



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: October 2, 2006
Week Ending: October 1, 2006
CWP WA-CW4006

Fall Season Warmer Than Usual Winter Wheat Seeding in Need of Rain

There were 7.0 days suitable for fieldwork. Winter wheat seeding continued with hopes for rain to ensure a proper stand. The dry bean harvest is almost finished while the potato and corn harvest was in full swing. Bluegrass was going through the first cleaning stages and showing some losses. A fire in the Bridgeport area is burning range, pasture and CRP cover.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 8% very poor, 14% poor, 38% fair and 40% good. Cattle continued to be moved off summer pastures. Calves continued to be moved to market for fall feeder sales.

Fruit and Vegetables

Grape, apple, pear, broccoli, sweet corn, carrot and pumpkin harvest continued. Cauliflower harvest was finishing up and beet seed harvest was underway.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	7.0
Last Week	5.7

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	25	36	39	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	19	40	40	1
Subsoil	12	39	49	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	15	43	42	0
Irrigation Water	3	6	91	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	6	8	86	0
Hay & Roughage	1	21	72	6

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

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2005	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	73	68	71	73
Winter Wheat Emerged	44	20	38	46
Potatoes Harvested	68	65	69	62
Corn Dented	95	88	99	97
Corn Mature	63	56	79	73
Corn Harvested	33	23	17	9
Corn Silage Harvested	60	40	52	54
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	92	71	87	69
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	100	99	98	99

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	0	22	76	2

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

Clallam/Jefferson: Weather continued to be cooler with daytime highs around 60 degrees and cooler nights. Year-to-date rainfall for Port Angeles was 15.73 inches, Port Townsend was 12.03 inches, and Sequim was 6.13 inches.

Clark: Garden centers in Southwest Washington reported good sales as the cooler fall weather returned. In Oregon the Oregon Association of Nurseries reported that total sales increased in 2005 for the 15th time in 16 years. Clearly the ornamental industry remains one of the strongest sectors of the agricultural community in areas west of the Cascades.

Grays Harbor: Sunshine and no rain throughout the week allowed silage corn growers to harvest under nearly ideal conditions. Harvested fields were quickly planted to winter rye. Sunny days with no rain also allowed forage producers to harvest a third cutting of premium orchard grass hay. U-Pick pumpkin farms opened fields to the public on October 1 and reported brisk sales. Although the soil remained dry, growers were taking advantage of the lack of fall rains to re-seed pastures and do perennial weed control. Home gardeners continued harvesting a bounty of fruits and vegetables as there has not yet been a killing frost.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: A week of summer-like weather with temperatures in the 80's was beneficial for corn harvest. Silage corn yields appeared to be good, while sweet corn yields looked like they will be below average.

Mason: No precipitation last week, but there was heavy morning dew so the grass was growing again. Corn was harvested for the farmer's markets and the cows expect to be finished this week. Leaves were still just barely turning color which seems late for this time of year.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions remained the same from last report. The area could use some rain. There were no unusual situations to report. There were no reports of any crop damage due to a weather related event.

Skagit: With over one inch of rain last week potato, broccoli, corn and pumpkin harvest was still underway but many producers were rained out for a few days. Cauliflower harvest was finishing up. Beet seed harvest was underway and it looks like this year the farmers who planted their crop later will miss the late September rains and not have to turn their crop. The Valley's 2007 cabbage crop was being side dressed. This means that the cabbage

was being cultivated and a band of commercial fertilizer was being laid down next to the roots so the plants will have plenty of nutrients to keep them healthy and hopefully get through the winter so the cabbage heads can be split open next spring and allow the plants to bolt or send shoots for seed production. Next years tulip, daffodil and wheat fields were being planted.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: The weather was mild with warm days and cool nights. Soil moisture was still a problem for some fall planted crops. Harvesting of crops continued.

Snohomish/King: Last week was like an extended summer with each day being in the 70's once again. Most farmers were in the middle of corn harvest and pumpkins. The year-to-date rainfall was averaging about 17 inches.

Snohomish/King (2nd Report): Field work continued as good weather held. Recent rainfall has greatly improved most area pastures. Pumpkin harvest began and U-Pick operations geared up for the big Halloween rush. Apple harvest was underway. Apple maggots were an increasing problem for home orchardists.

Thurston: A week of sunshine and no rain was welcomed by agricultural producers who took advantage of the weather to get a jump start on fall chores. Turfgrass growers raced to get recently harvested fields cultivated and planted prior to the beginning of fall rains. Livestock producers continued to apply liquid manure on forage fields. Blueberry growers took advantage of the dry weather to apply copper sprays. Christmas tree growers continued top working Noble fir and began preparing harvest roads. U-Pick pumpkin farms opened on October 1st. Home gardeners continued to report prolific fruit set on apple, plum, and pear trees.

Thurston (2nd Report): The drought conditions continued unabated. By the time the rain comes it will be too cold for the grass to grow much. This has been a very strange yellow jacket year. There were lots of nests without any paper around them, just cones with eggs.

Whatcom: Light showers fell over the past week and warm temperatures prevailed. Seed potato harvest continued while corn chopping kicked into gear. Late planted beans were harvested.

Central

Chelan/Douglas: Apple harvest was approximately 40 percent complete. Harvest began on Red Delicious apples. The labor force was smaller than in previous years. Some growers in the Manson area were not harvesting their fruit due to the July hail storm. Some others were picking only for the juice market. Russett was present in Golden Delicious apples and they were not being picked. Weather was warmer than usual. A fire began in the Bridgeport area and has burned approximately 10,000 acres of range, pasture, and CRP cover. Many miles of fence line were destroyed. Cattle were being moved off land in danger.

