



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: August 18, 2008  
Week Ending: August 17, 2008  
CWP WA-CW3108

## Very Dry Soil Profile Caused Concern for Fall Planting While Fruit and Vegetable Harvest Came On Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.9. Grain harvest continued to move along at a brisk pace. Yields continued to be average to slightly below average. Growers in the major grain growing counties were reported to be quite concerned about the extreme lack of moisture in their soil profile. The second cutting of alfalfa was nearly done and the third cutting was quickly going down across the eastern part of the State. Stevens County reported a third cutting was unlikely due to very dry conditions. Christmas tree growers in Grays Harbor County reported some annual needle necrosis on Noble fir due to the intense heat.

### Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, vegetable harvest continued with tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, peppers, summer squashes, sweet corn and melons flooding the roadside stands. Harvest of the mid-season peaches and nectarines continued with Bartlett pear harvest finally starting up at least one week later than normal. Chelan County reported early Bartlett pear harvest was set to begin this week. Whatcom County reported raspberry harvest was winding down, while blueberry harvest was ongoing. Snohomish County reported harvest activity of early apple varieties was ongoing and sweet corn was tasseling but was late due to the cool spring.

### Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 13 percent very poor, 26 percent poor, 23 percent fair and 38 percent good. On the east side of the State, summer pastures were rapidly drying up, as expected. Stevens County reported keeping cattle contained was a problem due to dry pastures with little available feed. Cattle continued to move to market due to feed prices. Pacific County reported oyster and clam harvest operations continued later than normal due to the cool spring weather.

#### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.9
Last Week	6.6

#### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	25	44	31	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	26	34	40	0
Subsoil	22	55	23	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	18	36	46	0
Irrigation Water	0	6	94	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	6	9	85	0
Hay & Roughage	19	22	54	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	51	30	70	67
Winter Wheat Harvested	68	60	88	81
Barley Harvested	50	32	67	63
Potatoes Harvested	36	32	36	37
Field Corn Silked	99	53	87	96
Field Corn Doughed	40	8	39	41
Field Corn Dented	10	4	11	25
Field Corn Harvested for Silage	5	NA	4	11
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	NA	NA	10	15
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	100	95	100	99
Dry Peas Harvested	89	42	83	85
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	96	81	97	98
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	52	8	51	63

#### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Spring Wheat Dryland	13	38	45	4	0
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	25	68	7
Barley Dryland	12	18	47	23	0
Barley Irrigated	0	0	28	49	23
Potatoes	0	2	20	78	0
Corn	0	2	46	52	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	12	43	45	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 temperature continued to be about the same. There were no unusual conditions to report as far as crops were concerned.

**Grays Harbor:** Record breaking temperatures near the end of the week exacerbated drought conditions throughout the county. Most non-irrigated pastures and hayfields on lighter soils were showing signs of drought stress. Christmas tree growers reported annual needle necrosis on Noble fir due to the intense heat. Greenhouse tomato growers reported rapid ripening of fruit due to the warm temperatures. Cut flower daffodil growers were harvesting and sorting bulbs. Containerized ornamental nurseries were challenged to keep plants watered.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** The week was hot and dry. The crops have needed thermal units, but the weather was a little 'over the top' for most producers. Some pastures were beginning to dry up.

**Pacific:** Warm summer weather allowed producers to complete a variety of mid-season field activities. Raspberry growers initiated cane pruning operations. Irrigation and weed control activities were underway for cranberry bogs. Pasture conditions continued to decline with the dry weather. Oyster and clam harvest operations continued later than normal due to the cool spring weather.

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

**San Juan:** The weather conditions were unusually warm and dry during the second half of the week. Irrigation demand was high.

**Snohomish/North King:** Temperatures were very hot and in the 90s by the end of the week. Non-irrigated fields showed stress and slow growth. Crops with adequate water were doing great! Blueberry harvest continued, and raspberry harvest was nearly done. Harvest of early apple varieties began. Pumpkins were forming up well, and many were still in bloom. Sweet corn was tasseling.

**Snohomish/North King (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The temperature continued to be in the 70s for a high and the 50s for a low. Producers were reporting that many crops had to be replanted due to the bad weather in the spring.

