



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: October 22, 2007
Week Ending: October 21, 2007
CWP WA-CW4207

Enough Rain Received to Emerge Winter Wheat as Apple Harvest Continues

Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.6. Fall seeding was nearing an end. Whitman County reported the emergence of winter wheat was good. Recropping was reported, probably due to record high wheat prices. Similarly, Benton, Asotin, Grant and Walla Walla Counties reported recent rains had been very beneficial. Grant County reported corn for grain harvest continued in full progress. Christmas tree growers continued removing stakes from Noble fir in preparation for sales.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, rainy weather slowed and delayed apple harvest several times, but may have also postponed the first killing frost of the season for vegetable producers. Nighttime temperatures dropped low enough to initiate the turn of leaf color in fruit orchards throughout the Valley. Harvest of Fuji, Red Delicious and Pink Lady apples continued. In Pacific County, cranberry growers completed harvest operations with average yields.

Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 4% very poor, 26% poor, 25% fair, 43% good and 2% excellent. On the west side, cooler weather and heavy rains slowed pasture growth. On the east side, rain showers received during the week improved crop and pasture conditions. Some livestock producers had begun supplemental feeding. Shellfish growers initiated fall harvest with continued strong market conditions for oysters.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	4.6
Last Week	6.0

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	6	25	49	20
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	10	28	56	6
Subsoil	25	37	37	1
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	12	37	50	1
Irrigation Water	4	6	89	1
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	5	93	0
Hay & Roughage	15	25	59	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	93	90	95	96
Winter Wheat Emerged	74	60	74	77
Potatoes Harvested	87	80	91	91
Field Corn Mature	100	88	100	100
Field Corn Harvested for Grain	61	50	81	51
Corn Harvested for Silage	92	72	96	93
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	99	97	100	99
Alfalfa Hay 4 th Cutting	99	95	NA	NA

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	3	56	36	3
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	2	18	77	3
Corn	0	0	6	72	22

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 rainy during the week, and farmers were harvesting corn silage.

Clark: After a wet week, things dried up over the weekend for some good sales at local farm stands.

Grays Harbor: The first major fall storm brought heavy rains to the county mid-week. Major rivers were unseasonably high, and some fields had standing water. Ag producers were limited to doing inside chores and machinery repair due to the inclement weather during the week. Christmas tree growers continued removing stakes from Noble fir in preparation for sales. Pastures and hay fields were all green and rapidly growing due to the wet fall. Potato growers continued grading and sorting this year's crop.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Heavy fall rains arrived a month early. Fall fieldwork that did not get done will probably not get done until spring. The fall, or at least the October portion, will go down as one of the cooler falls on record. October precipitation will probably be double the long term average.

Mason: Cool temperatures and breezy conditions left most of the trees bare by the end of the week. Approximately 2.7 inches of precipitation was received during the first significant storm event of the fall season. Fall activities included cleaning up planting areas and overseeding crops for the winter.

Pacific: Wet fall weather hampered late season field activities for producers. Cranberry growers completed harvest operations with average yields. Shellfish growers initiated fall harvest with continued strong market conditions for oysters. Christmas tree growers prepared for the holiday season.

Pierce/S. King: A windstorm came through the area during the week, but no crop losses have been reported. There were no other unusual situations to report.

Skagit: The high temperature for the week was 53 degrees and there was 1.0 inch of precipitation received at the WSU NW Research and Extension Center in west Mount Vernon. The rains came as forecasted. The majority of field corn farmers were able to harvest all of their field corn before the

rains, but many potato farmers still had large quantities of potatoes in their fields. With more rain on the way, potato harvest will be further delayed. Area flower bulb and wheat farmers were finishing up planting of their 2008 crops. Due to high wheat prices in 2007, more wheat was being planted in the Skagit Valley. Potato harvest was 60 percent complete. The crop was doing well with lower yields in fields without irrigation. Apple harvest was progressing with Fuji apples especially crisp and with very good flavor.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: The weather was cool with rainy days and occasional high winds. Most potatoes were harvested. Wheat and cabbage for seed were planted. There were no reports of damage to the pumpkin crop.

