



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: June 30, 2008  
Week Ending: June 29, 2008  
CWP WA-CW2408

## Heat Pushes Grain Maturation Along as Cherry Harvest Gets Underway Field Crops

Days suitable for field work were 7.0. Throughout the State, temperatures climbed into the 90s and 100s. Grain development moved along quickly with the heat. Winter wheat was finishing heading out and spring wheat and barley were close behind. Soil conditions were dry in the grain growing counties, and cooler weather was needed for proper filling of grain crops. Alfalfa growers were busy finishing their first cutting and some had started on second. Whitman County reported peas were blooming. Franklin County reported Timothy hay was being cut while asparagus harvest was nearly complete and peas were being windrowed. Pend Oreille County reported bluegrass seed harvest had begun, and initial reports indicate yields were below normal. Christmas tree growers continued monitoring Noble fir plantations for aphid infestations.

### Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, day time high temperatures were in the 100s which was a challenge for tree fruit operations. Growers engaged overhead and subsoil irrigation systems to offset the elevated temperatures. Peak cherry harvest and apple fruit thinning activities continued. Summer squashes and melons were being harvested. Early planted fields of corn were in the tassel stage. Chelan County reported their cherry harvest had begun and was progressing quickly. Yields were significantly lower, as predicted. Labor has been adequate. Clark County reported strawberry growers were finishing their harvest and red raspberries were quickly coming on.

### Livestock & Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 2% very poor, 16% poor, 52% fair and 30% good. On the west side, hot conditions allowed for excellent conditions for hay baling and storage of haylage. On the east side, the heat was good for the grain maturation but burned back range and pasture. Pend Oreille County reported all cattle were on pasture with no supplemental hay feeding. Oyster growers slowed their harvest activities and continued seeding operations in the face of shortages caused by a new Vibrio bacterial disease in shell fish hatcheries.

#### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	7.0
Last Week	6.6

#### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	4	26	69	1
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	6	31	61	2
Subsoil	3	30	67	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	6	30	64	0
Irrigation Water	0	2	97	1
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	5	92	1
Hay & Roughage	7	28	59	6

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 Headed	64	51	77	84
Winter Wheat Headed	97	91	99	99
Barley Headed	61	45	86	82
Potatoes Planted	99	98	100	99
Potatoes Emerged	93	92	100	100
Field Corn Planted	100	99	100	100
Field Corn Emerged	96	95	98	99
Field Corn Silked	3	NA	8	4
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	34	5	31	27
Dry Peas Harvested	1	NA	NA	NA
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	85	81	97	96
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	14	1	33	31

#### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	5	12	29	50	4
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	5	15	76	4
Spring Wheat Dryland	4	14	52	30	0
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	4	30	65	1
Barley Dryland	4	14	49	33	0
Barley Irrigated	0	3	48	40	9
Potatoes	0	3	25	69	3
Corn	0	2	43	54	1
Dry Edible Beans	0	12	53	35	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

**Clark:** Strawberry growers finished up harvest and red raspberries were on the way. Hay growers were busy cutting and baling.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** The area had a beautiful early summer. Hopefully most of the planting was completed, because it was hot and dry towards the end of the week. The weather was excellent for getting the hay harvested.

**Grays Harbor:** A week of warm, sunny weather was welcomed by agricultural producers. Temperatures rose to nearly 90 degrees in the Eastern part of the county over the weekend creating nearly ideal conditions for hay harvesting. Christmas tree growers continued monitoring Noble fir plantations for aphid infestations. U-Pick strawberry growers reported strong demand for berries and nearly ideal harvest conditions with no rain. Greenhouse tomato growers reported rapid plant growth due to the warm temperatures. Home gardeners were kept busy changing sprinklers to replenish soil moisture.

**Pacific:** Summer arrived with very warm and dry conditions. Growers were busy cutting hay, and completing a variety of field activities. Weed and insect control efforts for cranberries continued. Raspberry producers initiated preparations for harvest, which will be later than normal this year. Oyster growers slowed their harvest activities and continued seeding operations in the face of shortages caused by a new *Vibrio* bacterial disease in shellfish hatcheries.

**Pierce/South King:** Crops were doing a lot better with warmer weather and sunshine. There were no reports of any unusual situations. There were no reports of any crop damage due to a weather event.

**Skagit:** High temperatures averaged 70 degrees. There was no precipitation recorded at the WSU North West Research and Extension Center in West Mount Vernon. With no rain and some summer temperatures you could actually watch the crops grow, while soaking up the sun and the extra moisture deposited earlier in June. Wheat started to head out and harvest will begin the first of August. The 2008 cabbage seed crop was forming seed pods. The male rows were rototilled out and the crop will begin getting cut for harvest in about three weeks. Carrots were being grown in the Skagit Valley again and were in

the ground actively growing. Spinach seed planting was completed. Potato planting was 80 percent complete, pea planting was 90 percent complete and corn planting was 90 percent complete. Harvest started for 2008. The two big ones right now were tulip bulbs and strawberries.

