



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
Washington Field Office
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507
(360) 902-1940 Fax (360) 902-2091

Washington Crop Weather

Released: October 1, 2007
Week Ending: September 30, 2007
CWP WA-CW3907

Much Needed Moisture Aids Winter Wheat Emergence Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.8. Needed moisture arrived in several northern counties. Whitman County reported that they were nearing the completion of winter wheat seeding. A large amount of seeding remains to be completed in Spokane County but Garfield County reported they were planting into dust. Counties with adequate moisture report emergence was good. In Stevens County, a few hay producers were caught by cool, damp weather before they could cut and bale their third cutting. Franklin County reported that a fifth cutting of hay was down. Christmas tree growers continued side shearing and top work on Noble and Shasta fir.

Fruits and Vegetables

Yakima Valley reported near freezing temperatures, morning fog and a couple "soft" frosts that slowed vegetable production. While apple harvest had peaked, growers were still picking Braeburns, Granny Smiths, Jonathons, and just started harvesting Red Delicious apples. Chelan County reported pear harvest was complete. Grays Harbor County reported that sweet corn harvest continued at a brisk pace despite heavy rains. Whatcom County reported that fall plantings of Blueberries had begun.

Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 3% very poor, 31% poor, 20% fair, 45% good and 1% excellent. Recent storms brought much needed rain. Pend Oreille, Stevens and Chelan Counties reported rains sufficient enough to green up pastures. Calves and cull cows continued to move to market. Hay supplies continued to be tight and prices high. Shellfish farmers initiated harvest operations for the busy fall season. Prices were high for both shucked and half shell products.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

| Week | Days |
|-----------|------|
| This Week | 5.8 |
| Last Week | 6.8 |

Moisture and Supply

| Item | Percent | | | |
|---------------------------|---------|----|----|---|
| | VS | SH | AD | S |
| Topsoil | 13 | 22 | 60 | 5 |
| Topsoil 5 Yr Avg | 19 | 37 | 43 | 1 |
| Subsoil | 29 | 34 | 36 | 1 |
| Subsoil 5 Yr Avg | 13 | 40 | 47 | 0 |
| Irrigation Water | 5 | 5 | 89 | 1 |
| Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg | 4 | 7 | 88 | 1 |
| Hay & Roughage | 11 | 22 | 66 | 1 |

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 | 69 | 60 | 72 | 72 |
| Winter Wheat Emerged | 43 | 23 | 41 | 42 |
| Potatoes Harvested | 70 | 66 | 68 | 66 |
| Corn Dough | 98 | 90 | 100 | 100 |
| Corn Dented | 92 | 75 | 94 | 96 |
| Corn Mature | 70 | 45 | 62 | 71 |
| Corn Harvested | 30 | 14 | 32 | 13 |
| Corn Silage Harvested | 50 | 45 | 57 | 53 |
| Dry Edible Beans Harvested | 90 | 88 | 89 | 74 |
| Third Cutting Alfalfa | 100 | 99 | 100 | 99 |
| Fourth Cutting Alfalfa | 69 | 53 | * | * |

*= No Data Available

Crop Condition*

| Crop | % Acreage | | | | |
|------|-----------|---|---|----|----|
| | VP | P | F | G | EX |
| Corn | 0 | 0 | 6 | 70 | 24 |

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

Clark: Wet weather returned to southwest Washington. Farm direct marketers were gearing up for corn mazes and pumpkins.

Grays Harbor: Sweet corn harvest continued at a brisk pace in order to get nearly 1,000 acres of corn harvested before ears become over mature. Heavy rainfall over the weekend resulted in less than ideal harvest conditions. U-Pick pumpkin farms reported early sales with most farms officially slated to open October 1. Potato harvest was completed during the week prior to the rain. Daffodil and tulip growers continued planting bulbs for next spring's cut-flowers. Commercial peony growers reported they had finished cutting down and removing plant foliage for disease prevention. Home gardeners continued feasting on cucumbers, corn and tomatoes but reported flavor quality was beginning to wane due to the cooler temperatures. Livestock producers reported brisk hay sales.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: The area experienced the arrival of the first major fall weather system. With rain in the forecast, it looked like corn silage harvest was going to be sloppy.

