



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: July 14, 2008
Week Ending: July 13, 2008
CWP WA-CW2608

Winter Wheat Harvest Began

Field Crops

Days suitable for field work were 7.0. Winter wheat harvest has begun in the southern areas. In Walla Walla County some wheat harvest activity has begun but most combining will be one week to ten days out. State wide, green pea harvest was 80 percent complete and the second cutting of alfalfa reached the halfway point. Most of the State had high temperatures in the upper 80s to upper 90s, and no rainfall was reported. Non-irrigated crops were showing stress, and reporters were concerned that small grain yields may suffer.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, cherry harvest continued in the upper Valley with a focus on the later maturing varieties. Snohomish County reported strawberry and raspberry harvest continued while blueberries ripened. Whatcom County reported strawberry harvest was one week shorter this year due to the cool spring, and corn fields which had been flooded out in June were being replanted. Pacific County reported cranberry growers were irrigating bogs

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 2 percent very poor, 49 percent poor, 17 percent fair and 32 percent good. On the west side of the State, hay and grass harvest was wrapping up, and Jefferson County reported their second cutting of grass silage was done. On the east side, range and pasture dried out with the hot July weather, but reports from Walla Walla County indicated conditions were still good. In Pacific County, shellfish growers harvested triploid oyster stocks for processing and completed seeding operations.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	7.0
Last Week	6.7

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	12	40	48	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	13	34	53	0
Subsoil	7	49	44	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	9	35	56	0
Irrigation Water	0	1	99	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	5	93	0
Hay & Roughage	16	33	46	5

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	93	84	99	98
Winter Wheat Harvested	4	NA	5	4
Barley Headed	89	85	99	98
Potatoes Emerged	100	95	100	NA
Potatoes Harvested	NA	NA	4	6
Field Corn Emerged	100	98	100	100
Field Corn Silked	5	4	39	24
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	80	40	74	76
Dry Peas Harvested	13	5	13	14
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	100	95	100	99
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	50	23	67	67

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	4	12	37	45	2
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	4	9	76	11
Spring Wheat Dryland	6	28	49	17	0
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	15	71	14
Barley Dryland	5	9	42	44	0
Barley Irrigated	0	0	44	38	18
Potatoes	0	3	25	71	1
Corn	0	4	28	67	1
Dry Edible Beans	0	1	25	72	2

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

Grays Harbor: Livestock producers took advantage of an entire week of ideal conditions for harvesting hay. Sweet corn growers reported rapid crop growth due to the additional heat units. Christmas tree growers continued monitoring Noble fir plantations for aphid infestations. Greenhouse tomato growers reported fruit turning pink.

Jefferson: The second cutting of grass silage was complete. Strawberries were in their second week with a good crop. No irrigation has been necessary yet. The temperatures were in the high 70s and low 80s during the week.

Mason: The first and only cutting of hay was finished. The irrigation season began.

Pacific: Warm summer conditions were welcomed by growers. Final hay activities were completed with the dry conditions, and irrigation continued on pasture acreage. Shellfish growers harvested triploid oyster stocks for processing and completed seeding operations. Raspberry growers continued harvest activities, and cranberry growers irrigated bogs due to the dry summer conditions.

Pierce/South King: Crop and weather conditions were very good. There were no unusual situations to report and no reports of any crop damage due to a weather event.

Skagit: High temperature for the week averaged 72 degrees, and there was no precipitation recorded at the WSU Northwest Extension Center in Mount Vernon. With no rain this past week, many farmers were beginning to irrigate their fields. The most common way used to irrigate was with a big gun

system. This system uses high pressure to propel the water 100 feet from the sprinkler. It is a popular system because it is so mobile and able to be transported from field to field. Raspberry harvest began.

Snohomish/North King: It was a good week for fieldwork. Some irrigation was underway as fields dried out. Warm weather encouraged excellent growth of crops. Forage growth on non-irrigated pastures slowed down. Strawberry harvest continued, and raspberry harvest got underway. Blueberries were still ripening. Apples showed good growth. Scab was prevalent on unsprayed trees.

