



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: June 9, 2008
Week Ending: June 8, 2008
CWP WA-CW2108

Cool and Wet Conditions Benefit Grain Growers at the Expense of Hay Producers Field Crops

Days suitable for field work were 4.9. Grain growing counties continued to benefit from a very unusual spring. Conditions continued to be cool and wet, but rains were scattered, leaving some areas lacking. In general, conditions gave a much needed boost to late seeded grains and winter wheat heading out. Wet conditions delayed herbicide application. Alfalfa growing counties reported significant amounts of rain damage on cut hay. Hay which had not been cut was reported to be aging as protein levels began to drop and weevil populations increased. Franklin County reported dry beans were emerging and potatoes were blooming. Christmas tree growers were monitoring fields for aphid infestation.

Fruits and Vegetables

Widespread precipitation was reported in the Yakima Valley. Cherries were coloring up, and some peach thinning activities continued. Apple fruit size was between 30 to 35 mm, and grapes were reported to have about 12 to 20 inches of shoot growth. In Chelan County hand-thinning of apples continued, and the cherry crop continued to be a concern as the effect of frost and poor pollination became apparent. The pear crop went through a higher than usual "June" drop. Apples were developing well and appeared generally unaffected by the colder than normal temperatures. Clark County reported strawberry harvest had begun.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 1% very poor, 15% poor, 48% fair and 36% good. On the west side, livestock producers continued with haylage operations. The east side of the state reported significant gains in pasture growth due to rainfall, while overall conditions remained the same from last week.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	4.9
Last Week	6.2

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	4	16	77	3
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	3	20	73	4
Subsoil	7	32	60	1
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	5	22	71	2
Irrigation Water	0	0	93	7
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	5	91	2
Hay & Roughage	16	21	61	2

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

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2007	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Emerged	98	97	100	100
Spring Wheat Headed	7	3	32	31
Winter Wheat Headed	59	44	79	77
Barley Emerged	96	95	100	100
Barley Headed	4	1	33	23
Field Corn Planted	92	91	99	99
Field Corn Emerged	80	79	92	87
Potatoes Planted	96	95	99	100
Potatoes Emerged	84	82	95	97
Proc. Green Peas Planted	94	93	97	99
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	57	41	72	77

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	4	10	35	46	5
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	1	8	78	13
Spring Wheat Dryland	2	12	54	31	1
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	5	16	63	16
Barley Dryland	1	8	48	43	0
Barley Irrigated	0	7	38	37	18
Potatoes	0	3	33	64	0
Corn	0	4	36	60	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	8	26	66	0

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 grass seemed to be growing good, but not much else.

Clark: Strawberry harvest began with the Honeoye cultivar which was developed for the Midwest.

Grays Harbor: Sweet corn fields were looking chlorotic due to the unseasonably cool temperatures. Livestock producers continued making haylage. U-Pick vegetable farms were upset that the unseasonably cool temperatures continued to delay planting of pumpkins and other warm season vegetable crops.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: It was colder and wetter than expected, but fieldwork was getting done and animals were grazing.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions were fair to good. The cool, wet weather was beginning to delay crop growth. There were no unusual situations to report and no reports of any crop damage due to a weather event.

Mason: The weather was unseasonably cool and windy during the week. Rain in the amount of 1.5 inches was received.

Skagit: The high temperature for the week averaged 56 degrees, and there was 1.3 inches of precipitation recorded at the WSU NW Research and Extension Center in west Mount Vernon. This spring is shaping up to be the worst spring on record for cold and rainy conditions. The weather conditions were making it difficult for farmers to get the remainder of their

crops in the ground. The wheat crop was showing signs of stress from the wet weather. Farmers applied fungicides to control rust. The 2008 cabbage crop was bolting. Honey bees were placed in fields to increase pollination. The strawberry crop was not expected to be ready until July.

Snohomish/North King: The weather was unseasonably cool and rainy most of the week. Some newly planted fields had pools of standing water in them. Uncut hay fields that were rained on were over mature. Raspberry and blueberry bloom continued. Strawberries were slowly ripening. Christmas trees showed new growth.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report): Rain, rain, and more rain seemed to be the norm. The nights were still cool—into the 40s. Farmers were still behind with planting and plowing.