Mason: The NOAA weather station predicted a "vigorous Pacific storm" coming thru Saturday and Sunday and it materialized right on schedule. Precipitation for the week was at 1.6" with most of that falling in the past 24 hours with more to come. Area producers limed their fields in anticipation of the degrading weather and it looked like good timing. Corn fields were harvested and prepared for winter. Fall arrived and producers were winding down for the season.

Mason (2nd Report): Fall came in with a roar. A few beautiful fall days were followed by near flood level rains. The last of summer crops were harvested and Farmers' Markets had their last market day of the season. Winter squash and pumpkins were ripening, and U-Pick pumpkin patches were gearing up for the fall season. Christmas tree growers were shearing Douglas fir and top working nobles in preparation for harvest.

Pacific: Cooler fall weather brought some welcome rain to area farmland. Cranberry growers continued preparations for the fall harvest, including dike and road maintenance. Shellfish farmers initiated harvest operations for the busy fall season, with high prices for both shucked and half shell products. Christmas tree growers also initiated harvest planning and preparations for the upcoming holiday season. Pasture conditions improved with cooler fall weather.

Pierce/S. King: Can you say cold? It will be interesting to see what this cold weather is going to do with the fall crops. There were no unusual situations to report. No crop damage due to a weather event was reported.

Skagit: High temperatures for the week averaged 56 degrees. There was 1.06 inches of precipitation recorded at the WSU North West Research and Extension Center in West Mount Vernon. The 2007 beet seed crop came into the seed companies wet this year, but the driers were up and running full steam so the seed should be fine, with average yields. Area bulb farmers were planting their 2008 crop. One area bulb farmer already had all of his Daffodils in the ground. Potato harvest was 20 percent completed. With heavy rains over the weekend harvest was delayed for a few days. The 2008 winter wheat crop was planted in record numbers.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: The area weather was mostly cloudy, with rain on Saturday and Sunday with little or no activity in the fields for those two days. The nights were cool. Most crops were harvested; however corn was not the quality or quantity of last year due to fewer BTU's. Fall planting occurred on days that the weather permitted.

Snohomish/King: The heavy rains received late in the week slowed field work. Potato harvest continued and corn silage harvest was underway. U-Pick pumpkin farms were getting ready for business. Apple harvest was underway.

Thurston: The first frost of the season occurred the evening of September 29. The temperature was cold enough that some agricultural producers reported white frost accumulations on the roofs of their barns and outbuildings. The cold temperatures resulted in brisk hay sales to livestock producers. Heavy rain showers over the weekend were perfect for expediting seed germination on recently seeded pastures and turfgrass fields. Christmas tree growers continued side shearing and top work on Noble and Shasta fir. Home gardeners were harvesting the last of the sweet corn and tomatoes.

Whatcom: The weekend brought 2 inches of rain. Some fields were unable to be harvested due to wet conditions. Winter wheat planting was underway. Harvest of corn for silage continued. Fall plantings of blueberries began. Approximately 25 percent of potatoes remained to be harvested.

Central

Benton: Hay demand was high. Even poor quality hay was in demand. California was importing baled corn stalks.

Benton (2nd Report): Rains entered the Basin area. This was beneficial to many but unwelcome to some depending on their agricultural needs.

Chelan: Apple harvest continued at full speed. The crop appeared to be of excellent quality. Yields were reported to be slightly lower than predicted. Pear harvest was completed. Labor supply was short in the far Northern production areas.

Chelan/Douglas: The counties received rain over the weekend. The moisture was needed for the winter wheat crop. Apple harvest continued. Livestock producers were moving into fall pastures.

Franklin: The area experienced typical fall weather with cool evenings fairly early through to late morning with temperatures reaching the 70's during the day. Fourth cutting hay harvest was mostly completed with fifth cutting at the south end of the county down. Bean harvest started in the windrow in places. Apple harvest continued. Sweet-corn harvest was at the very beginning stages. Potato harvest continued. Winter wheat seeding was near completion. Consistent rain was experienced throughout the county on Friday.

Grant: The much needed rain received over the weekend helped dryland winter wheat stands as well as CRP. Rains did not help the fourth cutting of alfalfa that had not been baled. Apple harvest was in full swing, as was potato harvest. Dry corn harvest began. Dry bean harvest was winding down. Late planted sweet corn was also harvested.

Grant (2nd Report): Fourth cutting alfalfa was slowed by showers received on Friday.

