



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: October 23, 2006
Week Ending: October 22, 2006
CWP WA-CW4306

Temperatures Declined Potato Harvest Winding Down

There were 5.8 days suitable for fieldwork. Temperatures continued to decline and moisture levels increased across most of the state. Winter wheat seeding was almost complete and it is in need of rain before winter sets in. Potato and corn for grain harvest continued. Christmas tree producers continued to prepare for harvest in November.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 7% very poor, 11% poor, 30% fair and 52% good. Calves continued to be weaned and sold. Oyster producers were busy harvesting in response to a strong market demand.

Fruit and Vegetables

Cranberry, apple, sweet corn, pumpkin and fresh carrot harvest continued. The apple harvest slowed down due to a shortage in labor and increased rainfall, but fruit condition was good. U-pick pumpkin operations reported brisk sales.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.8
Last Week	6.3

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	14	24	60	2
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	9	34	51	6
Subsoil	10	40	50	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	14	40	45	1
Irrigation Water	1	5	94	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	7	91	0
Hay & Roughage	1	24	70	5

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	96	92	94	97
Winter Wheat Emerged	74	72	65	81
Potatoes Harvested	92	85	89	92
Corn Dented	0	100	NA	NA
Corn Mature	100	98	100	100
Corn Harvested	82	72	77	75
Corn Silage Harvested	97	92	95	95
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	100	99	100	99

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	15	37	43	4
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	20	80	0
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.

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 was cooler with temperatures in the 40's and 50's. Rain was received in the early part of the week.

Clark: It was a banner weekend for direct market pumpkin farmers as the weather was fantastic! With good roadside visibility, many on-farm activities, and plenty of workers—a pumpkin farm easily becomes a weekend destination for urban residents.

Grays Harbor: Sweet corn harvest continued at a brisk pace. Growers were anxious to get the harvest completed before heavy rains begin. Christmas tree growers were removing stakes from the tops of Noble fir and preparing harvest roads. Dairy producers continued applying liquid manure to forage fields. Livestock producers took advantage of the sunny days with no rain to repair fences and spray blackberry vines. The past week of sunshine, blue skies, and beautiful fall color on deciduous trees and shrubs validated that Grays Harbor is truly one of the most scenic places to live in Washington State.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: The area was settling into fall, as pastures were greening up after an extended dry summer. Rain showers followed by temperatures at or near 70 degrees boosted grass growth.

Pacific: Favorable fall weather conditions continued for farm operations. Oyster growers proceeded with full harvest operations in response to strong demand for products with the best market conditions seen in over a decade. Cranberry growers were finishing up with the last of their harvest activities, with average levels of production. Cooler fall weather improved pasture conditions for livestock and dairy producers. Christmas tree harvest operations were underway for the coming holiday season.

Pierce/South King: Some frost was reported late in the week which did some damage to a few crops. On the whole, crop conditions were still good. There were no unusual situations to report.

Skagit: High temperatures for the week averaged 55 degrees and 0.6 of an inch of precipitation was recorded in west Mount Vernon. Potato, broccoli, corn, and pumpkin harvest were still underway. It was a very good week for pumpkin sales! Small seasonal drainage ditches or "V" ditches were going in for the winter. This allows the farmer the opportunity to plant winter crops like wheat,

cabbage seed, grass seed, tulips and daffodils and also allows them to get into the fields earlier in the spring. "V" ditches are typically covered over and tilled in spring. The larger ditches on the perimeter stay in from year to year and are usually maintained by a drainage district. Without this system, Skagit Valley would not function as it does today. Tulip, daffodil, and wheat fields were finishing up with next year's planting.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: The weather was mild during the week. A few days of rain was received. Temperatures were warm during the day and cooler at night. Most crops have been harvested. No crop losses were reported due to a weather event.

Snohomish/N. King: Heavy rains mid-week helped pastures but slowed fieldwork. Manure spreading continued. U-Pick pumpkin operations were very busy on the weekend. Haylage was being harvested and bagged. Apple harvest continued.

Snohomish/N. King (2nd Report): The weather was getting cooler with 50 degree temperatures and lower 60's for the high. The rains began, which will slow down harvest.

Thurston: A week of sunshine and blue skies provided nearly ideal conditions for U-Pick pumpkin farms to have brisk sales. The city of Dupont partnered with Schilter's Farm to have a fall harvest festival. Christmas tree growers continued making preparations for tree harvest which is slated to begin the second week of November. Livestock producers took advantage of the dry weather to mend fences and spray blackberry vines in fence rows. Turfgrass growers were applying pre-emergent herbicides to newly planted fields. Home gardeners were harvesting pumpkins and squash and making fresh apple cider.

Whatcom: Minimal showers later in the week helped alleviate effects of the summer drought. Field corn chopping was complete. Farmers continued with fall work activities.

Central

Chelan: Apple harvest continued and is now past the peak. Harvest was slow at times by the shortage of labor and periodic rains. Fruit conditions were very good this season.

Franklin: Temperatures were fairly normal with some spotty light rain several days during the week. Winter wheat was mostly emerged in the dryland and irrigated country and looked good. Apples were still being harvested as well as field corn. Potatoes were at the backend of harvest with fair to good yields reported. Most of the fourth cutting of alfalfa hay was put up, with some fifth down at the south end of the county. Buckwheat fields looked strong with good yields expected.

