



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

Released: November 3, 2008
Week Ending: November 2, 2008
CWP WA-CW4208

Winter Wheat Emergence Struggles From Lack of Rain Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.0. Whitman and Walla Walla County reported winter wheat emergence was poor and additional rain was critical. Soil conditions were very dry and crops that had emerged were showing signs of stress due to lack of moisture. Garfield County reported some wheat had sprouted and died. Christmas tree growers started harvesting Noble fir for distant markets. Snohomish County reported many thousands of pumpkins still green in the field. Whatcom County reported pumpkins were being harvested for oil seed. In Grant County corn harvest continued with lower yields.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, most apple growers were harvesting the last of the Fuji but the first of the Pink Lady apple crop. In Pacific County, cranberry growers completed post harvest activities.

Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 11 percent very poor, 28 percent poor, 41 percent fair and 20 percent good. On the west side, livestock producers continued building and repairing fences. On the eastern side, with no snow on the ground, livestock were still on pasture with supplemental feeding of hay. Stevens County reported heavy culling of cows and calves due to high feed costs. Kittitas County reported cattle were still grazing on crop residue from harvest. Shellfish growers were busy with early harvest operations for both oysters and clams, and were looking forward to strong market conditions through the holiday season.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.0
Last Week	7.0

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	10	23	44	23
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	7	22	64	7
Subsoil	21	47	31	1
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	12	33	53	2
Irrigation Water	1	8	90	1
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	3	6	90	1
Hay & Roughage	13	21	62	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	98	94	100	99
Winter Wheat Emerged	71	70	88	87
Potatoes Harvested	97	92	94	97
Field Corn Mature	100	94	100	100
Field Corn Harvested for Grain	82	64	83	76
Field Corn Harvested for Silage	100	94	100	100
Alfalfa Hay 4 th Cutting	100	99	100	NA

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat	0	0	50	50	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: After a good weather week of pumpkin sales for Halloween, the weekend weather turned wet.

Clallam/Jefferson: The temperatures ranged from highs in the 50s to lows in the mid 40s. The rain received broke the dry spell.

Grays Harbor: Agricultural producers finished planting winter cover crops on harvested corn and pea fields. Christmas tree growers continued preparing fields for harvesting. Forage producers reported brisk sales of haylage.

Island: The apple crop harvest was reported as completed, two to three weeks later than usual.

Mason: The beautiful weather early in the week had producers out preparing fields and equipment for wet weather. Fall cleanup was in full force. Pastures on higher ground looked good, as lower pastures started getting too wet for grazing.

Mason (2nd Report): Heavy rains were received. Leaves were down and the ground was saturated.

Pacific: With cooler and wetter fall conditions, field activities were limited for growers, with the exception of shellfish growers, who were not affected by wet weather. They were busy with early harvest operations for both oysters and clams, and were looking forward to strong market conditions through the holiday season. Cranberry growers completed post harvest activities and Christmas tree growers continued early harvest of trees.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions remained normal for this time of year. There were no unusual situations to report. There were no reports of any crop damage due to a weather event.

Snohomish/North King: The temperatures continued to range from highs in the 50s to lows in the mid 40s. We received reports of substantial corn, seed crops and grass losses for the year.

Snohomish/ North King (2nd Report): Pasture growth slowed down with the cooling weather. Pumpkin sales were brisk during the last days before Halloween. As usual, thousands of pumpkins remained in the fields, many still greenish. Christmas tree farms continued preparations for the holiday season. Most home gardens were “put to bed” for the season. Apple harvest was winding down.

Thurston: Agricultural producers took advantage of dry conditions early in the week to complete outside chores. Livestock producers continued building and repairing fences. Christmas tree growers started harvesting Noble fir for distant markets. Turf growers removed and stored irrigation equipment. Organic vegetable growers were harvesting the last of sweet corn and winter squash.

Whatcom: It was a big week for pumpkin growers. Growers reported a shortage of ripened pumpkins for holiday sales. Pumpkins for oil seed were harvested. Broccoli, cauliflower, carrots and cabbage were harvested for local fresh market sales. It was the final week for Jonagold apple harvest.

