



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: October 14, 2008
Week Ending: October 12, 2008
CWP WA-CW3908

First Frost Hits State Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.2. Light rains fell across the State, followed by frost later in the week. Despite limited rain showers, moisture was still needed for winter wheat seeding to be completed. Sweet corn harvest was in full swing on the west side of the State while producers on the east side finished up the third cutting of alfalfa. Christmas tree growers were tagging trees and preparing harvest roads for holiday sales.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, apple harvest continued with Granny Smith and Golden Delicious apples being picked. A limited number of Red Delicious growers started picking apples, while others were preparing orchards for harvest in the coming weeks. The spinach seed crop in Western Washington was reportedly outstanding. U-Pick pumpkin patches saw brisk sales over the weekend, when beautiful fall weather encouraged buyers to go pumpkin picking.

Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 12 percent very poor, 23 percent poor, 44 percent fair and 21 percent good. Rain, followed by sunny days, helped green up pastures. Hay sales were still strong as many producers have started supplemental feeding of livestock. Cattle were growing their winter coats as they were being moved to winter pastures.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.2
Last Week	5.7

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	7	22	67	4
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	11	25	62	2
Subsoil	15	44	41	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	16	35	48	0
Irrigation Water	0	2	98	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	3	5	92	0
Hay & Roughage	18	19	59	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	82	73	88	88
Winter Wheat Emerged	60	47	59	62
Potatoes Harvested	78	64	78	80
Field Corn Doughed	98	97	100	100
Field Corn Dented	92	91	99	100
Field Corn Mature	35	28	87	94
Field Corn Harvested for Grain	14	6	47	42
Field Corn Harvested for Silage	52	40	71	75
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	97	90	96	95
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	100	99	100	100

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	3	56	41	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 temperatures have been about the same with highs in the 50s and lows in the 40s. The spinach seed crop was outstanding, and producers were beginning to chop corn in Clallam County.

Clark: Sales were up at local Farmer's Markets.

Grays Harbor: Sweet corn harvest was in full swing. U-Pick pumpkin growers reported excellent sales over the weekend. Christmas tree growers were preparing harvest roads. Forage producers reported increased hay sales due to the cold weather. The first killing frost of the season occurred during the week, bringing a close to another growing season.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: The rains have begun in all three counties. All crops have been harvested except corn silage. Frost has been received in some areas.

Island: Daily highs were in the mid-50s. Patchy fog in the mornings was received in some locations. Blueberries were fully developed, but the sugar content was low for this time of year. Corn, tomatoes, and beans were three to four weeks behind in development. The pumpkin crop was down due to cold summer temperatures and low pollination activity during bloom.

Pierce/South King: The first frost was received during the week. Overall, crop conditions remained good. There were no unusual situations to report and

no reports of crop damage due to a weather event.

San Juan: Temperatures were cooler than normal, and the first frost was received during the week.

Snohomish/King: Rain, which was sometimes heavy, slowed fieldwork. U-Pick pumpkin farms were doing well. The first frost hit parts of the county on Thursday and Friday and did some damage to squash and other plants. Apple harvest continued, and Christmas tree farms continued preparations for the season. Corn silage harvest was underway, and manure spreading continued.

Snohomish/King (2nd Report): The temperatures were cooler with 50s for a high and 38 for the low.

Thurston: The first killing frost occurred during the week bringing a close to another growing season. Brisk, sunny weather over the weekend provided ideal harvest conditions for U-Pick pumpkins sales. Christmas tree growers were tagging fields in preparation for tree sales. Livestock producers took advantage of the good weather to build fences. Turfgrass growers were kept busy mowing and fertilizing fields.

Whatcom: Temperatures dropped below freezing to 26 degrees on Saturday. Light rain did not hamper the continued harvesting of corn, potatoes, and barley. Some producers were able to put up their sixth cutting of grass for silage.

Central

Benton: The weather was dry and cool during the week.

Kittitas: Ranchers were weaning and shipping cattle. Some ranchers held on to calves due to plummeting prices. The first significantly cold nights came during the week. Fall has definitely arrived.

Klickitat: Leaves were turning red and yellow as fall weather arrived. Daytime temperatures were in the 50s and overnight temperatures dipped below 30 degrees. Light rain early in the week was followed by clearing and sequential nights of frost. Columbia River Gorge temperatures remained more moderate as wine grape harvest continued. Sunny days helped fields green up from last week's rainfall. Soil moisture improved conditions for new seedlings. Cows and calves were settling into winter pastures. Cattle were mostly in good condition. Gardeners were addressing their soil test results, acquiring soil supplements, liming and mulching before winter sets in.

Klickitat (2nd Report): The weather was great for planting and getting fall work done. More

precipitation was needed.

