



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

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Washington Crop Weather

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CWP WA-CW2009

Grains, Hay, Fruits Were Being Pushed Along by the Heat While Some Parts of the Palouse Received Rain Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.5. Rain returned to major grain growing counties over the weekend. This was a welcome relief to newly seeded spring crops. Whitman County reported winter wheat was heading out but general conditions appeared to be only average due to the dry fall and the cool spring. Walla Walla County similarly reported spring seeded crops were showing signs of stress and the rain was beneficial. Irrigation was occurring throughout the State. Garfield County reported an infestation of Russian Wheat Aphid in Dark Northern Spring wheat. Grant County reported the first cutting of alfalfa moved quickly along, bean planting had begun and fresh pea harvest was underway in the southern portion of the county. Stevens County reported grass hay had headed out. Christmas tree growers reported little heat damage to trees as the new growth on Noble fir was not totally flushed out.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, temperatures remained warm throughout the week with night time lows in the 50s and highs reaching the lower 90s. Grapes are starting to produce flower clusters. Some hops had reached 5 to 6 feet up the trellis system. The labor force was thinning peaches, nectarines and some apples. Chemical thinning activities were ongoing in apples. Cherries were showing lots of color and bird management strategies were being deployed. Skagit County reported their cabbage seed crop was beginning to bolt and area berries were coming in ahead of schedule.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 1 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 44 percent fair, 42 percent good and 5 percent excellent. On the east side, Stevens County reported cattle producers were moving cattle to Forest Service pastures. Asotin County reported their pasture land was in need of a good soaking. In Stevens County, pastures were reported to be in rough shape because producers turned cattle out too soon and moisture was lost on the exposed ground. In Pacific County, shellfish growers continued oyster and clam harvest operations.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.5
Last Week	7.0

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	7	31	59	3
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	3	18	74	5
Subsoil	11	38	50	1
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	7	25	67	1
Irrigation Water	0	2	96	2
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	5	91	2
Hay & Roughage	0	9	83	8

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2008	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Emerged	99	97	98	99
Spring Wheat Headed	8	1	6	27
Winter Wheat Headed	52	30	57	73
Barley Emerged	99	93	96	99
Barley Headed	7	NA	4	20
Field Corn Planted	97	95	92	97
Field Corn Emerged	89	75	80	87
Potatoes Planted	99	98	96	99
Potatoes Emerged	90	88	84	94
Dry Edible Beans Planted	100	95	100	98
Proc. Green Peas Planted	100	99	94	98
Dry Peas Planted	100	96	100	100
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	65	60	55	71

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	7	12	36	38	7
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	5	55	22	18
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	10	43	44	3
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	4	44	39	13
Barley Dryland	0	9	38	51	2
Barley Irrigated	0	5	50	16	29
Potatoes	0	0	37	47	16
Corn	0	4	49	44	3
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	34	66	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

Grays Harbor: A thermal blast brought temperatures that reached 90 degrees to some parts of the county. Agricultural producers focused on setting irrigation equipment on newly planted pea and corn fields. The unseasonably warm temperatures rapidly depleted soil moisture. Christmas tree growers reported little heat damage to trees as the new growth on Noble fir was not totally flushed out. Greenhouse tomato growers reported prolific bloom on plants. Forage producers continued making haylage under nearly ideal conditions. Home gardeners were kept busy watering, mowing and weeding.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Weather conditions were favorable for field work. Producers reported the ability to see new crops such as oats.

Jefferson: Producers completed first cutting of hay. Farmers used irrigation earlier this year than in the past. There were unusually high temperatures that reached the high 80s. There was no rain for three weeks, which was unusual for this time of year.

Mason: The heat spell was great for the tomatoes but producers hoped for a cooler summer. Some producers made hay and got it baled up before the rain.

Pacific: Very warm and dry weather allowed producers ample opportunity to complete field activities. Cranberry, raspberry and Christmas tree growers continued weed control efforts. Good pasture conditions provided excellent forage for livestock and early haying activities. Cranberry growers welcomed the warmer conditions as a possible solution to early season delays in bloom and fruit set. Shellfish growers continued oyster and clam harvest operations.

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

San Juan: Warm and dry conditions increased irrigation schedules.

Skagit: Thanks to some wonderful weather area, farmers were putting final touches on their 2009 planting season. Potato planting finished up for the year and the crop was actively growing. Many area potato farmers began to apply supplemental irrigation to the crop, a rarity in Western Washington. Green pea plantings were completed. Beet seed bulbs were in the ground and actively growing. Spinach seed was planted and received cultivation to reduce weeds. Skagit County's cabbage seed crop began to bolt. The crop was being staked and strung so it does not fall over during the spring winds. The wheat crop looked good. Corn plantings finished early this year. Berries were coming on ahead of schedule.