**Skagit/San Juan/Island:** The weather was warmer and planting of crops continued. The beginning of the week was cool and overcast, but the weather improved greatly as the week wore on. Farmers reported they planted most of what they intended, but left some fields fallow or planted to a crop with a shorter growing season such as grass or corn for silage due to previous wet and cool temperatures. Crops that were planted were behind in maturation and farmers were concerned about size and quality.

**Snohomish/North King:** Summer finally arrived! Temperatures were in the mid to upper 90s over the weekend. Local farmers were busy baling and selling hay and manure spreading was underway. Crops and pastures were growing well. Strawberry harvest was underway and other berries and tree fruits were ripening. Apple maggot emergence, like everything else, was late this year.

**Thurston:** A thermal blast over the weekend found most agricultural producers retreating to the shade as temperatures were above 90 degrees F. U-Pick strawberry growers reported the heat has expedited fruit ripening. Turfgrass growers found themselves challenged to keep up with irrigation requirements on fields. Christmas tree growers expressed concern that the heat wave may have resulted in some sun scorch damage to new growth. Livestock producers took advantage of the ideal weather to harvest hay. Home gardeners reported the warmer weather has resulted in rapid vegetable plant growth.

**Thurston (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** A good haylage crop was harvested. The area finally received some heat.

**Whatcom:** Summer finally arrived! Temperatures reached a whopping 90 degrees. The hot weather sped up the strawberry harvest, which was hampered due to lack of sun. Crops were irrigated for the first time this year. Producers were able to replant portions of fields that were flooded out due to prolonged periods of rain.

## Central

**Chelan:** Cherry harvest started last week and progressed quickly. Yields were significantly down, as predicted. Cherry market prices remained high due to short a supply. Some low yielding orchards were picked under conditions that would have caused them to be bypassed in past years. Labor did not seem to be in short supply, as less labor was necessary for the short crop. Yields were more normal in orchards north of Wenatchee, and harvest should commence there soon and continue through July. Pears were developing well, and reported few difficulties except some fire blight in the north central counties. Apples were developing well, and hand thinning progressed rapidly.

**Franklin:** The area had good growing weather as temperatures climbed to above normal by the end of the week. Limited acreage of shorter season sweet corn was being planted. Timothy hay was being harvested throughout the week. Second cutting alfalfa began to be cut in most of the county. Asparagus harvest was nearly completed while cherry harvest was in full swing. Peas were being windrowed.

**Kittitas:** With sudden high temperatures and low humidity, everyone was cutting hay. As of the weekend, approximately half the timothy hay had been cut, with many farmers getting it baled and stacked in anticipation of possible thunderstorms during the first week of July. Corn was not quite knee-high. Range conditions were quite dry. Plants matured late due to the cold spring, so it may be a poor seed year for native bunchgrasses. Plants may also go dormant with slightly higher nutrient values, curing well for fall use.

**Klickitat:** For irrigators who kept water sets moving this week, it was ideal growing weather with a high/low range from 70s to 40s that lasted through Thursday. A heat spell

struck with daily temperature jumps into 80s, 90s and then over 100 by Sunday. Grapes were doing well and growers expect a good crop. Winds caused slight damage to shoots and coyotes were a nuisance, chewing up drip line in vineyards. Hot weather late in the week stressed dryland crops and stock. The humidity rose and thundershowers dampened hay still on the ground. Wind, some rain and lightening played over the area Sunday evening and started multiple fires.

**Klickitat (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The area received a bad thunder and lightning storm Sunday that started fires but did not bring much moisture. Weather had turned hot and dry. Producers were finishing first cutting.

**Okanogan:** Some good haying weather had finally come to the area. However, it was quite hot to work in. Range land looked in pretty good condition and most cattle were moving up to the higher country. Hay was being sold as fast as it could be baled.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures varied from 6 degrees below normal to 12 degrees above normal, with a trace of precipitation. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Daytime high temperatures in the 100s added challenges to tree fruit operations. No precipitation was received. Growers engaged overhead and under tree irrigation, koalin clay and other strategies to offset elevated temperatures. Peak cherry harvest and apple fruit thinning activities continued. Summer squashes and melons were also being harvested. Early-planted fields of corn were in tassel stage.

## Eastern

**Asotin/Garfield:** Crop development progressed rapidly as the weather warmed up. Hot temperatures by the end of the week started to take a toll on crops. Cooler weather was needed for proper filling of grain crops.

**Ferry:** Hot dry weather spurred first cutting harvest throughout most of the county. The lack of subsoil moisture significantly reduced dryland yields.

