



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: June 22, 2009  
Week Ending: June 21, 2009  
CWP WA-CW2309

## June Rain Benefited Grain Growers at the Expense of Hay Producers While Cherries Came On Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.1. Grain growers continued to receive rain and cooler weather. Whitman County reported June rains had been very beneficial for crop conditions and soil moisture. Growers experienced delays in field spraying due to wind and rain. Crops looked good and winter wheat in Walla Walla County was beginning to turn. Grant County reported the first cutting of Timothy hay was complete, dry edible bean planting was finishing up, and fresh pea harvesting was underway. In Franklin County, dry beans emerged while field corn and grass seed looked good. Christmas tree growers in Grays Harbor County continued monitoring Noble fir fields for aphid infestations.

### Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, many of the early varieties of sweet cherries like Chelan and Tieton were being harvested. Bing cherry growers mowed and moved bins into orchards in anticipation of harvest this week. While the cool weather stymied vegetable crop growth, the harvest of raspberries and summer squash had started. Snohomish County reported apples were sizing up, maggot control was underway, and strawberry harvest was progressing. Cherry harvest began in Grant County. Early apricot harvest in Klickitat County was underway while peach harvest was to begin soon.

### Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 2 percent very poor, 8 percent poor, 48 percent fair, 40 percent good and 2 percent excellent. On the west side, livestock producers were spraying and hand pulling Tansy Ragwort infestations in forage fields. On the east side, Asotin County reported the cool weather and rain was beneficial to rangeland. Kittitas County reported late spring rains have been good to rangeland pastures, helping plant growth catch up from the cold spring. Some cattle springs and ponds in Ferry County were low or dried up. Due to cool weather, Pend Oreille County reported cattle had eaten down pastures.

#### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.1
Last Week	6.7

#### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	5	34	46	15
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	3	21	73	3
Subsoil	9	36	54	1
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	6	28	65	1
Irrigation Water	0	1	98	1
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	5	91	2
Hay & Roughage	0	7	88	5

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 Headed	47	30	47	59
Winter Wheat Headed	95	81	89	93
Barley Headed	45	26	42	57
Potatoes Emerged	98	97	92	98
Field Corn Planted	100	99	99	100
Field Corn Emerged	97	91	94	96
Field Corn Silked	NA	NA	NA	1
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	12	3	4	12
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	83	78	79	88
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	4	NA	1	9

#### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	8	13	29	48	2
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	2	55	30	13
Spring Wheat Dryland	1	10	42	45	2
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	3	34	57	6
Barley Dryland	2	8	32	56	2
Barley Irrigated	0	8	55	18	19
Potatoes	0	1	49	39	11
Corn	0	3	35	60	2
Dry Edible Beans	0	2	37	60	1

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

**Clark:** Farming conditions have been good.

**Grays Harbor:** The county received intense rain showers, which did little to alleviate dry conditions. Livestock producers were irrigating pastures and hayfields. Christmas tree growers continued monitoring Noble fir for aphid infestations. Green pea and sweet corn growers kept busy with irrigation requirements. Home gardeners complained about June drop on apples.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** Producers who have harvested forage reported good production, however; some late week cuttings were rained on.

**Mason:** Grass was going dormant due to the heat. Irrigation was being used, and crops were growing well.

**Pacific:** Continued dry conditions allowed producers to complete field activities. Cranberry growers provided full irrigation to their bogs and were encouraged with fruit development with the warmer conditions. Raspberry producers prepared for harvest, and Christmas tree growers continued insect and weed control activities. Oyster and clam harvest operations continued, along with seeding efforts. Most producers had completed haying operations by the end of the week.

**Pierce/South King:** Some areas of the counties received rain with hail and lightning. Crop conditions remained good. There were no reports of crop damage due to a weather event.

**San Juan:** Dry conditions and cooler weather continued.

**Skagit:** A minimum amount of rain was received during the week. Farmers worked hard to get everything irrigated.

**Snohomish/North King:** The weather was dry with rain showers over the weekend. Some areas received well over 0.50 inch of precipitation. Pastures and crops could use the rain, but some farmers were caught with hay down. Apples were sizing up, and orchardists were applying various apple maggot controls. Strawberry harvest was underway. Raspberry bloom was about over, and green berries were coloring up.

