



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: October 27, 2008  
Week Ending: October 26, 2008  
CWP WA-CW4108

## Beautiful Fall Weather Encourages Pumpkin Harvest

### Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 7.0. Beautiful sunny days ushered in the final week of October. Sunny days with no rain provided ideal conditions for sweet corn growers to sow cover crops. Christmas tree growers prepared fields for harvest. Turfgrass growers harvested sod and mowed established fields. Producers harvested the final corn acres for silage. Dryland wheat seeding conditions were reported as tough in Franklin County, with drought winter wheat crop loss the topic of the county. Several counties reported needing rain to finish planting and revitalize pasture conditions.

### Fruits and Vegetables

The final week before Halloween for U-pick pumpkin operations was fantastic, with fields loaded with orange and shoppers. Cranberry growers completed post-harvest work. Apple harvest continued, with up to 50 percent of the production in Whatcom County being sold for processing instead of fresh market due to the frost in April. In Yakima County, apple producers harvested nearly all Red Delicious apples and focused on bringing in the Braeburn and Fuji apple crops.

### Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 26 percent very poor, 34 percent poor, 32 percent fair and 8 percent good. Livestock producers took advantage of dry conditions to apply liquid manure to forage fields. Low market prices on calves caused some ranchers to hang on to their heifers. A few farmers harvested late hay. Shellfish growers increased harvest of oysters and clams.

#### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	7.0
Last Week	6.5

#### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	12	18	52	18
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	7	21	65	7
Subsoil	28	40	31	1
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	13	32	54	1
Irrigation Water	0	5	94	1
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	3	6	91	0
Hay & Roughage	14	17	66	3

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	94	87	97	98
Winter Wheat Emerged	70	62	83	80
Potatoes Harvested	92	87	91	94
Field Corn Mature	94	51	100	100
Field Corn Harvested for Grain	64	36	76	69
Field Corn Harvested for Silage	94	70	98	98
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	100	99	100	100
Alfalfa Hay 4 <sup>th</sup> Cutting	99	92	100	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.

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# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Clark:** The final weekend for gathering pumpkins was fantastic! The fields were loaded with orange pumpkins and shoppers.

**Clallam/Jefferson:** Temperatures were in the 50s with nighttime temperatures in the 30s and 40s. The weather was pretty dry for this time of year.

**Grays Harbor:** Sunny days with no rain provided ideal conditions for sweet corn growers to sow cover crops in harvested fields. Livestock producers took advantage of the dry conditions to apply liquid manure to forage fields. Christmas tree growers were preparing fields for harvest. U-Pick pumpkin farms reported brisk sales.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** Beautiful fall weather was the norm in all three counties during the week. Harvesting was complete. Most areas had killing frost during the week, so home gardeners were done. Rain was received most days, but not an over abundance.

**Pacific:** Beautiful fall weather gave producers an opportunity to complete many end of the season field activities. Shellfish growers increased their harvest of oysters and clams, with strong market conditions expected for the upcoming holiday season. Cranberry growers completed post-harvest work and assessed their production which was down over 20 percent. Christmas tree growers prepared for the upcoming harvest.

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

**San Juan:** Conditions were mild, and frost was received in the colder areas of the county.

**Snohomish/North King:** Rain was received late in the week, but the weekend was beautiful! There was lots of business at the U-Pick pumpkin farms and corn mazes. Many pumpkins were still green though, and some farmers had to bring in a few loads to salt the fields. Apple harvest was winding down.

**Snohomish/ North King (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Temperatures were in the 50s and lower 60s during the day and 30s and 40s at night. All crops were still behind schedule.

**Thurston:** Ag producers took advantage of the nearly ideal weather conditions for completing fall chores. Christmas tree growers were busy preparing fields for harvest. Livestock producers were mowing pastures and applying liquid manure to forage fields. U-Pick pumpkin farms reported brisk sales due in part to sunny days and no rain. Turfgrass growers continued harvesting sod and mowing established fields. Home gardeners were harvesting the last of summer produce after several nights of freezing temperatures.

