



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS  
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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: November 17, 2008  
Week Ending: November 16, 2008  
CWP WA-CW4408

## Heavy Rains Cause Flooding on the West Side But Very Good for Grain Counties

### Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.1. Warm, soaking rains occurred in the major grain growing counties. Topsoil moisture profiles were full but subsoil profile was still dry. Farmers were waiting to see how much reseeding would be needed, given the poor emergence to date. Skagit County reported the last of the potato crop had not made it in yet due to heavy rain. Christmas tree harvest was in full swing as growers rushed to fill orders for Thanksgiving weekend sales. Commercial holly growers were busy harvesting berried boughs for shipment during the holiday season.

### Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, apple harvest was completed for most apple growers. While overall apple fruit quality was good this season, undersized fruit was the major contributor to cull bins and poor pack-outs.

### Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 22 percent very poor, 30 percent poor, 26 percent fair and 22 percent good. Pasture reports were mixed. On the east side, Lincoln County reported cattle were being pulled off pasture and supplemental feeding had begun. Pend Oreille County reported cattle were still on green pasture with no supplemental feeding.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	4.1
Last Week	3.7

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	9	14	42	35
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	5	17	60	18
Subsoil	26	33	37	4
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	10	30	57	3
Irrigation Water	0	1	97	2
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	3	6	90	1
Hay & Roughage	9	19	69	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	100	99	100	100
Winter Wheat Emerged	81	75	92	95
Potatoes Harvested	100	99	99	99
Field Corn Harvested for Grain	89	85	89	91

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	7	25	44	24	0
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	13	79	8

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

**Grays Harbor:** Copious amounts of rain early in the week resulted in the Chehalis and Satsop rivers to approach flood stage. Although low farm ground was flooded, no serious damage was reported. Christmas tree harvest was in full swing as growers rushed to fill orders for Thanksgiving weekend sales. Choose and Cut growers were putting up signs and preparing roadways for the sales season. Livestock producers reported brisk sales of haylage. Commercial dahlia growers finished up harvesting tubers.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** The week began with traces of rain, but turned to heavy rain on Tuesday and Wednesday causing the Cowlitz river in Lewis County to flood. The flooding caused minimal damage.

**Mason:** Rainfall up to 5.0 inches was received during the week. Cabbage harvest was underway.

**Pierce/South King:** There was standing water from the heavy rains in many fields throughout the county making fieldwork and crop harvesting impossible. Flooding along the Puyallup, Carbon, Nisqually, Chehalis, and Skokomish rivers covered nearby farm lands. Debris and silt and sand deposits were expected in the fields along with some fence damage due to the flooding.

**San Juan:** There were very wet conditions throughout the county at the end of the week.

**Skagit/San Juan/Island:** Excessive rainfall was received all week, and there was standing water in many fields. The last of the potato crop was not harvested due to weather conditions.

**Thurston:** Heavy rainfall early in the week resulted in a flood watch being issued for the Chehalis and Nisqually rivers. Ag producers quickly moved both livestock and machinery to higher ground. Fortunately, both rivers receded prior to reaching flood stage. Sunny, dry days at the end of the week provided nearly ideal conditions for Christmas tree harvest. Turfgrass growers reported slow sales resulting from the slowdown in home construction and the end of the gardening season. Commercial holly growers were busy harvesting berry boughs for shipment during the holiday season.

**Whatcom:** One to two inches of rain were received during the week. There was standing water in fields and minor flooding reported. Temperatures were in the mid-50s, with lows in the high 30s and mid-40s. Raspberry producers were pruning and tying before work was halted due to the wet fields.

## Central

**Douglas/Chelan:** Recent precipitation helped the winter wheat crop, which had been stressed due to the lack of moisture. Some of the crop has yet to emerge. Several cattle producers were supplementing fall pastures due to dry conditions. Apple harvest was winding down for Fuji and Pink Lady varieties. Temperatures cooled off.

**Franklin:** A mid-week windstorm caused temperatures to drop, and a hard frost was received the next day. Average daily temperatures were near normal by the end of the week. Apple and field corn harvest was finishing up.

**Kittitas:** Fall rains have been substantial and now producers are hoping for snow. Some livestock producers were trying to secure hay for winter. There has been considerably more interest this fall in efficiently utilizing pastures to extend the grazing season as far as possible without damaging the stand.

**Klickitat:** It has been unseasonably warm for mid-November, with temperatures ranging from the 50s to lower 60s, as another front moved through the area bringing about 0.5 inch of rain. Overnight temperatures remained in the 40s except for one night when temperatures dropped to below freezing in the Columbia river grape growing region. Smaller grape

growing operations finished harvesting late variety grapes including Sangiovese. Ranges and pastures improved with the moisture and warmer days, reducing the need for supplemental feeding of livestock. Farm cleanup was underway, including clearing out ditches and drainages before the onset of winter weather.