**Lincoln:** Some very warm days helped ripen the winter wheat crop. This weather also hastened the heading out of spring grain crops. There was concern that the heat could have potentially damaged some spring crops in the critical growing stage. Haying progressed briskly with this dry weather. Pasture conditions deteriorated.

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The area received 100 plus degree temperatures.

**Pend Oreille:** The high temperature was 93 degrees; the low was 33 degrees with zero precipitation. The weather was hot and dry. Hay was growing well, some farmers started first cuttings. Livestock was only on pasture now, no hay supplements.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** Record high temperatures received on Saturday and Sunday dried hay but also damaged crops not used to the heat. Only time will tell what damage was done. A lot of hay was cut with yields down anywhere from one-third to half of normal. Lack of warm weather and frost during the growing season really reduced yields. Some bluegrass seed fields started to be swathed which was on tract for normal timing but reports indicated that yields will be down significantly again this year. Strawberries began to be picked at Green Bluff and should continue for about 30 days.

**Walla Walla:** Weather was hot and dry. Crops looked pretty good overall. Hay growers were busy getting hay cut, baled and off fields.

**Whitman:** Temperatures heated up as the weather became more summer-like. Hay was being cut in eastern Whitman County. Peas were blooming. Spring wheat began to head and barley had headed out.

**Weekly Weather Statistics**  
**Week of June 23 - 29, 2008**

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F TOT	BASE-50F DFN	BASE-60F TOT	BASE-60F DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham Intl	42	83	60	-1	69	-3	16	+2	0.00	-0.36	0	26.21	-7.23	78	160
Everett	47	84	61	+0	81	+3	23	+6	0.00	-0.41	0	31.76	-2.08	94	179
Hoquiam	43	86	58	-1	59	-3	13	+6	0.00	-0.40	0	54.86	-10.28	84	188
Kelso	43	97	65	+4	103	+21	38	+17	0.00	-0.39	0	30.82	-13.24	70	131
Olympia	38	94	63	+3	90	+16	35	+21	0.00	-0.31	0	42.18	-6.30	87	160
Seattle-Tacoma	49	91	65	+3	107	+17	42	+16	0.00	-0.29	0	33.00	-2.29	94	158
Shelton	43	95	63	+1	91	+3	31	+3	0.00	-0.34	0	55.07	-7.62	88	159
Tacoma WA AP	39	92	62	-1	88	+0	32	+9	0.00	-0.34	0	30.89	-7.19	81	145
Vancouver WA	45	101	68	+6	127	+39	59	+32	0.00	-0.29	0	35.28	-3.98	90	153
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	50	105	70	+5	140	+34	70	+29	0.00	-0.08	0	6.50	-1.79	78	63
Omak AP	46	101	69	+6	133	+32	63	+24	0.00	-0.24	0	7.25	-6.05	55	59
Stampede Pass	39	90	58	+7	60	+35	28	+28	0.00	-0.53	0	69.62	-7.98	90	185
Wenatchee	53	102	72	+3	158	+19	88	+19	0.00	-0.11	0	4.31	-3.33	56	44
Yakima AP	41	101	69	+2	133	+12	64	+11	0.00	-0.07	0	5.86	-1.54	79	58
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	45	102	67	+4	122	+26	52	+17	0.00	-0.28	0	15.84	-3.40	82	115
Deer Park	38	96	63	-3	90	-15	27	-14	0.00	-0.24	0	19.74	+2.82	117	132
Republic	48	99	67	+7	123	+47	53	+32	0.00	-0.29	0	10.86	-2.77	80	97
Spokane AP	50	97	68	+4	128	+22	58	+16	0.00	-0.24	0	16.11	+1.01	107	120
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	51	102	73	+2	161	+10	91	+10	0.00	-0.07	0	4.15	-2.47	63	65
Moses Lake	47	103	71	-1	150	-1	80	-1	0.00	-0.07	0	4.22	-2.40	64	65
Quincy	49	97	70	+2	140	+11	70	+10	0.00	-0.07	0	6.61	-0.58	92	66
Ritzville	42	94	65	-1	105	-3	37	-7	0.00	-0.14	0	9.00	-1.48	86	86
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	48	106	75	+2	175	+8	105	+6	0.00	-0.07	0	3.79	-2.22	63	44
Pasco	46	105	70	-2	142	-10	72	-11	0.00	-0.07	0	6.81	-0.14	98	68
Pullman	42	95	64	+3	96	+11	30	+2	0.00	-0.28	0	16.65	-2.80	86	115
Walla Walla Rgn	51	105	73	+3	160	+13	90	+12	0.00	-0.19	0	13.14	-4.99	72	105
Whitman Mission	45	97	67	-2	118	-9	48	-11	0.00	-0.14	0	11.47	-1.20	91	109
<b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b>															
Lewiston ID	48	99	71	+1	147	+5	77	+5	0.00	-0.24	0	7.31	-3.67	67	92

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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