



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: September 17, 2007
Week Ending: September 16, 2007
CWP WA-CW3807

Apple Harvest Continued As Soft Fruit Harvest Peaked; Rain Needed

Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.7. The weather remains favorable for hay growers. The third cutting of alfalfa was nearly complete, and farmers with water were harvesting a fourth cutting. The garbanzo bean harvest was wrapping up in Whitman County, and the seeding of winter wheat continued throughout. Grain growers were concerned about the dry conditions and needed moisture for good germination. Christmas tree growers continued shearing and doing top work on Noble fir.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, cool nights were reported but no frost occurrences. Soft fruit harvest had peaked with a few late varieties left to pick. Apple harvest continued with Golden Delicious, Granny Smith and Honeycrisp crops coming in. Several Red Delicious and Fuji apple orchards were mowed and bins set out as harvest for the later apple varieties was anticipated within the next couple of weeks. Chelan County reported the pear harvest was about 75% complete and fruit quality was good. The Skagit County cabbage crop benefited from a weekend rain.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 13% very poor, 20% poor, 22% fair, 38% good and 7% excellent. Ferry County reported that cattle were coming down from range land hills due to lack of water. There were high volumes of auction yard activity due to dry conditions.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.7
Last Week	6.8

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	17	48	35	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	21	39	38	2
Subsoil	27	47	26	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	12	36	52	0
Irrigation Water	3	5	92	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	4	7	89	0
Hay & Roughage	8	22	70	0

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	100	99	100	100
Winter Wheat Planted	50	39	43	46
Winter Wheat Emerged	20	*	*	14
Potatoes Harvested	65	52	62	59
Corn Silked	97	96	100	100
Corn Dough	80	75	89	94
Corn Dented	60	55	68	71
Corn Mature	35	30	47	43
Corn Harvested	5	NA	9	2
Corn Silage Harvested	20	19	29	27
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	68	58	58	49
Alfalfa Hay, 3 rd Cutting	98	95	97	96
Alfalfa Hay, 4 th Cutting	35	19	-1.00	-1.00

NA=Not Applicable

* No Historical Data Available

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	0	10	69	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: Highs were in the 60's and the lows were in the 50's with not much moisture.

Grays Harbor: Most sweet corn fields were "topped" in anticipation of harvest which is slated to begin in another week. Daffodil growers continued harvesting dug bulbs which have been curing in crates in the field. Christmas tree growers were applying herbicides to control wild blackberries in their plantations. U-Pick vegetable growers reported excellent sales of sweet corn and other warm season vegetable crops. Commercial peony growers were digging and dividing plants for mail order sales. Greenhouse tomato growers reported excellent flavor quality resulting in strong sales. Livestock producers continued applying herbicides to pastures for the control of tansy ragwort. The area had heavy rain showers at the end of the week and unseasonably cool temperatures validated that fall had arrived.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Fall weather began to settle in with damp crisp mornings. Small grain harvest was completed and sweet corn harvest was under way. Corn silage harvest was about to begin.

Mason: Ten inches of precipitation were received on Sunday. The area had cool and dry weather all week with overcast days and some sunny afternoons. Producers were furiously harvesting tomatoes and corn for the farmer's market. It looked like the end of our seasonal fruits and vegetables and growers started preparing fields for cover crops and dormancy. Nights temperatures were still around 48 to 55 degrees.

Pierce/S. King: Crops still looked good in the South Puget Sound area. No unusual situations to report. No report of any crop damage due to weather events.

Skagit: High temperatures for the week averaged 68 degrees Fahrenheit. There was three tenth an inch of precipitation recorded at the WSU North West Research and Extension Center in West Mount Vernon. The 2008 cabbage seed crop benefited from this weekend's rain, as many seed farmers were considering irrigating. This weekend's rain adversely affected the 2007 beet seed crop. Spinach seed harvest was completed. This year's crop will be below average due to rains during harvest. Area bulb farmers were planting their 2008 crop. One area bulb farmer already had all his Daffodils in the ground. Potato harvest was 15 percent completed. This year's cucumbers were finishing up for the season. Local corn was being marketed around the county.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: Nights were cool but days had been warm; sunny and dry with some fog and occasional overcast skies. Corn was about two weeks behind in maturation for silage but yields were expected to be high. No crop damage reported for other crops.

