



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: July 06, 2009  
Week Ending: July 05, 2009  
CWP WA-CW2309

## Winter Wheat Harvest Began While Heat Stressed Spring Grains and Cherry Harvest Continued Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 7.0. Reports from grain growing counties indicate winter wheat was quickly turning. High temperatures late in the week will likely have an effect on grain filling and quality. Hot and dry conditions continued in the central part of the State and there were fears that spring wheat harvest in these areas would be hurt. The first cutting of hay was nearly complete and second was going down in several areas. Whitman County reported dry peas were in bloom, and Grant County reported fresh pea harvest continued while Timothy hay harvest was about done. Franklin County reported late season sweet corn was being planted. Christmas tree growers worried the extreme temperatures would result in "annual needle necrosis" in Noble fir.

### Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley and many other counties, cherry harvest continued as Bing harvest extended to the upper Yakima Valley and Rainier cherry harvest started in the lower Yakima Valley. Hops in many hop yards have crested the trellis system. Blueberry, raspberry and summer squash harvest continued throughout Yakima County. In Pacific County, cranberry growers were encouraged by good fruit development with recent warmer conditions.

### Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 3 percent very poor, 18 percent poor, 40 percent fair, 37 percent good and 2 percent excellent. On the west side, shellfish growers continued seeding operations for both clams and oysters, along with the harvest of market sized product. On the east side, Klickitat County reported valley pastures were holding up well and cattle were doing fine.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	7.0
Last Week	7.0

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	12	63	25	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	7	33	59	1
Subsoil	16	47	37	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	7	35	58	0
Irrigation Water	0	1	97	2
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	1	3	95	1
Hay & Roughage	2	6	80	12

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	95	70	81	89
Winter Wheat Headed	100	99	100	100
Winter Wheat Harvested	1	NA	NA	1
Barley Headed	92	67	82	89
Potatoes Harvested	2	NA	NA	2
Field Corn Emerged	100	99	98	99
Field Corn Silked	3	1	4	10
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	50	30	39	52
Dry Peas Harvested	7	1	4	7
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	97	90	94	98
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	30	20	22	41

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	8	19	27	37	9
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	3	46	31	20
Spring Wheat Dryland	2	18	36	42	2
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	30	54	16
Barley Dryland	3	13	36	47	1
Barley Irrigated	0	1	45	19	35
Potatoes	0	1	42	46	11
Corn	0	2	30	66	2
Dry Edible Beans	0	3	34	63	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:** Agricultural producers in the east end of the county sweltered as a thermal blast resulted in unseasonably warm temperatures across the rural landscape. Temperatures of 90 degrees were reported in many areas including Oakville. Sweet corn, green bean and cannery pea growers focused on keeping fields irrigated. Forage producers took advantage of the warm temperatures to begin harvest of a second cutting of hay. Christmas tree growers complained about bird damage to leaders in Grand fir. Greenhouse tomato growers reported excellent flavor quality due to the additional heat units. Home gardeners were focused on watering and weeding.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** With a drier than normal May and June, producers were able to harvest forage. Those with crops reported having to irrigate earlier than normal.

**Jefferson:** All first cutting hay was in. The area experienced unusual hot weather with temperatures in the low 80s. The dryland wheat project was doing well with no water. Farmers were concerned with water availability, particularly with no state in-stream flow rules.

**Mason:** There were extremely dry weather conditions requiring a lot of irrigation on pastures.

**Pacific:** Warm dry conditions continued for producers, requiring irrigation for cranberries, raspberries and some pasture areas. Shellfish growers continued seeding operations for both clams and oysters, along with the harvest of market sized product. The last haying activities were completed and livestock were on pasture feeds. Cranberry growers were encouraged by good fruit development with recent warm conditions.

**Pierce/South King:** Crop conditions remained strong with the recent stretch of hot weather. No unusual situations were reported. There were no reports of any crop damage due to a weather event.

**Skagit:** Thanks to some wonderful weather, area farmers were doing their best to keep their crops watered to get them through to harvest. The beautiful tulip fields were being harvested. Potato fields looked lush and green this year but the crop was beginning to run out of water. Therefore, area potato farmers were applying supplemental irrigation to the crop so they won't be "small potatoes". Cucumber acres were down this year. Green pea harvest was expected to start in July. Cauliflower and broccoli fields were looking lush and green. Beet seed was still a few months away from harvest. Spinach seed also received a shot of irrigation water this summer. The cabbage seed crop was getting its stakes pulled out and the male rows were getting rototilled under. The 2009 wheat crop looked good but was a long way from harvest in August. There was plenty of corn that was high by the fourth of July. Also with all the dry weather, there was some of the best grass hay production during 2009.

