



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: November 13, 2006  
Week Ending: November 12, 2006  
CWP WA-CW4606

## Flooding, Snow and Wind across the State

Rain throughout the state and flooding in the western area has brought most fieldwork to a halt with 2.6 days suitable. Temperatures continued to decrease with snow in the mountains and passes accompanied by high winds. Winter wheat benefited from the increased rainfall. Christmas tree harvest was in full swing in spite of the rain, snow and mud. Hay supplies were reported scarce in some areas as producers reported being sold out. CRP participants were busy seeding or tilling CRP land and all producers were busy cleaning up from the storms or preparing for them.

### Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 6% very poor, 11% poor, 13% fair and 70% good. Calves continued to be shipped to the market, and supplemental feeding of hay and grain continued. Cattle were being moved to pastures on higher ground, where flooding would not occur.

### Fruit and Vegetables

Apple harvest was completed and some producers reported damage from freezing weather conditions. Processed carrot harvest was halted due to increased rainfall.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	2.6
Last Week	4.3

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	1	11	56	32
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	7	33	54	7
Subsoil	2	25	71	2
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	11	40	46	3
Irrigation Water	0	8	89	3
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	1	5	94	0
Hay & Roughage	5	22	68	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 Emerged	97	91	93	95
Potatoes Harvested	100	99	97	99
Corn Harvested	97	95	99	71

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	5	37	54	3
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	8	92	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

**Clark:** Direct marketers had a break as wet weather kept them indoors.

**Clark/Skagit/Cowlitz/Wahkiakum:** Rain and flooding was affecting all cropland in the area. The rains halted carrot harvest in Cowlitz County as fields were saturated by standing water. Pastures were in poor condition due to ground saturation.

**Grays Harbor:** Ag producers were digging out from two major storm events this past week. Early in the week nearly ten inches of rain resulted in moderate flooding of the Chehalis, Satsop, and Wynoochee rivers. Ag producers raced to get farm equipment to higher ground not subjected to flood waters. Later in the week, the county was blasted with a major windstorm that has resulted in numerous downed trees and debris on the majority of farms throughout the county. Power outages due to the strong winds resulted in challenges to all ag producers. It was too early to determine the full impact of the high winds. Heavy rain showers hampered cleanup efforts from the floods. Christmas tree growers continued harvesting trees under less than ideal conditions. Although harvest conditions have been a challenge, optimistic growers pointed out that trees harvested in pouring rain retain a high degree of quality due to non-drying of the needles. Commercial dahlia growers continued digging tubers in between rain showers.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** Heavy rain fell throughout the week causing lowland flooding in virtually all areas. The Cowlitz Valley experienced record flooding. Soils were saturated for the first time since last winter. Christmas tree harvest was in full swing in spite of the muddy conditions.

**Mason:** The area had a complete turn-a-round in terms of precipitation—11.7 inches of rain fell with the steady pounding of a strong Pacific storm system. Periods of calm weather gave producers enough time to move hay around to feeding areas and clean up downed limbs. Pastures were going dormant for the winter due to the influx of cold rain. Farmers were hunkering down for the next round of rain predicted to hit this week. Winds were also expected to pick up.

**Pierce/S. King:** Crop conditions were not good with all the rain received during the week. There was flooding along the Puyallup and Carbon rivers in Pierce County and along the Green, White and Cedar rivers in south King County. Standing water in most fields made fieldwork very difficult. There was no report of any crop damage or field damage due to the heavy rains and flooding. There was possible damage to buildings and equipment.

**Skagit:** High temperatures for the week averaged 50 degrees, and there was 2.9 inches of precipitation recorded at the

Extension Center in west Mount Vernon. Potato harvest was still underway. However, with all the rain many harvesters were parked for most of the week. Dairy farmers continued to milk cows 365 days of the year. About 1,500 acres of potatoes were still in the field in need of harvesting. The cost to produce an acre of potatoes is about \$1,500 per acre, which includes labor, seed, land rent, machinery cost, fuel, fertilizers and chemicals. This means there were over \$2 million worth of potatoes still in the ground that could be flooded or frozen if the temperature drops below 25 degrees Fahrenheit. The good news is that sales have been very good as grocery stores begin gearing up for the Thanksgiving holiday. The bad news—there is more rain in the forecast.

**Skagit/San Juan/Island:** Weather conditions were very wet with some flooding reported in low lying areas along the rivers and sloughs. Many fields had standing water, but it is difficult to determine crop losses at this time.

**Snohomish/King:** Heavy rains early in the week continued throughout the week. Severe flooding was reported in low lying areas and, fall plantings in those areas were wiped out. Lots of floating pumpkins, fences washed out and some loss of livestock were reported.

**Thurston:** Extreme weather conditions this past week kept ag producers totally focused on either preparing for or cleaning up storm damage. Rain accumulations of between eight and 10 inches early in the week resulted in moderate flooding on all major rivers and streams. Livestock producers were kept busy moving cattle to pastures not subject to flooding. Forage crop producers raced to get irrigation and other farm equipment to higher ground. Just as producers were starting to get flood debris cleaned up, the county was blasted with gale force winds and heavy rain showers over the weekend. Preliminary reports indicate numerous downed trees, fallen fences, and copious amounts of debris on most farms. Since the strongest winds occurred Sunday night, it was too early to determine the extent of damage. Christmas tree growers struggled through the extreme weather conditions to continue with tree harvest which was difficult due to super-saturated field conditions and strong winds. Turfgrass growers expressed concern that newly planted fields have been under water for an entire week.

**Whatcom:** The Nooksack river crested on Monday and county executives signed an Emergency Declaration due to flooding caused by heavy rains. Flooding in the county reached its high point early Tuesday morning and then began to subside. Areas affected will require the removal of minor deposits of debris; however, no damage to crops or livestock was apparent.

