



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: July 13, 2009
Week Ending: July 12, 2009
CWP WA-CW2609

Cooler Conditions Brought Some Relief to Crops

Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.3. Winter wheat continued to look good while spring wheat still showed some green. Grain crops were headed out and beginning to turn golden. Winter barley harvest has begun in early areas; spring barley stands look good. Hay producers were finishing up first cutting and grain hay was being cut and baled. Whitman County reported crop conditions improved overall and spring crops benefitted from the rainfall. Walla Walla reported potato harvest had begun. Christmas tree growers were shearing Grand fir and monitoring Noble fir plantations for aphids.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, Bing and Rainier cherry harvest and apple fruit thinning activities continued. Vegetable producers started harvesting sweet corn during the week. Hops have started to flower in some hop yards. In Chelan County, cherry growers continued harvest and reported crop damage due to mildew and cold, wet weather. In Pacific County, raspberry harvest operations continued, cranberry growers irrigated their bogs because of dry conditions, and warmer weather continued to improve cranberry development. Whatcom County reported raspberry harvest was in full swing with reports of good quality and yields due to the dry warm weather.

Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 6 percent very poor, 19 percent poor, 41 percent fair, 33 percent good and 1 percent excellent. On the east side, Pend Oreille reported pastures were very dry and grass was dying before livestock could finish eating the pastures. In Pacific County, harvest of clams and oysters slowed, and shellfish growers concentrated on seeding activities.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.3
Last Week	7.0

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	13	41	46	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	10	34	56	0
Subsoil	17	31	52	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	9	37	54	0
Irrigation Water	0	3	94	3
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	4	94	0
Hay & Roughage	2	10	78	10

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	98	95	92	96
Winter Wheat Harvested	4	1	3	3
Barley Headed	97	92	88	95
Potatoes Harvested	5	2	NA	4
Field Corn Silked	13	3	5	22
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	75	50	74	75
Dry Peas Harvested	15	7	12	15
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	98	97	99	99
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	35	30	46	60

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	7	11	28	49	5
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	3	12	35	50
Spring Wheat Dryland	2	13	41	42	2
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	7	42	9	42
Barley Dryland	2	12	38	46	2
Barley Irrigated	0	5	34	31	30
Potatoes	0	2	70	21	7
Corn	0	0	58	40	2
Dry Edible Beans	0	4	41	55	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

Clark: Rainfall received on Sunday should help farmers.

Clallam/Jefferson: The weather has been very dry, and temperatures were a little cooler with highs in the 60s.

Grays Harbor: Cooler temperatures and rain showers over the weekend were welcomed by most ag producers. Cannery pea and sweet corn growers continued to focus on meeting irrigation requirements due to the lack of soil moisture. Christmas tree growers were shearing Grand fir and applying insecticides on Noble fir for the control of aphids. Greenhouse tomato growers reported excellent flavor, quality, and yields. Dairy producers continued making haylage under nearly ideal conditions. U-Pick raspberry growers reported excellent sales and fruit quality. Turfgrass growers were kept busy with irrigation requirements.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Cooler weather and a small amount of precipitation were received during the week. Several producers had hay in the field when it rained.

Jefferson (2nd Report): All of the first cutting of hay was in. Some fields only got 25 percent of normal production due to the dryness. This has been the driest year reported in 166 years. The dryland wheat experiments were doing very well with good growth standing up well.

Mason: A welcomed rain storm was received over the weekend, but the area was still very dry for this time of year.

Pacific: Rainfall during the week was welcomed by most producers. Raspberry harvest continued, and cranberry growers irrigated their bogs due to dry conditions. Warmer conditions improved cranberry development. Clam and oyster harvest slowed somewhat, and shellfish growers concentrated on seeding operations.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions remained good in the South Puget Sound area. There were no unusual situations or crop damage due to a weather event to report.

Snohomish/North King: The week was mostly mild with some scattered showers. The weather was very hot by the weekend with temperatures in the low 90s in the foothills. The area cooled off Sunday, when there was considerable rain showers and thunder. Pastures and crops really needed the rain, though it may exacerbate fungus problems. Raspberry harvest continued and early blueberries were ripe. Most crops were doing very well.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report): The weather has been very dry, and some producers have been irrigating. Temperatures continued to be in the 60s and 70s. There has been very little rain to date.