**Thurston:** A thermal blast with temperatures reaching 90 degrees resulted in extreme fire danger throughout the rural landscape. Agricultural producers expressed anxiety over potential fires in hayfields and Christmas tree plantations from mis-directed firecrackers. In many areas prairies and forests were "kinder dry." Dairy producers harvested their second cutting of forage resulting in excellent quality hay and haylage. Christmas tree growers worried the extreme temperatures would result in "annual needle necrosis" in Noble fir. Organic vegetable producers focused on keeping fields irrigated. Home gardeners were harvesting new potatoes, summer squash and zucchini.

**Whatcom:** The area experienced another week with no precipitation. Crops continued to be irrigated. Strawberry harvest wound down while raspberry harvest began. Blueberries began to ripen. Fresh market growers were busy harvesting onions, turnips, potatoes, lettuce, spinach, broccoli, carrots and green beans for local buyers.

## Central

**Chelan/Douglas:** Dry, hot weather severely stressed the wheat crop. Much of the spring wheat suffered due to lack of moisture and harvest will not even be attempted. Cherry harvest was in full swing. Rain was received Sunday evening. Many growers were blowing off their cherries. Potential damage was unknown. Pastures remained dry.

**Franklin:** Temperatures were in the 90s most of the week with triple digits at the end of the week; normal for this type of year. No precipitation was received during the week. Cherry harvest continued throughout the week and neared its end by the end of the week. Sweet corn was being planted. The last of second cutting of hay, mostly in the north end of the county, was being cut. Most fields were in the baling and stacking process.

**Grant:** Cherry harvest and fresh pea harvest continued. Dry edible bean planting wound down. First cutting of timothy hay was almost completed, with second cutting of alfalfa to begin soon. Dryland wheat looked stressed, with below average yields expected.

**Kittitas:** Eighty to ninety percent of first cutting timothy hay was cut and baled. Rangeland forage was rapidly putting on seed-heads and curing out for lack of water, which was normal for July 1.

**Klickitat:** The first week of July was dry and hot with highs in the 80s and 90s. Lows were in the 40s and 50s. Winds were fairly light. The lack of dew in the mornings stymied dryland hay growers as downed hay remained too dry to bale. Irrigated hay crops were doing well. Hay tonnage was moderate but typical for the area. Winter wheat turned color and the first fields were expected to be cut in two weeks. Spring wheat looked good though heat was taking the moisture out. Valley pastures were holding up well and cattle were doing fine. Gardeners were digging new potatoes and serving them up with homegrown peas.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures were generally warmer than normal, varying from three to nine degrees above normal, with a trace of precipitation received. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** No precipitation was received in the area. Conditions were still very dry. Daytime high temperatures remained in the upper 80s to upper 90s. Nighttime lows were in the upper 40s to lower 60s. Cherry harvest continued as Bing harvest extended to the upper Yakima Valley. Rainier cherry harvest started in the lower Yakima Valley. Hops in many hop yards had crested the trellis system. Blueberry, raspberry and summer squash harvest continued.

## Eastern

**Asotin/Garfield:** The week started with temperatures near average, but ended with temperatures over 100 degrees in many areas. The hot weather was expected to affect grain filling and the quality of grain crops in both counties.

**Ferry:** The area was drying out fast.

**Lincoln:** Hot dry weather took its toll on the winter wheat and will soon on the spring wheat. No substantial rain was received since May 13. June rainfall was the driest since records were collected; .03 inch received during a couple of showers.

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** A week of dry, warm weather continued to ripen winter wheat and provided growing weather for other crops. Dryland hay cutting was almost completed.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** A dry week helped a lot of hay get put up in very good shape. Yields on hay were down anywhere from two-thirds to half of normal. The dry weather continued to take a toll on the grain crops and moisture was needed. Grass seed harvest began for a few producers with disappointing yields due to the hot weather in May. Strawberry harvest continued with cherry harvest to begin soon.

**Stevens:** Warmer weather resulted in rapid loss of moisture and a significant drop in river flows. Some hay growers reported normal yields on hay, especially alfalfa. Others reported about 80 percent of normal yields. Poor spring weather and less fertilizer applied to grass and grass mixed hay appeared to be the reasons for lower yields.