**Thurston:** A thermal blast brought near record breaking temperatures to the area. The lack of soil moisture expedited fall colors in the foliage of Oregon ash and vine maple. All non-irrigated pastures and hayfields were showing signs of drought stress. Christmas tree growers continued top working Noble fir. Turfgrass growers were kept busy maintaining irrigation schedules. Livestock producers were applying herbicides for the control of tansy ragwort and Canada thistle. The rural landscape remained very dry, and fire danger was high.

**Whatcom:** The week brought lots of sunshine and heat. Temperatures reached 87 degrees by the end of the week. The barley and wheat crops did well this year due to the drier, warmer temperatures. Over half of the acres have been harvested. Raspberry harvest was winding down. There was widespread mite infestation in the crop. Blueberry harvest was ongoing. Field corn was doing well, but some of the growth was stunted due to the later than normal planting.

## Central

**Benton:** The weather has been hot and dry.

**Chelan:** Earliest Bartlett pear harvest was set to begin and should continue for 3-4 weeks. Gala apples were about one week later than normal this year. Other apple and pear harvest will begin soon and will continue until late October or early November. The pear crop was moderate in size, and the apple production was good to excellent.

**Douglas/Chelan:** Winter wheat harvest continued with yields mostly below normal. Moisture levels in summer fallow fields were very low, which will affect seeding. Pasture conditions were very dry. Peach and apricot harvest continued.

**Klickitat:** The week was extremely dry and hot with temperatures in the 80s and 90s and into the 100s by the weekend. Overnight lows were in the 50s and 60s. Grain harvest was winding down. Winter wheat and barley harvest was complete. Quality and quantity was considered fair by growers, as heads formed but kernels did not fill adequately. Harvest of irrigated spring wheat was underway. The second cutting of hay was finished. Some growers expect to get a third cutting. Hay supplies were adequate for now, but high demand continued. Orchardists reported the freestone peach harvest was underway.

Producers were waiting for mid-season nectarines to mature. Early varieties of peaches and nectarines were harvested. Grapes started veraison and were beginning to color about 4-5 days later than last year. Signs of heat stress were showing on grapes, causing many to turn to raisins on the vine. Irrigation continued every day in orchards and vineyards.

**Klickitat (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The weather was hot and dry. Harvest was beginning to come in. The second cutting of hay was complete.

**Yakima:** Daytime highs rose from the mid-80s to over 100 degrees by the weekend. No precipitation was received anywhere in the county. Vegetable harvest continued with tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, peppers, summer squashes, sweet corn, and melons flooding the roadside stands. Harvest of mid-season peaches and nectarines continued with Bartlett pear harvest finally starting.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Average temperatures varied from 6 degrees below normal to 15 degrees above normal, with no precipitation. There were no crop losses due to weather conditions reported.

## Eastern

**Asotin:** Hot, dry weather continued. Winter wheat harvest was progressing in the higher elevations. Wheat yields were average to 25 percent below average in many locations.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Harvest progressed rapidly as the weather remained dry.

**Ferry:** Winter wheat harvest was well underway. Yields were below normal. The second cutting of alfalfa hay was complete. Some growers were taking their third cutting of hay. Conditions were dry in the county.

**Lincoln:** Harvest was nearly complete.

**Pend Oreille:** The high for the week was 99 degrees and the low was 35. Heavy irrigation was in progress. Some producers have had a second cutting of hay. Livestock were doing well on pastures and hay fields. Large farms were getting hay baled quickly in anticipation of rain. Dried grasses were crunchy with little new grass growing.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** A hot week ripened grain and sent combines to the fields in the later part of the week. Reports were that yields were average to below average on winter wheat, peas and lentils. Quality was not as good as normal. Peaches were

being picked at Green Bluff, and producers reported that it was a good crop.

**Stevens:** Conditions were very dry. There will be no fall pasture without rain.

**Stevens (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** During the past week, grain harvest moved into full swing while the second cutting of hay was nearly finished. Most producers will not get a third cutting due to the late spring and dry conditions. Keeping cattle contained has become a problem due to dry pastures with little feed available. Cows continued to move to market due to feed prices.

