



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

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Washington Crop Weather

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Winter Wheat Harvest Draws to a Close as Farmers Start Cutting Spring Cereal Grains Pear and Apple Harvest Begins in the Yakima Valley Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.8. The winter wheat yields were average, and dry farm harvest was wrapping up as producers focused on irrigated winter wheat and spring cereal grains. Growers began to prepare for winter wheat seeding but were very concerned about the lack of soil moisture. Quite a bit of second cutting timothy hay was down, and the third cutting of alfalfa was in full swing. Norkota potato harvest began in Grant County. Christmas tree growers reported aphid infestations on Noble fir, and onion and carrot seed harvest continued.

Fruits and Vegetables

Bartlett pear harvest had begun throughout the lower to mid-Yakima Valley. Growers also started harvesting early Golden apple varieties including Gingergold apples. Snohomish County reported that blueberry harvest had slowed down, blackberries were ripening, and early apples were being picked. Elsewhere, sweet corn was being harvested but just tasseling out in some counties. Raspberry growers were busy with pruning operations, and cranberry growers continued with irrigation and weed control. With warmer summer temperatures, many shellfish farmers were under a five-hour rule for harvest operations, requiring that oysters be refrigerated no later than five hours after harvest. Cannery pea harvest continued with good yields reported.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 4% very poor, 20% poor, 19% fair and 57% good. On the west side, range and pasture conditions were good, and operators put haylage up under nearly ideal conditions. While on the east side, conditions were difficult and producers were supplementing cattle with feed. A shortage of inexpensive hay has cattlemen making determinations as to whether to cut cattle numbers or buy expensive feed.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.8
Last Week	7.0

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	26	34	40	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	23	35	42	0
Subsoil	33	34	33	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	12	35	53	0
Irrigation Water	5	5	90	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	5	8	87	0
Hay & Roughage	5	20	72	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	55	36	50	48
Winter Wheat Harvested	84	58	75	68
Barley Harvested	53	32	37	43
Potatoes Harvested	35	27	31	32
Corn Silked	86	71	94	93
Corn Dented	4	3	27	23
Corn Silage Harvested	2	NA	14	9
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	100	99	100	99
Dry Peas Harvested	80	68	77	64
Alfalfa Hay 2 nd Cutting	95	90	96	97
Alfalfa Hay, 3 rd Cutting	50	29	42	50

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Spring Wheat Dryland	13	24	40	23	0
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	5	21	64	10
Barley Dryland	8	18	33	41	0
Barley Irrigated	0	2	21	57	20
Potatoes	0	2	12	85	1
Corn	0	0	12	68	20
Dry Edible Beans	0	3	22	66	9

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 temperatures have been in the high 60s with lows in the 50s. There were no unusual conditions to report.

Grays Harbor: Cool, cloudy weather prevailed throughout much of the week. Rain showers over the weekend helped to alleviate kinder dry conditions in forests. Cannery pea harvest continued with good yields reported. U-Pick blueberry farms reported excellent yields and fruit quality with high demand for fruit. Christmas tree growers continued shearing Noble and Douglas fir. Home gardeners reported heavy infestations of fall webworm and expressed disappointment over the lack of fruit set in home orchards. Livestock owners continued making haylage under nearly ideal conditions.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Unseasonably cool weather continued to dominate the weather scene with occasional light showers. Crops were generally doing well, although rain showers were a bit of a frustration for those with late season hay.

Jefferson: Temperatures have been unusually cold this summer. Many farmers were having light crops because of the late rain and cold temperatures. Haying proceeded as normal, and soils were dry.

Mason: With the cool, sometimes foggy mornings and temperatures in the 70's during the week, it felt like September. There was a trace of precipitation during the week. Sweet corn began tasseling or was in full tassel. Tomatoes were being harvested, and Gravenstein apples and figs were ready to be harvested. Farmer's Markets were in full swing, and pastures looked good.

Pacific: Dry conditions kept growers busy with mid-season field activities. Raspberry growers were active with pruning operations, and cranberry growers continued irrigation and weed control efforts. With warmer summer temperatures, many shellfish farmers were under a five-hour rule for harvest operations--which required that oysters be refrigerated no later than five hours after harvest. Livestock were on summer pasture forage, and late haying operations were complete.