Snohomish/N. King: We had several days of highs in the 70's and lows in the 50's. Mornings were foggy with no burn-off until afternoon. Moisture content was up slightly even without any recent rain.

Thurston: Agricultural producers took advantage of sunny days with no rain and continued fall chores. Turfgrass growers continued preparing fields for seeding and mowing established fields. Cereal grain producers took advantage of the dry weather to bale straw. Christmas tree growers continued shearing and doing top work on Noble fir. Livestock producers took advantage of nearly ideal conditions to harvest a final crop of hay for the season. Heavy rain showers at the end of the week convinced most agricultural producers that the summer had transitioned into fall. Home gardeners were harvesting grapes, apples and pears.

Whatcom: A light rain descended on the area Sunday. The non irrigated pastures were much in need of moisture. Corn for silage was also showing stress from the long period of dry weather. Harvest of corn silage was well underway. The majority of potatoes had been harvested to date. Cutting of grass silage continued along with irrigation for maximum yields. Matured apples showed scarring from the hail storm experienced in early spring.

Central

Benton: Hay movement was brisk.

Chelan: Pear and apple harvest continued. The pear harvest was about 75 percent completed; the apple harvest will increase as the major varieties were just starting to come on. Apple harvest will continue through early November. Labor was short, with most growers operating with fewer pickers than they would normally hire. Fruit quality looked excellent.

Douglas/Chelan: Emergence of winter wheat was light on ridges and hillsides due to dry conditions. Spring wheat yields were below normal. Apple harvest continued. Range and pasture conditions were below normal due to low precipitation this fall. A fire occurred East of Mansfield to Banks Lake, which scorched over 2,000 acres of pasture and CRP acreage.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from normal to 7 degrees above normal, with a trace of precipitation. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Yakima (2nd Report): Cool nights, but no frosts reported in the Valley. Soft fruit harvest had peaked with a few late varieties left to pick. Apple harvest continued with Golden Delicious, Granny Smith and Honeycrisp crops coming in. Several Red Delicious and Fuji apple orchards were mowed and bins set out as harvest for the later apple varieties was anticipated to begin within the next couple weeks.

Eastern

Adams: The area had another dry week. The dry weather was beneficial for emergence of wheat.

Asotin/Garfield: The weather remained dry. A few producers began planting winter wheat, but conditions were not good for proper germination due to the dry weather. Rangeland and pastures remained in mostly poor condition especially in Asotin County. Rain was needed in all areas.

Ferry: Cattle were tiring of dried out grass and lack of water in the rangeland hills and were coming down early. They had to be re-trucked up to the mountains as lowland pasture was drier yet.

Garfield: Some producers wanted to seed but it was too dry in most places. Wheat seed was in short supply so many were switching to Eltan/Tubbs mixes. Fall work was underway. No rain fell since last report.

Lincoln: The area had good weather for planting winter wheat with adequate moisture in most cases. Rain and slightly cooler temperatures would be beneficial, lessening the chance of soil crusting with regards to plant emergence.

Pend Oreille: The high was 80 degrees; the low was 25 degrees with 0 inches of precipitation. The last of the oats was harvested on irrigated land. Some producers were still irrigating with hopes of a third cutting of alfalfa. Livestock began to put on winter coats due to cool nights. Hogs were putting on weight with cooler weather.

Stevens: Third cutting of hay was about 95 percent finished at the end of the week. High volumes of cattle sales were reported due to dry conditions. Hay was very scarce and very expensive if it could be found locally.