**Yakima:** Record high temperatures approached 70 degrees on Wednesday. Low temperatures ranged from the upper 20s to the lower 50s. Widespread precipitation during the week added 0.15 inch of rainfall. The apple harvest was complete for the most part. Warm daytime temperatures allowed apple producers to hang their late maturing varieties of apples a little longer in efforts to boost fruit size. While overall apple fruit quality has been good this season, undersized fruit has been the major reason for culling bins and disappointing pack outs.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Average temperatures were warmer than normal, varying from two to 19 degrees above normal, with 0.06 inch of precipitation. There were no crop losses due to weather conditions reported.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Rainfall received during the week was only 0.3 inch. The rain the past couple of weeks has perked up the crops, but more rain is needed.

**Asotin:** Warm weather and rainfall continued.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Rain was received during the week, and it soaked through the seed zone to sprout the remaining winter wheat that had not emerged. More rain is needed to help break the drought conditions that have plagued the area.

**Lincoln:** Some fall seeding of CRP was done during the week. Livestock were being pulled off pastures to begin supplemental feeding.

**Pend Oreille:** The high temperature during the week was 51 degrees and the low was 16 degrees, with precipitation of 1.3 inches received. Warm weather during the week helped grass to sprout and kept hay stumpage green. Livestock were still on pasture with little to no hay supplement.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** A small amount of rain was received early in the week. Mild weather at the end of the week allowed producers to finish up some late projects and put equipment away for the winter. Supplemental feeding continued with some producers moving cattle to market rather than feed them expensive hay.

**Walla Walla:** Welcomed rain continued to the middle of the week. Winter wheat was perking up. Most farmers were waiting to see if reseeding was needed. Fall pastures were short. Some hay was available but it was high priced.

**Walla Walla (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Much needed precipitation benefitted crops, but crops overall were still showing stress from the continued drought conditions.

**Whitman:** Rainfall was welcomed with a total of 2.0 inches in most areas. Warm temperatures accompanied the rain and should help with crop emergence.

**Weekly Weather Statistics**  
**Week of November 10 - 16, 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	DFN	PCT	DAYS
	---	---	---	---	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	---	---	INCHES	---	NORMAL	---
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham Intl	36	58	49	+6	5	-2	0	+0	1.01	-0.18	4	7.84	-0.21	97	36
Hoquiam	39	58	50	+3	7	+0	0	+0	5.56	+3.14	4	15.82	+0.93	106	34
Kelso	37	59	51	+6	11	+4	0	+0	4.22	+2.65	4	8.22	-1.42	85	24
Olympia	33	58	49	+7	9	+2	0	+0	3.49	+1.56	4	12.15	+1.31	112	30
Seattle-Tacoma	40	58	50	+5	7	+0	0	+0	1.38	+0.00	4	9.09	+0.91	111	31
Shelton	34	58	48	+4	5	-2	0	+0	3.89	+1.45	4	17.74	+4.16	131	28
Tacoma WA AP	36	60	49	+5	7	+0	0	+0	2.11	+0.68	4	9.39	+1.01	112	28
Vancouver WA	35	63	52	+8	21	+14	0	+0	1.52	+0.13	4	6.35	-1.85	77	29
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	29	58	44	+8	1	+0	0	+0	0.28	+0.00	2	2.23	+0.58	135	16
Omak AP	23	60	42	+9	4	+4	0	+0	0.02	-0.34	2	2.58	+0.11	104	18
Stampede Pass	31	63	43	+14	5	+5	0	+0	8.85	+5.96	5	20.21	+3.91	124	34
Wenatchee AP	32	56	43	+6	0	-6	0	+0	0.14	-0.14	5	1.01	+0.41	71	12
Yakima AP	27	71	48	+10	8	+1	0	+0	0.06	-0.17	2	1.61	+0.25	118	13
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	22	58	40	+5	0	+0	0	+0	0.71	+0.08	4	3.57	-0.14	96	20
Deer Park	15	56	39	+4	0	+0	0	+0	0.69	+0.08	3	2.95	-0.33	90	16
Republic	23	55	42	+10	0	+0	0	+0	0.38	+0.01	4	2.11	-0.46	82	17
Spokane AP	25	57	42	+7	0	+0	0	+0	0.38	-0.12	3	2.17	-0.63	78	19
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	28	62	44	+7	4	+1	0	+0	0.09	-0.14	2	1.04	-0.26	80	16
Moses Lake	25	64	44	+6	5	+2	0	+0	0.18	-0.05	3	1.07	-0.23	82	15
Quincy	27	62	44	+6	4	-3	0	+0	0.63	+0.35	3	2.18	+0.69	146	14
Ritzville	26	60	42	+6	0	-6	0	+0	0.42	+0.05	3	1.27	-0.90	59	16
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	28	66	45	+3	8	+1	0	+0	0.36	+0.15	2	1.31	+0.10	108	11
Pasco	26	71	47	+6	18	+11	2	+2	0.44	+0.19	3	1.00	-0.42	70	13
Pullman	25	60	44	+8	1	-4	0	+0	1.77	+1.14	4	3.92	+0.12	103	24
Walla Walla Rgn	33	66	49	+7	15	+8	0	+0	0.83	+0.20	3	3.55	-0.39	90	20
Whitman Mission	25	65	47	+6	9	+2	0	+0	0.95	+0.53	4	2.82	+0.16	106	21
<b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b>															
Lewiston ID	33	66	46	+5	7	+3	0	+0	0.42	+0.14	3	1.85	-0.43	81	17

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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