



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

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Washington Crop Weather

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Week Ending: August 10, 2008
CWP WA-CW3008

In the Palouse Area Grain Yields Appear to be Average to Below While Yields Throughout the State Vary Greatly Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.6. Grain harvest was accelerating through out the State. Whitman County reported high temperatures which moved maturation and cutting along. On the eastern side of the State, yields were holding at average to slightly below. Walla Walla County reported intense rain/hail storms but they were brief and no reports of damage were noted. In the south-eastern part of the State, Franklin County reported dryland yields were 30 to 40 percent of normal. Franklin County also reported buckwheat was being planted on harvested irrigated wheat fields. Throughout the State, the third cutting of hay was in progress. Grays Harbor County reported cannery pea harvest was completed early in the week. Christmas tree growers reported aphid infestations in Noble fir plantations. Kittitas County reported Sudan grass harvest had begun and timothy hay was progressing well toward a second cutting. Pend Oreille, Skagit and Spokane Counties reported bluegrass seed harvest was about done.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, pear harvest was anticipated this week. Peach and nectarine harvest continued and apricot harvest was completed. Skagit County reported green pea harvest was well underway, and the cabbage crop was being cut for field drying before harvest activity. Snohomish reported raspberry and blueberry harvest continued. Skagit blueberries were just coming on.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 4 percent very poor, 49 percent poor, 26 percent fair and 21 percent good. On the west side, livestock producers complained about increasing infestations of the noxious weed tansy ragwort throughout the Chehalis River flood plain. Eastside reports indicated producers were paying very high hay prices for poorer quality hay being used as a supplement for cattle on pasture.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.6
Last Week	6.8

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	23	35	42	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	26	33	41	0
Subsoil	18	48	34	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	18	35	47	0
Irrigation Water	0	6	94	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	5	8	87	0
Hay & Roughage	10	25	62	3

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	30	10	50	46
Winter Wheat Harvested	60	42	77	67
Barley Harvested	32	15	47	42
Potatoes Harvested	32	20	33	32
Field Corn Silked	53	52	82	90
Field Corn Doughed	8	6	33	27
Field Corn Dented	4	3	4	17
Field Corn Harvested for Silage	NA	NA	1	7
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	95	94	100	99
Dry Peas Harvested	42	31	77	71
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	81	76	94	95
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	8	7	44	47

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	6	19	35	38	2
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	4	9	79	8
Spring Wheat Dryland	6	33	49	12	0
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	20	72	8
Barley Dryland	4	14	55	27	0
Barley Irrigated	0	0	24	65	11
Potatoes	0	2	21	76	1
Corn	0	1	33	65	1
Dry Edible Beans	0	10	48	42	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: Temperature highs were in the 70s and the lows were in the 50s, with no precipitation. Farmers were busy in the fields.

Clark: The weather was good all around for most farm activities.

Grays Harbor: The first fields of the county's nearly 1,500 acres of cannery peas were harvested early in the week. Growers were anxious to get the crop harvested due to the dry conditions and warm temperatures. U-Pick blueberry growers reported excellent yields and flavor quality. Christmas tree growers reported aphid infestations in Noble fir plantations. Very warm temperatures in the high 80s early in the week resulted in rapid ripening of greenhouse tomatoes. The sweet corn crop continued to look good with most growers focused on meeting irrigation requirements. Livestock producers complained about increased infestations of the noxious weed tansy ragwort throughout the Chehalis River flood plain.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Beautiful summer weather continued. Farming was on schedule. The rain on Friday came exactly when needed.

Mason: Temperatures were moderate, with .25 inch of rain received.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions remained good for the South Puget Sound area. There were no unusual situations to report. There were no reports of any crop damage due to a weather event.

Skagit: High temperatures for the week averaged 74 degrees. There was .2 inch of precipitation recorded at the WSU North West Research and Extension Center in West Mount Vernon. Grass seed harvest wrapped up this week. With forecasters calling for rain on Saturday for a week, many were able to get most of the crop in the bin where it was safe. Others had their crop rained on and will face lower yields. Pea harvest was still underway. Wheat harvest began this week. The crop looked good. The

cabbage seed crop was being cut. Carrots were in the ground and actively growing. Raspberry harvest will be coming to an end soon and blueberries were just picking up.

Snohomish/North King: The temperature highs were in the 70s and 50s for the low. Some crops were doing better with the warmer weather. Second cutting on grass hay was underway.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report): A good week overall, with scattered showers over the weekend. Some areas received .4 inch of precipitation. Hay and grass silage harvest continued, as did irrigation in fields. Blueberry and raspberry harvest continued. Field crops appeared to be doing well.

