



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

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Washington Crop Weather

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Week Ending: November 23, 2008
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Warm Temperatures Push Winter Wheat Emergence Field Crops*

Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.7. Drier conditions prevailed this week. Grain growing counties experienced warm day time temperatures, helping to push winter wheat germination along. Grain growers were hoping for rain and snow over the winter to replenish dry soil conditions. Some reseeding was reported in Asotin County. In general, farmers were putting equipment away and preparing for winter. Field corn grain harvest was winding down. On the western side, dry, sunny days provided nearly ideal conditions for the harvest of Christmas trees. The majority of wholesale orders require delivery prior to the Thanksgiving weekend.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, minimal activity occurred in fruit orchards although some tree pruning is underway. Growers were putting away equipment and irrigation systems for the winter. In Skagit County, the carrot harvest was wrapping up. The 2009 flower bulb crop was being planted as well as the cabbage seed crop. Orchardists were busy mowing between tree rows to reduce rodent cover. Raspberry growers continued to tie and prune their plants.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 25 percent very poor, 37 percent poor, 26 percent fair and 12 percent good. On the eastern side, cull cows and calves continued to move to market. Chelan County reported producers were bringing cattle home for the winter and placing them on full feed. Several operators were weaning calves, preparing them for sale.

*Note: This is our final weekly report for 2008. Monthly reporting will resume on January 5, 2009.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.7
Last Week	4.1

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	9	15	46	30
Subsoil	21	38	38	3
Irrigation Water	0	1	96	3
Hay & Roughage	9	20	67	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 Emerged	85	81	96	97
Field Corn Harvested for Grain	95	89	91	96

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	12	24	46	18	0
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	17	75	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.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Dry, sunny days provided nearly ideal conditions for the harvest of Christmas trees. The majority of wholesale orders required delivery prior to the Thanksgiving weekend. Forage producers were removing irrigation lines from fields for winter storage.

Mason: Unusually good weather made fall cleanup chores more pleasant than usual. Vegetable growers were enjoying extended seasons on many crops and getting good germination and growth on winter crops. Pastured poultry producers wrapped up their seasons with the Thanksgiving holiday.

Mason (2nd Report): There was a hard freeze Sunday night. This was the first freeze since October.

Pierce/South King: Things were getting back to normal after all the rain and flooding. Crop conditions were normal for this time of year. No unusual situations were reported last week. There was no report of any crop damage.

San Juan: Mild fall weather benefited market crops.

Skagit: Harvest was all but wrapped up for the year. Carrot harvest finished up for the year. Potato harvest was close to completion for the year. Next years flower bulb crop was going in the ground; they should start poking up in February. Next year's cabbage seed crop was in the ground and received its first cultivation.

Snohomish/King: There was heavy rain late in the week but ended with a nice weekend with frosty mornings. There was standing water in many lowland fields. Pasture growth was slow with the cool weather and shorter days. Home gardeners were still raking leaves. U-cut Christmas tree farms were getting ready for Thanksgiving weekend.

Thurston: Unseasonably warm temperatures and sunny days with no rain were welcomed by Christmas tree growers who were in the middle of the harvest season. Forage producers continued to report strong demand for haylage. Turfgrass growers were busy with machinery repair now that fields were super saturated. Organic truck gardeners removed irrigation systems from harvested fields.

Whatcom: Temperatures dropped below freezing. Farming activities slowed with the onset of winter. Raspberry growers continued to tie and prune. Christmas tree growers geared up for U-cut sales.

Central

Douglas/Chelan: Temperatures cooled down and there was freezing in the higher elevations at night. Apple harvest was completed. Some rain and snow was received last week. Livestock producers began to bring home their animals for winter and placed them on full feed. Several producers were weaning their calves for sale.

Franklin: Temperatures were cold as is normal this time of year. Apple harvest continued but was nearing completion. Field corn harvest was all but over. The farming year was winding down as producers moved from their fields to the shop to begin normal winter maintenance and repair.

Klickitat: There was not too wide of range between high and low temperatures most days. Daytime temperatures were in the 40s-50s while overnight lows were down to the 20s-30s. There were cold and frosty mornings everyday with some fog in low areas. Frost slowed plant growth on ranges and pastures. There was snow accumulation high up in The Simcoes. The area received gusty winds and rain on Thursday. Surface and subsoil moisture conditions improved. Water levels rising in low drainages and seasonal wet lands started to

pond. Wheat growers hoped for snow cover before temperatures turn severe. Orchardists mowed between tree rows to reduce rodent cover. At home, last hardy crabapples that froze on the trees were picked for sweeter juice and preserves. Ewes were bred for spring lambing.

Klickitat (2nd Report): The area experienced rain showers and some nice warm weather Crops were doing fine.

