



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: June 25, 2007  
Week Ending: June 24, 2007  
CWP WA-CW2607

## While Mostly Dry Weather Allowed Alfalfa Growers To Continue Baling Grain Growers Were In Need Of Rain

### Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.3. Major grain growing counties have reported that wheat and barley has headed out but in real need of rain. First cutting of alfalfa continued and in general looks good as producers were able to bale under clear skies but Stevens County reported severe weevil infestation. In Spokane, bluegrass seed swathing had begun and dry edible peas were in bloom and looked promising. Christmas tree growers were finishing up insecticide and fungicide applications. Field corn, beans and potatoes were showing healthy growth.

### Fruits and Vegetables

Cherry harvest is in progress and some producers were blowing moisture off their cherry crop to prevent splitting. Strawberry harvest also began with some reports of high yield for first picking. Raspberries and blueberries were ripening. Sweet corn growers reported slow growth due to unseasonably cool temperatures while cannery peas were doing very well under nearly ideal growing conditions. In some areas, crops of cabbage, pumpkins and squash continue to be planted.

### Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 1% very poor, 5% poor, 22% fair, 72% good. On the west side, pasture rotations were on schedule and regrowth was normal. On the east side, pasture conditions continued dry.

#### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.3
Last Week	6.3

#### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	9	28	61	2
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	4	25	69	2
Subsoil	12	31	57	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	4	27	69	0
Irrigation Water	0	2	96	2
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	5	93	0
Hay & Roughage	1	14	83	2

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

#### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2006	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Headed	66	44	56	70
Winter Wheat Headed	98	87	97	97
Barley Headed	76	53	50	64
Potatoes Emerged	100	99	99	100
Corn Emerged	97	96	99	98
Corn Silked	5	NA	2	1
Proc. Green Peas Planted	100	99	100	100
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	17	8	31	12
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	91	87	92	94
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	21	3	24	16

#### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	11	29	52	6
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	4	58	38
Spring Wheat Dryland	4	19	42	33	2
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	4	11	79	6
Barley Dryland	3	8	42	45	2
Barley Irrigated	0	3	5	87	5
Potatoes	0	0	31	69	0
Corn	0	0	17	74	9
Dry Edible Beans	0	3	30	46	21

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

**Clallam/Jefferson:** Temperatures were averaging in the 60's with clouds. Corn and other seed crops were being planted.

**Clark:** Christmas tree producers from Washington and Oregon enjoyed their time together at the summer meeting and tour held in southwest Washington on June 22 and 23.

**Grays Harbor:** Sweet corn growers continued to report slow growth due to the unseasonably cool temperatures. Cannery peas on the other hand were doing very well under nearly ideal growing conditions. Agricultural producers welcomed heavy rain showers at the end of the week which quickly replenished soil moisture. Dairy producers were pumping manure lagoons on recently harvested forage fields. Christmas tree growers were finishing up on insecticide and fungicide applications. Cut-flower peony growers reported dwindling blooms as the season was nearly over. Greenhouse tomato growers reported prolific bloom and fruit set. Retail nurseries reported disappointing sales of both bedding plants and vegetable transplants due to the unseasonably cool temperatures.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** Due to the threat of showers, hay harvest was still on hold.

**Mason:** Rain over the weekend provided some much needed irrigation, especially for pastures and field crops. The temperatures were still a little on the cool side and food crops in general have been a little slower than normal. Crops grown in greenhouses and hoop houses were doing well and were further ahead as expected. Poultry producers were in full swing with the first pastured broilers close to market weight and new flocks of laying hens just starting to lay. Farmers markets were still doing well and reporting good sales numbers.

**Mason (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Cool marine conditions most of the week culminating in 0.2 inches of precipitation through the weekend which helped a little. Pasture rotations were maintained as scheduled and re-growth from the spring was normal. Irrigating despite the rain as the ground was dry.

**Pierce/S. King:** Crop conditions remained good. The cooler weather may have an effect on some crops but overall crops were looking good. No report of any unusual situations. No report of any crop damage due to a weather event.

**Skagit:** High temperatures for the week averaged 65 degrees Fahrenheit. There was 0.3 inches of precipitation recorded at

the WSU North West Research and Extension Center in West Mount Vernon. With cooler temperatures last week and 0.3 inches of rain in the lower delta Skagit Valley crops were growing like gang busters. This included grass, many area producers have begun to make hay and had it rained on. Fresh local strawberries were being sold at local stands.

**Skagit/Island/San Juan:** Cooler temperatures and minimal precipitation. Field work continued. Most crops were planted with the exception of cucumbers and broccoli.

**Snohomish/N. King:** After quite a few days of rain we had three days of continuous sun in the 60's and 70's. Crops of cabbage, pumpkins, squash, corn etc. were being planted.

