



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS  
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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: August 6, 2007  
Week Ending: August 5, 2007  
CWP WA-CW3207

## Winter Wheat Harvest Continues; Sweet Corn Harvest Begins Range and Pasture Conditions Poor While Ranchers Consider Culling Herds

### Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 7.0. Wheat harvest continued in full swing through out the state. Counties continued to report that yields are slightly above average. A third cutting of hay was being harvested in all stages with good quality due to the dry weather. Bluegrass seed harvest was wrapping up with yields reported below average. Christmas tree growers continued shearing Doug and Grand fir, and also top working Noble fir.

### Fruits and Vegetables

Yakima County reported that peaches and nectarines were being color-picked while apple and pear growers were propping up heavily laden fruit tree branches. Blueberry harvest was still continuing strong. Winter crops such as carrots, onions, cauliflower and broccoli had been seeded. Large stands of sweet corn were being harvested. Cannery pea harvest had begun on the west side. A report of early harvest apples and stone fruit was received

### Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 3% very poor, 20% poor, 23% fair and 54% good. On the west side, cattle were doing well on grass. On the east side, dry conditions continued as range and dryland pastures have dried out and grasses cured. Knapweed and kochia are showing up. Livestock producers were preparing to wean early calves. Beef producers were talking about culling herd size due to high costs, hay shortages and dry conditions.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

| Week      | Days |
|-----------|------|
| This Week | 7.0  |
| Last Week | 6.6  |

### Moisture and Supply

| Item                      | Percent |    |    |   |
|---------------------------|---------|----|----|---|
|                           | VS      | SH | AD | S |
| Topsoil                   | 26      | 46 | 28 | 0 |
| Topsoil 5 Yr Avg          | 23      | 37 | 40 | 0 |
| Subsoil                   | 28      | 35 | 37 | 0 |
| Subsoil 5 Yr Avg          | 11      | 36 | 53 | 0 |
| Irrigation Water          | 3       | 6  | 91 | 0 |
| Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg | 4       | 6  | 90 | 0 |
| Hay & Roughage            | 4       | 17 | 76 | 3 |

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 Harvested               | 36                | 16        | 25   | 28         |
| Winter Wheat Harvested               | 58                | 38        | 51   | 49         |
| Barley Harvested                     | 32                | 22        | 20   | 24         |
| Potatoes Harvested                   | 27                | 19        | 27   | 27         |
| Corn Silked                          | 71                | 58        | 89   | 83         |
| Corn Dough                           | 32                | 31        | 17   | 21         |
| Corn Dented                          | 3                 | 1         | 17   | 17         |
| Proc. Green Peas Harvested           | 99                | 98        | 100  | 99         |
| Dry Peas Harvested                   | 68                | 60        | 58   | 45         |
| Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting              | 90                | 78        | 93   | 94         |
| Alfalfa Hay 33 <sup>rd</sup> Cutting | 29                | 8         | 17   | 31         |

### Crop Condition\*

| Crop                   | % Acreage |    |    |    |    |
|------------------------|-----------|----|----|----|----|
|                        | VP        | P  | F  | G  | EX |
| Winter Wheat Dryland   | 3         | 10 | 34 | 47 | 6  |
| Winter Wheat Irrigated | 0         | 0  | 9  | 62 | 29 |
| Spring Wheat Dryland   | 12        | 22 | 43 | 23 | 0  |
| Spring Wheat Irrigated | 0         | 3  | 21 | 68 | 8  |
| Barley Dryland         | 7         | 15 | 39 | 39 | 0  |
| Barley Irrigated       | 0         | 5  | 28 | 60 | 7  |
| Potatoes               | 0         | 1  | 13 | 85 | 1  |
| Corn                   | 0         | 0  | 13 | 70 | 17 |
| Dry Edible Beans       | 0         | 1  | 27 | 66 | 6  |

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:** The weather was beautiful. Highs were in the 60s and the lows in the 50s at night. Livestock were doing well on the grass and filling out. There was nothing unusual to report.

**Grays Harbor:** The thunderous roar of pea viners echoed across the rural landscape as cannery pea processors officially began their harvest on Monday, July 30. The pea harvest will continue for several more weeks. Sweet corn growers reported rapid plant growth due to temperatures in the low 80's. Another week with no rain rapidly decreased soil moisture with drought symptoms appearing in both pastures and hayfields. Greenhouse tomato growers reported rapid fruit development due to the warm temperatures. Livestock owners were reporting numerous and often prolific infestations of tansy ragwort in fields subjected to winter flooding along the Chehalis River. Home gardeners feasted on tomatoes, cucumbers, new potatoes, carrots and other warm season vegetable crops as they surveyed fruit trees for infestations of the Fall Webworm.