Grant: The fourth cutting of alfalfa was slowed by the cool, wet weather. A good portion of downed hay was baled during the weekend. The fourth cutting was 80 percent complete.

Grant (2nd Report): Potato harvest continued. Fresh carrot harvest also continued. Grain corn harvest was underway, and apple harvest was winding down.

Okanogan/Ferry: Apple harvest was in full swing. Cattle were on fall pastures, and calves were starting to be weaned and sold.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from normal to nine degrees above normal, with 0.07 of an inch of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams: Soil moisture conditions continued to be depleted after little precipitation was recorded during the week. Winter wheat conditions remained unchanged.

Asotin/Garfield: A few showers went through the region but did little to provide relief from the dry weather. Winter wheat was struggling to emerge in the dry conditions.

Garfield: The drought continued. Seeding was mostly 'dusted in'. Rain is needed badly as the 12th year of drought approaches. Wheat prices and beef cattle prices were good.

Lincoln: Soil moisture remained unchanged after precipitation was received during the week. Winter wheat remained in mostly good to fair condition.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Crops looked good, but rain was needed in the southern area of the county.

Lincoln (3rd Report): Much of the county received a good rain, which was much needed for the crops.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: A few more showers were received during the week. The rainfall across the county varied significantly from last week's storm and this week's rain. The total rain received in the northern area was about

1.5 inches, with as little as 0.25 inches in the southern area. Winter wheat looked better this week than last week. More seeding was being done once the fields dried out. Fall work was heading towards the end with the colder nights and days.

Stevens: The week began with rain showers and ended with clear frosty mornings and sunny afternoons. Local farmers concentrated on deer hunting, firewood cutting, and fence building. Cattle continued to move to market.

Walla Walla: Enough precipitation was received for producers to finish up seeding. Rains softened and brought the grass back. Hay may be in short supply this year.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Fall crops looked good. Some corn and potato harvest continued. Range ground greened up where much of the area was burned by August wildfires.

Whitman: Rains brought welcomed relief, but more is needed. Winter wheat needs more precipitation before heading into dormancy for the winter. Rainfall totals were less than 50 percent of normal for the 2006 crop year in the Colfax area.

Weekly Weather Statistics

October 23, 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	33	61	51	2	10	3	0	0	0.26	-0.54	3	2.58	-1.56	62	15
Everett	41	64	51	1	8	-3	0	0	1.35	0.63	4	3.35	-0.79	81	17
Hoquiam	44	67	55	2	34	7	0	0	0.45	-1.00	3	3.03	-4.14	42	13
Kelso	34	70	54	2	26	8	0	0	0.49	-0.40	3	2.65	-2.12	56	13
Olympia	31	69	51	3	11	4	0	0	0.31	-0.70	3	1.88	-3.02	38	13
Sea-Tac	42	65	53	2	21	3	0	0	0.22	-0.53	3	2.14	-1.75	55	13
Shelton	33	69	52	1	14	-1	0	0	0.10	-1.19	2	2.82	-3.21	47	13
Tacoma	34	66	51	0	10	-4	0	0	0.27	-0.50	3	1.92	-2.04	48	10
Vancouver	36	71	55	4	36	20	0	0	0.34	-0.39	2	1.45	-2.54	36	13
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	27	68	51	6	19	18	0	0	0.02	-0.12	2	0.35	-0.49	42	8
Stampede Pass	36	52	44	5	0	0	0	0	1.38	-0.15	4	4.26	-3.16	57	15
Wenatchee	34	71	53	4	24	14	2	2	0.12	0.01	3	0.50	-0.16	76	7
Yakima AP	28	72	50	2	14	5	0	0	0.07	-0.07	3	0.81	0.12	117	7
NORTHEAST															
Colville	28	59	46	2	0	0	0	0	0.83	0.54	2	1.42	-0.47	75	8
Deer Park	22	60	45	-2	0	-1	0	0	1.62	1.37	2	2.28	0.75	149	8
Spokane AP	31	58	46	0	0	-2	0	0	0.77	0.54	2	1.26	-0.06	95	6
E. CENTRAL															
Ephrata	34	69	51	2	17	5	0	0	0.07	-0.04	2	0.74	0.12	119	9
Moses Lake	30	70	51	1	12	0	0	0	0.05	-0.06	3	0.72	0.10	116	11
Quincy	33	70	53	5	27	19	0	0	0.17	0.04	3	0.47	-0.24	66	8
Ritzville	31	62	48	0	1	-5	0	0	0.32	0.13	2	0.65	-0.40	62	7
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	35	73	54	1	32	3	0	0	0.60	0.53	2	1.05	0.48	184	9
Pasco	29	71	54	3	41	20	2	2	0.12	-0.02	2	0.82	0.14	121	10
Pullman	33	59	48	2	3	-4	0	0	0.66	0.33	4	1.38	-0.50	73	9
Whitman Miss.	26	68	52	3	22	12	0	0	0.55	0.32	3	1.30	-0.03	98	11
ID															
PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	30	57	47	-3	0	-8	0	0	0.52	0.15	3	0.81	-1.37	37	6
Lewiston ID	37	62	53	2	21	2	0	0	0.38	0.17	3	1.09	-0.32	77	10

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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