



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: August 4, 2008  
Week Ending: August 3, 2008  
CWP WA-CW2908

## Grain Harvest Moved Along as Yields Appeared Average to Below Average While Nectarine and Peach Harvest Continued

### Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.8. Grain harvest was going well throughout the State. In general, winter wheat yields appeared to be average to below average. Walla Walla County reported spring yields were slightly below average. However, this was better than expected given the late spring planting. Due to the late planting, Whitman County expected harvest to be slow and protracted this year. The second cutting of alfalfa looked good as farmers were able to get hay cut and baled without rain damage. The third crop was being laid down in some areas and hay prices in general were very high. Cannery pea growers were monitoring fields for aphid infestations. Christmas tree growers reported aphid infestations in both Grand and Noble fir.

### Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, daytime temperatures remained cool most of the week. Fruit growers were harvesting nectarines and peaches. The anticipated harvest of pears appears to be delayed by 7-10 days, with growers mowing and placing bins in orchards. The apple crop was coloring up nicely and the hops were setting a nice crop of cones. Blueberries in northern Washington were still about 10 days away from machine harvest. Both Duke and Hardblue varieties were looking good. Raspberry harvest was in full swing with good quality reported but smaller fruit. Production was expected to be down.

### Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 10 percent very poor, 23 percent poor, 24 percent fair and 43 percent good. Hay prices have hit record levels. Stevens County reported high feed prices were driving cattle growers to heavily cull their herds. Walla Walla County reported pastures were drying up, which was to be expected this time of year. On the west side, Pacific County reported shellfish growers completed oyster and clam seed planting and continued limited oyster harvest.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.8
Last Week	7.0

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	21	32	47	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	25	37	38	0
Subsoil	16	51	33	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	15	35	50	0
Irrigation Water	0	3	97	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	4	8	88	0
Hay & Roughage	12	31	49	8

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	10	3	30	26
Winter Wheat Harvested	42	18	52	46
Barley Harvested	15	1	29	23
Potatoes Harvested	20	13	25	26
Field Corn Silked	52	50	67	78
Field Corn Doughed	6	5	32	20
Field Corn Dented	3	1	2	13
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	94	93	99	99
Dry Peas Harvested	31	30	66	49
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	76	57	87	92
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	7	1	23	26

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	11	17	35	34	3
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	2	24	67	7
Spring Wheat Dryland	6	33	49	12	0
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	10	78	12
Barley Dryland	4	14	55	27	0
Barley Irrigated	0	0	8	79	13
Potatoes	0	3	37	60	0
Corn	0	2	40	58	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	8	42	50	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 weather was about the same with little or no precipitation. Crops seemed to be doing better.

**Clark:** The weather was very nice for the week in southwest Washington.

**Clark/Skagit/Cowlitz/Wakiakum:** Everything seemed to be running two weeks late this year with the abnormally drier and colder weather. Strawberries were in very short supply. The heat came on after the cooler spring weather and hurt some crops. Raspberry season was extended due to the cooler weather. This has been the best year for hay quality and quantity in a long time. Silage was doing very well. Corn crops came up later than usual.

**Grays Harbor:** Numerous rain showers early in the week helped to temporarily alleviate dry surface conditions, but did little to replenish surface soil moisture. Cannery pea growers were monitoring fields for aphid infestations. Sweet corn growers were kept busy with irrigation requirements. Greenhouse tomato growers reported excellent demand for their crop. Commercial dahlia growers began harvesting flowers for the Olympia Farmer's Market. Christmas tree growers reported aphid infestations in both Grand and Noble fir. Livestock producers continued harvesting hay and applying liquid manure to forage fields.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** The summer has been beautiful and very normal for all three counties.

**Pacific:** Cooler, rainy weather provided much needed soil moisture for crops and pastures. Raspberry harvest activities were nearly complete. Cranberry growers remained concerned about late blossom timing and lower projected harvest yields for the fall. Shellfish growers completed oyster and clam seed planting and continued limited harvest of oysters. Pasture conditions improved

slightly with cooler conditions.

**San Juan:** Cool dry conditions continued.

**Skagit:** High temperatures for the week averaged 68 degrees, with 0.4 an inch of precipitation recorded at the WSU NW Extension Service in Mount Vernon. Pea and blueberry harvest began. The wheat crop was beginning to head out and turn yellow. The cabbage seed crop was forming pods. Last week's rain will reduce the yield for grass seed crops.