**Mason:** No precipitation was received but fairly moderate temperatures kept life pleasant both for working outside and the general progress of summer. The corn started tasseling and tomatoes were ripening. If anything it has been a little cool for this time of year. The surrounding woods were still green which is atypical for us this time of year and the burn ban was lifted due to the rain we had two weeks ago. All in all, this has been a comfortable summer and producers are very thankful for the lovely weather.

**Mason (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** No precipitation was received. Temperatures were in the mid 70s to mid 80s and made for a very pleasant week. It seemed most crops escaped from having too much trouble from the July rains. Blackberries were probably the hardest hit, but other crops were thriving because of it. Blueberries were still coming on strong and the first real push of ripe tomatoes and cucumbers started. Sweet corn also had its first harvest and green beans were coming on strong. Winter crops were seeded and transplants were sizing up in greenhouses. Pastures were looking great and were unseasonably green.

**Pierce/King:** There were no reports of any unusual situations or crop losses due to a weather event. The crop conditions in the South Puget Sound remained good.

**Skagit:** High temperatures averaged 73 degrees. There was no measurable precipitation recorded at the WSU North West Research and Extension Center in West Mount

Vernon. Local blueberries and blackberries were available. This year's pea harvest was almost complete. Yields were down this year. Wheat harvest was underway. This year's grass seed crop was finishing up harvest. Yields were down but prices remained steady. This year's spinach seed crop was currently being swathed or windrowed. This year's crop looked to be doing well. This year's bulb crop was being harvested with average yields. The potato crop was being topped and desiccated. Harvest will begin as early as next week. This year's cucumbers were being harvested, mostly by hand this year.

**Skagit/San Juan/Island:** The weather was warm and dry. No crop damages were reported.

**Snohomish/N. King:** The weather has been beautiful. There was no rain for several days now and the temperature highs were 70s and cool, lows were in the 50s at night. Crops were being harvested and hay was being cut and baled.

**Snohomish/N. King (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The area received a couple of light showers but no measurable precipitation in most areas. It was a good week for fieldwork but dry weather was slowing pasture growth. Irrigation was underway as soils dried out. Sweet corn was ripening. Harvesting should begin soon. Pumpkins had set fruit. Blueberry harvest continued. Apples were ripening. Apple maggot and codling moth damage was showing up in unsprayed home orchards.

**Thurston:** The area had another week of temperatures in the 80s and no rain has resulted in drought symptoms on forages in both pastures and hayfields. Turfgrass growers were kept busy with irrigation requirements. Christmas tree growers continued shearing Doug and Grand fir and also top working Noble fir. Home gardeners reported numerous infestations of Fall Webworm on deciduous trees and shrubs including tree fruit. Livestock owners were hand-pulling tansy ragwort plants in full bloom.

**Whatcom:** The area had a dry warm week. Irrigation was required for most crops. Green bean and blueberry harvest were beginning. Raspberries continued to be harvested with a reported yield down 10 to 20 percent. Potatoes were being sprayed for defoliation and some vines were being shredded in preparation for harvest.

## Central

**Benton:** The weather remained hot and dry. Range and dryland pastures were drying out. Harvest conditions were excellent.

**Douglas/Chelan:** Winter wheat harvest continued. Yields were average with some below average. Dry conditions were still being experienced. Spring wheat and barley crops were below average due to the dry conditions.

**Franklin:** It was a busy, solid weather week of farming. There was no precipitation anywhere all week. Wheat harvest continued strong all week with reports of better yields than average dryland yields and average irrigated. Onions and sweet corn were being harvested. Third cutting hay was being harvested in all stages at a good pace with good quality thanks to the favorable weather. Open market (fresh) potatoes were also being harvested as well as small acreage in early apples and the stone fruits.

**Garfield:** Harvest continued in higher country. It was too dry for pre-seeding work. Rain was needed. It was too hot and too dry.