Snohomish/North King: The area had a sunny week with temperatures reaching the 90s by mid-week and cooling off by the weekend. The hot weather was great for corn growth. Pastures were growing well but soils were beginning to dry out. Tree fruit blossom was over. Blueberry and raspberry blossom was about over as well. Strawberries were ripening up.

Thurston: A week of unseasonably warm temperatures found most agricultural producers retreating to the shade as temperatures topped 90 degrees. The heat quickly depleted water in the upper soil profile and many agricultural producers were providing supplemental irrigation to blueberries, turfgrass, raspberries and other perennial crops. Christmas tree growers reported copious aphid infestations on both Grand and Noble fir. Livestock producers took advantage of the nearly ideal conditions for harvesting hay. Organic vegetable growers reported rapid growth of squash, corn, tomatoes and other warm season vegetable crops due to the increased heat units. Home gardeners reported rapid development of tomato and cucumber plants.

Thurston (2nd Report): In a two week period the weather went from a cool wet spring to a heat wave.

Whatcom: Dry conditions allowed more bottom ground to be worked and planted. Blueberry and raspberry growers began irrigation.

Central

Douglas/Chelan: The much needed rain received over the weekend will greatly improve the wheat crop and pastures. Livestock water sources were drying up.

Douglas: Winter wheat conditions had not changed in many parts of the county. The recent rains received, 1.1 inches in some areas, should help, but the area will likely lack adequate moisture.

Grant: First cutting of alfalfa was underway. First cutting of timothy will begin soon. Bean planting began. Recent rains helped dryland wheat conditions. Fresh pea harvest was underway in the southern portion of the county.

Klickitat: Producers were working on first cutting of hay. Some of the hay was rained on during the storm that came through. Winter wheat was heading out and started to dry up. Temperatures had cooled down in the last couple of days so that will be beneficial.

Klickitat (2nd Report): Temperatures were moderate with highs in the 70s and 80s most of the week, and then cooled to the 60s by the weekend. It was good growing weather for grain crops without added heat stress. Scattered thundershowers did not stop first cutting of hay. Agricultural producers continued to cut, turn and bale though weather was spotty. Some windy days

helped with drying. Cattle began to be moved to upper elevation ranges. Strawberries ripened in home gardens and in home orchards. "June drop" was thinning the apple set.

Yakima: Average temperatures were generally warmer than normal, varying from three to thirteen degrees above normal. There was .07 inch of precipitation received during the week. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Yakima (2nd Report): Temperatures remained warm throughout the week with night time lows in the 50s and highs reaching the lower 90s. There was a gradual cooling as the week progressed with cloudy weather settling in later in the week depositing between 0.2 to 0.5 inch of precipitation between Thursday and Sunday. Grapes were starting to produce flower clusters. Some hops had reached 5 to 6 feet up the trellis system. The labor force was thinning peaches, nectarines and some apples. Chemical thinning activities were observed in apples. Cherries showed lots of color and bird management strategies were deployed.

Eastern

Adams: The precipitation received near the end of the week maintained current moisture and crop conditions.

Asotin/Garfield: The above normal temperatures finally gave in to cooler weather by the end of last week. The area received a few showers. Rain totals were very disappointing however as crops and rangeland were in need of rain for proper development.

Ferry: Irrigated alfalfa production was down due to the extremely cold spring. The area received reports from cattleman that livestock water supplies were low or dry.

Ferry (2nd Report): Dryland hay continued to be stunted due to lack of moisture. New dryland seedings of alfalfa were suffering. Saturday's thunderstorm brought much needed moisture, but too little for some areas.

Garfield: The area had a wide range of temperatures with dry lightning and fast moving showers. Russian Wheat Aphid was numerous in spring wheat most of which was DNS.

Lincoln: Rain was needed for grain crops and pasture. Some haying had begun. Weed spraying continued. A strong thunderstorm brought rain and hail to the southeast part of the county during the week.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Warm weather was still taking its toll. Spring crops started to show some stress.

Lincoln (3rd Report): The precipitation received during the end of the week maintained current crop conditions and minimized a drop in soil moisture conditions.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: A hot dry week stressed the winter wheat and pushed the spring crops. No measurable rain was received in Spokane County. Some surrounding counties received thunder showers. Brave souls started cutting hay which was a foot or so shorter than normal and starting to bloom due to the hot dry weather. The pasture grass looked good but also was short. The fruit crops looked to be setting good fruit. There was a lot of wind which really dried out the soil profile. Rain was really needed but the forecast was not promising.