Thurston: Warm temperatures with no rain resulted in a rapid decrease of available soil moisture. Livestock producers took advantage of another week of nearly ideal conditions for harvesting hay. U-Pick blueberry fields opened with excellent fruit quality being reported. Turfgrass growers were cultivating harvested fields in preparation for seeding. Christmas tree growers began shearing Norway spruce and Grand fir. Organic vegetable growers reported rapid growth of warm season vegetable crops including corn, tomatoes, and squash. Home gardeners focused on keeping sprinklers going.

Whatcom: Strawberry producers reported a good crop, but it was a week shorter than prior years. Raspberry harvest began. Berries were ripening fast due to high temperatures and lots of sunshine. Grass was being baled for hay. Crops flooded out in June were being replanted. The majority of the crops were being irrigated.

Central

Benton: Harvest was underway. The weather has been hot and dry, but no fires have been reported so far.

Douglas/Chelan: High winds and dry conditions fueled two fires in Douglas County. They consumed approximately 4,800 acres of pasture, 100 acres of winter wheat, and some fruit trees. The winter wheat was stressed because of the hot, windy weather. Spring wheat and barley plants were smaller than normal. Cherry harvest continued. Growers in the lower elevations did not suffer substantial losses to their orchards, but cherry growers in the higher elevations had significant losses.

Franklin: Temperatures were hot but normal for the week. The second cutting of hay finished up. Some irrigated winter wheat was harvested at the south end of the county. Pea harvest was completed for the year. The last of the short season sweet corn was planted.

Klickitat: Overall, it was a week of warm temperatures and no precipitation. This raised concerns of reduced cereal crop conditions, soil moisture loss on summer fallow fields, and rangeland fire danger. Highs were in the 90s mid-week, but a southwesterly flow on Thursday brought in cooler air. After two days of temperatures in the 70s, the thermometer rose to the upper 80s by Saturday and back to the 90s on Sunday. Overnight temperatures were consistently in the 40s and 50s all week. Wheat

was rapidly ripening, and the second cutting of hay had not begun. Harvest of cherries and early apricot varieties were complete. The cherry crop was reduced, but the market was strong. Orchardists expect to begin peach and nectarine harvest in the coming week. With the hot weather field workers began earlier in the day and quit work before mid-afternoon. Orchards were under constant irrigation. Grapes looked good. Fungicide spray was maintained on a 14-21 day schedule. Cattle continued to be sorted and moved to any available pasture.

Klickitat: The first cutting of hay was done, and the wheat was turning golden. Harvest should be kicking off soon. Weather was about normal for this time of year.

Yakima: Daytime highs were in the upper 90s early in the week, and nighttime lows were in the lower 40s mid-week. There was no precipitation anywhere in the Valley. Cherry harvest continued in the upper Valley with a focus on the later maturing varieties. Locally harvested blueberries, raspberries, cucumbers, early sweet corn, and early maturing peaches appeared at roadside stands.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures varied from seven degrees below normal to eight degrees above normal, with no precipitation. No crop losses were reported due to weather conditions.

Eastern

Asotin: Warm, dry weather continued. Winter wheat was close to being harvested in the lower elevations.

Asotin/Garfield: Hot weather continued with windy conditions at times. Grain crops were ripening very quickly. The hot, windy weather conditions may cause problems for grain filling and will hurt yield and quality of the crops.

Ferry: Dry, hot winds parched topsoil and resulted in early fire conditions. Rangeland in the lower elevations dried out considerably. There were four fires in the southern and eastern areas of the county.

Garfield: The wheat harvest will be below average with pinched grain from hot, dry winds coupled with drought.

Lincoln: Winter wheat was mostly dry. Spring wheat continued to deteriorate. If rain was received now it would only keep the kernels from being shriveled.

Lincoln (2nd Report): The warm, sunny weather ripened crops. Some harvesting began in the drier areas of the county.

Pend Oreille: The high temperature during the week was 85 degrees and the low was 30 degrees with no precipitation received. Hay was being harvested. Livestock were on pastures which were doing well.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: A week of haying finished off most of the first cutting. Thursday high winds caused trees to snap off, which brought down some power lines. The wind also shattered grass seed that was ripe and had not been swathed as well as blew windrows around that had been swathed. The temperatures and the high winds sucked the moisture out of the standing grain crops, forcing the grain to turn quicker than it should. Grass seed harvest should begin this week for some of the growers.

