen. Some producers were still waiting for small areas to ripen. More field work was taking place in preparation for the next crop to plant. Field conditions were extremely dry and dusty. Pasture conditions were very dry and not getting any better without rain. Some growers were already feeding hay and a number of producers were starting to sell off some animals. Reports were that all the 2006 bluegrass straw has been sold and growers were starting to sell some of the 2005 straw they did not get sold. Demand for hay was high due to the dry weather conditions and the need to feed early. Early apple picking was taking place on Greenbluff.

**Stevens:** Afternoon temperatures hit the mid-nineties most days last week with a cool-down towards the weekend. Grain harvest was completed. A few hay producers worked on their final cuttings.

**Whitman:** Deep furrow seeding of winter wheat was underway out west. Conditions were extremely dry with below normal precipitation experienced the last two months. Garbanzo bean harvest was progressing.

**Whitman (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Fall seeding in the area has begun.

# Weekly Weather Statistics

September 11, 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			
<b>WEST</b>																
Bellingham	47	74	61	2	78	11	10	-2	0.00	-0.40	0	0.00	-0.55	0	0	
Everett	50	77	61	2	81	9	14	0	0.30	-0.16	1	0.30	-0.34	47	1	
Hoquiam	45	68	59	-3	66	-11	2	-17	0.12	-0.50	1	0.12	-0.73	14	1	
Kelso	43	84	63	1	90	4	20	-6	0.00	-0.49	0	0.00	-0.69	0	0	
Olympia	38	82	61	2	77	7	13	-1	0.02	-0.44	1	0.02	-0.62	3	1	
Sea-Tac	50	82	64	2	102	14	32	8	0.02	-0.38	1	0.02	-0.53	4	1	
Shelton	39	83	62	0	89	3	22	-3	0.10	-0.42	1	0.10	-0.61	14	1	
Tacoma	43	81	61	0	82	1	17	-2	0.00	-0.42	0	0.00	-0.59	0	0	
Vancouver	47	85	66	5	117	32	47	24	0.01	-0.41	1	0.01	-0.59	2	1	
<b>CENTRAL</b>																
Ellensburg	45	99	72	11	160	76	90	61	0.00	-0.14	0	0.00	-0.18	0	0	
Stampede Pass	46	78	62	12	86	57	27	21	0.03	-0.66	1	0.03	-0.93	3	1	
Wenatchee	53	96	75	10	179	60	109	57	0.00	-0.14	0	0.00	-0.20	0	0	
Yakima AP	42	97	70	8	144	48	74	36	0.00	-0.14	0	0.00	-0.20	0	0	
<b>NORTHEAST</b>																
Colville	41	89	69	10	134	61	66	42	0.00	-0.28	0	0.00	-0.40	0	0	
Deer Park	33	93	66	5	112	26	48	16	0.00	-0.21	0	0.00	-0.30	0	0	
Spokane AP	45	91	71	9	147	60	77	45	0.00	-0.21	0	0.00	-0.30	0	0	
<b>EAST</b>																
<b>CENTRAL</b>																
Ephrata	45	99	73	6	161	35	91	33	0.00	-0.07	0	0.00	-0.10	0	0	
Moses Lake	46	98	71	4	151	25	81	23	0.00	-0.07	0	0.00	-0.10	0	0	
Moses Lake	48	94	73	9	162	56	92	49	0.00	-0.14	0	0.00	-0.19	0	0	
Quincy	44	95	72	10	158	65	88	54	0.00	-0.13	0	0.00	-0.16	0	0	
Ritzville																
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>																
Hanford	48	100	74	4	169	18	99	20	0.00	-0.09	0	0.00	-0.15	0	0	
Hanford	45	95	71	5	150	26	80	22	0.00	-0.10	0	0.00	-0.16	0	0	
Pasco	37	90	67	7	121	43	55	29	0.00	-0.21	0	0.00	-0.30	0	0	
Pullman	43	98	70	7	142	42	72	33	0.02	-0.12	1	0.02	-0.18	10	1	
Whitman Miss.																
<b>ID</b>																
<b>PANHANDLE</b>																
Coeur D'A' AP	45	93	72	9	152	56	82	44	0.00	-0.28	0	0.00	-0.40	0	0	
Lewiston ID	51	97	77	10	187	64	117	59	0.00	-0.21	0	0.00	-0.30	0	0	

Summary based on NWS data.  
 Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2006  
 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](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington)  
 E-mail: [nass-wa@nass.usda.gov](mailto: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>