Kittitas: The area had cold nights with spotty frost and some fairly warm days. Nearly all second cutting timothy was out of the fields ahead of the first fall rains received over the weekend. It appeared fall is upon us. Livestock producers were shipping calves and some were still on range land.

Okanogan: The area received nearly an inch of rain or possibly more within the last 5 days. The moisture was good for our newly planted grain crops.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 3 degrees above normal to 9 degrees below normal, with .11 inches of precipitation received. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Yakima (2nd Report): Near freezing temperatures, morning fog and a couple "soft" frosts slowed vegetable production. While apple harvest had peaked, growers were still picking Braeburns, Granny Smiths, Jonathons, and started harvesting Red Delicious apples.

Eastern

Adams: The precipitation received was enough to maintain current moisture levels. Winter wheat seeding was completed and most of the crop had emerged.

Asotin: Some rainfall finally fell across the county over the weekend. Additional rainfall was needed as fall work progressed.

Asotin/Garfield: Even though the area had not received any rain the farmers continued to plant winter wheat. A good rain storm was still needed in all parts of the counties.

Ferry: The area received significant moisture. Apple harvest continued.

Garfield: This will be a La Nina' fall and winter. The area was still facing the likelihood of seeding into dust, with no rain received so far.

Lincoln: The nice rain showers that were received should help with the emergence of winter wheat, as well as improve fall pasture conditions.

Lincoln (2nd Report): The precipitation received was enough to maintain current moisture conditions. Winter wheat seeding was nearly completed and emergence was good.

Pend Oreille: The high was 68 degrees, the low was 24 degrees and .65 of an inch of precipitation was received. Fall storms brought in much needed rain. Grasses were starting to green up. Livestock were feeding on new grasses with no hay supplement.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The rain received on Sunday amounted to about .5 an inch. A good rain helped to get things started. A large amount of seeding remained to be done in the southern part of Spokane County. The rain was probably too late for most of the pasture ground, as cows will soon be coming home for winter feeding. Supplemental feeding was taking place and partial liquidation continued.

Steven: The rain received Friday and Sunday made remaining pasture grasses more palatable and gave a boost to recently seeded winter wheat. A few hay producers were caught by cool damp weather before they could cut and bale their third cutting. Calves and cull cows continued to move to market.

Steven (2nd Report): The area finally received much needed moisture, but it was not enough yet for deep fall tillage

Walla Walla: Weather conditions changed in the area with cool nights, rain for several hours on Friday, and then frost overnight. Most producers were in full swing with fall planting.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): The rains came! The rains were welcomed Friday and Sunday and helped finish up seeding and helped the new seedlings get off to a good start. The rain softened the dry grass. The area should see a green-up in a week or so. Some late hay was rained on. Fall pasture was short.

Whitman: Conditions were more fall-like with the weather pattern shifting to cooler temperatures. Rain was received over the week, hopefully transitioning to wetter days ahead. The Palouse was very dry over the past few months and rainfall is needed. Many operations in central and eastern Whitman County were now seeding with operations in the west finished or nearly finished.

Whitman (2nd Report): The rain showers received over the weekend will get most farmers to plant the remaining wheat. Seeding will be active.