Central

Chelan/Douglas: There was some rain received over the past couple days, which stopped apple harvest due to worker safety. Late variety apples were being picked. Weather conditions were cool, but average for this time of year. Winter wheat was not maturing due to dry conditions at planting. Recent moisture will help conditions.

Kittitas: There was some rain received, some cold temperatures and some final herbicide applications to hay fields. Irrigation was all off as harvest was completed. Crop aftermath grazing still occurred.

Klickitat: The area experienced nice, mild days. There were a couple of rain showers received in the last few days but only enough to get the top soil wet.

Klickitat (2nd Report): The area enjoyed mild, sunny days in the 60s, then Halloween ushered in a cooler, rainy weekend to start off November with highs of 50s. Much of the county saw overnight frosts early in the week but with rain arriving on the weekend, lows dropped only into the 40s. Fall calving had finished up. Ranchers with herds on tall pasture grass not grazed during the summer were able to wait a little longer before starting up supplemental feeding. Uncovered stacks of hay still out in the field were

moved to barns for winter feeding or sale. Fruit trees headed into dormancy, dropping leaves. Winter wheat seedlings emerged, now showing off sinuous green stripes on freshly tilled soil. Gardeners harvested the last sunflower heads, drying seeds for home use or for feeding wild birds over winter. Garden plots were put to bed.

Yakima: Average temperatures were generally warmer than normal; varying from five degrees below normal to six degrees above normal, with .06 inch of precipitation received. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Yakima (2nd Report): Most apple growers were harvesting the last of the Fuji and the first of the Pink Lady apple crop. The precipitation received in the form of scattered showers over the weekend amounted to .01 to .1 inch. Nighttime lows dropped to the lower 20s in some crop producing areas early in the week, but warmed into the lower 40s for Halloween evening. Daytime high temperatures were in the upper 50s to lower 60s.

Eastern

Adams: Another dry week had seeded winter grains beginning to show the results of marginal seeding conditions. Many "spots" within emerged fields will require reseeding, either later this fall if moisture arrives, or early next spring. Weekend conditions promised some moisture, but reports were only of a few widely scattered showers. Much more moisture will be needed to improve conditions to allow inter-seeding.

Adams (2nd Report): Warm dry conditions persisted. Winter wheat seeding was completed and moisture was needed for emergence.

Asotin: Winter wheat and pastures were the recipients of some rain late in the week. Mild temperatures continued.

Asotin/Garfield: The dry weather continued this past week. There were reports that some of the winter wheat sprouted and died due to the dry conditions. Some reseeding was taking place, but most were waiting for rain to determine if more wheat will emerge.

Lincoln: The area received a sprinkle of rain on Friday night. Winter wheat crops that emerged showed signs of drought stress. All wheat seeded into the dry ground was waiting for substantial rainfall before sprouting can occur.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Some welcomed rain was received over the weekend. Winter wheat seeding was nearly completed and CRP fall seeding will probably start soon. More producers will begin supplemental feeding to their livestock.

Lincoln (3rd Report): Warm dry conditions persisted in the area.

Pend Oreille: The high was 62 degrees and the low was 14 degrees with .25 inch of precipitation received. Livestock were still on pasture with supplemental feeding of hay with no snow on the ground. All farming stopped due to weather, although the ground had thawed due to a recent warming trend.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: A small amount of rain was received on Friday and Sunday. This was the first moisture received in about a month and it was less than .1 inch. Fall colors were very impressive this year and trees were losing their leaves in preparation for winter. Cattle were being supplemented earlier than normal due to the dry weather conditions. Most of the field work was completed, but a few were still working on finishing up fall work.

Stevens: Area farmers and ranchers prepared for winter by bringing in firewood, checking antifreeze and putting away machinery. Cows and calves continued to move to market. Rain over the weekend was a welcomed event as the soil profile had become quite dry again.

Walla Walla: Crops showed signs of stress due to lack of moisture. Some precipitation was received on Friday and Saturday which will help immensely. Grape harvest continued as did apple harvest. Corn and potato harvest neared completion.