Snohomish/N. King: Heavy rain and wind on Thursday caused considerable damage throughout the county. Cooler weather and heavy rain slowed pasture growth. Despite the rain, U-Pick pumpkin farms seemed to be doing good business, and Christmas tree farms continued to prepare for the holiday season.

Snohomish/N. King: The weather was cool and consisted of rain and wind. High winds were received on October 18. Temperatures were in the 50s for a high and 40s for a low.

Thurston: Unseasonably cool temperatures and rain showers brought almost all agricultural activity to a screeching halt. There has been so much rain that major rivers were unseasonably high for this time of year. There was standing water in many fields, though no killing frost in most areas of the county. The copious amount of rain has taken its toll on most vegetable and cut flower crops. U-Pick pumpkin farms once again reported slow sales over the weekend due to the rainy weather. Home gardeners continued raking leaves and planting winter cover crops.

Whatcom: It was another wet week in the county, with some areas too wet to harvest the remaining corn silage. Strong winds blew down over 100 acres of silage corn. Producers had to use alternative methods of harvesting as a result. The fifth cutting of grass was completed, which will be the final cutting for the year. Winter wheat was being planted. Pruning and tying raspberries began.

Central

Benton: Recent rains enabled most dryland wheat farmers to complete fall seeding.

Franklin: The weather was fair with several days of rain. A couple of days the temperature was cooler than normal. Apples, potatoes, beans, the fifth cutting of hay, field and sweet corn, as well as other row crops were being harvested.

Grant: Dry corn harvest was in full swing. Apple and potato harvests continued. Late planted dry beans were finishing up. Dryland wheat looked good with recent rains helping out.

Yakima: Wet and rainy mornings slowed and delayed apple harvest several times during the week, but may have also postponed the first killing frost of the season for vegetable producers. Nighttime temperatures dropped low enough to initiate the turning of leaf color in fruit orchards throughout the Valley. Harvest of Fuji, Red Delicious, and Pink Lady apples continued.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures varied from three degrees above normal to seven degrees below normal, with 0.49 of an inch of precipitation. There were no crop losses due to weather conditions reported.

Eastern

Adams: Recent rains did wonders for germinating cheat grass, which is good if you have range or CRP awaiting seeding, but not so good for emerged wheat crops. Overall, the rain was welcomed and hopefully was the start of a wet fall. Hay was essentially done, as was the majority of the apple harvest, with some Fuji apples still to be color picked.

Asotin: Significant rainfall fell across the county during the week. This should be very beneficial to recently seeded winter wheat. The rainfall was also an added boost to pastures in the lower elevations.

Asotin/Garfield: The rain finally came, with measurable precipitation from 0.5 to 1.0 inch received. This should be enough to sprout most winter wheat. Hopefully, wheat will now emerge before winter. Even with the rain, conditions were drier than normal. It will take several months of normal to above normal rainfall to end drought conditions.

Garfield: Rain showers limited the time for seeding wheat, so the rest of the wheat needs to be reseeded as soon as possible. The rain dropped an average of 0.5 inches to as much as 1.32 inches of precipitation during the week.

Lincoln: Rain showers received during the week improved crop and pasture conditions. Some livestock producers began supplemental feeding.

Pend Oreille: The high temperature during the week was 60 degrees and the low was 25 degrees with 1.4 inches of precipitation received. Livestock were on pastures which were greening up with the recent rains.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Temperatures were cooler during the week, and a little rain was received. Snow was received in the mountains, and no killing frost was experienced in most of the county. Pend Oreille County had temperatures cold enough to freeze gardens, but Spokane County was in pretty good shape. Winter wheat was slowly emerging, and some fields began to green up. Pastures were showing signs that cheatgrass was growing. There should be a couple more weeks of grazing if the year goes like normal.

Stevens: The county received a few rain showers during the week. A few producers continued to work on fall tillage.

Walla Walla: Temperatures were cooler, and rain showers were received during the week. Fall crops looked good. Potato and field corn harvests continued but neared completion.

Whitman: Emergence of winter wheat was good. The crop looked good and very little had been replanted due to emergence issues.