**Walla Walla:** Grain harvest wound down, with yields mostly average or just below average. The first cutting of alfalfa was down. The second and third cutting yields and quality were good. The third cutting was in full swing. Pastures were drying up. Soil moisture was very deficient. Rain was needed for seeding.

**Walla Walla (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Harvest continued and many producers were finished. Yields were reported to be average overall. Weather conditions were very hot and dry throughout the week.

## Weekly Weather Statistics

August 11 - 17, 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	
<b>WEST</b>																
Bellingham Intl	48	85	67	+4	117	+26	47	+19	0.01	-0.30	1	27.74	-7.78	78	171	
Everett	56	86	69	+6	137	+42	67	+38	0.00	-0.31	0	33.07	-2.76	92	188	
Hoquiam	54	78	63	+2	90	+6	23	+5	0.01	-0.29	1	55.99	-11.14	83	198	
Kelso	55	97	73	+9	161	+57	91	+53	0.00	-0.33	0	31.01	-14.80	68	135	
Olympia	49	92	71	+8	147	+51	77	+48	0.11	-0.17	2	42.89	-7.04	86	171	
Seattle-Tacoma	58	90	73	+8	162	+50	92	+50	0.00	-0.25	0	33.86	-2.76	92	164	
Shelton	50	95	70	+5	140	+31	70	+28	0.00	-0.26	0	56.12	-8.11	87	166	
Tacoma WA AP	50	92	71	+7	150	+45	80	+45	0.00	-0.28	0	31.35	-8.26	79	152	
Vancouver WA	59	101	78	+14	197	+92	127	+86	0.00	-0.28	0	35.54	-5.15	87	156	
<b>CENTRAL</b>																
Ellensburg	49	106	77	+9	188	+61	118	+59	0.00	-0.07	0	6.75	-1.97	77	67	
Omak AP	45	105	77	+10	190	+67	120	+64	0.00	-0.27	0	7.52	-7.06	52	64	
Stampede Pass	47	92	70	+14	144	+95	74	+60	0.00	-0.43	0	70.96	-9.05	89	193	
Wenatchee	53	104	79	+7	207	+43	137	+44	0.00	-0.07	0	4.33	-3.73	54	45	
Yakima AP	46	103	76	+7	181	+45	111	+43	0.00	-0.07	0	5.95	-1.79	77	61	
<b>NORTHEAST</b>																
Colville	45	104	75	+9	174	+58	104	+55	0.00	-0.25	0	16.29	-4.40	79	123	
Deer Park	36	103	71	+2	146	+14	78	+15	0.00	-0.18	0	20.03	+1.89	110	134	
Republic	45	103	75	+11	173	+76	103	+68	0.00	-0.29	0	11.26	-4.10	73	101	
Spokane AP	50	103	76	+8	184	+52	114	+49	0.00	-0.14	0	16.11	-0.02	100	120	
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>																
Ephrata	50	106	80	+6	211	+39	141	+39	0.00	-0.06	0	4.16	-2.93	59	66	
Moses Lake	49	105	77	+3	190	+18	120	+18	0.00	-0.06	0	4.26	-2.83	60	66	
Quincy	50	101	76	+6	181	+36	111	+34	0.00	-0.07	0	6.67	-0.95	88	69	
Ritzville	43	102	72	+4	157	+22	88	+21	0.00	-0.07	0	9.00	-2.06	81	86	
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>																
Hanford	46	111	81	+4	218	+23	148	+23	0.00	-0.07	0	3.80	-2.54	60	45	
Pasco	50	104	77	+3	189	+19	119	+19	0.00	-0.07	0	6.83	-0.46	94	69	
Pullman	44	102	71	+5	148	+34	78	+29	0.00	-0.21	0	16.90	-3.80	82	117	
Walla Walla Rgn	53	108	81	+6	214	+39	144	+40	0.00	-0.20	0	13.44	-5.66	70	108	
Whitman Mission	47	105	73	+3	160	+16	90	+15	0.00	-0.14	0	11.85	-1.63	88	111	
<b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b>																
Lewiston ID	56	103	78	+5	200	+30	130	+31	0.00	-0.17	0	7.58	-4.46	63	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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