**Snohomish/King:** Some rain fell during the week, followed by heavy downpour of rain and hail in many areas Sunday afternoon. There was possible crop damage in some fields. Crops and pastures were growing well but could use more sunny days. Strawberry harvest continued and raspberries and blueberries were ripening up.

**Thurston:** Unseasonably cool temperatures slowed plant growth on most crops. Heavy rain showers at the end of the week quickly replenished soil moisture. Some parts of the county reported nearly an inch of precipitation which occurred over the weekend. Christmas tree growers were especially pleased that the rain provided moisture to seedlings planted this spring. Livestock producers continued making haylage as the weather was not conducive to making baled hay. Turf grass growers reported a continuing strong demand for sod. The rain provided a temporary reprieve from irrigation of turf grass fields. U-Pick strawberry growers reported slow sales over the weekend due to heavy rain-showers. U-Pick blueberry growers reported fruit was rapidly ripening on Weymouth and other early varieties. Home gardeners reported the lack of heat units has resulted in slow growth of warm season vegetable crops.

**Whatcom:** Temperatures averaged 60 degrees with on and off rain showers throughout the week. Strawberry harvest began with a high yield first picking. The sugar content was down due to lack of sunshine, which only affected the fresh market producers. A few raspberry fields were being harvested as well. Corn, beans and potatoes were showing healthy growth.

## Central

**Douglas/Chelan:** Some rain received in the counties. Cherry harvest was in progress. Some producers were blowing the moisture off their cherry crop in order to prevent splitting. Winter and spring wheat crops were in need of moisture.

**Franklin:** Cooler than normal week with spotty precipitation and some breezy days. Overall, it was a good growing week with good weather for typical farming activities.

**Okanogan:** We had about one hot day this last week. The rest of the week was comfortable and then weather cooled off this weekend. Spotty thunderstorms occurred Sunday with some measurable precipitation in parts of the county. Some cherry orchards have begun harvest. First cutting of hay was almost done. There was some hay that was still down and waiting to be baled. Wheat was starting to turn color.

**Yakima:** Harvest in Yakima County picked up with bing and rainier cherries ripening. Cherry crop quality was superb. Scattered thundershowers on Sunday should not impact cherry quality as weather remained cool and a good breeze dried things off quickly. Green apple thinning activities continued. Apricots were coloring up nicely and early apricot harvest should begin within the week. Hops have reached the top of the trellis.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Average temperatures varied from seven degrees below normal to six degrees above normal, with 0.02 of an inch of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Winter and spring cereal crops were advancing as harvest was quickly approaching. Weed pressure and disease has been relatively low with fusarium root rot being reported. This was mostly related to hot dry conditions with limited precipitation.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Dry weather continued through the week. Cool temperatures were beneficial, but rain was needed in all areas. Most areas in Asotin County have suffered severe damage due to drought conditions. Garfield County conditions were somewhat better, but dry conditions will cause yield reductions there also.

**Ferry:** The first cutting of hay is done. Winter wheat crop looked good at this time due to some timely rains. Pasture conditions also looked good.

**Garfield:** A rain last night helped keep a dwindling winter wheat crop going. Cool temperatures last week. Some growers wondering what to do with burned winter wheat. Pasturing was not always available.

**Lincoln:** Winter and spring cereals continued to advance as harvest was approaching. Overall crop conditions remained pretty good with little reports of severe weed infestations or disease pressure at this time.

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Good growing temperatures experienced for crops with temperatures not getting too hot. There was also mostly good weather for harvesting hay crops as a lot of dry land hay was being cut and/or baled during the week.

**Lincoln (3<sup>rd</sup> Report):** The season was progressing well. Alfalfa and grass hay crops looked excellent. Wheat was progressing rapidly with warmer weather.

**Pend Oreille:** Temperatures for the highs were 85 degrees with the lows at 31 degrees with no precipitation. The lack of rain and winds has dried the soil. Crops were at a stand still. Pastureland was being eaten at a faster rate than it can recover. This year's hay crop has been stunted due to lack of rain and was predicted to be in short supply. Several farmers were notifying their clients that they may not have hay for sale this year. Livestock so far were doing well on pastures but without rain they will deplete pastures and go on what hay has been saved from last years crop.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** The lack of rainfall was becoming more critical to the growing crops as the days passed. Almost all the crops could use moisture. Hay cutting was progressing with approximately 50 percent of the first cutting complete. In Pend Oreille County, the timothy hay crop tonnage was going to be down due to a lack of significant rainfall. The crop was probably a couple of weeks away from cutting but was starting to dry out, so it might need to be cut earlier than normal. In Spokane, bluegrass seed swathing started this week. This was about a week early and the crop was average to below average from what was seen. Spring crops could really use some moisture and will need some soon if they are going to yield reasonably. Hay production is down compared to normal years. Pasture was drying out as well.

