



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
Washington Field Office
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507
(360) 902-1940 Fax (360) 902-2091

Washington Crop Weather

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Soft Fruit Harvest Nearly Finished While Apple, Sweet Corn, Pumpkin, Cranberry Harvest Continue Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.7. On the eastern side, winter wheat planting conditions varied. Some counties remained dry while others received good accumulations of rain. Fall seeding continued at a brisk pace. Walla Walla County reported deep furrow crops had emerged and were aided by the rain. Seed potato harvest was underway. Pumpkins grown for nationwide distribution were slow to ripen. Dry edible bean harvest was nearing completion. Christmas tree growers were taking inventory of fields in preparation for the sales season.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, apple harvest continued with a few growers harvesting the late-maturing varieties like Granny Smith and Red Delicious apples. Franklin County reported their soft fruit harvest was essentially finished, and apple harvest continued through all of last week. Chelan County reported apple and pear harvest was ongoing. In Klickitat County, late season nectarine and peach harvest finished with good quality and volume for both crops. On the western side, sweet corn growers had topped fields and were beginning to harvest. On the eastern side, Franklin County reported most of their sweet corn harvest was complete. Snohomish County reported their sweet corn was delayed in maturation due to late planting. Pacific County reported cranberry harvest began and initial reports indicated smaller berries and lower yields overall. Shellfish growers continued to make preparations for the fall and holiday harvest season.

Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 23 percent very poor, 37 percent poor, 34 percent fair and 6 percent good. On the eastern side, several reports were noted of cattle pastures greening up due to recent rains. Kittitas County reported ranchers were weaning and shipping calves. Feed prices remained high and growers were concerned about availability.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.7
Last Week	6.7

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	9	28	49	14
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	16	31	51	2
Subsoil	19	46	35	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	17	36	47	0
Irrigation Water	0	9	91	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	5	8	87	0
Hay & Roughage	15	12	69	4

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2007	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	73	60	80	78
Winter Wheat Emerged	47	34	52	48
Potatoes Harvested	64	56	73	70
Field Corn Doughed	97	86	99	100
Field Corn Dented	91	60	96	98
Field Corn Mature	28	18	79	81
Field Corn Harvested for Grain	6	4	36	29
Field Corn Harvested for Silage	40	27	62	59
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	90	80	94	89
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	99	97	100	99
Alfalfa Hay 4 th Cutting	68	46	84	NA

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	3	37	60	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 high temperatures were in the 70s and lows were in the 40s. Farmers reported corn and all other crops were three weeks late. Corn had not matured due to lack of heat units. Beet seed was still in the field and grass growth was slow due to cool nights.

Gray Harbor: Sweet corn growers were pleased that they had finished "topping" fields just days before the first fall storms arrived bringing blustery winds and heavy rain showers. Christmas tree growers were taking inventory of fields in preparation for the sales season. U-Pick pumpkin farms reported disappointing sales over the weekend due to the rainy weather. Greenhouse tomato growers were harvesting the last of this year's crop. Home gardeners were kept busy raking leaves and harvesting garden produce.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: The rain started on Thursday and continued. Harvest of corn silage was nearly completed.

Jefferson: Soils were unseasonably dry. The growing season was two to three weeks later than usual.

Mason: Producers were waiting for things to dry to plant cover crops.

Pacific: Cool and wet fall weather limited field activities for producers. Cranberry growers initiated harvest operations, with smaller berries and lower yields overall than average. Shellfish growers made preparations for the fall and holiday harvest season. Pasture conditions showed improvement with fall rains.

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

Skagit: Area seed producers were winding down the harvest. Beet seed was getting closer to being cut for harvest but is much later than normal due to a wet spring and summer. Carrot harvest was expected to begin this month Blueberry harvest was closer to finishing up for the year and blackberries were coming on strong. Corn harvest was underway. Potato harvest began. This year's crop was about a month behind and should be lighter than in years past. 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: High temperatures were in the 70s and lows were in the 50s. Farmers reported corn and other crops were three weeks late. Corn had not matured due to lack of heat units. Beet seed was still in the field and grass growth was slow due to cool nights.