**Kittitas:** Some timothy fields showed signs of root rot following hot day and night temperatures, especially in low or poorly drained areas. Rangeland pastures were very dry, and grasses cured in the heat. It has been a good year for knapweed and kochia. Livestock producers were preparing to wean early calves

**Klickitat:** The area continued to experience drought with no rain in sight.

**Klickitat (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Some cattle producers were grazing grain fields instead of harvesting poor crops.

**Okanogan:** Temperatures were finally cooling down a little. Like much of the state, the area was getting pretty dry. Producers were in the middle of second cutting of hay. Cherries had been harvested and now soft fruit harvest was underway.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures varied from 3 degrees below normal to 7 degrees above normal, with no precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Vegetable roadside stands were at peak capacity. Large stands of field and sweet corn were being harvested. Peaches and nectarines were being color-picked. Apple and pear growers were propping up heavily fruited trees.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Winter wheat harvest was nearly complete with most yields being reported as average. Hard red winter wheat yields have been ok but protein levels have been reported less than required to avoid discounts. Spring cereal harvest has been disappointing with yields being near single digits.

**Ferry:** Winter wheat harvest began. Soft fruit harvest continued.

**Lincoln:** Harvest was in full swing and will be nearing an end on the winter wheat harvest by the end of the week. Yield and quality reports have been similar to the rating of the crop with the majority being good and fair.

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The area had good weather during the week for harvesting crops with most yields reported to be average for winter wheat.

**Pend Oreille:** Temperature high was 94 degrees the low was 38 degrees with zero precipitation. Pastures were extremely dry with no moisture. Hay was in very short supply and livestock were on uncut hay fields.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** Winter wheat harvest had begun in most of the area. Bluegrass seed harvest was wrapping up with yields reported as below average. Pasture conditions remained dry with cattlemen looking for additional feed.

**Stevens:** Dry conditions continued. Beef producers were talking about drastic cut backs in herd size due to high costs, hay shortages, and dry conditions. Hay producers continued with second cutting. Wheat producers continued harvesting what appeared to be a good crop.

**Walla Walla:** Weather remained favorable for harvest. Crops looked good and reports were that yields were mostly average or above.

**Walla Walla (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Grain harvest was on the downhill run. Yields averages were about average. Dryland range was starting to show stress.

**Whitman:** Harvest was progressing county wide. The western part of the county was wrapping up with yield reports average to slightly below. Central and eastern areas started harvesting last week. There were few reports on yield or quality.