**Stevens:** First cutting hay harvest was at its peak. A good week for haymaking, dry but fairly cool. No rain for three weeks. We need our June average to maintain range and pasture conditions. Winter wheat was heading out and spring grains were progressing normally. Cereal leaf beetle survey indicates parasitism was keeping them in check.

**Stevens (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Hay producers cut and baled under clear skies with warm temperatures. The office continued to receive reports of several weevil damages in alfalfa crops. Grain crops were in average condition. The county could use another good rain.

**Stevens (3<sup>rd</sup> Report):** Very dry with no rain to speak of. If there's no rain within the next few days, most likely we will see crop damage or failure of spring plantings.

**Walla Walla:** The mild weather with some scattered showers. Green pea harvest was in full swing. Most grain looked average to above average. Some second cutting hay was started. Mountain grass has benefited from the rain showers.

**Walla Walla (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Crops looked good, and winter wheat was beginning to turn. Dry pea crops around the county looked very promising. Pastures remained in good condition.

**Whitman:** Peas were blooming; barley and winter wheat were headed out. Crops generally looked good. Not great but it should be an average crop for the Palouse. Rainfall and cooler temperatures have benefited crop development.

## Weekly Weather Statistics June 25, 2007

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	PCT		
	---	---	---	---	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	---	---	INCHES	DFN	NORMAL	DAYS
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham Intl	43	69	58	-2	59	-8	4	-8	0.27	-0.15	2	34.64	+1.50	105	160
Everett	45	71	58	-3	60	-13	4	-10	0.15	-0.31	2	31.17	-2.31	93	158
Hoquiam	48	67	59	+1	63	+7	3	-4	0.49	+0.04	4	67.83	+3.03	105	178
Kelso	43	81	60	-2	70	-5	11	-10	0.14	-0.32	1	38.96	-4.77	89	132
Olympia	41	80	58	-2	58	-10	5	-8	0.32	-0.03	2	54.36	+6.14	113	158
Seattle-Tacoma	48	81	61	-2	77	-6	15	-6	0.30	-0.05	1	42.74	+7.69	122	149
Shelton	40	78	57	-6	50	-32	3	-19	0.37	-0.02	4	73.86	+11.46	118	164
Tacoma WA AP	41	79	58	-4	60	-22	7	-14	0.35	-0.06	2	38.79	+1.00	103	148
Vancouver WA	47	85	63	+2	93	+11	26	+5	0.15	-0.20	1	37.11	-1.91	95	135
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	41	94	65	+1	105	+9	36	+1	0.04	-0.10	1	8.00	-0.23	97	77
Omak AP	42	91	64	+2	97	+6	30	-2	0.00	-0.28	0	9.28	-3.82	71	58
Stampede Pass	37	73	50	+1	22	+2	4	+4	0.42	-0.21	3	95.65	+18.50	124	172
Wenatchee	49	90	67	-2	121	-6	51	-9	0.00	-0.14	0	8.56	+1.01	113	50
Yakima AP	39	92	64	-3	98	-13	35	-11	0.00	-0.13	0	6.84	-0.51	93	59
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	41	87	64	+2	96	+8	28	-2	0.00	-0.32	0	13.74	-5.27	72	97
Deer Park	35	86	59	-5	62	-30	9	-23	0.00	-0.28	0	17.26	+0.54	103	109
Republic	36	86	59	-1	63	-5	14	-4	0.00	-0.35	0	13.14	-0.25	98	72
Spokane AP	46	86	64	+1	99	+4	34	+1	0.00	-0.28	0	14.09	-0.81	95	96
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	48	91	67	-4	119	-20	49	-23	0.00	-0.07	0	6.82	+0.25	104	64
Moses Lake	45	91	66	-4	115	-24	45	-27	0.00	-0.07	0	6.00	-0.57	91	62
Quincy	48	88	66	-2	111	-10	41	-12	0.00	-0.07	0	7.51	+0.37	105	48
Ritzville	44	90	65	+2	109	+12	40	+5	0.00	-0.14	0	10.16	-0.20	98	81
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	47	96	70	-4	138	-19	68	-20	0.00	-0.07	0	4.55	-1.40	76	47
Pasco	43	95	68	-4	126	-17	57	-17	0.00	-0.07	0	7.26	+0.37	105	69
Pullman	41	86	61	+1	78	+3	16	-7	0.00	-0.34	0	16.03	-3.18	83	101
Walla Walla Rgn	51	91	69	+0	136	+1	66	+0	0.00	-0.21	0	17.33	-0.64	96	88
Whitman Mission	42	93	67	+1	122	+5	52	+1	0.00	-0.19	0	12.67	+0.13	101	95
<b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b>															
Lewiston ID	50	94	70	+2	142	+13	72	+12	0.00	-0.28	0	8.42	-2.36	78	80

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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