Thurston: After experiencing sizzling temperatures in the high 80s early in the week, agriculture producers welcomed cooler temperatures and rain showers over the weekend. Unfortunately, the rain did very little to alleviate dry conditions throughout the rural landscape. Christmas tree growers continued top-working Noble and Shasta Fir. Turfgrass growers struggled to keep up with irrigation requirements on established fields. Livestock owners focused on eradicating the noxious weed tansy ragwort from pastures and hay fields. Raspberry harvest was nearly completed and blueberry harvest was in full swing. Organic vegetable growers continued battling weeds. Home gardeners complained that tomatoes were slow to ripen.

Whatcom: It was a very warm week with temperatures in the high 70s to mid 80s. Lows were in the 50s. Much needed rain was received on Saturday with cooler temperatures Saturday and Sunday. Producers started to harvest some winter wheat and spring barley. With the warmer temperatures the corn grew and tasseled depending on when it was planted.

Central

Douglas/Chelan: Two days of rain halted winter wheat harvest. Yields remained below normal. Late summer and fall pastures were dryer than normal.

Franklin: Weather was normal to a little cooler than normal at the beginning of the week and then headed to high humidity and warmer temperatures at the end of the week. A thunder and lightning system came through on Thursday and hung around Friday. Lightning sparked at least one large hay stack fire and several small fires in the area. Little precipitation came with the storm with no reports of hail (typical with these storms). Wheat harvest continued in both the dry and irrigated portions of the county with continued reports of low dryland yields. Second crop buckwheat was planted in the irrigated, harvested wheat fields; particularly in the south. Third cutting hay harvest began primarily in the southern portion of the county. Sweet corn continued to be harvested, with some short season varieties at the end of planting. Early peaches were being harvested with nectarines getting riper.

Kittitas: Some Sudan grass hay harvest began. Timothy progressed well toward a second cutting.

Klickitat: Weather was hot and dry. Harvest was going on everywhere.

Klickitat (2nd Report): For most of the week overnight lows ranged from 40s-50s and daytime temperatures were high 80s-90s, cooling to low 70s by the weekend when thundershowers hit the county. Some range fires were sparked by lightning. No crop damage was reported from rain as the wind blew so hard that fields were dry by afternoon. Winter wheat test weights were low; head fill was less than expected, but grain producers were not describing it as a bad year. Cattle were being turned out to stubble fields, irrigated pastures were doing fine and fall calving was underway. Corn was tasseling in home gardens, beans were maturing and sunflowers setting seed and attracting flocks of finches.

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

Yakima (2nd Report): Temperatures were relatively cool throughout the week with highs in the mid-nineties earlier in the week before overcast and cooler weather moved in later in the week. The area received scattered showers later in the week. Precipitation ranged from 0.01 to 0.10 inch. Pear harvest anticipated to begin, peach/nectarine harvest continued and apricot harvest was completed.

Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: The weather remained cooler with a few rain showers, but it continued to be very dry. Reports of crop yields were still a little below average in most places.

Ferry: A few thunder storms blew through, but the area received very little rain.

Garfield: The area had mixed weather; very hot and thunder showers. Winter wheat looked fair to poor. Some heat damage was incurred at anthesis. Higher elevations began harvest. Very poor quality hay at high prices was being bought to supplement livestock.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Harvest was completed for many producers in the southwest part of the county, and the majority reported low yields for winter wheat. Parts of the northern county began harvest with an average crop predicted, with the exception of spring crops which appeared to be lower than average. Rain will be needed to plant fall crops.

Pend Oreille: The temperature high was 90; the low was 36 with .5 inch of precipitation received (due to thunderstorm 08-08-08). Most all first cutting hay was in. Livestock was placed on hay fields as pasture for those that get only one cutting. Hens were laying. Livestock were filling out due to warm weather and green grasses.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The area received thunder and lightning on Friday. The change in weather was the reason no combine work took place Saturday or Sunday. Winter wheat harvest may begin in the southern part of the county. Otherwise, people were just waiting for it to ripen and others were trying to finish up bluegrass seed harvest.

Stevens: Storms towards the end of the week provided just enough moisture to halt haying operations around the county. Several fields that had been swathed received multiple showers. Overall, the storms provided very little relief from the extremely dry conditions the area has been experiencing. Lightning which accompanied the storms touched off a new round of forest fires. Grain harvest began in the Arden area.

