



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS  
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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: September 22, 2008  
Week Ending: September 21, 2008  
CWP WA-CW3608

## Winter Wheat Seeding Progressed and Harvest of Hops, Hot Peppers, Winter Squash, Sweet Corn, and Potato Continued

### Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.6. Most of the winter and spring grain harvest has ended. Grain growers' attention turned to planting. Harvest rains helped with weed emergence, allowing for mechanical kill before seeding. Operations using no till drills were busy planting, and winter wheat was emerging in valleys and draws where residual moisture could be found. Hillsides and tops remained dry and planted seed was dormant. In general, the soil profile remained unusually dry in major grain growing counties. Franklin County reported bean harvest was wrapping up and potato harvest continued as did fourth cutting of hay. Stevens County reported third cutting was done. In Grays Harbor County, Christmas tree growers continued top-working Noble fir and side shearing Douglas fir.

### Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, hop harvest appeared to peak over the week, and soft fruit harvest wrapped up. Harvest of hot peppers and winter squashes, including pumpkin was noted. Bartlett pear harvest continued in the Upper Valley as did harvest of mid-season apple varieties. Whatcom County reported their apple harvest would be delayed up to two weeks due to the cool spring. Raspberries were being pruned and tied. Skagit County reported spinach seed growers were hurt by rain, and blackberry harvest was coming on strong. The 2009 cabbage crop was in the ground and received its first cultivation.

### Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 26 percent very poor, 35 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 7 percent good and 1 percent excellent. On the west side, livestock operators completed the final cutting of hay for the season. On the east side, range in Garfield and Asotin Counties were reported to be in poor condition. Franklin County also reported difficult range conditions and the expectation of early supplemental feeding.

#### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.6
Last Week	7.0

#### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	13	33	53	1
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	20	32	45	3
Subsoil	20	46	34	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	17	36	47	0
Irrigation Water	1	7	92	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	4	7	89	0
Hay & Roughage	25	17	53	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	99	96	100	100
Winter Wheat Planted	44	35	57	53
Winter Wheat Emerged	4	1	22	21
Winter Wheat Harvested	100	99	100	100
Barley Harvested	99	95	100	100
Potatoes Harvested	53	41	66	61
Field Corn Doughed	75	72	87	97
Field Corn Dented	43	42	71	79
Field Corn Mature	10	9	42	52
Field Corn Harvested for Grain	NA	NA	11	6
Field Corn Harvested for Silage	21	20	38	39
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	70	45	82	66
Dry Peas Harvested	100	98	100	100
Alfalfa Hay 3 <sup>rd</sup> Cutting	93	82	99	97
Alfalfa Hay 4 <sup>th</sup> Cutting	37	25	48	10

#### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Potatoes	0	3	24	72	1
Corn	0	3	47	50	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	10	47	43	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

**Clark:** Fall rains began, which will help field crops and nursery producers.

**Clark/Skagit/Cowlitz/Wahkiakum:** Temperatures were warm during the week. The rain stayed away until wheat was cut, resulting in a good harvest. Cowlitz County had a substantial rain between four to five inches, while Wahkiakum County had enough rain to keep pastures green the entire summer.

**Gray Harbor:** Beautiful fall weather provided nearly ideal conditions for U-Pick produce farms to begin harvest of late season vegetables including squash and potatoes. Christmas tree growers continued top working Noble fir and side shearing Douglas fir. Livestock producers were irrigating pastures. Dairy producers continued applying liquid manure to forage fields. Home gardeners were gathering apples for making cider.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** Harvest continued in all three counties. The weather was normal for this time of year.

**Mason:** Rain in the amount of 0.5 inch was received during the week, which helped pasture growth. Livestock owners were extremely concerned about increasing forage costs for the coming winter.

**Pierce/South King:** Crops were looking good in the South Puget Sound area. Corn still remained a couple of weeks behind schedule. Pastures were looking green with good yields. There were no reports of unusual situations and no reports of crop damage due

to a weather event.