Stevens: High temperatures and lack of rainfall dried out the soil profile with crops beginning to show stress from lack of moisture. The first cutting of hay was complete. A windstorm Thursday afternoon uprooted trees.

Walla Walla: Green pea harvest was nearly complete. The wheat harvest began in the northern and western areas of the county. The second cutting of hay was underway. Yield for the first cutting was down due to the late spring.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Wheat harvest was still a week to 10 days away. The crop looked good. Most producers seem optimistic that dry pea harvest will have favorable yields. Pasture and rangeland were beginning to dry up.

Weather Statistics Week of July 7 – 13 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	44	79	62	+1	85	+1	16	-4	0.00	-0.30	0	26.55	-7.54	78	164
Everett	50	81	63	+1	90	+3	22	+1	0.00	-0.28	0	32.20	-2.26	93	180
Hoquiam	45	80	60	-1	70	+0	6	-1	0.00	-0.28	0	55.08	-10.69	84	190
Kelso	45	91	67	+4	121	+28	55	+27	0.00	-0.21	0	30.93	-13.64	69	133
Olympia	43	88	65	+4	109	+22	39	+18	0.01	-0.19	1	42.38	-6.54	87	164
Seattle-Tacoma	52	86	68	+4	129	+24	59	+24	0.00	-0.18	0	33.25	-2.45	93	159
Shelton	41	88	65	+1	107	+6	37	+2	0.00	-0.21	0	55.24	-7.94	87	161
Tacoma WA AP	42	87	65	+0	105	+7	35	+3	0.00	-0.21	0	31.00	-7.55	80	147
Vancouver WA	51	94	71	+8	152	+52	82	+49	0.00	-0.21	0	35.51	-4.19	89	155
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	39	93	71	+4	152	+28	82	+26	0.00	-0.07	0	6.60	-1.83	78	65
Omak AP	42	96	71	+5	150	+31	80	+28	0.00	-0.14	0	7.30	-6.32	54	60
Stampede Pass	44	82	63	+9	90	+53	21	+16	0.00	-0.33	0	69.65	-8.70	89	186
Wenatchee	50	96	75	+3	173	+13	103	+13	0.00	-0.07	0	4.31	-3.47	55	44
Yakima AP	42	96	71	+2	149	+12	79	+12	0.00	-0.04	0	5.91	-1.60	79	59
NORTHEAST															
Colville	41	93	69	+3	133	+21	63	+18	0.00	-0.21	0	16.05	-3.62	82	118
Deer Park	32	91	63	-6	92	-38	28	-33	0.00	-0.21	0	20.02	+2.68	115	133
Republic	41	93	69	+7	137	+45	67	+39	0.00	-0.21	0	10.95	-3.16	78	98
Spokane AP	42	91	70	+2	139	+11	70	+11	0.00	-0.14	0	16.11	+0.68	104	120
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	46	97	75	+2	180	+8	110	+8	0.00	-0.07	0	4.16	-2.62	61	66
Moses Lake	46	98	73	-2	164	-8	94	-8	0.00	-0.07	0	4.26	-2.52	63	66
Quincy	47	94	72	+2	155	+11	85	+11	0.00	-0.07	0	6.63	-0.70	90	67
Ritzville	44	92	68	-2	126	-4	56	-6	0.00	-0.09	0	9.00	-1.71	84	86
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	51	100	76	-2	182	-9	112	-9	0.00	+0.00	0	3.79	-2.29	62	44
Pasco	42	99	73	-3	160	-10	90	-11	0.00	+0.00	0	6.81	-0.21	97	68
Pullman	33	89	64	-2	98	-5	34	-3	0.00	-0.17	0	16.65	-3.19	84	115
Walla Walla Rgn	46	96	75	+0	173	+0	103	+0	0.00	-0.14	0	13.32	-5.09	72	106
Whitman Mission	38	97	69	-3	131	-14	61	-14	0.00	-0.09	0	11.84	-1.06	92	110
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	52	97	74	+1	170	+4	100	+4	0.00	-0.14	0	7.32	-3.99	65	93

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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