**Weekly Weather Statistics  
August 6, 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                | 48              | 78  | 63  | +0  | 92                  | +1  | 22       | -6  | 0.00             | -0.28 | 0    | 35.75             | +0.78  | 102    | 171  |  |
| Everett                        | 52              | 79  | 63  | -1  | 97                  | -1  | 27       | -1  | 0.01             | -0.27 | 1    | 33.07             | -2.20  | 94     | 169  |  |
| Hoquiam                        | 51              | 74  | 63  | +2  | 91                  | +14 | 21       | +7  | 0.01             | -0.23 | 1    | 71.32             | +4.73  | 107    | 193  |  |
| Kelso                          | 48              | 88  | 66  | +2  | 114                 | +9  | 44       | +9  | 0.00             | -0.23 | 0    | 39.81             | -5.43  | 88     | 138  |  |
| Olympia                        | 45              | 86  | 64  | -1  | 98                  | +0  | 28       | +0  | 0.00             | -0.21 | 0    | 56.75             | +7.30  | 115    | 168  |  |
| Seattle-Tacoma                 | 54              | 85  | 67  | +2  | 119                 | +7  | 49       | +7  | 0.05             | -0.14 | 1    | 44.71             | +8.52  | 124    | 162  |  |
| Shelton                        | 43              | 86  | 63  | -4  | 95                  | -17 | 25       | -17 | 0.00             | -0.21 | 0    | 77.28             | +13.49 | 121    | 174  |  |
| Tacoma WA AP                   | 46              | 85  | 64  | -3  | 97                  | -8  | 27       | -11 | 0.00             | -0.21 | 0    | 40.45             | +1.34  | 103    | 161  |  |
| Vancouver WA                   | 51              | 91  | 69  | +4  | 137                 | +27 | 67       | +25 | 0.00             | -0.21 | 0    | 37.87             | -2.36  | 94     | 142  |  |
| <b>CENTRAL</b>                 |                 |     |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                  |       |      |                   |        |        |      |  |
| Ellensburg                     | 49              | 98  | 73  | +4  | 159                 | +26 | 89       | +26 | 0.00             | -0.07 | 0    | 8.05              | -0.54  | 94     | 80   |  |
| Omak AP                        | 58              | 99  | 77  | +9  | 187                 | +55 | 117      | +54 | 0.00             | -0.21 | 0    | 10.40             | -3.73  | 74     | 62   |  |
| Stampede Pass                  | 41              | 79  | 57  | +2  | 54                  | +5  | 11       | +4  | 0.01             | -0.31 | 1    | 97.53             | +18.26 | 123    | 184  |  |
| Wenatchee                      | 60              | 97  | 76  | +2  | 184                 | +12 | 114      | +14 | 0.00             | -0.07 | 0    | 8.56              | +0.63  | 108    | 50   |  |
| Yakima AP                      | 46              | 98  | 71  | +1  | 152                 | +5  | 82       | +5  | 0.00             | -0.07 | 0    | 6.92              | -0.70  | 91     | 61   |  |
| <b>NORTHEAST</b>               |                 |     |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                  |       |      |                   |        |        |      |  |
| Colville                       | 50              | 99  | 73  | +6  | 162                 | +38 | 92       | +36 | 0.00             | -0.21 | 0    | 14.46             | -5.81  | 71     | 104  |  |
| Deer Park                      | 42              | 95  | 67  | -4  | 124                 | -16 | 54       | -16 | 0.00             | -0.14 | 0    | 17.78             | -0.06  | 100    | 112  |  |
| Republic                       | 43              | 94  | 66  | +1  | 111                 | +6  | 41       | +4  | 0.00             | -0.27 | 0    | 13.65             | -1.18  | 92     | 78   |  |
| Spokane AP                     | 54              | 95  | 72  | +2  | 158                 | +18 | 88       | +18 | 0.00             | -0.14 | 0    | 14.65             | -1.22  | 92     | 101  |  |
| <b>EAST CENTRAL</b>            |                 |     |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                  |       |      |                   |        |        |      |  |
| Ephrata                        | 60              | 98  | 77  | +1  | 188                 | +6  | 118      | +6  | 0.00             | -0.07 | 0    | 7.27              | +0.26  | 104    | 67   |  |
| Moses Lake                     | 53              | 98  | 73  | -4  | 165                 | -17 | 95       | -17 | 0.00             | -0.07 | 0    | 6.35              | -0.66  | 91     | 64   |  |
| Quincy                         | 57              | 97  | 74  | +3  | 172                 | +18 | 102      | +18 | 0.00             | -0.07 | 0    | 7.80              | +0.30  | 104    | 51   |  |
| Ritzville                      | 53              | 99  | 74  | +4  | 166                 | +26 | 96       | +26 | 0.00             | -0.07 | 0    | 10.47             | -0.46  | 96     | 83   |  |
| <b>SOUTHEAST</b>               |                 |     |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                  |       |      |                   |        |        |      |  |
| Hanford                        | 57              | 103 | 78  | -2  | 196                 | -7  | 126      | -7  | 0.00             | -0.07 | 0    | 4.66              | -1.55  | 75     | 49   |  |
| Pasco                          | 52              | 101 | 74  | -3  | 167                 | -14 | 97       | -13 | 0.00             | -0.07 | 0    | 7.28              | +0.12  | 102    | 70   |  |
| Pullman                        | 42              | 95  | 67  | +0  | 119                 | +0  | 49       | +0  | 0.00             | -0.17 | 0    | 16.44             | -3.87  | 81     | 105  |  |
| Walla Walla Rgn                | 58              | 100 | 76  | +0  | 185                 | +2  | 115      | +3  | 0.00             | -0.14 | 0    | 17.63             | -1.15  | 94     | 91   |  |
| Whitman Mission                | 45              | 100 | 72  | +0  | 156                 | +2  | 86       | +2  | 0.00             | -0.14 | 0    | 13.30             | +0.09  | 101    | 99   |  |
| <b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b> |                 |     |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                  |       |      |                   |        |        |      |  |
| Lewiston ID                    | 58              | 102 | 78  | +3  | 198                 | +19 | 128      | +22 | 0.00             | -0.14 | 0    | 8.67              | -3.08  | 74     | 84   |  |

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>  
 Washington Agricultural Statistics Service website: [http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics by State/Washington](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington)  
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