**Whatcom:** Producers were busy harvesting the final corn silage. Solid and liquid manure was being applied to grass and harvested acres. Pumpkin harvest and sales were in full swing. Apple harvest was continuing with up to 50 percent production being sold for processing instead of fresh market due to frost in April.

## Central

**Benton:** Weather conditions were cool and dry with no measurable precipitation received in the past month.

**Franklin:** The week was slightly colder than normal. Several frosts were received during the week. There was no precipitation for the week, as the very dry conditions continued. Dryland wheat seeding conditions have been very tough since August. Apples, particularly Fuji and other late varieties, were still being harvested. The fourth cutting of alfalfa hay was complete. High moisture field corn and sweet corn harvest was finished early in the week. Fields were being irrigated up with water shut-off in sight.

**Kittitas:** A few hay farmers were still pulling off late hay with some hay being high quality. The fall moisture has been very low so far. Irrigation canals have been shut off, and fruit harvest was mostly complete. Cattlemen were still gathering, weaning, processing, finding winter pasture and moving hay around.

**Klickitat:** There was a trace of rain on Monday, but dry days followed. Temperatures were in the mid-50s to lower 60s, and overnight lows were in the upper 20s. Planting continued with farmers working up

summer fallow fields. Market prices were low on calves, causing some ranchers to hang on to their heifers which fetch ten cents less per pound than steers. Hay sales began to pick up for smaller growers. Farm cleanup was underway. Smoke from fires could be seen since the burn ban has been lifted.

**Klickitat (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The weather was nice but very dry. There was no moisture, and farmers were dusting in their fall crops.

**Yakima:** Daytime temperatures remained fairly constant through the week ranging from upper 50s to mid-60s. On October 22, nighttime temperatures dropped below freezing for most areas in the county. No precipitation was reported in the county. Apple producers harvested nearly all Red Delicious apples and were focusing on bringing in the Braeburn and Fuji apple crop.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Average temperatures were generally warmer than normal, varying from five degrees below normal to five degrees above normal, with 0.01 inch of precipitation. There were no crop losses due to weather conditions.

# Eastern

**Adams:** It was another dry week. Most harvest activities were winding down, and growers were preparing to winterize. Fall seeding of CRP has not yet started, as farmers were waiting for cooler soil temperatures.

**Asotin:** Dry, warm weather continued. All seeded winter wheat needs additional moisture this fall for germination to get off to a good start.

**Asotin/Garfield:** The weather remained dry. Precipitation was needed.

**Lincoln:** Conditions were very dry. Rain was needed to plant the remaining wheat, revitalize pastures, and aid producers with field and tillage operations.

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The weather continued to be dry.

**Pend Oreille:** The high temperature during the week was 52 and the low was 12, with just a trace of precipitation. The ground started to freeze during the week. Livestock were still on pastures with some hay supplements. All farm activity in the area stopped due to the cold weather.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** Conditions were very dry. Lack of moisture was a real concern, and there were reports of winter wheat dying due to lack of moisture. Fieldwork continued to be completed with very little wheat out of the ground due to the lack of moisture. Livestock were being fed supplements due to the lack

of pasture grass.

**Stevens:** A few cattle producers began feeding hay. Cows and calves continued to move to market at relatively low prices. Seeding was complete in most areas. Grain farmers worked at fall tillage.

**Walla Walla:** The weather was clear, crisp and dry for the week. Fall seeding was in dire need of moisture. Pastures were running out, and hay was beginning to tighten up. Some hay was still available but was expensive. Cattle were coming off summer ranges.

**Walla Walla (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Apple and corn harvest were going steady. Some potatoes were still being harvested. Winter wheat was in need of moisture. Deep furrow crops looked good, but other winter wheat showed signs of stress due to the dry conditions.

