



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: September 29, 2008
Week Ending: September 28, 2008
CWP WA-CW3708

Potato, Corn, Grape, Apple, and Cranberry Harvest Continue

Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.7. Grain harvest ended. Fall seeding of winter wheat continued in all grain growing counties. Garfield and Asotin reported rapid progress. Conditions remained unusually dry as most operations were planting into very dry soil and hoping for fall moisture to sprout seed. On the west side, Skagit County reported corn silage harvest was ongoing. Whatcom County reported good potato harvest progress after a wet weekend. Christmas tree growers continued top-working Noble fir.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, Gala apple harvest was nearly complete and growers focused on the mid-season varieties like Golden Delicious, Honeycrisp and Jonagolds. Growers removed irrigation drip-lines, black plastic and turned down more vegetable blocks. Grape harvest was ongoing. Apple and sweet corn harvest continued in Snohomish County. Grays Harbor County reported sweet corn growers were topping fields in preparation for harvest. Skagit County reported seed growers were able to finish harvesting the remaining spinach and barley seed. Beet seed harvest will be late. Flower crops were planted. Pacific County reported cranberry growers continued working bogs in preparation for a late harvest.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 12 percent very poor, 28 percent poor, 39 percent fair, 18 percent good and 3 percent excellent. On the west side, Island County reported cattle were actively out on pasture. On the east side, cattle growers continued bringing cattle in from summer pasture and were grazing them on fields of stubble. Some operations were busy with fall calving. Feed costs were high and operators felt pressure to move cattle to market early.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.7
Last Week	6.6

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	15	36	49	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	19	31	47	3
Subsoil	20	50	30	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	17	36	47	0
Irrigation Water	0	12	88	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	5	7	88	0
Hay & Roughage	16	17	59	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	100	99	100	100
Winter Wheat Planted	60	44	66	66
Winter Wheat Emerged	34	4	37	35
Barley Harvested	100	99	100	100
Potatoes Harvested	56	53	69	64
Field Corn Doughed	86	75	96	99
Field Corn Dented	60	43	87	92
Field Corn Mature	18	10	63	66
Field Corn Harvested for Grain	4	NA	25	15
Field Corn Harvested for Silage	27	21	49	49
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	80	70	89	81
Alfalfa Hay 3 rd Cutting	97	93	100	99
Alfalfa Hay 4 th Cutting	46	37	64	13

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	4	30	66	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: The last three days were sunny and warm in the area. Garden center sales picked up with the warm weather.

Grays Harbor: Heavy rain showers in the middle of the week helped to replenish soil moisture. Sweet corn growers finished topping fields in preparation for harvesting. Christmas tree growers continued top-working Noble fir. Livestock producers completed fall seeding of pastures.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Harvest of grain and vegetables continued. Harvest of corn silage began.

Island: There were no unusual situations reported. Weekly harvest continued for diversified cropping systems. Silage held steady. Livestock were actively out on pasture.

Pacific: Cool and wet fall conditions limited field work for producers. Cranberry growers continued work on bogs in preparation for later season harvest. Raspberry growers completed pruning operations. Pasture conditions improved with late season rains. Shellfish growers continued limited harvest of triploid oysters.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions remained good in 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.

San Juan: Crops looked good and hay harvest was nearly done.

Skagit: High temperatures for the week averaged 65 degrees. There was .1 inch of precipitation recorded at the WSU North West Research and Extension Center in West Mount Vernon. With minimal rain this week, area farmers were able to harvest. Area seed producers were able to harvest the remaining spinach seed and barley. Area beet seed was closer to being cut for harvest but was much later than normal due to a wet spring and summer. Carrots were in the ground and actively growing. Blueberry harvest was close to finishing up for the year but blackberries were coming on strong. Corn and potato harvest began. Next year's flower crop was going in the ground. Next year's cabbage seed crop was in the ground and received its first cultivation.

Snohomish/King: Last week's rain encouraged new growth on local pastures. Christmas tree farms prepared for the coming holiday season. Apple and sweet corn harvest continued.

Thurston: Light rainfall in the middle of the week did very little to replenish soil moisture. Unseasonably warm temperatures at the end of the week were welcomed by U-Pick pumpkin growers who were preparing fields for opening on October 1. Turfgrass growers took advantage of nearly ideal conditions for fall seeding. Dairy producers continued applying liquid manure to forage fields.

Whatcom: Potato harvest continued after drying out from the wet weekend. Producers had grass silage down. The area had frost on Wednesday. Fall was in the air with crisp mornings and cool nights.

Central

Chelan/Douglas: Dry conditions continued. The 2009 winter wheat crop was stressed due to lack of moisture. Fall pastures were dry. Lakes that normally provide livestock water were dried up. Apple harvest continued. Cool nights were coloring the fruit. Higher elevations experienced freezing temperatures. No fruit crop damage was reported.

Kittitas: Perennial weeds were greening up. Winter annuals emerged and it was a good time for weed control. No appreciable moisture was received for rangeland green-up.

Klickitat: The sunny, warm days were great for planting. Moisture was low. Third cutting was almost completed.