**Stevens (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** High temperatures, clear skies and a steady breeze allowed hay producers to get most of the first cutting up in good shape. Pastures were holding up well. Grain crops appeared to be in fair condition.

**Stevens (3<sup>rd</sup> Report):** The area had very dry conditions, the weather was great for haying. Rain was needed for pasture and rangeland and would help with second cutting hay crop.

**Walla Walla:** Temperatures were hot all week. The area received a thunderstorm on Sunday. Some early winter wheat harvest began. Winter and spring grains looked good. The second cutting of hay was in full swing. Good sub-moisture should help hold pastures.

**Whitman:** Dry peas were blooming and winter wheat was turning. Operations finished up cutting hay. Temperatures heated up later in the week with highs in the 90s. Overnight temperatures continued to be cool.

**Weekly Weather Statistics**  
**June 29 - July 2, 2009**

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	PCT		DAYS
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN					DFN	NORMAL	
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham Intl	44	81	63	+3	89	+12	21	+7	0.00	-0.35	0	28.48	-5.31	84	127
Hoquiam	44	78	58	-3	54	-11	4	-3	0.00	-0.35	0	53.63	-12.01	82	146
Kelso	45	91	66	+5	116	+30	46	+24	0.00	-0.32	0	34.59	-9.85	78	121
Olympia	40	90	62	+2	88	+9	22	+6	0.00	-0.26	0	41.65	-7.21	85	139
Seattle-Tacoma	49	88	68	+5	129	+33	59	+30	0.00	-0.25	0	31.57	-4.02	89	135
Shelton	38	90	64	+1	97	+4	29	+1	0.00	-0.29	0	56.14	-7.03	89	137
Tacoma WA AP	41	88	63	+1	97	+4	29	+1	0.00	-0.29	0	32.64	-5.78	85	130
Vancouver WA	48	95	70	+8	144	+51	74	+46	0.00	-0.25	0	27.16	-12.42	69	132
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	46	100	72	+7	158	+44	88	+41	0.00	-0.07	0	6.64	-1.73	79	68
Omak AP	54	98	75	+10	173	+65	103	+59	0.00	-0.20	0	7.61	-5.86	56	80
Stampede Pass	41	81	63	+11	91	+62	35	+35	0.00	-0.45	0	73.69	-4.58	94	153
Wenatchee AP	56	97	74	+4	173	+25	103	+25	0.00	-0.07	0	4.00	-3.71	52	56
Yakima AP	50	97	73	+5	160	+32	90	+31	0.00	-0.07	0	6.45	-1.03	86	61
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	44	96	69	+5	135	+32	65	+26	0.00	-0.24	0	14.68	-4.78	75	94
Deer Park	35	94	65	-2	104	-11	37	-12	0.00	-0.21	0	16.58	-0.53	97	103
Republic	51	95	72	+11	152	+70	82	+57	0.00	-0.28	0	9.50	-4.35	69	83
Spokane AP	49	93	71	+6	150	+35	80	+31	0.00	-0.21	0	14.38	-0.91	94	108
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	59	98	77	+4	188	+30	118	+29	0.00	-0.09	0	3.37	-3.35	50	57
Moses Lake	51	97	74	+2	166	+8	96	+7	0.00	-0.09	0	4.72	-2.00	70	61
Quincy	55	96	74	+5	166	+31	96	+30	0.00	-0.07	0	8.55	+1.27	117	63
Ritzville	47	97	70	+4	145	+28	75	+24	0.00	-0.14	0	10.55	-0.07	99	78
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	58	106	78	+3	195	+18	125	+17	0.00	-0.07	0	4.95	-1.12	82	54
Pasco	48	102	74	+1	166	+7	96	+6	0.00	-0.07	0	6.61	-0.40	94	68
Pullman	39	91	66	+3	112	+19	43	+12	0.00	-0.24	0	20.49	+0.82	104	111
Walla Walla Rgn	53	100	77	+5	190	+32	120	+31	0.04	-0.10	1	17.39	-0.88	95	95
Whitman Mission	41	100	70	+2	145	+10	75	+9	0.00	-0.14	0	15.71	+2.92	123	99
<b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b>															
Lewiston ID	54	100	75	+4	179	+28	109	+27	0.01	-0.20	1	10.24	-0.90	92	81

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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