**Thurston:** A few isolated showers late in the week did little to alleviate dry conditions. Christmas tree growers were spraying Noble fir for aphid infestations. Organic vegetable growers focused on keeping fields irrigated. Livestock producers were spraying and hand pulling Tansy Ragwort infestations in forage fields. Home gardeners were harvesting early season vegetables.

**Thurston (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Hay was cut on Monday. Producers wanted to dry square bales, but there wasn't enough heat or dry weather for that. So, instead they made round bales and wrapped them in white plastic to use as haylage to feed cattle.

**Whatcom:** Crops continued to be irrigated due to another week of dry weather. Strawberry harvest was in full swing, and grass was being baled for hay.

## Central

**Douglas:** The few recent showers added some moisture to the soil profile, but below the surface it was still very dry.

**Franklin:** Temperatures were near normal for the week and very little precipitation was received. Cherries were in full harvest, and dry beans were emerging. Field corn was growing well. The second cutting of alfalfa hay was going down at the south end of the county, and Timothy hay was being cut. Grass seed seemed to be progressing well. There were reports of hail damage to cherries, apples, and soft fruit, but the percentage of loss was unknown.

**Grant:** The first cutting of timothy hay began. Dry edible bean planting should be finishing up soon. Fresh pea and cherry harvest was underway in the southern portions of the county. Rain and hail damage has been reported on apple and cherry orchards in the Quincy area.

**Kittitas:** The first commercial timothy hay fields were swathed, and a few made it through baling without getting rained on. Late spring rains have been good to rangeland pastures, helping plant growth catch up from the cold spring slow growth.

**Klickitat:** Temperatures were cooler during the week, with daytime highs in the 60s and 70s and overnight lows in the 40s and 50s. Very windy days throughout the weekend had a drying effect on soils. Lack of rain showers helped producers progress

through hay harvest, though some fields were still down. After hay bales were picked up, hayfields were back under irrigation. The earliest winter wheat was changing color. Spring planted grain crops were still green, and weeds emerged in summer fallow fields. Fruit growers remained busy harvesting the cherry crop. The crop was in very good condition. Bing cherry harvest was expected to begin by mid-week. Grapes were growing well. Apricot and peach harvest will begin by July 10. Livestock continued to do well.

**Yakima:** Temperatures gradually decreased over the past week, with daytime highs starting in the upper 80s to lower 90s and dropping to the 60s and 70s over the weekend. Isolated thunderstorms dropped nearly 0.25 inch of precipitation in a few areas, while most of the county experienced overcast weather but no rain. Many early variety sweet cherries (like Chelan and Tieton) were being harvested. Bing cherry growers mowed and moved bins to orchards in anticipation of harvest next week. While the cool weather seemed to stymie vegetable crop growth, raspberry and summer squash harvest began.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Average temperatures were generally warmer than normal, varying from three degrees below normal to ten degrees above normal. There was a trace of precipitation during the week. There were no crop losses due to weather conditions reported.

# Eastern

**Adams:** Precipitation was very spotty throughout the county. Winter and spring cereal conditions remained unchanged, and additional moisture was needed to improve conditions.

**Adams (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Timothy hay harvest was mostly wrapped up, with a few producers still baling the first cuttings. Dryland grain crops received spotty light rain with little precipitation.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Cool weather benefitted crops and rangeland. Off and on rain showers provided needed moisture. Some areas received a good amount of rain while other areas received very little.

**Ferry:** The first cutting of alfalfa was up. Cattlemen reported that springs and ponds were low or dried up.

**Garfield:** Cold, rainy weather slowed crop growth.

**Lincoln:** Thunderstorms rolled through the area, giving some areas over an inch of precipitation and other areas none. Winter and spring cereal conditions remained unchanged.

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Rainfall was still needed.

**Pend Oreille:** The high temperature for the week was 75 degrees and the low was 38 degrees with 0.35 inch of precipitation received. Pastures were being

eaten down quickly. Irrigation was still in progress with alfalfa growing slowly.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** Some areas got too much rain and hail while some areas received very little precipitation. Damage has been done to the bluegrass seed crop where swathing began at least a week early. Nearly all of the first cutting of downed hay got rained on. Cherries began to show some color. An average crop was anticipated.