Pierce/S. King: Crops were looking good in the South Puget Sound area. There were no unusual situations to report and no reports of crop damage due to a weather event.

Skagit: High temperatures for the week averaged 66 degrees. There was no measurable precipitation recorded at the WSU Northwest Research and Extension Center in west Mount Vernon. The pea harvest was almost complete. Yields were down this year, but peas were a very important rotational crop for the Valley's soils. Wheat harvest was underway. The cabbage seed crop was being cut and was drying in the sun before harvest. The spinach crop was being swathed or windrowed. The bulb onion crop was finishing up. Once the harvest is complete, farmers will begin planting next year's crop. The potato harvest was being topped and desiccated, and harvest will begin soon. Cucumbers were being harvested mostly by hand this year. Hand picked cucumbers were more valuable because more of the small baby gherkins get picked by hand.

Snohomish/N. King: Scattered showers were received during the week. Some areas received about 0.25 of an inch mid-week. Farmers continued irrigation as needed. Corn was growing well. Sweet corn harvest should begin soon. Blueberry harvest slowed down. Blackberries were ripening. The earliest apples were being picked.

Snohomish/N. King (2nd Report): Temperatures have been in the low 70s during the day and 50s at night. Producers were near the end of harvesting peas, beginning to harvest grass seed, and planning to harvest wheat in two weeks.

Thurston: Rain showers over the weekend did little to alleviate drought conditions on non-irrigated pastures and hay fields. Blueberry harvest peaked, with growers reporting good yields and excellent fruit quality. Turfgrass growers continued to cultivate fields for fall planting. Christmas tree growers reported aphid infestations on Noble fir. Livestock owners continued to hand pull and apply herbicides to tansy ragwort in pastures and hayfields. Home gardeners continued battling numerous infestations of fall webworm. It was a week of unseasonably cool temperatures with rain showers over the weekend, which convinced many that fall was in the air.

Whatcom: It was another beautiful week of summer. Temperatures were not too hot, and a little rain was received on Saturday. Raspberry harvest was complete. Blueberries and green beans were in full harvest. Potatoes continued to be devined in preparation for harvest. Field corn was thriving.

Central

Franklin: Temperatures were slightly cooler than normal and no precipitation was received during the week. Harvest and farming activities continued.

Grant: The third cutting of alfalfa was in full swing. Bulb onions were being laid down. Wheat harvest was winding down in the dryland areas, and irrigated wheat harvest continued. Dryland winter wheat seeding will begin shortly. Onion and carrot seed harvest was underway. Norkota potato harvest began.

Klickitat: Cool nights and milder daytime temperatures were received most of the week, but daytime temperatures of 90 degrees were predicted for the coming week.

Livestock growers had concerns about the availability of hay for this winter.

Klickitat (2nd Report): The drought continued with no rain in sight.

Yakima: Bartlett pear harvest began throughout the lower to mid-Yakima Valley. Growers also began harvesting early Golden Delicious and Gingergold apples.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures varied from seven degrees above normal to five degrees below normal, with no precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to weather conditions reported.

Eastern

Adams: Harvest was complete as producers began to focus on winter wheat seeding. Overall, moisture will be a bigger concern than in recent years with surface and subsoil conditions being mostly in short supply.

Ferry: Dry conditions continued. Grasshoppers were becoming a problem for many producers.

Garfield/Asotin: Dry weather allowed farmers to proceed with harvest without interruption. Crop yields were reported to be average in some areas to well below average in other areas. Spring crops suffered the most due to drought conditions. Rangeland and pastures were still in poor condition, and water supplies were becoming more limited as the dry weather persists.

Lincoln: Winter wheat wrapped up as producers focused on spring cereal harvest.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Wheat harvest continued. Yield reports were average to a little below average. Spring crop yields for wheat, peas, and lentils were well below average due to the lack of rain during the normal growing

season. Pasture conditions were very dry, and a number of producers were already supplementing feed for livestock. A shortage of inexpensive hay had cattlemen making determinations as to whether to cut cattle numbers or buy expensive feed. The peach harvest began on Green Bluff, with a good crop expected.