Klickitat (2nd Report): A heavy frost hit early in the week followed by a warming and rain showers. Farm activities did not slow down. Fall planting was well underway, and some fields emerged. The last straw was baled. Sheep and cattle grazed stubble. It was a busy time for fall calving. Hay sales picked up. The

Columbia Gorge orchard and grape growing vicinity was spared the frost. Elsewhere tender garden crops like corn, squash, pumpkins, peppers and tomatoes were finished. Garden clean-up was in full swing.

Yakima: Average temperatures were generally cooler than normal, varying from nine degrees below normal to one degree above normal. There was a trace of precipitation. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Yakima (2nd Report): Daytime high temperatures held consistent between mid 60s to upper 70s. Night lows approached freezing on Tuesday and some of the colder areas experienced their first frost. Gala apple harvest was nearly complete with growers focusing on the mid-season varieties like Golden Delicious, Honeycrisp and Jonagolds. Growers removed irrigation drip-lines, black plastic and turned down more vegetable blocks.

Eastern

Asotin: Dry weather continued. The entire area was in need of rainfall to boost pastures and improve winter wheat seeding conditions.

Asotin/Garfield: The weather remained dry. Planting of winter wheat progressed rapidly. The area still needs rain for crops and rangeland.

Ferry: Cool temperatures at night continued. Many gardens in higher elevations froze out

Garfield: The area had continued warm weather after a killing frost on September 22. Producers were seeding into scant moisture or dust even though the seeding window was just approaching. There was not enough moisture and some emerged wheat was yellowing. There was some frost damage to early stands.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The week finished with very nice fall weather allowing for the completion of harvest. Seeding of winter wheat progressed slowly with a need for additional moisture. Parts of the area received rain early in the week. Apple harvest and fall festivals began up on Green Bluff.

Stevens: Parts of the county received rain mid-week. A few grain producers were seeding winter wheat. Temperatures were cool in the mornings with warm afternoons.

Walla Walla: Fall seeding was underway. There was no rainfall. The region experienced cooler days and evenings. Wine grape and apple harvest was underway.

Weekly Weather Statistics
Week of September 22 - 28, 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	37	70	55	+0	38	+0	0	+0	0.16	-0.37	3	0.72	-1.09	40	6
Hoquiam	38	77	56	-3	43	-17	2	-8	0.41	-0.52	4	0.47	-2.57	15	5
Kelso	39	79	58	-1	55	-2	3	-7	0.01	-0.62	1	0.10	-2.12	5	2
Olympia	35	72	55	-2	35	-3	0	+0	0.19	-0.43	3	0.27	-1.84	13	4
Seattle-Tacoma	43	70	57	-2	50	-6	0	-7	0.22	-0.27	4	0.78	-0.98	44	6
Shelton	32	75	55	-3	39	-13	0	-8	0.35	-0.41	3	0.39	-2.11	16	4
Tacoma WA AP	33	70	54	-4	33	-16	0	-7	0.04	-0.45	2	0.25	-1.56	14	4
Vancouver WA	40	88	60	+3	69	+16	8	+0	0.11	-0.39	3	0.56	-1.31	30	5
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	30	79	55	+1	40	+0	1	-6	0.00	-0.07	0	0.00	-0.47	0	0
Omak AP	26	76	53	-2	26	-11	0	-7	0.04	-0.10	1	0.12	-0.62	16	2
Stampede Pass	34	64	47	+1	5	-5	0	+0	0.70	-0.24	4	1.19	-2.01	37	6
Wenatchee AP	39	76	57	-3	53	-12	4	-14	0.00	-0.07	0	0.00	-0.37	0	0
Yakima AP	31	79	54	-4	33	-19	0	-13	0.00	-0.07	0	0.19	-0.18	51	1
NORTHEAST															
Colville	31	77	53	+1	31	-2	0	-7	0.10	-0.12	1	0.63	-0.43	59	2
Deer Park	27	74	52	-4	19	-22	0	-9	0.15	-0.04	2	0.93	+0.11	113	3
Republic	29	75	53	+3	24	+0	0	-2	0.07	-0.12	1	0.30	-0.55	35	2
Spokane AP	34	72	54	-1	34	-8	0	-9	0.09	-0.05	3	0.54	-0.14	79	6
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	32	78	56	-5	46	-26	1	-21	0.00	-0.07	0	0.01	-0.33	3	1
Moses Lake	33	80	55	-6	39	-33	0	-22	0.00	-0.07	0	0.00	-0.34	0	0
Quincy	35	75	55	-4	37	-20	0	-16	0.00	-0.07	0	0.00	-0.41	0	0
Ritzville	31	72	53	-5	26	-21	0	-10	0.00	-0.14	0	0.02	-0.51	4	1
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	36	80	59	-6	64	-29	7	-28	0.00	-0.07	0	0.08	-0.24	25	2
Pasco	33	82	58	-4	57	-16	6	-16	0.00	-0.07	0	0.09	-0.24	27	1
Pullman	32	77	54	-1	37	-4	0	-8	0.06	-0.22	1	0.36	-0.57	39	2
Walla Walla Rgn	41	79	60	-2	73	-5	9	-15	0.02	-0.23	1	0.38	-0.50	43	3
Whitman Mission	32	78	56	-3	40	-15	2	-11	0.01	-0.20	1	0.24	-0.39	38	3
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	43	76	60	+0	71	+0	10	-14	0.08	-0.09	1	0.75	+0.03	104	2

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>
 Washington Agricultural Statistics Service website: [http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics by State/Washington](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington)
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