**Stevens:** Steady widespread showers improved the outlook for spring planted crops, while at the same time the showers delayed haying. Little of the cut hay was put up without severe rain damage. Alfalfa weevils were causing severe damage, especially to the dryland alfalfa. The precipitation helped pastures stay green, but growth was minimal.

**Walla Walla:** Crops continued to show promise. Some downed hay got rained on a couple of times. Winter wheat began to turn.

**Whitman:** Rainfall received during the week was beneficial to crops. Producers were trying to spray weeds between rain and wind storms.

**Weekly Weather Statistics**  
**Week of June 15 - 21, 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	
<b>WEST</b>																
Bellingham Intl	50	70	60	+2	71	+7	7	-2	0.10	-0.32	2	28.11	-4.95	85	125	
Hoquiam	50	66	59	+2	61	+7	2	-5	0.21	-0.27	2	53.51	-11.36	82	144	
Kelso	45	75	61	+2	80	+8	16	-2	0.35	-0.14	3	34.59	-9.12	79	121	
Olympia	45	75	60	+2	72	+7	7	-3	0.18	-0.20	1	41.64	-6.63	86	138	
Seattle-Tacoma	52	73	62	+1	84	+4	16	-4	0.10	-0.25	1	31.49	-3.54	90	133	
Shelton	47	75	61	-1	78	-1	14	-7	0.03	-0.39	2	56.08	-6.45	90	135	
Tacoma WA AP	46	73	61	+0	79	+0	16	-3	0.30	-0.12	2	32.58	-5.18	86	128	
Vancouver WA	52	77	65	+4	104	+25	34	+13	0.75	+0.38	2	27.16	-11.86	70	132	
<b>CENTRAL</b>																
Ellensburg	50	82	66	+4	116	+24	48	+16	0.02	-0.12	1	6.62	-1.58	81	67	
Omak AP	50	87	67	+6	122	+35	52	+23	0.33	+0.04	4	7.43	-5.58	57	79	
Stampede Pass	37	65	51	+3	21	+4	0	+0	0.63	-0.04	4	73.16	-4.09	95	150	
Wenatchee AP	53	84	69	+2	132	+10	62	+7	0.14	+0.00	2	3.93	-3.58	52	55	
Yakima AP	49	84	67	+3	121	+14	51	+9	0.33	+0.19	1	6.39	-0.93	87	60	
<b>NORTHEAST</b>																
Colville	48	81	65	+4	108	+24	40	+12	0.85	+0.50	5	14.49	-4.45	77	93	
Deer Park	40	78	58	-5	54	-33	6	-23	0.47	+0.19	6	16.43	-0.21	99	102	
Republic	49	82	66	+7	112	+48	42	+27	0.53	+0.18	6	9.21	-4.05	69	82	
Spokane AP	47	79	62	-1	85	-5	26	-4	1.03	+0.75	6	14.33	-0.49	97	107	
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>																
Ephrata	55	85	70	+2	142	+8	72	+5	0.00	-0.08	0	3.37	-3.19	51	57	
Moses Lake	51	85	68	-2	129	-5	59	-8	0.00	-0.08	0	4.72	-1.84	72	61	
Quincy	52	84	68	+3	131	+15	61	+12	0.16	+0.06	3	8.49	+1.35	119	62	
Ritzville	46	82	63	+0	96	+4	27	-4	0.00	-0.14	0	10.55	+0.21	102	78	
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>																
Hanford	53	89	72	+1	159	+8	89	+6	0.00	-0.07	0	4.93	-1.00	83	53	
Pasco	50	87	70	+0	139	+1	69	+0	0.14	+0.07	1	6.61	-0.26	96	68	
Pullman	48	78	60	+0	71	+0	15	-6	0.42	+0.07	3	20.48	+1.35	107	110	
Walla Walla Rgn	53	83	67	-2	123	-6	55	-5	0.20	-0.01	3	17.35	-0.57	97	94	
Whitman Mission	51	85	67	+2	122	+9	52	+5	0.32	+0.11	3	15.76	+3.26	126	99	
<b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b>																
Lewiston ID	55	85	68	+1	129	+6	59	+4	0.53	+0.25	3	10.03	-0.64	94	79	

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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