Stevens: Several producers finished the second cutting of hay. Harvest progressed under clear skies, with yields average to above average. Pastures were drying up, along with water sources. Cattle producers continued culling animals due to feed shortages and high priced hay.

Walla Walla: Harvest was going well. The weather remained favorable for harvest and hay. Irrigation was restricted to those with very good water rights.

Whitman: Harvest was moving along very quickly. Most of the winter wheat has been cut, with the exception of the northeastern area of the county. Yields were average to a little below average. Spring crops were being cut in some areas.

Weekly Weather Statistics
August 13, 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	
WEST																
Bellingham Intl	46	68	60	-3	74	-17	10	-18	0.00	-0.28	0	35.75	+0.50	101	171	
Everett	52	68	60	-5	72	-26	3	-30	0.13	-0.15	3	33.20	-2.35	93	172	
Hoquiam	51	69	62	+1	86	+7	17	+3	0.16	-0.12	3	71.48	+4.61	107	196	
Kelso	45	79	62	-3	88	-17	19	-20	0.06	-0.22	1	39.87	-5.65	88	139	
Olympia	43	76	61	-4	79	-19	11	-24	0.01	-0.23	1	56.76	+7.07	114	169	
Seattle-Tacoma	52	74	63	-4	94	-18	24	-19	0.00	-0.21	0	44.71	+8.31	123	162	
Shelton	41	73	61	-6	76	-36	10	-32	0.07	-0.14	2	77.35	+13.35	121	176	
Tacoma WA AP	44	74	62	-4	84	-21	15	-24	0.00	-0.26	0	40.45	+1.08	103	161	
Vancouver WA	50	81	65	+0	109	+4	39	-3	0.03	-0.19	1	37.90	-2.55	94	143	
CENTRAL																
Ellensburg	44	91	68	-2	128	-5	58	-5	0.00	-0.07	0	8.05	-0.61	93	80	
Omak AP	47	92	71	+3	146	+20	76	+18	0.00	-0.21	0	10.40	-3.94	73	62	
Stampede Pass	43	69	52	-5	19	-30	0	-13	0.26	-0.11	1	97.79	+18.15	123	185	
Wenatchee	54	91	72	-3	154	-14	84	-14	0.00	-0.07	0	8.56	+0.56	107	50	
Yakima AP	45	91	68	-4	124	-16	54	-16	0.00	-0.07	0	6.92	-0.77	90	61	
NORTHEAST																
Colville	44	90	68	+2	130	+11	60	+7	0.02	-0.19	1	14.48	-6.00	71	105	
Deer Park	37	88	64	-7	97	-41	27	-42	0.00	-0.14	0	17.78	-0.20	99	112	
Republic	37	84	63	-3	91	-9	23	-16	0.00	-0.28	0	13.65	-1.46	90	78	
Spokane AP	51	86	68	-3	125	-14	55	-15	0.00	-0.14	0	14.65	-1.36	92	101	
EAST CENTRAL																
Ephrata	50	91	71	-6	146	-31	76	-31	0.00	-0.03	0	7.27	+0.23	103	67	
Moses Lake	45	91	69	-7	138	-39	68	-39	0.00	-0.03	0	6.35	-0.69	90	64	
Quincy	46	88	70	-3	138	-11	68	-12	0.00	-0.07	0	7.80	+0.23	103	51	
Ritzville	51	90	69	-1	137	-3	67	-3	0.00	-0.07	0	10.47	-0.53	95	83	
SOUTHEAST																
Hanford	49	93	71	-8	151	-49	81	-50	0.00	-0.07	0	4.66	-1.62	74	49	
Pasco	44	93	71	-5	149	-26	79	-26	0.00	-0.07	0	7.28	+0.05	101	70	
Pullman	38	87	64	-4	100	-19	30	-19	0.00	-0.21	0	16.44	-4.08	80	105	
Walla Walla Rgn	53	89	72	-4	158	-24	88	-23	0.00	-0.14	0	17.63	-1.29	93	91	
Whitman Mission	39	91	69	-3	137	-11	67	-12	0.00	-0.14	0	13.30	-0.05	100	99	
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE																
Lewiston ID	50	92	74	-2	168	-7	98	-7	0.00	-0.14	0	8.67	-3.22	73	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>
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