Thurston: Unseasonably cool temperatures and rain continued to delay plant growth. Livestock producers continued making haylage. Christmas tree growers were monitoring fields for aphid infestations. Commercial blueberry growers were mowing cover crops in established fields.

Whatcom: Most of the week was rainy and cool. Corn growth slowed due to lack of warm, sunny weather. Raspberries showed no sign of ripening, and the projected harvest date was still a month behind the previous year's harvest date.

Central

Benton: Cooler temperatures were a blessing for the dryland crops, but hindered the progress of irrigated crops. The first cutting of hay was rained on by the much-needed rains that helped save the dryland crops. Orchardists were still accessing the damage to orchards from the late frosts.

Chelan: Hand thinning of apples was currently underway, as the anticipated cherry harvest was seven to ten days behind normal. The cherry crop continued to be a concern, as the effect of frost and poor pollination became apparent. While the northern regions of the Wenatchee District have a good crop set, the production areas around Wenatchee will have a crop that is less than in recent years. The pear crop had a higher June drop than normal, so production will be somewhat lower than normal—though adequate to serve the market. Apples were developing well and appeared to be unaffected by the colder than normal temperatures.

Chelan/Douglas: Temperatures continued to be below normal. Both counties received some rain, but it was spotty and light in some areas. The rain will help the winter wheat crop which was in need of moisture. Pastures were dry. The first cutting of hay was down but not baled in some fields.

Franklin: Temperatures for the week were below normal with intermittent rain showers. Most of the first cutting of hay was down throughout the county and suffered from a couple of heavy downpours during the week. Winds were lighter than normal, so subsequent drying did not occur as hoped. Dryland wheat suffering from prior month's dry conditions benefitted from the week's precipitation. The majority of the cherry crop was still a week away from harvest. Dry beans were emerging. The corn crop (field and sweet) was nearly all planted. Potatoes, particularly at the south end of the county, were in bloom and looking good.

Klickitat: The seasonal transition to summer dragged on slowly. Daytime temperatures were consistently in the 50s, except for Sunday when the temperature broke 70 degrees. Goldendale had an overnight low of 36 degrees on Wednesday, similar to temperatures in other areas. Periodic showers during the week accumulated to less than 0.5 inch of precipitation, with winds gusting to over 30 mph. Barley and winter wheat heading was drawing to a close while spring wheat heading was behind normal. Cool weather and precipitation did not please farmers with hay down or those anxious to start cutting. Alfalfa hay quality was hurt by rain and bugs. Fields with a high component of bulbous bluegrass were beyond mature, and uncut stands turned brown. Mountain range conditions were adequate for grazing due to recent rains. Grapes were in bloom. Greenhouses and nurseries nearly sold out of fruit trees and berry stocks. Vegetable starts were more in demand than flowers this year. Harrison's yellow shrub rose burst into bloom during the week.

Klickitat (2nd Report): The rain showers helped the crops make a comeback, but more rain was needed. The constant wind was sucking out moisture.

Yakima: Temperatures were on the cool side, which slowed plant growth. Widespread precipitation in the Yakima Valley contributed 0.2 to 0.3 inch of rain. Cherries were coloring up and some peach thinning was being done. Apple fruit size was between 30 to 35 mm, and grapes had about 12 to 20 inches of shoot growth.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures varied from one to ten degrees below normal with 0.29 inch of precipitation. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams/Lincoln: Precipitation levels were enough to maintain conditions.

Asotin/Garfield: Crops and rangeland benefitted from scattered showers and cool weather. There were still some areas where more rain was needed for proper development and to catch up on prior months of below normal rainfall.

Lincoln: Rain received during the week was very much needed and should significantly improve crop and rangeland conditions. This precipitation, along with the mild, cool weather should also help grain crops.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Cool weather helped delay drought conditions. Sparse rain fell during the week, but at least it was wet!

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Rain and cool weather was the norm for the week. The precipitation was good with most areas receiving 0.5 inch of rain. The cool weather delayed crop growth, and growers were stressed about spraying spring seeded crops. Hay crops were a ways off from cutting due to the late spring and cool weather. Heading of winter wheat was not far off.

Stevens: Rain showers throughout the week prevented fieldwork and hay swathing. Hay and pasture growth made tremendous gains due to the heavy rainfall. Hay producers were looking for a break in the rain to begin the first cutting.

