



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: September 24, 2007
Week Ending: September 23, 2007
CWP WA-CW3807

2008 Winter Wheat Crop Being Seeded; Rain Needed Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.8. Farmers were planting winter wheat. Adams County reported wheat emerging nicely, while soil conditions were dry in other locales and the seeds were being "dusted in." Kittitas County reported the second cutting of timothy hay had been baled and stacked. Grant County reported harvest of high-moisture corn had begun. Whatcom County reported corn silage harvest continued, while in Adams County corn silage harvest was nearing completion. Christmas tree growers continued shearing Douglas and Noble fir.

Fruits and Vegetables

The Yakima Valley reported crisp nighttime temperatures, but no reports of frost. Apple harvest continued with Jonagolds, Granny Smiths and other varieties being harvested; Red Delicious and Fuji crops were still hanging but harvest is anticipated soon. In Grays Harbor County, sweet corn harvest began under ideal conditions. Skagit County reported recent rain reduced yield and quality of seed for the 2007 beet seed crop.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 17% very poor, 20% poor, 27% fair, 32% good and 4% excellent. On the west side, livestock producers were able to get a final crop of hay harvested with no spoilage from rain. On the east side, Kittitas County reported cattle were being pulled in off the range, and calves were being weaned and shipped.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.8
Last Week	6.7

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	24	23	53	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	19	38	41	2
Subsoil	32	38	30	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	12	40	48	0
Irrigation Water	4	4	92	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	3	7	90	0
Hay & Roughage	8	25	67	0

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

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2006	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	60	50	65	59
Winter Wheat Emerged	23	20	17	28
Potatoes Harvested	66	65	65	62
Corn Silked	100	97	100	100
Corn Dough	90	80	99	100
Corn Dented	75	60	85	85
Corn Mature	45	35	55	57
Corn Harvested	14	5	21	5
Corn Silage Harvested	45	20	39	39
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	88	68	69	60
Alfalfa Hay, 3 rd Cutting	99	98	99	98
Alfalfa Hay, 4 th Cutting	53	35	*	*

* No Historical Data Available.

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	0	6	68	26

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

Grays Harbor: Sweet corn harvest began at the end of the week under nearly ideal harvest conditions. The lack of rain the past several weeks resulted in relatively dry field conditions. Livestock producers were able to get the final hay crop harvested with no spoilage from rain. U-Pick pumpkin farms were gearing up for opening up at the end of the week. Cereal grain producers finished baling straw. Home gardeners were harvesting the last of the corn and cucumbers. Greenhouse tomato growers reported vines were beginning to wither due to the shorter days and cooler temperatures.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Orange clothing and cool damp mornings can mean only one thing—fall is here.

Mason: The weather was cool with foggy nights and 0.4 of an inch of precipitation was received. There was very little sweet corn left to harvest. Tomato plants and fruit crops were doing very well. Pumpkins were turning orange and were being offered at Farmer's Markets. There were lots of bats around, especially in the early morning hours.

Pierce/S. King: There were no unusual situations to report and no reports of crop damage due to weather events. September's cooler than normal weather may hurt some crops.

Skagit: The high temperature for the week was 60 degrees. There was 0.4 of an inch of precipitation recorded at the WSU Northwest Research and Extension Center in west Mount Vernon. Local crops available were apples, blueberries, blackberries, cucumbers, cabbage,

corn, potatoes, pumpkins and more. The 2007 beet seed crop did not do well with the weekend rain. Rain on downed seed reduces yields and quality of seed. Area bulb farmers were planting the 2008 crop. One area bulb farmer had all of his daffodils in the ground. Potato harvest was 15 percent complete. This year's yields were down on fields that didn't get adequate irrigation during the summer. The 2008 winter wheat crop was being planted in record numbers.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: Cooler days caused later harvesting of most crops, including corn for silage, spinach, and beet for seed. Some rain and fog was received but not enough to affect fieldwork.

Thurston: Ag producers took advantage of brisk, sunny days to complete fall chores prior to the rainy season. Christmas tree growers continued shearing Douglas and Noble fir. Turfgrass growers took advantage of nearly ideal weather for sowing new fields. U-Pick pumpkin farms were getting fields ready for the October 1 opening. Blueberry growers were mowing cover crops in established fields. Home gardeners were planting winter cover crops. Livestock owners reported brisk sales of haylage.

Whatcom: High temperatures averaged 62 degrees with lows dipping into the lower 40s. There were light showers Monday and Tuesday, but not enough moisture to prevent farmers from getting in to the fields for harvesting. Corn silage was continuing to be harvested.

Central

Benton: Dryland acreage in the Horse Heaven hills were in need of moisture.

Grant: Harvest of high moisture corn began.

Grant (2nd Report): Seeding of 2008 dryland wheat concluded, with an adequate stand being obtained. Rain was needed, with drier than normal conditions being reported. The fourth cutting of alfalfa was underway. Sweet corn harvest concluded. Dry bean harvest was underway, and the potato harvest continued. Dry corn harvest will begin in the near future. Apple harvest preparations were in high gear, with picking to begin very soon.

Kittitas: The second cutting of timothy hay was still being baled and stacked. Livestock producers were pulling cattle off ranges and weaning and shipping calves. Newly seeded timothy fields were showing good growth.

Nighttime temperatures were getting pretty low. Frost is expected in the next couple of weeks.

Okanogan: Some rain came through the area during the week. A few peaks on the eastside of the Cascades received snow. Apple harvest was going strong, and hay harvest was winding down.