Walla Walla: Harvest progressed well. There were some thunder and lightning events late in the week. Short but intense storms hit the area on Friday. Hail the size of a dime fell in the Waitsburg area. Very heavy rain and hail fell for a few minutes and then there was sunshine. Crop reports overall were favorable. No reports of spectacular yields but no disasters reported either. A lot of wheat straw was being baled throughout the area.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Harvest was on the downhill slide now. Yields were around average with some as much as 10-20 percent below. The area really needed rain. The soil moisture was deficient. Some producers will wait for rain before seeding. Mountain pastures were still in pretty good shape since most had snow cover until late. Weather was great for haying.

Whitman: Temperatures hit 100 during the week and harvest activity accelerated with the heat. The eastern two thirds of the county were slow in getting harvest started. There was some swathing of lentils. Grain harvest had been mainly on south facing slopes and recrop winter wheat. Much of the spring crop was still ripening from SR 195 east and there was still some green in the winter wheat. Harvest was in full swing and wrapping up in the western third of the county. Yield reports were average to slightly below. Grasshoppers were reported as a problem out west in both crop and pasture areas.

Weekly Weather Statistics

August 11, 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		DAYS
	---	---	---	---	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	---	---	INCHES	DFN	NORMAL	---
WEST															
Bellingham Intl	48	81	62	-2	86	-5	17	-11	0.88	+0.60	2	27.73	-7.48	79	170
Everett	52	81	65	+2	108	+10	38	+6	0.08	-0.20	2	33.07	-2.45	93	188
Hoquiam	49	80	60	-2	75	-3	9	-5	0.28	+0.00	2	55.98	-10.85	84	197
Kelso	48	93	67	+3	121	+16	51	+13	0.04	-0.24	1	31.01	-14.47	68	135
Olympia	47	89	66	+2	111	+13	41	+7	0.10	-0.13	2	42.78	-6.87	86	169
Seattle-Tacoma	54	88	67	+2	122	+10	52	+9	0.29	+0.08	2	33.86	-2.51	93	164
Shelton	47	92	64	-2	102	-10	32	-10	0.22	+0.01	1	56.12	-7.85	88	166
Tacoma WA AP	47	87	66	+2	115	+10	45	+5	0.11	-0.14	2	31.35	-7.98	80	152
Vancouver WA	52	96	70	+6	143	+37	73	+31	0.03	-0.18	1	35.54	-4.87	88	156
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	47	97	71	+3	151	+18	81	+18	0.15	+0.08	2	6.75	-1.90	78	67
Omak AP	54	102	74	+6	169	+43	99	+40	0.16	-0.05	2	7.52	-6.79	53	64
Stampede Pass	44	84	64	+8	101	+52	48	+36	0.10	-0.26	2	70.96	-8.62	89	193
Wenatchee	58	95	75	+2	177	+9	107	+9	0.02	-0.05	1	4.33	-3.66	54	45
Yakima AP	49	95	71	+1	150	+9	80	+9	0.04	-0.03	2	5.95	-1.72	78	61
NORTHEAST															
Colville	47	97	72	+5	153	+34	83	+29	0.11	-0.10	2	16.29	-4.15	80	123
Deer Park	40	98	69	-2	133	-6	63	-7	0.00	-0.14	0	20.03	+2.07	112	134
Republic	54	96	74	+10	166	+65	96	+56	0.15	-0.13	1	11.26	-3.81	75	101
Spokane AP	54	97	73	+4	164	+24	94	+24	0.00	-0.14	0	16.11	+0.12	101	120
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	56	100	77	+2	186	+8	116	+8	0.00	-0.04	0	4.16	-2.87	59	66
Moses Lake	52	102	75	-2	173	-5	103	-5	0.00	-0.04	0	4.26	-2.77	61	66
Quincy	54	92	73	+2	163	+13	93	+12	0.02	-0.05	1	6.67	-0.88	88	69
Ritzville	46	97	73	+3	161	+21	91	+21	0.00	-0.07	0	9.00	-1.99	82	86
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	58	99	77	-3	192	-9	122	-10	0.01	-0.06	1	3.80	-2.47	61	45
Pasco	50	98	75	+0	179	+4	109	+4	0.02	-0.05	1	6.83	-0.39	95	69
Pullman	40	98	69	+3	136	+17	66	+17	0.00	-0.21	0	16.90	-3.59	82	117
Walla Walla Rgn	56	100	77	+2	190	+8	120	+8	0.05	-0.09	1	13.44	-5.46	71	108
Whitman Mission	43	100	72	+0	154	+5	84	+4	0.00	-0.14	0	11.85	-1.49	89	111
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	57	102	80	+6	210	+35	140	+35	0.04	-0.10	1	7.58	-4.29	64	95

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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