Yakima: Daytime highs hovered in the mid 50s most of the week dropping into the mid 40s during the weekend. Nighttime lows gradually cooled from upper 30s to lower 20s. No precipitation was reported. Minimal activity was noted in fruit orchards, although some tree pruning was underway. Growers prepared tractor equipment and irrigation systems for the winter.

Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: The weather was typical for the third week of November with cool cloudy weather and scattered showers. There was little accumulation of rain. Winter wheat was struggling to get out of the ground and a few farmers were reseeding. Rangeland was in poor condition even though areas had started to green up. Growth is very minimal during this time of year. Rain and snow is needed over winter to restore soil moisture.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: A small amount of moisture was received, but nothing to count in the rain gauge. Colder morning temperatures had producers thinking of winter, but temperatures during the days were a little above normal. Typical late fall activities were conducted in preparation for snow.

Stevens: Cull cows and calves continued moving to market. Area producers occupied themselves with repairs and other odd jobs. Winter wheat was in good condition, helped by recent rains.

Walla Walla: The weather was cold and crisp. There was heavy fog early in the week that stuck around for a couple days, all day long. The end of the week was sunny and cold. There was no change in crop conditions from last week.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): The area received little light rain. The nights were cold. Winter wheat perked up. Fall pastures were short and some feeding started. There was some hay for sale.

Whitman: Dryer conditions prevailed for the week with only a trace of rain. Warmer day time temperatures combined with the precipitation from the previous week should assist emergence and crop conditions.

Weekly Weather Statistics

November 17 -23, 2008

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN							
WEST															
Bellingham Intl	28	57	44	+2	0	+0	0	+0	0.20	-1.02	3	8.04	-1.23	87	39
Hoquiam	35	58	47	+2	2	-5	0	+0	0.72	-1.80	4	16.54	-0.87	95	38
Kelso	36	59	45	+2	1	-6	0	+0	0.45	-1.19	3	8.67	-2.61	77	27
Olympia	33	60	44	+3	0	-5	0	+0	0.76	-1.26	4	12.91	+0.05	100	34
Seattle-Tacoma	35	60	48	+4	2	-5	0	+0	0.22	-1.24	4	9.31	-0.33	97	35
Shelton	30	58	44	+1	0	-7	0	+0	0.59	-1.98	2	18.33	+2.18	113	30
Tacoma WA AP	29	60	44	+2	0	-3	0	+0	0.34	-1.15	4	9.73	-0.14	99	32
Vancouver WA	35	60	47	+5	2	-5	0	+0	0.44	-1.05	3	6.79	-2.90	70	32
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	22	59	40	+7	0	-7	0	+0	0.00	-0.30	0	2.23	+0.28	114	16
Omak AP	18	50	36	+6	0	+0	0	+0	0.06	-0.36	1	2.64	-0.25	91	19
Stamper Pass	31	61	39	+12	1	+1	0	+0	1.28	-1.77	5	21.49	+2.14	111	39
Wenatchee AP	27	48	38	+3	0	+0	0	+0	0.01	-0.27	1	1.02	-0.68	60	13
Yakima AP	21	58	40	+4	0	-1	0	+0	0.00	-0.28	0	1.61	-0.03	98	13
NORTHEAST															
Colville	21	50	37	+4	0	+0	0	+0	0.04	-0.66	1	3.61	-0.80	82	21
Deer Park	15	53	37	+5	0	+0	0	+0	0.07	-0.60	2	3.02	-0.93	76	18
Republic	19	49	37	+8	0	+0	0	+0	0.05	-0.37	1	2.16	-0.83	72	18
Spokane AP	24	54	39	+7	0	+0	0	+0	0.06	-0.50	3	2.23	-1.13	66	22
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	21	52	41	+6	0	+0	0	-1	0.00	-0.28	0	1.04	-0.54	66	16
Moses Lake	20	51	39	+5	0	+0	0	-1	0.00	-0.28	0	1.07	-0.51	68	15
Quincy	21	50	39	+4	0	-3	0	+0	0.00	-0.28	0	2.18	+0.41	123	14
Ritzville	24	57	40	+6	0	-4	0	+0	0.03	-0.39	1	1.30	-1.29	50	17
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	22	53	41	+1	0	-7	0	-1	0.00	-0.28	0	1.31	-0.18	88	11
Pasco	23	56	41	+2	0	-7	0	+0	0.00	-0.28	0	1.00	-0.70	59	13
Pullman	28	62	44	+10	4	+4	0	+0	0.04	-0.63	2	3.96	-0.51	89	26
Walla Walla Rgn	32	56	43	+3	0	-7	0	+0	0.14	-0.49	2	3.69	-0.88	81	22
Whitman Mission	23	55	39	-2	0	-7	0	+0	0.05	-0.40	2	2.87	-0.24	92	23
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	26	61	46	+7	2	+2	0	+0	0.00	-0.28	0	1.85	-0.71	72	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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