



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: July 28, 2008
Week Ending: July 27, 2008
CWP WA-CW2808

Harvest Underway as Dry Weather Continued

Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 7.0. Field crops were growing well, especially for farmers with irrigation. Winter wheat harvest began with yields as bad as or worse than expected, and summer fallow moisture conditions continued to deteriorate. Adams County reported dryland wheat yields average to less than average as harvest was in full swing, and in Asotin County crop yields were below normal, with very poor yields in northern Asotin County. Early reports indicated good grain test weights. Klickitat and Stevens Counties reported alfalfa second cutting underway. Hay producers continued cutting and baling grain hay.

Fruits and Vegetables

Another week of warm, sunny weather provided nearly ideal harvest conditions for U-Pick raspberry and blueberry growers. Raspberry growers reported low production in Whatcom County due to 90 degree temperatures. FSA data indicated cherry losses are at 60 percent overall in Chelan and Douglas Counties, and a disaster designation for the April freeze was being processed. Christmas tree growers applied insecticides and did top-work to Noble and Grand Fir. Due to late season frosts and poor pollination conditions, the cherry crop was about 50 percent normal with some orchards with little to no fruit scattered throughout the Valley. Apricot, peach and nectarine harvest was underway. Local tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and sweet corn were among the vegetables being harvested.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 10 percent very poor, 20 percent poor, 52 percent fair and 18 percent good. Continued dry weather exacerbated fire conditions throughout the rural landscape, with fire danger high. Water sources for livestock have begun to dry up in Asotin County. Livestock producers continued to harvest hay. Livestock producers were enrolling in the Critical Use program to graze CRP acreage due to lack of forage and dry conditions in summer pastures. Turfgrass growers focused on irrigation requirements. Shellfish growers continued harvest of triploid oysters for processing.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	7.0
Last Week	7.0

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	15	47	38	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	22	35	42	1
Subsoil	10	55	35	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	13	34	52	0
Irrigation Water	0	5	95	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	3	8	89	0
Hay & Roughage	0	34	61	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 Harvested	3	NA	12	9
Winter Wheat Harvested	18	7	33	25
Barley Harvested	1	NA	19	10
Potatoes Harvested	13	5	16	17
Field Corn Silked	50	36	55	62
Field Corn Doughed	5	2	23	11
Field Corn Dented	1	NA	1	7
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	93	92	97	97
Dry Peas Harvested	30	15	49	32
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	57	55	77	86
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	1	NA	6	9

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	6	16	41	36	1
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	30	70	0
Spring Wheat Dryland	7	37	48	8	0
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	19	81	0
Barley Dryland	5	11	53	31	0
Barley Irrigated	0	0	18	82	0
Potatoes	0	0	41	59	0
Corn	0	0	54	46	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	8	28	64	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

Grays Harbor: Ag producers spent most of the week focused on irrigation as another week of warm, dry weather decreased available soil moisture. Christmas tree growers began top working Noble fir. Dairy producers were kept busy with irrigation requirements for forage. U-Pick blueberry growers reported excellent fruit quality due to the lack of rain. Greenhouse tomato growers reported excellent yields as well as demand for fruit. The rural landscape was rapidly becoming very dry.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Beautiful weather continued to please farmers. All farming was going forward with gusto. Precipitation was needed.

Jefferson: The growing season was about two weeks later than normal. Soils were still moist, but the temperatures were about 15 degrees below average in the coastal areas. Hay for silage was complete.

Mason: There was no precipitation during the week, but rain was in the forecast.

Pacific: Warm, dry weather allowed producers to continue a variety of field activities. Raspberry harvest and final haying operations were nearly complete. Cranberry growers continued irrigation of bogs and were concerned with late bloom. The growers were anticipating lower production this fall due to earlier cool conditions. Shellfish growers continued harvest of triploid oysters for processing.

