



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 29, 2007
Week Ending: October 28, 2007
CWP WA-CW4307

First Frost of the Season Vegetable Production in Yakima County Comes to an End Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.3. Fall tillage work continued. Whitman County reported winter wheat looked good in most areas. A good, soaking rain was needed to carry winter wheat through until spring. Skagit County reported more wheat being planted due to wheat prices. Snohomish and King County reported corn silage harvest was continuing. Christmas tree growers were grading and graveling harvest roads in preparation for harvest, and were busy harvesting holiday Noble fir boughs.

Fruits and Vegetables

Vegetable production has stopped in the Yakima Valley. Consecutive nights of subfreezing temperatures began the morning of October 26 when temperatures fell to the mid to lower 20s. Apple harvest continued as producers scrambled to get their remaining Fuji and pink lady varieties in the warehouses. Harvest was nearing completion for other apple varieties. Clark County reported brisk pumpkin sales. Whatcom County reported pruning and tying of raspberries was ongoing.

Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 6% very poor, 15% poor, 19% fair, 47% good and 13% excellent. On the east side, cattle were reported to be mostly off summer range. Shellfish growers were in full harvest mode in preparation for the holiday season. Oyster yields were reported to be good following warmer summer temperatures.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.3
Last Week	4.6

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	1	13	76	10
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	10	28	58	4
Subsoil	13	27	59	1
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	11	38	50	1
Irrigation Water	1	4	94	1
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	6	92	0
Hay & Roughage	20	20	60	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	99	93	98	98
Winter Wheat Emerged	86	74	78	83
Potatoes Harvested	93	87	96	96
Field Corn Harvested for Grain	82	61	91	61
Corn Harvested for Silage	100	92	99	99
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	100	99	100	100
Fourth Cutting of Alfalfa	100	99	NA	NA

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	0	2	38	51	9
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	89	11

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 began to cool off with temperatures in the mid-50s for the high and the lower 40s for the low. There were no unusual situations to report.

Clark: It was a good weekend for pumpkin marketers! Bright sunny weather brought in lots of customers.

Grays Harbor: U-Pick pumpkin farms reported excellent sales as consumers took advantage of sunny days and brisk temperatures to choose the perfect Halloween Jack-O-Lantern for carving. Livestock producers continued to report strong demand for both haylage and conventional baled hay. Christmas tree growers were busy harvesting Noble fir boughs. Commercial dahlia growers began digging tubers. Home gardeners continued raking leaves and harvesting late apples.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: The last of the field crops were harvested, and the cranberry harvest was nearly complete. Christmas tree harvest was ready to begin. In general, most crops did better than average, and prices were up as well.

Mason: The weather was mild and sunny in the afternoons and cool in the evenings, but frost was received on Thursday night, October 25, as a high front moved in with clear cold nights and morning fog. Most of the trees, except for fruit trees, were bare. Lawns and pastures were lightly fertilized.

Pacific: Cool fall weather provided limited opportunities for field activities. Shellfish growers were in full harvest mode in preparation for the holiday season, and oyster yields were good following warmer summer temperatures. Cranberry growers completed post-harvest cleanup, and Christmas tree growers continued preparations for pre-holiday harvest. Pasture conditions declined due to the wet weather.

Pierce/S. King: The mornings have been very cold with temperatures dropping below freezing. As most crops were winding down, the freeze did not hurt

many. Some lettuce and pumpkins were damaged due to the very wet weather received earlier in the month. There were no other unusual situations to report.

Skagit: The high temperature for the week averaged 55 degrees, and there was 0.4 of an inch of precipitation at the WSU NW Research and Extension Center in west Mount Vernon. Many potato farmers were unable to get into their fields due to muddy conditions. The potato harvest was 70 percent complete. The crop was doing well this year with lower yields in non-irrigated fields. Area flower bulb and wheat farmers finished up planting their 2008 crop. Apple harvest continued in the Skagit Valley, with Fuji apples especially crisp this year.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: The weather was unseasonably cool with a couple of nice warm days interspersed with rain. Crops were being harvested much later than normal, but winter wheat was planted as usual. There were no reports of problems with planting fall seed crops.

Snohomish/N. King: The weather was warmer than usual. Corn silage was being harvested.

Thurston: Brisk, sunny days prevailed throughout the week providing ag producers with the perfect opportunity to begin winterizing their farms. U-Pick pumpkin farms reported excellent sales as people took advantage of sunny afternoons and brisk temperatures. Christmas tree growers graded and graveled harvest roads in preparation for harvest. Turfgrass growers reported slow sales due to the slowdown in home construction. Home gardeners continued raking leaves.

Whatcom: The week was drier with temperatures dropping into the low 30s, resulting in the first frost of the season. Producers were busy applying manure to their fields. Pruning and tying of raspberries continued.

Central

Benton: Some alfalfa was harvested, dug up, and being replaced with wheat.

Chelan: Apple harvest neared completion. The weather has been cool, but not damaging to the fruit.

Grant: Irrigation water was off for the season.

Okanogan: The weather was cool with several frosts received during the week, which delayed apple harvest. Hay was still being baled, but the window for drying hay was pretty small for this time of year.