Snohomish/King (2nd Report): Showers received late in the week slowed field work. Harvest festivals were underway. Pumpkins were slow to ripen.

Thurston: Agricultural producers took advantage of unseasonably warm temperatures early in the week to complete fall chores. Heavy rain showers at the end of the week slowed U-Pick pumpkin sales. Turfgrass growers were pleased to have the heavy rainfall replenish soil moisture. Christmas tree growers continued top-working Noble fir. Livestock producers took advantage of the good weather to build fence.

Central

Chelan: The main apple harvest was in progress. Harvest will continue at a high rate for another two to three weeks and then taper off rapidly as November nears.

Chelan/Douglas: Precipitation received at Waterville over the past three days totaled .46 inch. This provided much needed relief to the 2009 winter wheat crop that was stressed due to dry conditions. The moisture also helped green up late fall pastures for grazing livestock. Pear and apple harvest continued. Temperatures were cooler than normal.

Franklin: Temperatures were normal with typical shortened growing degree days. Light precipitation touched the south end of the county late in the week. For the most part, the very dry September continued into October. Soft fruit, particularly peach and nectarine harvest concluded. Apple harvest continued. Approximately 80 percent of sweet corn harvest was completed with the non-double crop fields all harvested. Second crop short season fields were being harvested. Sudan grass fields were growing well. Buckwheat was near harvest.

Kittitas: Conditions were much cooler, but there was still some timothy hay coming off fields to clean up for winter. Farmers were doing fall weed control. Ranchers were weaning and shipping calves, cleaning up range pastures and trying to find enough hay for winter.

Klickitat: Temperatures cooled off and there were a few showers. Planting continued.

Klickitat (2nd Report): Daytime temperatures were in the low 80s with high humidity early in the week. Temperatures cooled to mid 50s by Sunday while overnight lows were consistently in the 40s. Measurable amounts of rain over four days improved soil condition for planting and newly seeded grain crops. Irrigation for the growing season was winding down. Very little of the current year's hay crop was left unsold in the Goldendale/Centerville production area. Orchardists reported that nectarine and late peach harvest finished up with good quality and volume for both crops. Vineyards were about a third of the way through harvest. Quantity was good and overall quality of grapes was reported as excellent. Grape harvest was expected to continue for the next two to three weeks. Home gardeners were planting garlic and cover crops. Ranchers started bringing cattle down from the mountain ranges as hunting season was due to start.

Yakima: Average temperatures were generally warmer than normal, varying from 4 degrees below normal to 9 degrees above normal. There was .37 inch of precipitation received. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Yakima (2nd Report): Daytime highs dropped from the mid-80s to the mid-60s while nighttime lows remained fairly consistent in the upper to lower 40's. There were no frosts reported but widespread showers on Thursday brought between 0.25 to 0.5 inch of precipitation. Apple harvest continued with a few growers harvesting Granny Smith and Red Delicious, the late-maturing varieties.

Eastern

Benton: Weather patterns remained abnormally dry. Farmers are completing their dryland seeding using deep furrow drills for the most part.

Asotin/Garfield: There were a few showers but little accumulation of precipitation. Seeding of winter wheat progressed rapidly. Conditions were still dry in most areas.

Ferry: Fall field work continued. Cool weather helped the grass.

Garfield: Some variable showers wet the ground enough to encourage fall seeding of wheat. The dry band just below the surface was still there.

Lincoln: On Friday night the area received .20 inch of rain. Many acres of winter wheat seed were still in dry ground. More rain was needed to reach the seeds and germinate them.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Warm weather experienced earlier in the week aided in the germination and growing conditions of fall wheat. Rain received over the weekend improved fall pasture quality as well as seeding conditions for wheat yet to be planted.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The beginning of the week had nice weather. Cooler weather and some showers were received during the weekend. Fall work continued with winter wheat seeded in the dust in some spots and in moisture in other areas. Apple harvest began up on Green Bluff with all the fall activities going on around the October month. Cattle pasture greened up from the rain and some cattlemen were moving cattle to market in preparation for the upcoming winter.