Walla Walla: Grain crops were still looking good thanks to cool, wet weather conditions. The first cutting of downed hay had rain damage. Dry weather was needed to get hay in decent shape. Grass was finally growing. Early cheatgrass and bulbous bluegrass were done and past usability.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): The weather continued to be unseasonable. Temperatures were cooler than normal. Much needed rain fell throughout the week and was welcomed by all but hay growers. Downed hay was getting rained on numerous times.

Whitman: Rainfall and cooler temperatures improved crop conditions but slowed application of herbicides to spring crops. Late developing crops from the cool spring were benefitting from the cooler than normal temperatures.

Weekly Weather Statistics
Week of June 2 - June 8 2008

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	46	60	52	-6	18	-33	0	-7	1.52	+1.08	4	25.54	-6.70	79	156
Everett	45	60	51	-8	10	-47	0	-7	2.12	+1.59	5	31.42	-1.05	97	172
Hoquiam	46	56	51	-6	12	-32	0	+0	1.67	+1.11	6	54.19	-9.58	85	182
Kelso	43	63	53	-6	22	-36	0	-11	1.29	+0.73	4	30.71	-11.97	72	128
Olympia	41	61	52	-6	17	-32	0	-7	1.22	+0.80	4	41.99	-5.40	89	158
Seattle-Tacoma	46	62	52	-8	20	-45	0	-10	1.44	+1.03	5	32.80	-1.50	96	156
Shelton	43	61	52	-8	15	-50	0	-14	1.47	+1.02	4	54.61	-6.92	89	157
Tacoma WA AP	46	61	53	-8	19	-46	0	-11	1.07	+0.60	4	30.59	-6.31	83	143
Vancouver WA	46	67	56	-4	42	-21	0	-14	1.18	+0.74	5	35.23	-2.97	92	151
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	44	73	56	-6	40	-31	0	-19	0.28	+0.14	2	6.50	-1.43	82	63
Omak AP	39	74	56	-4	46	-20	0	-17	0.64	+0.29	4	6.51	-5.93	52	58
Stampede Pass	33	51	39	-8	0	-8	0	+0	2.65	+1.89	7	68.12	-7.60	90	180
Wenatchee	45	74	58	-8	55	-45	3	-33	0.05	-0.09	1	4.31	-2.94	59	44
Yakima AP	36	75	54	-9	33	-53	0	-26	0.29	+0.15	3	5.86	-1.19	83	58
NORTHEAST															
Colville	39	69	55	-5	34	-32	0	-17	0.70	+0.28	4	15.43	-2.84	84	111
Deer Park	31	66	50	-10	10	-54	0	-15	0.20	-0.13	3	18.76	+2.64	116	127
Republic	41	69	55	-2	34	-12	0	-8	0.47	+0.08	4	10.13	-2.51	80	92
Spokane AP	40	66	52	-8	18	-48	0	-17	0.45	+0.10	4	15.60	+1.31	109	115
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	42	75	57	-9	52	-59	4	-41	0.17	+0.03	3	4.10	-2.25	65	64
Moses Lake	40	75	57	-10	49	-62	0	-45	0.11	-0.03	3	4.14	-2.21	65	62
Quincy	45	73	58	-6	57	-38	2	-31	0.30	+0.16	3	6.39	-0.51	93	65
Ritzville	35	73	52	-8	20	-49	0	-17	0.40	+0.23	3	8.72	-1.34	87	83
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	44	82	59	-10	66	-64	7	-53	0.25	+0.18	1	3.54	-2.26	61	42
Pasco	47	79	60	-7	74	-43	7	-43	0.59	+0.46	3	6.47	-0.27	96	66
Pullman	40	65	52	-6	14	-38	0	-11	0.50	+0.15	5	15.71	-2.76	85	110
Walla Walla Rgn	47	78	58	-8	55	-49	4	-35	0.35	+0.07	3	12.68	-4.79	73	103
Whitman Mission	45	76	58	-6	57	-34	5	-25	0.28	+0.07	3	11.07	-1.05	91	106
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	47	73	58	-7	56	-42	3	-31	0.51	+0.16	4	7.15	-3.03	70	88

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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