**Skagit:** High temperatures for the week averaged 65 degrees, and 0.5 inch of precipitation was received at the WSU NW Research and Extension Center in west Mount Vernon. Area seed producers were trying to get in the rest of their spinach seed and barley. Area beet seed harvest was behind schedule due to a wet spring and summer. Blueberry harvest was nearly done, and blackberries were coming on strong. Corn and potato harvest began.

**Thurston:** A week of sunny days and no rain provided agricultural producers with nearly ideal conditions to complete farm chores. Blueberry growers were mowing cover crops in fields for the final time this season. Turfgrass growers continued preparing fields for fall seeding. Christmas tree growers continued top working Noble fir and reported bee activity on aphid infested trees. Organic vegetable growers reported brisk sales of fall produce at the Olympia Farmer's Market. Home gardeners were kept busy picking apples, pears, tomatoes, and sweet corn.

**Whatcom:** Temperatures reached 81 degrees with rain developing on the weekend. The grass showed rapid growth, and some areas were close to the fifth cutting. Potato harvest was in full swing, with tonnage reported to be lower than expected. Raspberries were being pruned and tied. Apple harvest was two weeks late this year due to the wet, cold spring.

## Central

**Franklin:** There has been virtually no precipitation this month and dryland producers found it difficult to seed winter wheat. Most non-irrigated acreage has been seeded, but much of it has not emerged due to the lack of soil moisture. Bean harvest concluded, and the fourth cutting of hay began in parts of the county. Potato harvest continued, while sweet corn harvest neared completion.

**Kittitas:** Sweet corn harvest finished up. Irrigation continued on hay fields. New seeding timothy hay was doing well.

**Klickitat:** The transition from summer to fall came right on time, with highs in the 80s and low 90s through Thursday. Then temperatures cooled to the 60s with the first trace of rain in nearly four weeks. The rain did not bring enough moisture to completely alleviate dry conditions. Straw was baled and stacked. Hay harvest and field preparations continued. Late variety peaches were still being picked, and vineyards were gearing up for early grape harvest. Home gardeners were digging

potatoes, planting garlic, and beginning end-of-season composting chores.

**Klickitat (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Wheat harvest was wrapping up.

**Yakima:** Daytime temperatures were in the upper 80s early in the week and then plummeted to the upper 60s over the weekend. Nighttime lows ranged from mid-50s to lower 40s. Widespread precipitation resulted in 0.1 to 0.2 inch in the Yakima Valley. Hop harvest appeared to peak over the week, and soft fruit harvest wrapped up. Harvest of hot peppers, winter squash and pumpkin was ongoing. Bartlett pear and mid-season apple harvest continued.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Average temperatures were generally warmer than normal, varying from two degrees below normal to nine degrees above normal. There was 0.19 inch of precipitation received during the week. There were no crop losses due to weather conditions reported.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Growers continued to wait for measurable precipitation before finishing up winter wheat seeding.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Hot, dry conditions continued throughout most of the week, followed by cooler temperatures by the weekend. There were scattered showers that provided only a trace of precipitation. Rain was needed for proper germination of winter wheat. Many producers were planting even though conditions remained dry. Rangeland was in poor condition and in need of rain.

**Ferry:** The weather was still dry. A few light sprinkles of rain on Sunday, coupled with the cool nights, reduced the fire hazard slightly.

**Lincoln:** The weather continued to be dry. A trace of precipitation was received during the week. Winter wheat emerged in areas with the most moisture.

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Showers received at the end of the week should help with fall seeding and pasture growth. More rain was needed. Warm temperatures aided in the emergence of newly planted wheat.

**Pend Oreille:** The high temperature for the week was 84 degrees and the low was 29 degrees with 0.6 inch of precipitation. Pastures were still green with some overnight freezing. Livestock were starting to get their winter coats and were fattening up for the winter.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** The majority of the farmers completed harvest. Rain on the weekend provided

approximately 0.5 inch of moisture. Fieldwork was progressing, and cattle were enjoying the cooler weather.

**Stevens:** Enough rain was received to help the winter wheat seedings.

**Stevens (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Grain harvest and the third cutting of hay were completed. Rain was received over the weekend.

