



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

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Week Ending: November 9, 2008
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Much Needed Rain Gives Grain Growing Counties a Good Soaking

Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 3.7. Significant rain storms gave eastern Washington grain growing counties a much needed break. Walla Walla County reported winter wheat showed immediate improvement. Corn harvested for grain was winding down. Franklin County reported buckwheat harvest was almost finished. Christmas tree growers continued with Noble fir bough harvest. Commercial dahlia growers had finished digging tubers.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, apple harvest was nearly finished. Whatcom County reported raspberry producers were busy tying and pruning. Cranberry growers completed post-harvest bog maintenance activities.

Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 7 percent very poor, 26 percent poor, 26 percent fair and 41 percent good. On the eastern side, Ferry County reported cattlemen were weaning calves. Stevens County reported feedlots were heavy with mud from recent rains, and cattle were continuing to move to market. Lincoln County reported many ranchers had begun supplemental feeding. Hay prices appeared to be softening somewhat. Pacific County reported oyster harvest continued for the holiday market.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	3.7
Last Week	6.0

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	11	17	36	36
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	6	20	62	12
Subsoil	25	42	31	2
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	11	32	53	4
Irrigation Water	1	3	95	1
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	5	92	1
Hay & Roughage	8	14	72	6

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	99	98	100	100
Winter Wheat Emerged	75	71	90	93
Potatoes Harvested	99	97	97	98
Field Corn Harvested for Grain	85	82	84	83

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	7	27	46	20	0
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	15	72	13

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 weather was cloudy with showers and the temperatures were in the 50s and mid-40s.

Grays Harbor: Unseasonably warm temperatures and heavy rainfall have transitioned the rural landscape from brilliant fall colors to a tapestry of green. Christmas tree growers continued with Noble fir bough harvest. Commercial dahlia growers finished up digging tubers. The majority of ag producers were confined to inside chores due to the rainy weather. Heavy rainfall early in the week resulted in only minor flooding along small streams with the exception of the Satsop river, which was under a flood warning.

Pacific: Wet fall weather continued to slow field activities for producers, and heavy rainfall saturated pastures and fields. Oyster harvesting continued for the holiday market, and Christmas tree growers geared up for the coming season. Cranberry growers completed post-harvest equipment and bog maintenance activities.

Pierce/South King: The wet weather made it difficult for producers to work their fields. Crop production was winding down with very few crops left to be harvested. There were no unusual conditions to report and no reports of crop damage due to a weather event.

Snohomishi/North King: Rainfall made it difficult to get any fieldwork done during the week. Some areas reported accumulations of over six inches of

precipitation. There was standing water in most lowland fields. Apple harvest was nearly complete.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report): The temperature continued to be in the 50s for a high and mid-40s for a low. The rains began, and there were reports of flood warnings in the northwest areas of the counties.

Thurston: River levels were low enough that heavy rainfall early in the week resulted in only minor flooding along small streams and surface water puddles in fields. Ag producers took advantage of the wet weather to repair farm machinery indoors. Christmas tree growers continued harvesting Noble fir for early orders. Forage producers reported excellent sales of haylage. Pastures and hayfields turned a vibrant green due to the unseasonably warm temperatures and frequent rainfall.

Thurston (2nd Report): Temperatures were cold with lots of rain showers. The grape crop was about half of the normal size.

Whatcom: It was a very wet week with over 5.0 inches of rain. Many fields had areas of standing water. Raspberry producers were busy tying and pruning. Christmas tree growers began harvesting for out-of-county sales.

Central

Benton: Rainfall was received during the week, but more was needed.

Franklin: Mild temperatures with some light precipitation were received during the week. Unfortunately, it was not as much as needed for the dryland seeded winter wheat crop, particularly at the north end of the county. Buckwheat harvest was nearly over with the bulk having been combined during the week. Later variety apple harvest continued. Some late harvest potato fields were being worked up for cover crops.

Klickitat: The weather was warm with a few rain showers during the week.

Klickitat (2nd Report): The weather was cloudy throughout the week with highs in the 50s and lows in the 30s. Rain fell nearly every day, adding up to more than an inch by week's end. Topsoil moisture improved, and winter wheat plantings benefitted from the rain and moderate temperatures. Slow accumulation allowed soils to recharge. Annual grasses grew well on ranges. Some fall plowing was being done, but fieldwork was mostly complete.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures were generally warmer than normal, varying from six degrees below normal to seven degrees above normal, with 0.86 inch of precipitation. There were no crop losses due to weather conditions reported.



Eastern

Ferry: The County received between 1.0 and 1.5 inches of rain during the week. Cattlemen began to wean calves for sale or to feed and sell at a later date.

Garfield: Substantial rainfall during the week was temporarily beneficial to the wheat crop and moistened pastures for cattle.