Weekly Weather Statistics

October 1, 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 | DFN | PCT | |
| | | | | | TOT | DFN | TOT | DFN | INCHES | | | INCHES | | NORMAL | DAYS |
| WEST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bellingham Intl | 41 | 61 | 52 | -4 | 14 | -22 | 0 | +0 | 0.90 | +0.36 | 4 | 1.36 | -0.58 | 70 | 11 |
| Everett | 46 | 62 | 53 | -4 | 22 | -17 | 0 | -1 | 1.08 | +0.52 | 3 | 2.52 | +0.37 | 117 | 10 |
| Hoquiam | 43 | 66 | 55 | -4 | 38 | -21 | 0 | -9 | 1.90 | +0.96 | 4 | 2.48 | -0.77 | 76 | 12 |
| Kelso | 43 | 73 | 55 | -3 | 38 | -17 | 3 | -6 | 1.44 | +0.81 | 2 | 1.59 | -0.78 | 67 | 4 |
| Olympia | 36 | 68 | 53 | -3 | 20 | -16 | 0 | +0 | 0.88 | +0.25 | 3 | 1.98 | -0.28 | 88 | 10 |
| Seattle-Tacoma | 46 | 66 | 54 | -4 | 32 | -22 | 0 | -7 | 1.44 | +0.95 | 3 | 2.98 | +1.10 | 159 | 7 |
| Shelton | 39 | 67 | 53 | -5 | 23 | -27 | 0 | -7 | 1.41 | +0.63 | 3 | 2.64 | -0.04 | 99 | 10 |
| Tacoma WA AP | 36 | 68 | 53 | -5 | 20 | -27 | 0 | -7 | 0.95 | +0.46 | 2 | 1.78 | -0.15 | 92 | 5 |
| Vancouver WA | 43 | 74 | 56 | -2 | 45 | -6 | 0 | -7 | 1.50 | +0.99 | 2 | 1.82 | -0.19 | 91 | 5 |
| CENTRAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ellensburg | 36 | 78 | 55 | +1 | 38 | +1 | 2 | -5 | 0.31 | +0.24 | 1 | 0.31 | -0.18 | 63 | 1 |
| Omak AP | 28 | 75 | 52 | -3 | 23 | -12 | 0 | -7 | 0.69 | +0.55 | 3 | 0.69 | -0.10 | 87 | 3 |
| Stamper Pass | 32 | 60 | 43 | -4 | 3 | -6 | 0 | +0 | 0.89 | -0.06 | 3 | 1.88 | -1.55 | 55 | 11 |
| Wenatchee | 39 | 81 | 57 | -3 | 55 | -7 | 9 | -8 | 0.07 | +0.00 | 1 | 0.07 | -0.33 | 18 | 1 |
| Yakima AP | 30 | 79 | 54 | -4 | 32 | -17 | 0 | -12 | 0.11 | +0.04 | 2 | 0.19 | -0.21 | 48 | 3 |
| NORTHEAST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colville | 33 | 74 | 52 | -1 | 25 | -5 | 0 | -7 | 0.44 | +0.23 | 3 | 0.65 | -0.48 | 58 | 4 |
| Deer Park | 26 | 74 | 47 | -8 | 6 | -32 | 0 | -8 | 0.17 | -0.01 | 3 | 0.33 | -0.54 | 38 | 6 |
| Republic | 26 | 70 | 48 | -3 | 8 | -14 | 0 | -1 | 0.66 | +0.48 | 2 | 0.97 | +0.06 | 107 | 6 |
| Spokane AP | 32 | 76 | 52 | -3 | 28 | -12 | 1 | -7 | 0.12 | -0.02 | 3 | 0.13 | -0.60 | 18 | 4 |
| EAST CENTRAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ephrata | 32 | 76 | 55 | -6 | 41 | -27 | 1 | -19 | 0.32 | +0.25 | 2 | 0.32 | -0.04 | 89 | 2 |
| Moses Lake | 33 | 76 | 54 | -7 | 30 | -38 | 0 | -20 | 0.36 | +0.29 | 2 | 0.36 | +0.00 | 100 | 2 |
| Quincy | 37 | 77 | 56 | -3 | 42 | -13 | 1 | -13 | 0.35 | +0.28 | 2 | 0.35 | -0.08 | 81 | 2 |
| Ritzville | 34 | 80 | 55 | -2 | 40 | -4 | 5 | -4 | 0.07 | -0.07 | 1 | 0.11 | -0.45 | 20 | 2 |
| SOUTHEAST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hanford | 39 | 81 | 57 | -7 | 54 | -35 | 5 | -28 | 0.15 | +0.08 | 2 | 0.31 | -0.04 | 89 | 3 |
| Pasco | 34 | 80 | 56 | -5 | 41 | -29 | 0 | -20 | 0.21 | +0.14 | 2 | 0.22 | -0.14 | 61 | 3 |
| Pullman | 30 | 80 | 51 | -4 | 21 | -18 | 4 | -3 | 0.05 | -0.23 | 1 | 0.42 | -0.58 | 42 | 3 |
| Walla Walla Rgn | 42 | 81 | 59 | -3 | 62 | -14 | 9 | -14 | 0.30 | +0.04 | 1 | 0.41 | -0.54 | 43 | 2 |
| Whitman Mission | 33 | 81 | 54 | -4 | 35 | -17 | 3 | -9 | 0.18 | -0.03 | 1 | 0.28 | -0.40 | 41 | 2 |
| WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lewiston ID | 39 | 86 | 59 | -1 | 64 | -5 | 17 | -5 | 0.05 | -0.13 | 1 | 0.15 | -0.63 | 19 | 3 |

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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