**Walla Walla:** Rain was received at the end of the week. New seedings were coming up in the northern areas of the county. Some hay was rained on. The cooler weather was welcomed. Pastures were softening and starting to grow a little.

**Walla Walla (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Producers used deep furrow drills to seed wheat. Some crops were already emerging. A very light rain shower was received on Saturday morning. Temperatures were cooler with heavy winds over the weekend.

**Whitman:** Most operations put harvest equipment away for the year and have begun to focus attention on putting in the 2009 crop. Operations in the western areas of the county began seeding. The central part of the county began seeding as well, but most operations were working pulse ground and fertilizing. Moisture conditions were disappointing despite the harvest rainfall. Additional rainfall would be welcomed. Rains came over the weekend, but totals were mainly 0.25 inch or less.

**Weekly Weather Statistics**  
**Week of September 15 - 21, 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	44	78	57	+0	49	+0	1	-6	0.56	+0.08	3	30.44	-7.06	81	183
Hoquiam	47	79	58	-3	57	-11	5	-9	0.06	-0.75	1	58.81	-11.27	84	207
Kelso	46	90	62	+3	85	+16	20	+5	0.09	-0.47	1	32.17	-16.02	67	144
Olympia	43	83	60	+4	71	+20	8	+1	0.08	-0.48	1	44.64	-7.50	86	179
Seattle-Tacoma	53	80	61	+1	77	+8	18	+4	0.56	+0.09	2	36.91	-1.60	96	173
Shelton	40	84	60	+0	69	+3	7	-7	0.04	-0.63	1	59.65	-7.02	89	176
Tacoma WA AP	44	81	60	+1	68	+6	6	-3	0.21	-0.27	2	33.46	-8.17	80	161
Vancouver WA	49	90	65	+7	106	+40	37	+23	0.27	-0.22	1	37.33	-5.40	87	165
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	40	92	66	+9	110	+54	41	+27	0.00	-0.13	0	6.94	-2.41	74	69
Omak AP	39	91	66	+10	116	+62	46	+32	0.08	-0.10	1	8.07	-7.61	51	69
Stampede Pass	42	79	58	+11	68	+52	21	+21	0.49	-0.35	2	75.08	-8.29	90	206
Wenatchee AP	49	89	69	+7	134	+47	64	+34	0.00	-0.07	0	4.33	-4.30	50	45
Yakima AP	40	91	64	+5	100	+30	34	+14	0.19	+0.12	1	6.34	-1.94	77	65
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	39	92	66	+11	111	+64	41	+31	0.53	+0.25	1	18.08	-4.01	82	129
Deer Park	32	90	59	+2	68	+10	11	-5	0.78	+0.57	1	21.99	+2.80	115	141
Republic	41	85	65	+12	105	+69	35	+28	0.23	+0.02	1	12.26	-4.32	74	108
Spokane AP	48	89	66	+10	116	+58	55	+38	0.40	+0.26	1	17.15	+0.09	101	129
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	47	94	70	+7	140	+47	70	+36	0.01	-0.10	1	4.42	-3.08	59	72
Moses Lake	45	95	67	+5	123	+30	53	+19	0.00	-0.11	0	4.37	-3.13	58	70
Quincy	43	90	67	+7	117	+40	47	+23	0.00	-0.07	0	7.11	-1.06	87	73
Ritzville	49	95	69	+11	132	+68	65	+47	0.02	-0.12	1	9.41	-2.31	80	91
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	44	91	69	+3	138	+22	68	+17	0.08	+0.01	2	4.02	-2.74	59	49
Pasco	41	90	65	+2	107	+15	37	+3	0.09	+0.02	1	7.20	-0.57	93	73
Pullman	43	92	66	+10	115	+60	51	+37	0.30	+0.07	1	18.65	-3.12	86	124
Walla Walla Rgn	53	92	69	+6	137	+40	67	+30	0.36	+0.15	2	14.20	-5.95	70	114
Whitman Mission	37	92	64	+5	100	+28	31	+8	0.23	+0.09	2	12.44	-1.76	88	118
<b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b>															
Lewiston ID	53	96	73	+11	164	+73	94	+58	0.67	+0.53	1	9.03	-3.98	69	101

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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