**Whitman:** Dry conditions continued. Emergence of newly seeded winter wheat was poor. Areas seeded early in the west end of the county looked better than most. Deep furrow drills were used early in the west, and emergence looked better in that area than the rest of the county. Wheat on pulse crop ground looked poor, with very little emergence. Summer fallow was marginally better but still not very good. Rainfall was desperately needed to bring the crop along into winter.

Weekly Weather Statistics  
 Week of October 20 - October 26, 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	32	61	46	-3	0	-7	0	+0	0.11	-0.77	4	2.43	-2.30	51	21
Hoquiam	36	65	51	-2	15	-7	0	+0	0.27	-1.38	3	3.63	-4.68	44	20
Kelso	34	66	49	-2	5	-9	0	+0	0.18	-0.83	1	1.54	-3.91	28	12
Olympia	31	62	48	+2	3	-1	0	+0	0.55	-0.63	2	3.07	-2.64	54	17
Seattle-Tacoma_	38	63	50	-2	8	-6	0	+0	0.36	-0.51	2	2.60	-1.88	58	18
Shelton	30	64	47	-4	0	-12	0	+0	0.16	-1.35	1	3.86	-3.22	55	14
Tacoma_WA_AP	30	63	46	-4	0	-9	0	+0	0.44	-0.45	2	2.20	-2.36	48	15
Vancouver_WA	34	72	51	+2	16	+4	0	+0	0.12	-0.72	1	2.17	-2.38	48	16
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	27	67	48	+4	4	+4	0	+0	0.02	-0.12	1	0.58	-0.35	62	5
Omak_AP	23	63	44	+1	0	+0	0	+0	0.00	-0.22	0	0.74	-0.76	49	6
Stampede_Pass	31	48	39	+2	0	+0	0	+0	0.73	-1.05	2	4.67	-3.97	54	19
Wenatchee_AP	33	64	48	+2	5	-2	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	0	0.21	-0.53	28	2
Yakima_AP	25	66	46	-1	3	-4	0	+0	0.01	-0.13	1	0.57	-0.20	74	3
NORTHEAST															
Colville	22	61	42	-1	0	+0	0	+0	0.00	-0.34	0	1.40	-0.70	67	7
Deer_Park	18	57	40	-5	0	+0	0	+0	0.00	-0.31	0	1.39	-0.34	80	6
Republic	25	58	43	+4	0	+0	0	+0	0.04	-0.17	1	0.73	-0.85	46	6
Spokane_AP	27	58	45	+1	0	+0	0	+0	0.01	-0.27	1	0.82	-0.67	55	10
EAST_CENTRAL															
Ephrata	29	66	48	+1	9	+2	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	0	0.38	-0.33	54	6
Moses_Lake	26	65	47	-2	6	-1	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	0	0.26	-0.45	37	5
Quincy	29	66	48	+2	8	+4	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	0	0.38	-0.42	48	3
Ritzville	30	62	45	-2	0	-1	0	+0	0.00	-0.21	0	0.29	-0.90	24	5
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	29	70	50	-2	15	-7	0	+0	0.00	-0.12	0	0.29	-0.36	45	3
Pasco	25	68	48	-3	7	-8	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	0	0.25	-0.51	33	3
Pullman	25	63	46	+2	2	-4	0	+0	0.02	-0.36	2	0.75	-1.38	35	11
Walla_Walla_Rgn	32	65	50	-3	11	-8	0	+0	0.01	-0.40	1	1.01	-1.18	46	10
Whitman_Mission	22	67	44	-4	0	-7	0	+0	0.00	-0.28	0	0.69	-0.82	46	8
WESTERN_IDAHO_PANHANDLE															
Lewiston_ID	35	66	51	+3	15	+2	0	+0	0.00	-0.21	0	1.04	-0.49	68	8

Summary based on NWS data.  
 Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2008  
 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:  
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