Stevens: Yields on first cutting were so poor producers stopped cutting and were waiting for more growth. Alfalfa growth had taken off with a week of warm weather. Grass hay had headed and was showing minimal growth. Clovers and alfalfa mixed with grass will grow and help increase the tonnage. Pastures were in rough shape because producers turned livestock out too early and moisture was rapidly being lost on the exposed ground.

Stevens (2nd Report): The past week was hot and dry. Irrigators applied water to new seedings and hay crops. A few hay producers took advantage of the dry weather and began cutting and baling hay. Grain producers finished up spraying and began summer fallow operations. Cattle producers were busy moving cows and calves to Forest Service pastures.

Walla Walla: The hot humid days turned into a couple of evenings of thunderstorms. Rain received varied from almost nothing to over an inch. There was no crop damage reported. Cooler temperatures and rain should help the grain fill. Most winter wheat had headed. Early green peas started to pod. Mountain pasture looked great.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Fall planted crops looked good although spring crops were showing stress. Hot conditions were prevalent over the past week but the area received rain on Saturday and Sunday.

Whitman: Rain made a return last week and brought welcome relief to newly seeded spring crops in need of precipitation. Winter wheat was heading out and was also in need of some rain. Conditions had improved and the rainfall should benefit crops. However, winter wheat conditions appeared to be average at best. The long cool wet conditions during spring slowed development.

Weekly Weather Statistics

June 1 - 7th, 2009

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	49	84	65	+9	104	+57	34	+27	0.00	-0.46	0	28.01	-4.21	87	123
Hoquiam	52	82	60	+5	75	+33	13	+13	0.00	-0.57	0	53.30	-10.56	83	142
Kelso	52	86	64	+7	102	+47	33	+24	0.33	-0.23	1	34.24	-8.44	80	118
Olympia	47	92	65	+9	103	+57	34	+28	0.04	-0.38	1	41.46	-6.01	87	137
Seattle-Tacoma	53	90	68	+10	127	+66	58	+50	0.00	-0.39	0	31.39	-2.92	91	132
Shelton	48	92	65	+7	103	+42	37	+24	0.00	-0.47	0	56.05	-5.64	91	133
Tacoma WA AP	48	92	65	+7	108	+47	38	+29	0.00	-0.45	0	32.28	-4.62	87	126
Vancouver WA	56	90	67	+9	123	+63	53	+41	0.27	-0.19	2	26.36	-11.87	69	129
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	48	90	70	+10	138	+71	68	+51	0.01	-0.13	1	6.58	-1.34	83	64
Omak AP	47	92	69	+11	136	+74	66	+51	0.00	-0.35	0	7.09	-5.28	57	74
Stampede Pass	46	80	60	+15	77	+70	29	+29	0.08	-0.69	2	72.09	-3.78	95	144
Wenatchee AP	53	90	71	+9	152	+56	82	+50	0.04	-0.10	1	3.71	-3.52	51	51
Yakima AP	50	90	71	+9	146	+64	76	+52	0.07	-0.07	1	6.00	-1.04	85	58
NORTHEAST															
Colville	43	92	66	+8	111	+49	47	+32	0.00	-0.42	0	13.46	-4.75	74	86
Deer Park	40	88	62	+4	87	+27	24	+11	0.01	-0.34	1	15.66	-0.42	97	95
Republic	48	90	69	+14	131	+88	61	+54	0.00	-0.41	0	8.60	-3.96	68	75
Spokane AP	45	87	66	+7	112	+50	46	+31	0.00	-0.35	0	13.20	-1.03	93	99
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	51	91	72	+7	154	+47	84	+43	0.02	-0.12	1	3.35	-2.99	53	56
Moses Lake	50	92	70	+5	140	+33	70	+29	0.13	-0.01	2	4.58	-1.76	72	60
Quincy	53	88	72	+10	156	+64	86	+55	0.05	-0.09	1	8.28	+1.38	120	58
Ritzville	44	87	66	+7	114	+49	49	+34	0.29	+0.10	3	10.44	+0.38	104	76
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	55	93	74	+6	167	+40	97	+40	0.11	+0.03	1	4.89	-0.90	84	51
Pasco	52	91	71	+6	151	+38	81	+35	0.13	-0.01	1	6.47	-0.25	96	67
Pullman	38	83	62	+6	86	+38	26	+17	0.25	-0.10	2	19.52	+1.09	106	105
Walla Walla Rgn	55	90	70	+6	138	+38	68	+32	0.43	+0.15	2	16.64	-0.79	95	88
Whitman Mission	48	89	69	+7	135	+48	65	+39	0.77	+0.56	3	15.39	+3.31	127	95
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	51	88	72	+9	153	+59	83	+52	0.00	-0.35	0	9.41	-0.68	93	74

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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