Walla Walla: Weather remained very favorable for hay growers. Farmers were waiting for rain before starting their fall seeding. Nearly all were finished with harvest. Soybeans were still a few weeks from harvest.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): The area experienced cooler weather. Seeding in early areas was progressing. Other areas were hoping for some rain soon. Some cattle were coming off summer range. Fall pasture conditions could be a problem, if the area does not get some rain. Hay for sale was hard to find.

Whitman: Garbanzo bean harvest was wrapping up. Yield reports were average to slightly above average. Fall tillage work continued. Rain was needed as conditions were very dry.

Weekly Weather Statistics September 17, 2007

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
WEST															
Bellingham Intl	45	78	59	+1	64	+5	5	-2	0.04	-0.38	1	0.11	-0.80	12	2
Everett	50	81	61	+3	79	+17	16	+7	0.17	-0.32	1	0.42	-0.64	40	3
Hoquiam	53	88	62	+2	87	+12	18	+4	0.18	-0.55	1	0.23	-1.25	16	3
Kelso	49	89	64	+3	100	+21	33	+12	0.06	-0.49	1	0.06	-1.11	5	1
Olympia	43	87	60	+3	73	+13	12	+4	0.03	-0.47	1	0.73	-0.34	68	3
Seattle-Tacoma	53	85	64	+3	97	+17	29	+10	0.05	-0.37	1	1.17	+0.26	129	2
Shelton	40	90	62	+1	82	+6	15	-4	0.10	-0.49	1	0.64	-0.58	52	2
Tacoma WA AP	44	85	61	+2	81	+9	16	+2	0.05	-0.37	1	0.54	-0.41	57	2
Vancouver WA	49	94	65	+5	104	+28	34	+15	0.03	-0.44	1	0.18	-0.83	18	2
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	41	91	68	+9	125	+55	55	+35	0.00	-0.14	0	0.00	-0.30	0	0
Omak AP	41	90	66	+8	116	+48	47	+28	0.00	-0.21	0	0.00	-0.48	0	0
Stamper Pass	43	78	57	+8	57	+35	14	+14	0.13	-0.63	1	0.29	-1.33	18	2
Wenatchee	50	89	70	+7	143	+40	73	+33	0.00	-0.08	0	0.00	-0.26	0	0
Yakima AP	40	88	65	+4	104	+20	34	+6	0.00	-0.08	0	0.08	-0.18	31	1
NORTHEAST															
Colville	41	94	65	+8	110	+49	40	+24	0.00	-0.28	0	0.00	-0.64	0	0
Deer Park	32	86	60	+2	76	+4	16	-8	0.00	-0.21	0	0.04	-0.44	8	1
Republic	36	86	62	+7	83	+36	17	+7	0.00	-0.21	0	0.05	-0.47	10	1
Spokane AP	48	86	66	+7	114	+42	44	+20	0.00	-0.18	0	0.00	-0.45	0	0
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	45	90	68	+3	129	+18	59	+13	0.00	-0.10	0	0.00	-0.19	0	0
Moses Lake	42	90	65	+0	110	-1	40	-6	0.00	-0.10	0	0.00	-0.19	0	0
Quincy	45	88	68	+6	129	+37	59	+26	0.00	-0.12	0	0.00	-0.29	0	0
Ritzville	52	90	70	+9	140	+61	70	+45	0.00	-0.14	0	0.04	-0.24	14	1
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	47	92	71	+3	149	+15	79	+14	0.00	-0.07	0	0.16	-0.05	76	1
Pasco	41	91	68	+3	124	+16	54	+9	0.00	-0.07	0	0.01	-0.21	5	1
Pullman	39	86	61	+3	78	+12	14	-6	0.00	-0.21	0	0.32	-0.16	67	1
Walla Walla Rgn	45	88	70	+5	140	+28	70	+22	0.00	-0.21	0	0.11	-0.37	23	1
Whitman Mission	35	89	64	+3	97	+11	28	-3	0.00	-0.14	0	0.10	-0.22	31	1
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	50	91	71	+6	147	+40	77	+31	0.00	-0.19	0	0.09	-0.37	20	1

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
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