



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: November 6, 2006
Week Ending: November 5, 2006
CWP WA-CW4506

Heavy Rain and Freezing Temperatures

There were 4.3 days suitable for fieldwork. Temperatures continued to decrease with hard freezes over night. Rainfall increased across the state improving newly seeded crops but slowing crop harvest. Winter wheat seeding finished and winter wheat emerged was in mostly fair to good condition. Potato harvest was almost completed with reports of low yields and high quality potatoes. Field corn harvest was winding down and corn silage harvest was completed. Christmas tree harvest began as producers were rushing to finish top work on Noble fir.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 6% very poor, 12% poor, 23% fair and 59% good. Hogs were butchered, calves were shipped to the market, and supplemental feeding continued.

Fruit and Vegetables

Apple harvest continued but was slow due to the increased rainfall. Some producers reported damage from freezing weather conditions. Sweet corn harvest was completed and processed carrot harvest was winding down.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	4.3
Last Week	6.3

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	1	20	69	10
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	9	30	55	6
Subsoil	4	29	65	2
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	11	40	46	3
Irrigation Water	0	10	88	2
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	3	95	0
Hay & Roughage	2	14	76	8

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	100	98	99	100
Winter Wheat Emerged	91	79	87	92
Potatoes Harvested	99	97	94	98
Corn Harvested	95	93	94	61
Corn Silage Harvested	100	99	100	100

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	10	39	46	4
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	11	89	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.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Sweet corn harvest was completed early in the week under nearly ideal harvest conditions of brisk, sunny weather. Heavy rainfall at the end of the week combined with warmer than average temperatures provided ideal conditions for the germination of cover crops on recently harvested fields. Christmas tree growers reported tree harvest began on November 3, as wholesale buyers raced to get trees cut, baled and into foreign markets by Thanksgiving. Evening temperatures early in the week dropped into the high teens resulting in increased hay sales to livestock owners. Home gardeners continued adding leaves to the compost pile.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: With half a foot of rain recorded this past week and another half foot predicted, the summer drought is over. The rains arrived just in time for the beginning of Christmas tree harvest.

Mason: Lows early in the week were near 18 degrees and highs later in the week were near 60 degrees, which kept vegetable growers on their toes. Almost eight inches of rain fell this past week, leaving many rivers and streams swollen and threatening to flood. Salmon were taking advantage of increased flows to swim upstream into smaller tributaries. Many pastures were saturated and livestock have been moved to winter pasture and confinement areas.

Mason (2nd Report): There were 5.75 inches of rain which fell between Friday evening and Sunday afternoon, a total deluge of rain combined with heavy winds. We started the past week with a hard frost for two days with morning temperatures of 20 to 22 degrees on Monday and Tuesday.

Pierce/South King: Rain, rain and more rain, crop conditions do not look good for the South Puget Sound area. The good news is most if not all of the crops have been harvested. Most of the area did experience a deep frost earlier in the week. No report of crop damage due to a weather related event.

Snohomish/King: Hard freezes early in the week and heavy rains mid-week slowed fieldwork. Green-chopping and manure spreading continued as weather allowed. Apple harvest was about over. Christmas tree farms were getting ready for their busy season.

Thurston: Sunny, brisk days provided the perfect weather for last minute pumpkin shopping at local farms. The month of October ended with evening temperatures dropping into the high teens in most parts of the county. Hay producers reported increased sales due to the cold weather. Heavy rainfall the latter part of the week resulted in surface water lakes on turf farms. Christmas tree harvest began at the end of the week as wholesale buyers raced to complete filling orders. Choose and cut tree farms were finishing top work on Noble fir. Home gardeners continued raking leaves.

Thurston (2nd Report): October was dry as a bone. November, flooding brought an end to the drought.

Whatcom: A five day rain has saturated fields creating standing water in lowlands. The Nooksack River is under flood watch.

Central

Chelan: Apple harvest was almost complete. Abnormal cold may have damaged some of the last few acres that were not yet harvested. Rain has all but stopped activity in the orchards.

Chelan/Douglas: Precipitation was received in the forms of rain and snow, along with cold temperatures and wind. Some producers reported frost damage to their late variety apples (Fuji, Pink Lady, and Braeburn).

Ferry: Light fall rains have ended the fire season and started to moisten topsoil. This has also increased palatability of range grasses.

Grant: Potato harvest is complete. Processing carrot harvest was also winding down. Recent rains have helped the moisture profile in the dry land regions of the county.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 15 degrees below normal to six degrees above normal, with 0.35 of an inch of precipitation. Some producers reported damage to unharvested apples due to the freezing weather conditions.

Eastern

Adams/Lincoln: Precipitation last week helped maintain soil moisture conditions but overall additional precipitation is needed to maintain and enhance soil moisture and winter wheat conditions.

Adams (2nd Report): Nice rains over the weekend provided a shot in the arm to dry land wheat conditions, and should be enough to get annual grasses started in the rangeland.