Yakima: Crisp nighttime temperatures were received during the week, but there were no reports of frost. Apple harvest continued with Jonagolds, Granny Smiths and other varieties being harvested. Red Delicious and Fuji apple harvests were anticipated soon.

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

Eastern

Adams: Another dry and mostly sunny week allowed most wheat to finish emerging. The wheat crop looked good. Apples were being picked in the Basin, and corn silage was nearing the finishing stage. CRP seeders were a little concerned about the potential cost of seed.

Asotin/Garfield: Even though the weather has remained dry, farmers began planting winter wheat. Rain was needed in all areas.

Ferry: Cool weather set in, with 25 degrees reported Sunday night. There were a few brief rain showers, but there has been no relief from drought conditions.

Garfield: There has been no precipitation, so farmers have been seeding into dust again. Low rainfall wheat varieties were being planted in lieu of normal varieties.

Lincoln: Winter wheat was emerging nicely, but some dry areas won't come up until rain is received.

Pend Oreille: The high temperature for the week was 67 degrees and the low was 22 degrees with 0.4 inches of precipitation received. Rain during the week increased the soil moisture and helped pastures to green up, but slowed growth. Livestock were putting on winter weight.

Walla Walla: Cooler temperatures have drawn moisture closer to the surface, but most soils were extremely dry. Some farmers were delaying seeding in hopes of rain, and some were seeding into the dust. The fourth cutting of hay was coming off. Hay for sale was almost non-existent and very expensive. Most livestock producers have adequate hay for their own operations. Cattle were coming out of the mountains. Fall pasture was in short supply.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): There was still no precipitation, but temperatures were much cooler throughout the area. Producers in the northern sections of the county began fall seeding. Some crops were complete and other crops were emerging. Other areas of the county held off seeding operations in hopes of rain. Fall work was well underway throughout the area.

Whitman: More operations were seeding, but conditions remained dry. Pasture conditions were declining. Fall tillage operations were continuing.

Weekly Weather Statistics September 24, 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	37	67	53	-4	23	-24	0	-6	0.35	-0.14	5	0.46	-0.94	33	7
Everett	47	63	55	-3	37	-15	0	-7	1.02	+0.49	4	1.44	-0.15	91	7
Hoquiam	44	65	56	-4	47	-20	1	-13	0.35	-0.48	5	0.58	-1.73	25	8
Kelso	43	70	56	-4	46	-21	2	-12	0.09	-0.48	1	0.15	-1.59	9	2
Olympia	38	65	56	-2	41	-8	0	-6	0.37	-0.19	4	1.10	-0.53	67	7
Seattle-Tacoma	47	66	56	-4	45	-22	0	-13	0.37	-0.11	2	1.54	+0.15	111	4
Shelton	41	67	55	-5	39	-25	0	-14	0.59	-0.09	5	1.23	-0.67	65	7
Tacoma WA AP	41	67	56	-4	39	-21	0	-8	0.29	-0.20	1	0.83	-0.61	58	3
Vancouver WA	44	75	59	-1	62	-2	6	-8	0.14	-0.35	1	0.32	-1.18	21	3
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	37	77	57	+1	54	+0	1	-12	0.00	-0.12	0	0.00	-0.42	0	0
Omak AP	34	73	55	-2	39	-12	0	-13	0.00	-0.17	0	0.00	-0.65	0	0
Stampede Pass	35	58	43	-5	0	-15	0	+0	0.70	-0.16	6	0.99	-1.49	40	8
Wenatchee	44	76	61	-2	75	-9	7	-21	0.00	-0.07	0	0.00	-0.33	0	0
Yakima AP	35	75	55	-5	39	-29	0	-19	0.00	-0.07	0	0.08	-0.25	24	1
NORTHEAST															
Colville	37	74	55	+0	37	-8	0	-9	0.21	-0.07	1	0.21	-0.71	23	1
Deer Park	27	70	49	-9	14	-42	0	-15	0.12	-0.09	2	0.16	-0.53	23	3
Republic	31	66	48	-5	3	-31	0	-7	0.26	+0.05	3	0.31	-0.42	42	4
Spokane AP	36	68	53	-5	26	-30	0	-16	0.01	-0.13	1	0.01	-0.58	2	1
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	39	75	60	-4	68	-22	7	-25	0.00	-0.10	0	0.00	-0.29	0	0
Moses Lake	36	76	59	-5	62	-28	4	-28	0.00	-0.10	0	0.00	-0.29	0	0
Quincy	37	74	59	-2	64	-10	4	-19	0.00	-0.07	0	0.00	-0.36	0	0
Ritzville	41	74	57	-2	53	-9	1	-16	0.00	-0.14	0	0.04	-0.38	10	1
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	42	80	61	-6	79	-34	12	-37	0.00	-0.07	0	0.16	-0.12	57	1
Pasco	36	79	58	-6	60	-30	7	-25	0.00	-0.07	0	0.01	-0.28	3	1
Pullman	30	70	52	-6	16	-37	0	-14	0.05	-0.19	1	0.37	-0.35	51	2
Walla Walla Rgn	46	75	61	-4	77	-17	9	-26	0.00	-0.21	0	0.11	-0.58	16	1
Whitman Mission	34	76	58	-3	56	-14	8	-13	0.00	-0.15	0	0.10	-0.37	21	1
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	45	81	61	-2	79	-9	15	-19	0.01	-0.13	1	0.10	-0.50	17	2

Summary based on NWS data.
 Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2007
 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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