Yakima: No precipitation was received during the week. Daytime temperatures ranged from the mid-50s to mid-60s with nighttime lows in the upper 40s to lower 30s. Some locations in the upper to mid-Yakima Valley experienced their first frost of the season. Many tomato, pepper and vegetable plants showed signs of frost damage, but fruit continued to ripen. Some Red Delicious apple producers were laying out color-up ground fabrics, mowing and placing bins in orchards in anticipation of harvest. Granny Smith and Golden Delicious apple harvest picked up throughout the Valley, with a few Red Delicious apples coming in from the historically earlier orchards.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures were generally cooler than normal, varying from seven degrees below normal to one degree above normal, with no precipitation. There were no crop losses due to weather conditions reported.

Eastern

Adams/Lincoln: Additional precipitation is needed before winter wheat seeding can be completed.

Asotin/Garfield: Cold nights brought temperatures in the low 20s during the week. The weather has remained dry, but rain is needed in all areas.

Ferry: Fall temperatures plummeted to 17 degrees in many areas. Alfalfa was going dormant. Some cattle drifted down from ranges.

Ferry (2nd Report): Alfalfa growers finished up their third cutting. Past rains caused the lateness of this cutting. A few producers have taken a fourth cutting. Apple harvest was about two-thirds complete for Red Delicious varieties.

Lincoln: The weather was dry and cold during the week.

Pend Oreille: The high temperature for the week was 55 degrees with the low of 8 degrees. All haying was complete. Fog was received most mornings. Livestock have their winter coats and were fattening up for another long, cold winter. Hens have stopped laying due to cold nights and days. Most farm work has halted, and winter repairs of equipment have begun. Some livestock were already on hay as pastures have stopped producing new growth.

Stevens: Morning temperatures were in the high teens during the week. Grain producers finished seeding. Cattle producers shipped culled cows and calves.



Weekly Weather Statistics
 Week of October 6 - October 12, 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	26	59	47	-6	6	-10	0	+0	0.18	-0.49	2	1.37	-1.71	44	12
Hoquiam	31	59	48	-8	11	-27	0	-1	0.60	-0.59	4	2.89	-2.38	55	13
Kelso	34	66	51	-4	22	-9	0	+0	0.39	-0.34	3	1.24	-2.36	34	9
Olympia	28	63	50	-2	16	+0	0	+0	0.71	-0.08	4	2.30	-1.28	64	12
Seattle-Tacoma_	37	60	51	-4	13	-17	0	+0	0.35	-0.25	3	1.85	-1.05	64	13
Shelton	25	61	48	-7	9	-16	0	+0	0.81	-0.19	3	3.16	-1.20	72	11
Tacoma_WA_AP	30	61	50	-4	12	-12	0	+0	0.48	-0.12	3	1.53	-1.42	52	11
Vancouver_WA	37	69	53	-2	27	+0	3	+3	0.49	-0.10	4	2.00	-1.02	66	13
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	27	65	49	+0	8	-3	0	+0	0.01	-0.09	1	0.54	-0.11	83	3
Omak_AP	27	66	48	-2	9	-1	0	+0	0.11	-0.08	2	0.74	-0.33	69	6
Stampede_Pass	30	48	39	-4	0	-1	0	+0	0.61	-0.58	3	2.55	-2.87	47	13
Wenatchee_AP	34	61	49	-5	7	-19	0	-3	0.00	-0.07	0	0.21	-0.30	41	2
Yakima_AP	27	63	49	-4	11	-9	0	+0	0.00	-0.07	0	0.56	+0.05	110	2
NORTHEAST															
Colville	22	62	45	-4	6	-3	0	+0	0.13	-0.08	1	1.35	-0.13	91	6
Deer_Park	16	60	40	-10	4	-7	0	+0	0.17	-0.04	1	1.39	+0.20	117	6
Republic	29	63	46	+1	6	+2	0	+0	0.10	-0.06	1	0.60	-0.56	52	4
Spokane_AP	22	59	44	-6	6	-7	0	+0	0.14	-0.04	1	0.81	-0.19	81	9
EAST_CENTRAL															
Ephrata	30	65	50	-5	12	-16	0	-4	0.01	-0.06	1	0.37	-0.11	77	5
Moses_Lake	26	64	48	-7	12	-16	0	-4	0.06	-0.01	2	0.25	-0.23	52	4
Quincy	36	63	50	-4	10	-12	0	-1	0.05	-0.02	1	0.38	-0.17	69	3
Ritzville	25	64	45	-7	4	-13	0	+0	0.12	-0.02	2	0.29	-0.52	36	5
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	32	69	52	-6	21	-28	2	-7	0.00	-0.07	0	0.29	-0.17	63	3
Pasco	22	72	50	-6	26	-10	6	+2	0.00	-0.08	0	0.22	-0.26	46	2
Pullman	18	63	43	-8	10	-7	0	+0	0.08	-0.20	1	0.70	-0.74	49	7
Walla_Walla_Rgn	29	72	50	-6	22	-20	2	-3	0.18	-0.10	2	0.97	-0.47	67	8
Whitman_Mission	19	73	48	-5	15	-8	1	+1	0.01	-0.20	1	0.68	-0.34	67	7

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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