Whitman (2nd Report): Rains were welcomed, but additional precipitation was needed due to the extended period of dry conditions experienced during 2007. Rainfall slowed fieldwork progress with operations in eastern Whitman County trying to finish up winter wheat seeding. Recropping in the eastern end of the county seemed to have increased—no doubt as the result of record high wheat prices.

**Weekly Weather Statistics
October 22, 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	40	59	49	+0	3	-5	0	+0	1.41	+0.62	7	4.34	+0.32	108	26	
Everett	42	58	50	-2	6	-6	0	+0	1.02	+0.32	7	4.75	+0.72	118	25	
Hoquiam	48	61	55	+2	34	+6	0	+0	2.69	+1.27	7	7.58	+0.63	109	27	
Kelso	43	64	52	+0	16	-3	0	+0	2.01	+1.15	6	5.75	+1.12	124	17	
Olympia	36	56	49	-1	3	-4	0	+0	2.91	+1.93	7	7.06	+2.32	149	27	
Seattle-Tacoma	43	60	51	-2	8	-11	0	+0	1.64	+0.91	7	6.35	+2.58	168	25	
Shelton	37	57	49	-3	6	-10	0	+0	3.18	+1.93	7	8.09	+2.26	139	25	
Tacoma WA AP	40	62	50	-2	7	-7	0	+0	2.20	+1.45	7	5.99	+2.15	156	21	
Vancouver WA	46	66	54	+3	31	+14	0	+0	1.53	+0.82	7	4.68	+0.80	121	22	
CENTRAL																
Ellensburg	29	63	45	-2	1	-1	0	+0	0.36	+0.22	4	0.87	+0.05	106	9	
Omak AP	27	63	44	-2	4	+4	0	+0	0.32	+0.11	4	1.39	+0.05	104	10	
Stampede Pass	31	49	37	-3	0	+0	0	+0	3.49	+2.01	7	10.70	+3.52	149	29	
Wenatchee	34	62	47	-3	5	-6	0	+0	0.19	+0.09	3	0.49	-0.15	77	8	
Yakima AP	28	64	45	-5	3	-7	0	+0	0.49	+0.36	3	0.75	+0.08	112	8	
NORTHEAST																
Colville	32	62	46	+3	4	+4	0	+0	0.30	+0.02	5	1.62	-0.22	88	17	
Deer Park	28	68	44	-3	3	+1	0	+0	0.89	+0.65	5	2.08	+0.59	140	16	
Republic	26	60	42	-1	0	+0	0	+0	0.33	+0.12	4	1.66	+0.22	115	14	
Spokane AP	33	67	46	-2	5	+2	0	+0	0.46	+0.24	6	1.45	+0.17	113	15	
EAST CENTRAL																
Ephrata	30	65	47	-5	7	-7	0	+0	0.20	+0.10	3	0.73	+0.13	122	8	
Moses Lake	29	63	47	-4	9	-5	0	+0	0.21	+0.11	3	0.77	+0.17	128	9	
Quincy	29	64	47	-3	8	-1	0	+0	0.34	+0.22	4	1.08	+0.39	157	11	
Ritzville	35	71	51	+3	17	+10	0	+0	0.44	+0.26	4	1.03	+0.01	101	9	
SOUTHEAST																
Hanford	33	66	52	-3	19	-12	0	+0	0.07	+0.00	3	0.51	-0.05	91	9	
Pasco	37	68	53	+2	23	+0	0	+0	0.33	+0.19	3	0.93	+0.27	141	9	
Pullman	33	72	46	-3	9	+1	0	+0	0.97	+0.65	5	2.15	+0.32	117	13	
Walla Walla Rgn	40	62	52	-2	16	-11	0	+0	0.81	+0.46	5	1.79	-0.07	96	13	
Whitman Mission	31	67	49	-2	1	-10	0	+0	0.74	+0.52	4	1.44	+0.15	112	12	
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE																
Lewiston ID	38	75	53	+2	26	+5	4	+4	0.72	+0.51	4	1.25	-0.13	91	13	

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/2007/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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