Stevens: Rain received during the weekend softened pasture grasses and provided moisture for newly seeded grains. Fall seeding was nearly completed.

Walla Walla: Most producers began seeding winter wheat. Deep furrow crops were up and looked good. Rains were received throughout most of the area Thursday and Friday evenings. The days were shorter with cooler temperatures.

Weekly Weather Statistics
Week of September 29 - October 5, 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	39	77	57	+5	52	+27	1	+1	0.47	-0.13	4	1.19	-1.22	49	10
Hoquiam	47	77	59	+2	61	+13	6	-1	1.82	+0.78	4	2.29	-1.79	56	9
Kelso	43	84	61	+5	76	+34	15	+9	0.75	+0.10	4	0.85	-2.02	30	6
Olympia	38	80	57	+5	49	+24	0	+0	1.32	+0.64	4	1.59	-1.20	57	8
Seattle-Tacoma	48	78	60	+5	73	+31	11	+7	0.72	+0.18	4	1.50	-0.80	65	10
Shelton	38	83	58	+3	58	+20	4	-1	1.96	+1.10	4	2.35	-1.01	70	8
Tacoma WA AP	38	77	58	+4	56	+20	4	+3	0.80	+0.26	4	1.05	-1.30	45	8
Vancouver WA	49	92	63	+8	94	+55	27	+22	0.95	+0.39	4	1.51	-0.92	62	9
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	36	86	60	+9	72	+48	13	+9	0.53	+0.45	2	0.53	-0.02	96	2
Omak AP	41	84	60	+9	71	+49	11	+7	0.51	+0.37	2	0.63	-0.25	72	4
Stampede Pass	37	71	53	+9	35	+28	3	+3	0.75	-0.28	4	1.94	-2.29	46	10
Wenatchee AP	44	80	61	+5	77	+33	16	+6	0.21	+0.14	2	0.21	-0.23	48	2
Yakima AP	36	85	59	+5	61	+26	8	+1	0.37	+0.30	1	0.56	+0.12	127	2
NORTHEAST															
Colville	39	87	60	+10	74	+56	13	+12	0.59	+0.38	3	1.22	-0.05	96	5
Deer Park	40	82	59	+8	67	+42	12	+7	0.29	+0.13	2	1.22	+0.24	124	5
Republic	23	80	57	+9	62	+50	11	+11	0.20	+0.05	1	0.50	-0.50	50	3
Spokane AP	42	82	62	+10	83	+57	24	+19	0.13	-0.01	2	0.67	-0.15	82	8
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	38	86	63	+6	91	+43	32	+20	0.35	+0.28	3	0.36	-0.05	88	4
Moses Lake	43	86	63	+6	89	+41	26	+14	0.19	+0.12	2	0.19	-0.22	46	2
Quincy	42	83	62	+7	83	+45	22	+15	0.33	+0.26	2	0.33	-0.15	69	2
Ritzville	40	89	62	+9	87	+57	25	+19	0.15	+0.01	2	0.17	-0.50	25	3
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	39	84	62	+2	88	+18	28	+7	0.21	+0.14	1	0.29	-0.10	74	3
Pasco	39	83	62	+5	89	+37	22	+11	0.13	+0.06	1	0.22	-0.18	55	2
Pullman	45	87	62	+11	88	+61	31	+27	0.26	+0.03	4	0.62	-0.54	53	6
Walla Walla Rgn	46	87	65	+6	104	+45	38	+25	0.41	+0.13	3	0.79	-0.37	68	6
Whitman Mission	32	83	60	+6	72	+35	13	+6	0.43	+0.25	3	0.67	-0.14	83	6
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	49	88	67	+10	118	+66	49	+37	0.21	+0.03	3	0.96	+0.06	107	5

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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