Snohomish/North King: It was another good week

for fieldwork. The temperatures were cooler than normal. Scattered showers were received in the lowlands on Sunday. Some locations in the foothills above 550 feet received 0.75 inch of precipitation in a 12 hour period, though most locations received much less. Berry harvest continued, and field crops were growing well, especially for farmers with irrigation.

Thurston: Another week of warm, sunny conditions provided nearly ideal harvest conditions for U-Pick raspberry and blueberry growers. Yields were reported as average. Turfgrass growers focused most of their time on irrigation requirements. Christmas tree growers applied insecticides to Noble and Grand fir for aphids and did top work on Noble fir. Livestock producers continued harvesting hay. Organic vegetable growers continued to report excellent demand for sales at Farmer's Markets. The continued dry weather with almost no measurable precipitation for three weeks exacerbated fire conditions throughout the county.

Whatcom: It was another dry, sunny week. Daytime temperatures were in the lower 70s, which alleviated heat stress in crops. Raspberry growers reported low production due to 90 degree temperatures at the onset of harvest and the continued lack of rain. Mite infestation was reported. It was the beginning of the blueberry harvest.

Central

Douglas/Chelan: Dry conditions continued. Winter wheat harvest began with yields average to below average due to lack of timely moisture. Many livestock producers were enrolling in the Critical Use program to graze CRP acreage due to lack of forage and dry conditions in summer pastures. Cherry harvest continued with losses at 60 percent overall in both counties. A disaster designation for the April freeze was being processed. Losses to pears were also being determined.

Franklin: Good weather was received for the growing week. Sweet corn was being harvested throughout the week. The second cutting of alfalfa finished up. Wheat harvest was in full swing in both the irrigated and dryland areas of the county. Beans were coming up nicely. The last of the cherry harvest was complete, and some peach early varieties harvest just started.

Kittitas: The first cutting of timothy hay had good yields, good prices, and only one rainstorm. Sweet corn was tasselling. Rangeland pasture conditions were dry but normal for late July.

Klickitat: The second cutting of alfalfa began. The weather was hot but not the normal high temperatures.

Okanogan: The weather was hot and dry. The second cutting of hay got a good start. Cherry harvest wound down, and peaches and apricots were coming in. Farmer's Markets had a wide variety of produce to offer.

Yakima: Temperatures were moderate with highs in the 90s and the lows in the upper 40s. No precipitation was reported in most areas of the Valley. Cherry harvest was almost complete. The cherry crop was about 50 percent normal with some orchards with little to no fruit due to late season frosts and poor pollination conditions. All other fruits fared better. Apricot, peach, and nectarine harvest was underway. Local tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, and sweet corn were among the vegetables being harvested.

Eastern

Adams: The winter wheat harvest was in full swing with yields reported as average to mostly 10-15 percent below average. Early reports indicated that grain test weight was going to be good.

Adams (2nd Report): Winter wheat harvest was in full swing with less than average yields on dryland wheat. Bluegrass activity was complete, with slightly better than average yields.

Asotin: Dry weather continued during the week, except for scattered rain in some parts of the county was received during the middle of the week. Harvest progressed in the lower elevations, with winter wheat yield below normal.

Asotin/Garfield: Crop yields for wheat have been below normal. Dry weather allowed harvest to progress normally. Fire danger was high, and water sources for livestock have begun to dry up due to the continued dry weather.

Ferry: One short rainfall arrived but gave little relief from the soil moisture shortage.

Ferry (2nd Report): Winter wheat harvest was underway. Weather conditions were hot and dry. The second cutting of alfalfa was underway.

Garfield: Continued very hot, dry, windy conditions have pinched grain. Green spots may delay harvest until late August. A few small fires were reported.

Lincoln: Winter wheat harvest began. Yields in the drier regions of the southwest corner of the county have been well below average.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Winter wheat harvest began with yields as bad as or worse than expected. Summer fallow moisture continued to deteriorate making seeding this fall questionable. The weather looked good to get another week of harvest in.