Thurston: Thunderstorms and heavy rain showers over the weekend helped to temporarily alleviate extremely dry conditions. Ag producers continued to focus on irrigation as soil moisture was short. Christmas tree growers were shearing Grand fir and monitoring Noble fir plantations for aphids. Livestock producers took advantage of the nearly ideal conditions to make haylage. U-Pick raspberry harvest was in full swing with excellent yields and fruit quality. Organic vegetable growers reported excellent sales of peas, lettuce, onions and other early season vegetables at the Olympia Farmer's Market.

Thurston (2nd Report): Barns were full of dry hay bales, and there were big stacks of haylage in fields. Calving season was going strong.

Whatcom: The county received over an inch of rain in some areas, which gave non-irrigated crops a little jump start. Raspberry harvest was in full swing, with reports of good quality and yields due to the dry weather in May and June. Only a couple of strawberry growers were left harvesting.

Central

Chelan: Cherry harvest was just past its peak and will continue until August 1. Despite the largest crop ever, labor has been adequate. Apples and pears were growing well. Hand thinning of pears was complete, while apple hand thinning progressed well.

Douglas/Chelan: Cherry harvest continued, with some cherry growers reporting crop damage due to mildew from the cold, wet weather. High winds blew through the counties during the week. The winter wheat crop was turning amber, and livestock water supplies continued to be a problem.

Klickitat: Low temperatures for the week were in the 40s and 50s and high temperatures ranged from the 60s to the 90s. This weather pattern accompanied by ripping winds and extreme gusts damaged fruit crops and orchard trees but did not hurt grain or hay crops. Orchardists finished picking the last of the late variety Lapin cherries. Peach harvest will be starting up mid-week. Grapes looked good though slight sunburn damage was showing from the hot temperatures. Hay producers finished baling the remaining first cutting in dryland fields. Winter wheat harvest should begin at the end of July, and spring wheat was still showing some green. Producers applied fertilizer and ran irrigation on hay fields in preparation for the second cutting. In non-

irrigated fields, topsoil moisture was completely depleted and subsoil moisture was going down fast. Stream flows remained good, and cattle were doing fine.

Klickitat (2nd Report): The weather was windy with temperatures a little cooler than normal. Wheat was nearly ready to harvest, and the second cutting of hay was beginning. Moisture levels were very low.

Yakima: A trace of precipitation was received in most areas of the county; although multiple brush fires were experienced due to the excessively dry conditions. As the week progressed, daytime highs increased from the 70s to the upper 90s. Bing and Rainier cherry harvest and apple thinning activities continued. Vegetable producers began harvesting sweet corn over the weekend. Hops began to flower in some yards.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures were generally cooler than normal, varying from seven degrees below normal to ten degrees above normal. There was 0.03 inch of precipitation during the week. There were no crop losses due to weather conditions.

Eastern

Asotin: Hot, dry weather continued to stress dryland wheat during much of the week. Heavy thunderstorms and cooler temperatures were welcomed.

Asotin/Garfield: Thunderstorms provided moisture to some areas of the counties. The rain will help fill in grain of the late seeded crops and will be beneficial to rangeland. The rain caused problems with hay crops as producers must wait for the hay to dry prior to baling. Winter wheat harvest in the lower elevations was delayed due to the rain.

Garfield: Heavy thunderstorms brought an inch of rain to the area, which should raise the harvest potential of crops. A few producers began harvest, cutting around the green.

Lincoln: The week was dry and hot with harvest beginning in some areas of the county. Rain and cooler weather received later in the week should benefit developing crops. Pastures were extremely dry. Some livestock producers reported supplemental feeding, which was not normally done in past years.

Pend Oreille: The high temperature for the week was 87 degrees and the low was 43 with a trace of precipitation. Hot weather and winds dried out fields. There has been very little growth in hay fields. Irrigated hay fields were being cut and baled.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The weather for the week was dry with a small amount of precipitation. Most of the hay has been cut with yields down about 40

percent. Grass seed harvest progressed. Cherry harvest was about to begin with normal yields expected. Winter wheat continued to mature quicker than normal due to the lack of moisture.

Stevens: Extreme dryness countywide caused burn bans to be put in place. Several small fires were reported during the week. Irrigation systems were running at capacity.