**Snohomish/North King:** There were a couple of scattered showers received during the week, but not enough to interfere significantly with fieldwork. Crop growth continued to be good though behind normal. Irrigation, where available, continued. Raspberry and blueberry harvest continued. Some unsprayed blueberry fields experienced very heavy mummyberry infection. Apple growth was good, but unsprayed apples showed signs of scab. Apple maggot adults were active and continued to spread throughout the counties.

**Thurston:** Rain showers early in the week did little to replenish soil moisture. Non-irrigated pastures and hayfields were showing drought stress. Turfgrass growers reported sales volume had decreased as a result of the slowdown in housing. Christmas tree growers continued top working Noble fir. Livestock owners were taking a second cutting of hay and continued applying liquid manure to recently harvested fields. Dairy producers reported visible infestations of the noxious weed tansy ragwort in pastures. Most likely the tansy seed was brought in with the December flood waters.

**Whatcom:** A couple of days of much needed rain were received during the week. Seed potatoes finished blooming. Blueberry and raspberry harvest continued.

## Central

**Benton:** Harvest was progressing well. Temperatures remained normal or below normal for the most part. Rainfall was needed as the winter wheat dryland farmers began to look toward seeding next month.

**Douglas/Chelan:** Dry conditions continued and caused problems in ranges and pastures. Another fire in Douglas County engulfed approximately 13,000 acres of grazing land. A request for emergency use of CRP land has been made. Winter wheat harvest continued. Yields were below normal due to lack of moisture.

**Klickitat:** August came in with a week of daytime temperatures in the 70s and 80s and nighttime temperatures in the 40s and 50s. Wheat harvest was underway with yields below what had been expected. The second cutting of hay was underway. Some growers continued to irrigate, holding off on harvest for a better yield. Grapes were pea-sized and still behind schedule due to the delayed spring. Orchardists reported the weather has been variable, but no adverse conditions were impacting the crop. Harvest of early peaches and apricots were complete. Mid-season peach harvest was underway, and the

nectarine harvest was expected to begin in two weeks. Size and quality of peaches were down, probably due to the colder spring weather. Ranchers on late summer calving schedules were expecting calves to begin arriving next week.

**Klickitat (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Harvest was in full gear. Temperatures have been cooler than normal but sunny and clear.

**Yakima:** Daytime temperatures remained relatively cool most of the week, with a few nighttime lows into the lower 40s. No precipitation was received. Fruit growers were harvesting nectarines and peaches. The harvest of pears appeared to be delayed by 7-10 days. Growers anticipated harvest by mowing and placing bins in orchards. The apple crop was coloring up nicely, and the hops were setting a nice crop of cones.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Average temperatures varied from two to eight degrees below normal with a trace of precipitation. There were no crop losses due to a weather event reported.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Winter wheat yields were well below average. As harvest wound down, farmers were focusing on seeding into very dry conditions. Some growers planned to delay fall seeding until there was measurable precipitation.

**Adams (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Harvest progressed quickly with below average yields reported on grain crops throughout the county. Producers were concerned there would not be enough seed zone moisture for fall seeding.

**Asotin/Garfield:** The weather cooled this past week as harvest continued. Reports of crop yields were mixed with most being below average.

**Ferry:** Dry weather continued. No major fires were reported in the county. Rangeland was very dry in all low elevations.

**Garfield:** Wheat harvest moved slowly. Some wheat in the mountains may not be cut until September. Grain quality was very good to very thin. Yields were at or below average. Extreme heat was forecast. There were only a few fires reported so far.

**Lincoln:** Harvest continued with less than expected yields. Spring crops may be worse.

**Pend Oreille:** The high temperature was 81 degrees and the low was 29 degrees with a trace of precipitation. Rye in pastures was dried and other grasses were drying but still growing. Haying was in full swing with irrigated lands completed and hoping for a second cutting. Livestock were moved to cut fields for pasture and were doing well with little supplement feeding.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** Grass seed harvest progressed slowly with the cool nights slowing the start of harvest. Yields were off at least 25 percent from normal, and some fields were down 50 percent. Summer weather was expected to push the ripening of winter wheat. Lentils were being swathed, and pea harvest was just around the corner. Cherry harvest wrapped up while apricots and peaches were just beginning. Early apples were being picked. A small amount of the second cutting of hay was done.

**Stevens:** Dry conditions continued. Hay growers were swathing and baling the second cutting with a few working on late seeded grain hay. Culled cows and pairs continued to move to market as high hay prices forced liquidation. Grain harvest should begin soon.