Stevens: Hay producers continued cutting and baling grain hay. The second cutting was swathed on a few operations. Very dry conditions continued.

Walla Walla: Reports of wheat harvesting have been favorable. Crop yields were average overall. Hay growers were doing well in regards to getting cutting completed and off the fields without rain. Pastures and rangeland were drying up but was still in fair condition.

Weather Statistics

Week of July 21-27, 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	49	71	60	-3	73	-18	5	-16	0.00	-0.28	0	26.55	-8.10	77	164
Everett	50	74	60	-4	75	-19	10	-18	0.18	-0.04	1	32.38	-2.58	93	181
Hoquiam	46	67	58	-4	57	-20	1	-13	0.07	-0.20	1	55.15	-11.17	83	191
Kelso	45	81	63	-2	92	-9	22	-12	0.00	-0.20	0	30.93	-14.05	69	133
Olympia	40	78	61	-4	75	-22	10	-18	0.00	-0.15	0	42.38	-6.83	86	164
Seattle-Tacoma_	53	76	63	-4	93	-19	24	-18	0.00	-0.14	0	33.25	-2.73	92	159
Shelton	44	80	62	-5	83	-28	16	-26	0.03	-0.13	1	55.27	-8.28	87	162
Tacoma_WA_AP	42	78	61	-5	79	-26	15	-20	0.00	-0.16	0	31.00	-7.87	80	147
Vancouver_WA	50	84	66	+2	114	+9	44	+8	0.00	-0.15	0	35.51	-4.48	89	155
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	45	93	71	+3	145	+12	75	+12	0.00	-0.05	0	6.60	-1.91	78	65
Omak_AP	48	98	73	+5	159	+32	89	+31	0.06	-0.08	2	7.36	-6.54	53	62
Stampede_Pass	41	75	54	-3	38	-9	1	-6	0.24	-0.04	1	69.89	-9.02	89	187
Wenatchee	56	95	75	+2	179	+11	109	+11	0.00	-0.06	0	4.31	-3.54	55	44
Yakima_AP	45	94	71	-1	145	-2	75	-1	0.00	-0.02	0	5.91	-1.62	78	59
NORTHEAST															
Colville	47	93	70	+3	140	+21	70	+20	0.12	-0.07	2	16.17	-3.85	81	120
Deer_Park	41	91	65	-6	104	-36	36	-34	0.00	-0.14	0	20.02	+2.34	113	133
Republic	48	94	72	+8	154	+55	84	+49	0.08	-0.13	1	11.03	-3.50	76	99
Spokane_AP	52	91	70	+0	143	+3	73	+3	0.00	-0.14	0	16.11	+0.40	103	120
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	54	96	74	-2	173	-9	103	-9	0.00	-0.07	0	4.16	-2.76	60	66
Moses_Lake	50	95	72	-4	157	-25	87	-25	0.00	-0.07	0	4.26	-2.66	62	66
Quincy	53	92	73	+2	163	+9	93	+9	0.00	-0.06	0	6.63	-0.78	89	67
Ritzville	49	94	69	-1	138	-2	68	-2	0.00	-0.07	0	9.00	-1.85	83	86
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	54	101	76	-4	180	-23	110	-23	0.00	-0.05	0	3.79	-2.34	62	44
Pasco	51	98	75	+0	178	-2	108	-1	0.00	-0.06	0	6.81	-0.27	96	68
Pullman	41	89	65	-2	108	-6	38	-9	0.25	+0.11	2	16.90	-3.22	84	117
Walla_Walla_Rgn	52	94	74	-3	172	-10	102	-10	0.07	-0.07	1	13.39	-5.23	72	107
Whitman_Mission	46	95	72	-1	153	-1	83	-1	0.01	-0.08	1	11.85	-1.21	91	111
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston_ID	54	98	75	-1	175	+0	105	+0	0.22	+0.08	1	7.54	-4.05	65	94

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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