Asotin/Garfield: Rain over the weekend was a welcome change from the past dry weather. It will be very beneficial to winter wheat and rangeland. Seeding was complete for most producers.

Lincoln: Recent rains and some snow should have helped winter wheat crop tolerate cold temperatures received during the week. More ranchers began supplemental feeding of their livestock.

Pend Oreille: Temperatures were 54 degrees for the highs and 2 degrees for the lows with snow and rain mix. The ground froze then thawed several times during the past week with numerous snow and rain storms. Any crops that were left in fields were not salvageable due to freezing weather, rain and snow. All fieldwork has stopped. Livestock were feeding on stubble left in hay fields and baled hay. Hogs have been butchered or were in the process of being butchered, along with other livestock that were not going to be kept over the winter. This area has started to shut down for the winter.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: This week saw a mixed bag of weather. Temperatures that got very cold for the week with lows recorded in the county from five degrees to 55 degrees. From one extreme to another. We did pick up some rain this week. Approximately 0.5 to 0.75 of an inch after the cold weather left. Most of the fieldwork was completed with a little clean up remaining. Winter wheat was very slow growing now that there is moisture. Rain was too late for pasture grasses, but hopefully it will help for next year.

Stevens: A taste of winter hit the area with temperatures in the lower teens. Good moisture was received at the end of the week as the cold front moved out and Pacific storms came through. Cows were being moved to winter feeding grounds and calves continued to move to market. Calves were bringing a substantial discount over last year's prices.

Walla Walla: The rains came just in time for the fall seeded wheat. Pastures were starting to green up a little after the rain. The cold snap didn't hurt much. Livestock were on fall feed.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): It was 15 degrees overnight most of last week switching to 50 degrees overnight this past weekend. Much welcomed rain showers began on Saturday and continued. Crops were soaking it up!

Whitman: Rainfall has come on real strong in the month of November. Colfax shows 2.63 inches through the end of the reporting week. The rainfall will be very beneficial to newly seeded winter wheat.

Weekly Weather Statistics

November 6, 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	24	62	45	-3	12	5	0	0	1.56	0.52	4	4.65	-1.45	76	24
Everett	29	58	46	-2	10	3	0	0	1.34	0.37	4	4.91	-1.03	83	24
Hoquiam	29	59	50	-1	20	6	0	0	3.27	1.24	4	6.53	-4.40	60	21
Kelso	21	59	45	-4	9	1	0	0	2.33	1.06	4	5.22	-1.88	74	19
Olympia	19	58	44	-2	12	12	0	0	3.89	2.34	4	5.91	-1.80	77	20
Sea-Tac	30	60	47	-2	12	5	0	0	3.52	2.40	4	6.24	0.31	105	19
Shelton	17	58	44	-4	12	5	0	0	6.26	4.29	4	9.27	-0.33	97	21
Tacoma	16	61	45	-4	17	10	0	0	2.23	1.07	4	4.17	-1.89	69	15
Vancouver	24	63	47	-2	13	6	0	0	2.85	1.76	4	4.48	-1.49	75	20
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	11	59	35	-6	0	0	0	0	0.21	0.00	2	0.60	-0.60	50	11
Stampede Pass	18	48	32	-3	0	0	0	0	3.64	1.33	5	11.05	-0.57	95	25
Wenatchee	19	52	35	-9	0	-1	0	0	0.24	0.04	3	0.74	-0.26	74	10
Yakima AP	10	62	36	-9	0	-2	0	0	0.27	0.10	2	1.08	0.08	108	9
NORTHEAST															
Colville	14	57	35	-5	0	0	0	0	0.57	0.11	5	2.05	-0.67	75	14
Deer Park	6	56	34	-7	0	0	0	0	1.01	0.56	5	3.34	1.03	145	15
Spokane AP	14	57	35	-5	0	0	0	0	0.64	0.26	4	1.91	-0.09	96	11
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	19	48	36	-8	0	-7	0	0	0.11	-0.06	2	0.85	-0.08	91	11
Moses Lake	11	55	36	-9	0	-7	0	0	0.17	0.00	3	0.89	-0.04	96	14
Quincy	13	49	36	-8	0	0	0	0	0.15	-0.06	2	0.62	-0.44	58	10
Ritzville	13	57	36	-6	1	1	0	0	0.64	0.36	3	1.29	-0.27	83	10
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	19	63	39	-9	2	-12	0	0	0.22	0.06	3	1.27	0.40	146	12
Pasco	14	65	39	-8	11	1	0	0	0.31	0.10	4	1.13	0.09	109	14
Pullman	16	61	40	-3	7	5	0	0	0.95	0.44	4	2.47	-0.32	89	15
Whitman Miss.	9	68	37	-9	11	4	1	1	0.28	-0.07	3	1.60	-0.36	82	15
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	14	55	36	-8	1	-2	0	0	0.60	0.00	3	1.41	-1.83	44	9
Lewiston ID	20	67	44	-3	16	9	0	0	0.28	0.07	3	1.37	-0.46	75	13

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday 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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