Stevens (2nd Report): Hay producers finished up their first cutting. In the southern part of the county, grain hay was being cut and baled. Grain crops were headed out and beginning to turn golden. A good rain during the weekend improved chances for a second cutting on dryland fields and helped pastures.

Walla Walla: The weather was cool early in the week and turned hot with thunderstorms over the weekend. Winter wheat harvest begins soon, as most of the grain was ready north and west of Walla Walla. The second cutting of hay progressed well. Quality was good with just a few fields getting a little rain.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): The hot weather significantly turned crops, and crops continued to show promise. Potato harvest was beginning.

Whitman: Rainfall made an appearance at the end of the week, bringing relief to 90 degree heat. Crop conditions were improving as spring crops benefitted from the rainfall.

Weekly Weather Statistics
July 6- July 12, 2009

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE		GROWING DEGREE DAYS					LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP				
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	DFN	DAYS	INCHES	PCT DFN	NORMAL	DAYS
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WEST															
Bellingham Intl	48	83	60	-3	72	-10	9	-9	0.43	+0.11	4	28.91	-5.20	85	131
Hoquiam	47	72	57	-4	53	-17	0	-7	0.00	-0.30	0	53.63	-12.31	81	146
Kelso	48	86	63	+0	94	+3	24	-4	0.05	-0.18	1	34.64	-10.03	78	122
Olympia	46	87	61	-2	79	-6	17	-4	0.14	-0.07	5	41.79	-7.28	85	144
Seattle-Tacoma	53	85	64	-1	101	-2	32	-3	0.03	-0.17	1	31.60	-4.19	88	136
Shelton	43	85	60	-5	73	-26	14	-20	0.36	+0.13	4	56.50	-6.90	89	141
Tacoma WA AP	46	86	61	-4	82	-16	17	-13	0.00	-0.21	0	32.64	-5.99	84	130
Vancouver WA	52	86	66	+3	115	+17	45	+14	0.06	-0.15	1	27.22	-12.57	68	133
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	47	98	68	+2	130	+8	60	+6	0.01	-0.06	1	6.65	-1.79	79	69
Omak AP	43	96	69	+3	135	+18	65	+15	0.08	-0.06	2	7.69	-5.92	57	82
Stampede Pass	43	84	55	+2	45	+10	16	+13	0.07	-0.29	2	73.76	-4.87	94	155
Wenatchee AP	53	95	71	-2	149	-9	79	-9	0.00	-0.07	0	4.00	-3.78	51	56
Yakima AP	44	95	67	-3	123	-12	53	-12	0.03	-0.03	1	6.48	-1.06	86	62
NORTHEAST															
Colville	43	94	67	+2	119	+8	53	+10	0.47	+0.26	3	15.15	-4.52	77	97
Deer Park	40	90	64	-5	97	-30	34	-25	0.50	+0.29	3	17.08	-0.24	99	106
Republic	45	93	68	+6	127	+37	58	+30	0.38	+0.16	3	9.88	-4.19	70	86
Spokane AP	48	91	67	-2	122	-3	52	-5	0.16	+0.02	1	14.54	-0.89	94	109
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	49	98	72	-3	160	-10	90	-10	0.00	-0.07	0	3.37	-3.42	50	57
Moses Lake	49	98	71	-5	146	-24	76	-24	0.00	-0.07	0	4.72	-2.07	70	61
Quincy	51	95	71	+1	150	+8	80	+8	0.04	-0.03	1	8.59	+1.24	117	64
Ritzville	43	95	67	-2	118	-10	49	-11	0.03	-0.08	1	10.58	-0.15	99	79
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	51	102	75	-3	175	-12	105	-12	0.00	-0.02	0	4.95	-1.14	81	54
Pasco	48	101	72	-3	155	-13	85	-14	0.06	+0.04	1	6.67	-0.36	95	69
Pullman	39	91	64	+0	99	-2	35	+0	0.23	+0.04	1	20.72	+0.86	104	112
Walla Walla Rgn	54	95	72	-3	158	-13	88	-13	0.05	-0.09	1	17.44	-0.97	95	96
Whitman Mission	45	98	69	-2	132	-11	62	-11	0.01	-0.10	1	15.72	+2.82	122	100
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	52	99	72	-2	156	-8	86	-8	0.05	-0.09	1	10.29	-0.99	91	

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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