Whitman: Rains came over the weekend but amounts were generally only around .1 inch. The moisture was just enough to slightly wet very thirsty fields and leave demand for more. Fall tillage operations continued and winter wheat seeding was all but completed with a little reseeding activity being done. Emergence was very poor and additional rainfall was desperately needed.

Weekly Weather Statistics November 3, 2008

Week of October 27 - November 2, 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	63	50	+3	14	+7	0	+0	1.13	+0.12	4	3.56	-2.18	62	25
Hoquiam	45	65	55	+5	33	+18	0	+0	0.58	-1.36	3	4.21	-6.04	41	23
Kelso	34	70	53	+5	25	+15	0	+0	0.75	-0.46	3	2.29	-4.37	34	15
Olympia	33	63	50	+5	8	+8	0	+0	0.91	-0.56	2	3.98	-3.20	55	19
Seattle-Tacoma	43	65	53	+5	24	+16	0	+0	0.76	-0.30	3	3.36	-2.18	61	21
Shelton	32	64	51	+3	11	+4	0	+0	1.08	-0.78	4	4.94	-4.00	55	18
Tacoma WA AP	31	63	50	+3	10	+3	0	+0	0.95	-0.15	3	3.15	-2.51	56	18
Vancouver WA	38	68	53	+6	25	+18	0	+0	0.63	-0.40	3	2.80	-2.78	50	19
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	26	63	47	+6	5	+5	0	+0	0.12	-0.08	3	0.70	-0.43	62	8
Omak AP	22	58	44	+4	2	+2	0	+0	0.41	+0.13	3	1.15	-0.63	65	9
Stampede Pass	36	57	46	+12	0	+0	0	+0	0.55	-1.63	3	5.22	-5.60	48	22
Wenatchee AP	30	60	47	+4	2	+2	0	+0	0.00	-0.18	0	0.21	-0.71	23	2
Yakima AP	23	62	47	+3	6	+6	0	+0	0.12	-0.03	3	0.69	-0.23	75	6
NORTHEAST															
Colville	22	59	43	+4	1	+1	0	+0	0.30	-0.14	3	1.70	-0.84	67	10
Deer Park	20	61	44	+4	0	+0	0	+0	0.11	-0.30	2	1.50	-0.64	70	8
Republic	23	56	43	+7	2	+2	0	+0	0.23	-0.05	2	0.96	-0.90	52	8
Spokane AP	31	61	48	+8	4	+4	0	+0	0.07	-0.29	2	0.89	-0.96	48	12
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	28	63	48	+5	5	-2	0	+0	0.12	-0.03	3	0.50	-0.36	58	9
Moses Lake	24	62	47	+3	4	-3	0	+0	0.24	+0.09	3	0.50	-0.36	58	8
Quincy	28	62	47	+4	3	+3	0	+0	0.16	-0.03	3	0.54	-0.45	55	6
Ritzville	32	65	49	+7	7	+7	0	+0	0.09	-0.19	2	0.38	-1.09	26	7
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	27	63	49	+0	9	-5	0	+0	0.14	+0.00	3	0.43	-0.36	54	6
Pasco	26	64	47	-2	9	-3	0	+0	0.09	-0.11	3	0.34	-0.62	35	6
Pullman	27	69	52	+10	16	+16	0	+0	0.44	-0.03	3	1.19	-1.41	46	14
Walla Walla Rgn	35	72	51	+3	18	+4	0	+0	0.12	-0.40	2	1.13	-1.58	42	12
Whitman Mission	23	70	43	-3	2	-5	0	+0	0.12	-0.21	2	0.81	-1.03	44	10
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	38	66	52	+6	14	+7	0	+0	0.10	-0.11	1	1.14	-0.60	66	9

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.
 Copyright 2006: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2008/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)
 E-mail: nass-wa@nass.usda.gov

Free e-mail subscriptions are available via automated mailing list for National and State reports. You can subscribe to individual reports and they will be sent directly to your e-mail address soon after the official release time. Subscribe at:
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/sub-form.htm>