Lincoln: Rain was received during the week, which will help with the process of rebuilding the soil moisture profile for the fall and winter months. Many ranchers began supplemental feeding of their livestock.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Rain on Friday and over the weekend was a welcome sight. The Spokane area received about 1.0 inch of rainfall. Combined with the mild temperatures it will be beneficial for the winter wheat.

Stevens: Rain was received every day throughout the week. Feedlots became very muddy and fieldwork ground to a halt. Producers were thankful that the precipitation occurred before the ground became frozen. Cattle continued to be moved to market.

Walla Walla: Rain was welcomed during the week, but the subsoil moisture was still very deficient. Most farmers were waiting to see if they will need to reseed. Most livestock were given supplemental feed. Weaning and culling of livestock was progressing.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Much needed rainfall finally came during the week, and there were some reports of unseasonal thunder and lightning. Crops showed immediate improvement. Temperatures were mild throughout the week.

Whitman: Rainfall came to the Palouse with totals under one inch in most areas, but it was still impressive given the dry conditions of September and October. Rainfall will help newly seeded winter wheat, but rains will need to continue to improve conditions. Most fieldwork was completed for the year.

Weekly Weather Statistics
Week of November 3 - 9, 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	35	63	50	+5	13	+6	0	+0	3.27	+2.15	7	6.83	-0.03	100	32	
Hoquiam	37	58	51	+3	17	+6	0	+0	6.05	+3.83	7	10.26	-2.21	82	30	
Kelso	41	63	52	+6	21	+14	0	+0	1.71	+0.30	5	4.00	-4.07	50	20	
Olympia	31	61	51	+7	20	+19	0	+0	4.68	+2.95	7	8.66	-0.25	97	26	
Seattle-Tacoma	38	62	52	+5	22	+15	0	+0	4.35	+3.09	6	7.71	+0.91	113	27	
Shelton	31	59	50	+4	15	+8	0	+0	8.91	+6.71	6	13.85	+2.71	124	24	
Tacoma WA AP	31	64	51	+6	22	+15	0	+0	4.13	+2.84	6	7.28	+0.33	105	24	
Vancouver WA	45	64	53	+7	24	+17	0	+0	2.03	+0.80	6	4.83	-1.98	71	25	
CENTRAL																
Ellensburg	29	55	43	+5	0	+0	0	+0	1.25	+1.01	6	1.95	+0.58	142	14	
Omak AP	24	53	40	+4	0	+0	0	+0	1.41	+1.08	7	2.56	+0.45	121	16	
Stampede Pass	30	46	37	+5	0	+0	0	+0	6.14	+3.55	7	11.36	-2.05	85	29	
Wenatchee AP	31	54	43	+2	0	-6	0	+0	0.66	+0.44	5	0.87	-0.27	76	7	
Yakima AP	24	54	43	+2	0	-7	0	+0	0.86	+0.65	5	1.55	+0.42	137	11	
NORTHEAST																
Colville	27	53	39	+2	0	+0	0	+0	1.16	+0.62	6	2.86	-0.22	93	16	
Deer Park	28	50	39	+2	0	+0	0	+0	0.76	+0.23	5	2.26	-0.41	85	13	
Republic	27	54	41	+7	0	+0	0	+0	0.77	+0.43	5	1.73	-0.47	79	13	
Spokane AP	29	51	40	+3	0	+0	0	+0	0.90	+0.45	4	1.79	-0.51	78	16	
EAST CENTRAL																
Ephrata	27	53	43	+2	0	-7	0	+0	0.45	+0.24	5	0.95	-0.12	89	14	
Moses Lake	27	55	43	+3	0	-7	0	+0	0.39	+0.18	4	0.89	-0.18	83	12	
Quincy	28	55	44	+4	0	-2	0	+0	1.01	+0.79	5	1.55	+0.34	128	11	
Ritzville	25	58	41	+2	0	+0	0	+0	0.47	+0.14	6	0.85	-0.95	47	13	
SOUTHEAST																
Hanford	29	57	45	+0	0	-10	0	+0	0.52	+0.31	3	0.95	-0.05	95	9	
Pasco	33	61	48	+3	4	-3	0	+0	0.22	+0.01	4	0.56	-0.61	48	10	
Pullman	31	52	43	+4	0	-7	0	+0	0.96	+0.39	6	2.15	-1.02	68	20	
Walla Walla Rgn	35	61	46	+2	1	-9	0	+0	1.59	+0.99	5	2.72	-0.59	82	17	
Whitman Mission	29	62	44	+1	0	-7	0	+0	1.06	+0.66	7	1.87	-0.37	83	17	
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE																
Lewiston ID	34	56	48	+5	3	-4	0	+0	0.29	+0.03	5	1.43	-0.57	72	14	

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/2008/summary/weth1606.pdf>
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