## Central

**Benton:** Cold weather and precipitation was received the last couple of days of the week, with some strong winds of 20-50 mph.

**Chelan:** Harvest was complete. Rain was heavy at times. Activity in orchards was uncommon.

**Chelan/Douglas:** Heavy precipitation in the form of rain and snow was received during the week. Some flooding occurred; however, no damage to crops or livestock has been reported.

Apple harvest was complete. Some growers contacted the FSA offices regarding late variety apple losses due to recent freezing temperatures. Cattle producers were taking advantage of emergency grazing of CRP acreage due to pasture lost because of area fires.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures varied from one to 20 degrees above normal, with 0.29 inches of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Another week with beneficial rains had winter wheat conditions improving to very good overall and got annuals started on rangeland. It was a good overall start to the 2007 crop year.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Rain during the week helped replenish soil moisture in most areas. There were reports of small amounts of runoff in some areas. Rain totals were disappointing in several areas of Asotin County. Windy conditions prevailed throughout the week, and high winds Sunday night caused damage to trees and buildings.

**Ferry:** Some southern areas of the county received heavy rains, but the northern areas had light rainfall and a few inches of snow.

**Ferry/Okanogan:** Apple harvest was complete. Cattle producers were still weaning and selling their calf crop. Cattle were still on fall pastures. The county received heavy precipitation during the week.

**Garfield:** Very high winds, rain, and cold weather were seen throughout the week. Wheat began emerging. Snow was received in the mountains, but the temperature was too warm for the snow to last.

**Pend Oreille:** The high temperature for the week was 54 degrees and the low was 16. The fields were saturated with water as the ground was frozen, and the area was inundated with rain and snow all week. Ten inches of rain with snow flurries

was received in five days. Some snow remained in shaded areas. Livestock feeding was being supplemented with hay and grain. All ground work came to a halt due to weather conditions.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** The week was wet and windy with very little fieldwork being done. A fairly good rain was received every day. Temperatures warmed up and surprisingly enough the winter wheat began to grow. There was more emergence than before the cold snap. The wind was a real problem with trees blowing over and loss of power at times.

**Stevens:** Seasonal temperatures and a little above normal rainfall were received during the week. Field operations were nearly complete for the season. A little fall plowing was still taking place. Winter wheat was emerging.

**Stevens (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The county received rain or snow nearly every day during the week. Local hay supplies were getting tight as many producers were sold out. Calves continued to be moved to market.

**Walla Walla:** Substantial rainfall was received throughout the week. Crops looked good despite heavy winds.

**Whitman:** More rainfall was added to already impressive totals for the month of November. High winds late in the week accompanied the rains. Some operations were still working on fall tillage or seeding CRP.

## Weekly Weather Statistics

November 13, 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	34	60	48	4	9	2	0	0	3.58	2.43	6	8.23	0.98	114	30
Everett	38	60	48	3	8	1	0	0	2.92	1.82	6	7.83	0.79	111	30
Hoquiam	42	60	51	3	15	6	0	0	10.71	8.42	7	17.24	4.02	130	28
Kelso	43	63	51	6	17	10	0	0	6.58	5.11	7	11.80	3.23	138	26
Olympia	36	62	48	5	12	9	0	0	9.79	7.99	7	15.70	6.19	165	27
Sea-Tac	41	60	49	3	10	3	0	0	6.75	5.45	7	12.99	5.76	180	26
Shelton	36	61	47	2	9	2	0	0	11.49	9.21	7	20.76	8.88	175	28
Tacoma	37	63	49	4	14	7	0	0	6.29	4.95	6	10.46	3.06	141	21
Vancouver	43	67	53	7	25	18	3	3	6.31	5.03	7	10.79	3.54	149	27
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	31	63	46	9	11	11	0	0	1.11	0.85	4	1.71	0.25	117	15
Stampede Pass	31	56	38	8	0	0	0	0	19.04	16.36	7	30.09	15.79	210	32
Wenatchee	31	60	45	6	4	-3	0	0	1.03	0.79	2	1.77	0.53	143	12
Yakima AP	25	71	47	7	21	14	1	1	0.12	-0.09	1	1.20	-0.01	99	10
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	29	62	43	7	11	11	0	0	1.36	0.78	5	3.41	0.11	103	19
Deer Park	24	61	42	5	11	11	0	0	2.05	1.50	7	5.39	2.53	188	22
Spokane AP	31	61	44	7	12	12	0	0	1.52	1.05	6	3.43	0.96	139	17
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	31	68	47	7	15	8	0	0	0.46	0.25	3	1.31	0.17	115	14
Moses Lake	31	69	48	8	17	10	0	0	0.17	-0.04	5	1.06	-0.08	93	19
Quincy	31	67	47	8	11	7	0	0	0.81	0.57	4	1.43	0.13	110	14
Ritzville	32	61	46	7	11	10	0	0	1.55	1.20	6	2.84	0.93	149	16
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	33	74	51	6	29	21	9	9	0.08	-0.13	2	1.35	0.27	125	14
Pasco	33	72	53	9	32	25	9	9	0.36	0.15	4	1.49	0.24	119	18
Pullman	33	64	46	7	16	9	0	0	1.78	1.19	6	4.25	0.87	126	21
Whitman Miss.	32	75	53	11	36	29	10	10	0.77	0.35	6	2.37	-0.01	100	21
<b>ID PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D'A' AP	27	64	44	4	14	10	2	2	0.91	0.18	6	2.32	-1.65	58	15
Lewiston ID	36	68	52	9	30	23	6	6	1.05	0.77	4	2.42	0.31	115	17

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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