Columbia: The Columbia Complex fire has caused considerable damage to pasture and fencing in the area. This was causing much of the surplus of stored winter hay to be fed at this time. Some rain (about 1 inch) received about 10 days ago had helped winter early seeded crops to emerge.

Franklin: Temperatures were cooling down as is typical for this time of year. There was only a trace of precipitation all week. Bean harvest was nearly complete.

Potato harvest was strong throughout the week. Field work was just beginning on a few farms. Apple harvest continued. Fourth cutting hay was down in much of the county and/or being baled up as well as grass hay. Blue grass was showing losses, and was going through the first stages of cleaning with a fair number of producers and the local industry reporting low yields due to early spring frost and extreme heat in May. Farming activities and weather were typical for this time of the year.

Kittitas: There was still second cutting timothy coming off the fields. New seedings were in good shape with some early fall moisture, most were up 4 to 6 inches. Last week's rains resulted in weed green-up and cheatgrass has sprouted, so farmers were thinking about fall perennial weed control.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 7 degrees below normal to 4 degrees above normal, with a trace of precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to weather conditions reported.

Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: Planting of winter wheat progressed rapidly as hot weather returned to the area. Planting conditions were poor in most areas as there was not adequate moisture for proper germination. Most producers were "dusting in" the crop. Rain was needed in all areas for proper stand establishment of winter wheat and for regrowth in fall rangeland. There were still many streams and springs that were not producing due to the dry weather.

Garfield: No changes from last week. The drought rules the area.

Lincoln: Nice growing weather for the winter wheat crop this past week, although a rain shower in the next couple of weeks would be beneficial in most cases.

Lincoln (2nd Report): We need rain!

Pend Oreille: Livestock were putting on winter coats. Fowl have winter down on and have completed their molting. Cold nights and mild days caused extended eating for all animals. Fields had very little to no new growth and new shoots were freezing during night time.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The area had another week of no rain and above average temperatures. Some field work was being done and some seeding was being done but not as much as normal. Growers were waiting for some moisture because it was so dusty they could not see their mark when seeding. A lot of the air drilling was being done because it does not make as much dust and you can see where you are going. Pasture had not recovered anywhere near what it normally would in a normal year. Apple harvest was in full swing up at Green bluff.

Stevens: Winter wheat crops were emerging last week. Calves continued to move to market. A few cattle producers were moving cattle off of summer pastures and starting to feed hay.

Walla Walla: The area experienced warm days and cool nights. Fall plantings were in full speed. Conditions were favorable for most producers.

Whitman: Many operations began fall seeding. Some reseeded of crusted deep furrow ground was being done out west. Many were concerned about soil moisture conditions and were hopeful additional rains are coming but not too soon so crusting does not occur.

Weekly Weather Statistics

October 2, 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	44	73	57	3	52	18	1	1	0.00	-0.55	0	1.57	-0.45	78	8
Everett	43	76	60	5	70	32	16	16	0.00	-0.56	0	1.51	-0.72	68	9
Hoquiam	46	79	61	3	75	18	18	10	0.00	-0.95	0	1.11	-2.28	33	7
Kelso	45	84	63	6	92	39	28	20	0.00	-0.63	0	1.49	-0.97	61	7
Olympia	40	83	61	7	76	42	17	17	0.00	-0.63	0	0.69	-1.66	29	7
Sea-Tac	52	80	63	6	95	43	30	23	0.00	-0.49	0	1.43	-0.52	73	8
Shelton	42	84	61	5	79	31	17	10	0.00	-0.79	0	1.68	-1.12	60	7
Tacoma	42	81	60	4	72	27	11	5	0.00	-0.49	0	0.71	-1.29	36	4
Vancouver	43	85	64	7	95	46	31	24	0.00	-0.52	0	0.63	-1.46	30	7
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	41	89	64	10	100	65	30	23	0.00	-0.08	0	0.07	-0.44	14	3
Stampede Pass	43	77	61	16	80	72	25	25	0.00	-0.96	0	2.22	-1.35	62	9
Wenatchee	49	85	67	9	118	59	48	32	0.00	-0.07	0	0.04	-0.37	10	1
Yakima AP	37	86	62	6	83	36	18	7	0.00	-0.07	0	0.55	0.14	134	1
NORTHEAST															
Colville	39	80	60	9	72	44	7	1	0.00	-0.21	0	0.46	-0.70	40	5
Deer Park	32	82	56	3	45	10	0	-7	0.00	-0.18	0	0.51	-0.39	57	4
Spokane AP	42	81	62	9	86	49	22	15	0.00	-0.14	0	0.32	-0.43	43	3
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	40	84	64	5	100	35	30	12	0.00	-0.07	0	0.42	0.05	114	5
Moses Lake	37	85	62	3	84	19	18	0	0.00	-0.07	0	0.25	-0.12	68	4
Quincy	42	83	64	7	98	46	28	16	0.00	-0.07	0	0.15	-0.29	34	3
Ritzville	40	83	63	8	96	54	26	18	0.00	-0.14	0	0.16	-0.42	28	2
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	44	89	66	4	115	29	45	14	0.00	-0.07	0	0.20	-0.16	56	5
Pasco	38	88	62	3	90	23	24	6	0.00	-0.07	0	0.36	-0.01	97	4
Pullman	36	82	61	8	79	42	17	10	0.00	-0.27	0	0.63	-0.40	61	3
Whitman Miss.	36	88	62	6	85	36	19	8	0.00	-0.20	0	0.66	-0.04	94	5
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	39	82	61	5	76	32	12	3	0.00	-0.27	0	0.28	-0.95	23	2
Lewiston ID	47	85	67	8	120	54	50	30	0.00	-0.18	0	0.67	-0.13	84	5

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.

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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2006/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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