Yakima: Vegetable production in the Yakima Valley stopped due to sub-freezing temperatures down to the lower 20s. Apple harvest continued with producers scrambling to get their remaining Fuji and Pink Lady varieties picked. Harvesting of the other apple varieties was nearly complete.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures varied from eight degrees above normal to five degrees below normal, with no precipitation. Temperatures, some as low as 21 degrees, were a concern for producers that still had unharvested apples.

Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: The weather was clear for most of the week, with days sunny and nights freezing. Rain from last week caused much of the winter wheat to sprout. With cold temperatures coming, wheat will be smaller than normal going into winter. The rains also helped rangeland conditions, but will result in minimal growth prior to winter. Drought conditions still prevailed, as it takes several months of normal to above normal rain to make up for the past months of below normal rainfall.

Lincoln: The winter wheat was coming along nicely. Soaking rains are needed before the freezing temperatures begin.

Pend Oreille: The high temperature during the week was 56 degrees and the low was 12 degrees, with no precipitation received. Ice formed on watering sources, and livestock were getting their

winter coats. Livestock were being fed hay along with pasture grazing.

Stevens: Fall tillage continued. Temperatures were in the lower 20s several mornings during the week.

Walla Walla: The weather was cool during the week. Seeding was complete and looked good. Cattle were mostly off summer range, and hay for sale was in short supply.

Whitman: Warm, dry conditions returned to the area. Seeding operations wrapped up, and fall tillage work continued. Winter wheat looked okay in most areas, but a good, long, steady rainfall was needed to bring the crop into the winter. Bitter cold morning temperatures and frost were experienced in the latter half of the week, signaling the end of the growing season.

Weekly Weather Statistics
October 29, 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	PCT			
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN					DFN	NORMAL	DAYS	
WEST																
Bellingham Intl	29	69	48	+0	17	+10	0	+0	0.53	-0.37	2	4.87	-0.05	99	28	
Everett	34	78	51	+3	24	+17	6	+6	0.69	-0.12	3	5.44	+0.60	112	28	
Hoquiam	36	73	53	+1	26	+5	2	+2	0.41	-1.28	2	7.99	-0.65	92	29	
Kelso	30	73	49	-2	17	+3	0	+0	0.01	-1.03	1	5.76	+0.09	102	18	
Olympia	28	73	48	+2	16	+13	0	+0	0.06	-1.16	1	7.12	+1.16	119	28	
Seattle-Tacoma	36	72	50	+0	19	+5	0	+0	0.11	-0.79	3	6.46	+1.79	138	28	
Shelton	26	74	48	-2	16	+5	0	+0	0.17	-1.38	1	8.26	+0.88	112	26	
Tacoma WA AP	27	71	48	-2	13	+5	0	+0	0.03	-0.88	1	6.02	+1.27	127	22	
Vancouver WA	33	74	51	+3	19	+8	0	+0	0.13	-0.73	1	4.81	+0.07	101	23	
CENTRAL																
Ellensburg	21	71	47	+4	13	+13	0	+0	0.02	-0.12	1	0.89	-0.07	93	10	
Omak AP	20	65	43	+1	0	+0	0	+0	0.00	-0.23	0	1.39	-0.18	89	10	
Stampede Pass	27	69	44	+7	9	+9	0	+0	0.84	-1.00	3	11.54	+2.52	128	32	
Wenatchee	27	67	48	+2	13	+7	0	+0	0.02	-0.12	1	0.51	-0.27	65	9	
Yakima AP	21	71	47	+0	9	+3	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	0	0.75	-0.06	93	8	
NORTHEAST																
Colville	22	57	43	+0	0	+0	0	+0	0.18	-0.18	2	1.80	-0.40	82	19	
Deer Park	18	69	42	-2	1	+1	0	+0	0.08	-0.24	1	2.16	+0.35	119	17	
Republic	18	58	40	+0	0	+0	0	+0	0.22	+0.00	1	1.88	+0.22	113	15	
Spokane AP	25	69	45	+2	7	+7	0	+0	0.02	-0.27	1	1.47	-0.10	94	16	
EAST CENTRAL																
Ephrata	25	70	48	+0	13	+6	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	0	0.73	-0.01	99	8	
Moses Lake	21	71	46	-2	13	+6	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	0	0.77	+0.03	104	9	
Quincy	24	67	48	+2	13	+10	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	0	1.08	+0.25	130	11	
Ritzville	30	78	50	+5	24	+24	3	+3	0.00	-0.22	0	1.03	-0.21	83	9	
SOUTHEAST																
Hanford	25	73	49	-3	21	+1	0	+0	0.00	-0.13	0	0.51	-0.18	74	9	
Pasco	21	77	48	-3	23	+9	1	+1	0.00	-0.14	0	0.93	+0.13	116	9	
Pullman	19	73	49	+4	25	+20	2	+2	0.00	-0.39	0	2.15	-0.07	97	13	
Walla Walla Rgn	30	73	51	+0	31	+13	1	+1	0.00	-0.43	0	1.79	-0.50	78	13	
Whitman Mission	18	75	46	-2	15	+8	0	+0	0.00	-0.28	0	1.44	-0.13	92	12	
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE																
Lewiston ID	29	77	53	+4	40	+28	6	+6	0.01	-0.20	1	1.26	-0.33	79	14	

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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