**Walla Walla:** Wheat harvest was moving along with some complete. Yields were near average. The second cutting of alfalfa was nearly complete, with a small amount of third cutting beginning. Hay supplies were tight again this year. Quality looked pretty good as a result of good curing weather.

**Walla Walla (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Harvest was going well throughout the area. Yield reports were indicating crops were average or slightly above average for winter crops and below average for spring crops. Hay growers were getting hay cut and making bales without problems. Pastures were drying up, but no more than normal for this time of year.

**Whitman:** Harvest was underway in the western third of the county, but the other two thirds have been very slow in getting started. Most of the cutting has been limited to the eastern and central portions of the county.

**Weekly Weather Statistics**  
**Week of July 28 -August 3 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	DFN	PCT	
	---	---	---	---	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	---	---	INCHES	---	NORMAL	DAYS
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham Intl	45	71	58	-6	57	-34	1	-27	0.30	+0.02	4	26.85	-8.08	77	168
Everett	48	71	59	-6	63	-35	2	-26	0.61	+0.33	5	32.99	-2.25	94	186
Hoquiam	46	65	57	-5	50	-27	0	-14	0.55	+0.32	4	55.70	-10.85	84	195
Kelso	43	79	61	-5	79	-26	10	-25	0.04	-0.18	1	30.97	-14.23	69	134
Olympia	42	73	59	-6	64	-34	3	-25	0.30	+0.09	3	42.68	-6.74	86	167
Seattle-Tacoma	51	73	61	-6	80	-32	11	-31	0.32	+0.14	3	33.57	-2.59	93	162
Shelton	41	74	59	-8	65	-47	4	-38	0.63	+0.42	3	55.90	-7.86	88	165
Tacoma WA AP	43	73	59	-7	65	-40	3	-34	0.24	+0.03	3	31.24	-7.84	80	150
Vancouver WA	47	82	64	-2	101	-8	31	-11	0.00	-0.21	0	35.51	-4.69	88	155
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	40	89	67	-4	118	-15	48	-15	0.00	-0.07	0	6.60	-1.98	77	65
Omak AP	47	88	69	+0	132	-1	62	-1	0.00	-0.20	0	7.36	-6.74	52	62
Stampede Pass	40	67	51	-7	14	-35	0	-7	0.97	+0.66	4	70.86	-8.36	89	191
Wenatchee	52	84	70	-6	139	-34	69	-31	0.00	-0.07	0	4.31	-3.61	54	44
Yakima AP	42	87	65	-7	103	-44	33	-44	0.00	-0.07	0	5.91	-1.69	78	59
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	45	87	67	-2	118	-6	48	-8	0.01	-0.20	1	16.18	-4.05	80	121
Deer Park	35	85	62	-9	86	-54	16	-54	0.01	-0.13	1	20.03	+2.21	112	134
Republic	45	83	64	-2	101	-4	41	+5	0.08	-0.18	1	11.11	-3.68	75	100
Spokane AP	49	84	66	-5	112	-28	42	-28	0.00	-0.14	0	16.11	+0.26	102	120
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	50	85	70	-7	140	-42	70	-42	0.00	-0.07	0	4.16	-2.83	60	66
Moses Lake	45	86	69	-8	132	-50	62	-50	0.00	-0.07	0	4.26	-2.73	61	66
Quincy	45	83	67	-6	119	-35	49	-35	0.00	-0.07	0	6.63	-0.85	89	67
Ritzville	45	87	65	-7	102	-38	32	-38	0.00	-0.07	0	9.00	-1.92	82	86
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	49	93	71	-9	148	-55	78	-55	0.00	-0.07	0	3.79	-2.41	61	44
Pasco	46	92	70	-6	144	-38	74	-37	0.00	-0.07	0	6.81	-0.34	95	68
Pullman	38	86	63	-5	95	-24	26	-23	0.00	-0.16	0	16.90	-3.38	83	117
Walla Walla Rgn	52	89	72	-5	156	-27	86	-26	0.00	-0.14	0	13.39	-5.37	71	107
Whitman Mission	40	87	67	-6	122	-32	52	-32	0.00	-0.14	0	11.85	-1.35	90	111
<b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b>															
Lewiston ID	51	93	73	-3	165	-15	95	-11	0.00	-0.14	0	7.54	-4.19	64	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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