



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: July 20, 2009
Week Ending: July 19, 2009
CWP WA-CW2609

Winter Wheat Harvest Began as Hot Days Helped Ripen Crops and Pastures Dried Out Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.9. Winter wheat harvest was underway and going fast with reports of good yields. Spring wheat was not looking so well; many of the stands looked very thin and had to be re-cropped. Barley continued to look good and harvest will begin soon. Grant County reported dry pea harvest had begun as well as bluegrass seed and second cutting of alfalfa was wrapping up. In Whitman County, heat helped ripen crops. Franklin County reported irrigation was continuous on potato fields and orchards to keep the crop environment cooled down. Christmas tree growers were mowing grass in established plantations and shearing Grand fir.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, cherry harvest continued with peak harvest moving to the higher elevations of the county. Blueberry harvest was progressing well while higher temperatures slowed down raspberry production. Apple thinning operations continued; early-maturing peaches and nectarines were nearing harvest. Sweet corn harvest continued. Green beans, cucumbers, summer squashes, melons and tomatoes ripened. In Pacific County, cranberry growers continued irrigating their bogs, and expect a near record crop this fall.

Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 4 percent very poor, 19 percent poor, 42 percent fair and 35 percent good. On the west side, livestock producers were busy pulling the noxious weed tansy ragwort and took advantage of another week of warm, sunny days to harvest the second and third crop of forage. On the east side, lack of rain appeared to be drying out pastures and some were feeding their cattle. In Pacific County, shellfish growers slowed harvest activities, but continued new seed planting for both oysters and clams.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

| Week | Days |
|-----------|------|
| This Week | 6.9 |
| Last Week | 6.3 |

Moisture and Supply

| Item | Percent | | | |
|---------------------------|---------|----|----|----|
| | VS | SH | AD | S |
| Topsoil | 15 | 52 | 33 | 0 |
| Topsoil 5 Yr Avg | 13 | 34 | 52 | 1 |
| Subsoil | 14 | 46 | 40 | 0 |
| Subsoil 5 Yr Avg | 11 | 38 | 51 | 0 |
| Irrigation Water | 0 | 5 | 95 | 0 |
| Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg | 2 | 5 | 93 | 0 |
| Hay & Roughage | 0 | 5 | 85 | 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 | 99 | 98 | 99 | 99 |
| Winter Wheat Harvested | 8 | 4 | 7 | 9 |
| Barley Headed | 99 | 97 | 98 | 99 |
| Potatoes Harvested | 9 | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| Field Corn Silked | 35 | 13 | 32 | 43 |
| Field Corn Doughed | 1 | NA | 2 | 3 |
| Proc. Green Peas Harvested | 90 | 75 | 90 | 89 |
| Dry Peas Harvested | 17 | 15 | 15 | 23 |
| Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting | 100 | 98 | 100 | 100 |
| Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting | 70 | 35 | 54 | 69 |

Crop Condition*

| Crop | % Acreage | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|----|----|----|----|
| | VP | P | F | G | EX |
| Winter Wheat Dryland | 7 | 13 | 28 | 50 | 2 |
| Winter Wheat Irrigated | 0 | 3 | 48 | 38 | 11 |
| Spring Wheat Dryland | 0 | 13 | 39 | 46 | 2 |
| Spring Wheat Irrigated | 0 | 3 | 37 | 55 | 5 |
| Barley Dryland | 1 | 8 | 34 | 56 | 1 |
| Barley Irrigated | 0 | 9 | 59 | 27 | 5 |
| Potatoes | 0 | 2 | 50 | 36 | 12 |
| Corn | 0 | 2 | 27 | 69 | 2 |
| Dry Edible Beans | 0 | 5 | 39 | 56 | 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

Clallam/Jefferson: It was warm and dry. Crops looked good only because of irrigation. Third cutting of grass and alfalfa hay was in progress. Barley harvest expected to begin by the end of the upcoming week.

Grays Harbor: Another week of beautiful summer weather provided nearly ideal conditions for U-Pick vegetable growers to harvest potatoes, zucchini squash and other warm season vegetable crops. Cannery pea and sweet corn growers were focused on meeting irrigation requirements. Greenhouse tomato growers reported rapid fruit ripening due to the warm temperatures. Livestock producers were busy pulling the noxious weed tansy ragwort. Christmas tree growers were mowing grass in established plantations and shearing Grand fir. Home gardeners were feasting on raspberries, blueberries, yellow transparent apples and summer squash.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Warm temperatures provided good weather for field work. The lack of rain dried out pastures. There appeared to be an abundance of local hay for sale.

Jefferson: Dry weather continued. Temperatures were in the high 70s and 80s. There was a dramatic lightning storm last Sunday night but resulted in no local brush or tree fires. All the haying was completed. Estimates for production on some fields were only 25 percent of normal. This may cause high costs for winter and spring hay. Interest in mobile meat processing encouraged some large landowners to consider adding livestock. Farmer's Market and Coop revenues continued at record setting rates. The seventh annual farm tour will be on September 20, 2009.

Mason: The area needed rain. Producers were feeding cattle due to pastures being too dry.

Pacific: Continued dry conditions for producers provided opportunities for field work, but also challenges due to lack of soil moisture. Cranberry growers continued irrigation of bogs. They expected a near record crop after last year's harvest being the lowest in over forty years. Raspberry harvest activities

were nearing completion with good yields and lower than average fruit rot problems. Shellfish growers slowed harvest activities but continued new seed planting for both oysters and clams.

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

Snohomish/North King: There continued to be a shortage of rain. More and more producers needed to irrigate which was unusual for the area. It was a good year for strawberries and raspberries. Blueberries were doing well.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report): Showers continued on Monday. One-third inch of precipitation was received in some areas. The area dried out with warmer temperatures the rest of the week. By the end of the week temperatures were in the mid to high 80s. Farmers with irrigation were using it. Raspberry harvest continued and blueberry harvest was underway.

Thurston: Livestock producers took advantage of another week of warm, sunny days to harvest the second and in some cases the third crop of forage. Forage growth slowed in most fields due to decreasing soil moisture. Christmas tree growers were busy shearing Grand Fir. Turfgrass growers focused on irrigation and mowing activities. U-Pick raspberry growers continued to report excellent sales. The lack of moisture throughout the rural landscape created kinder dry conditions. Home gardeners feasted on cucumbers, zucchini squash, potatoes and blueberries.

Whatcom: The week was warm with temperatures in the 70s to 80s. There were a couple of mornings with fog. Raspberry harvest continued and blueberries were being harvested. Seed potatoes were blooming, some corn started to tassel and farmers were green chopping grass. Producers continued to irrigate their crops.

Central

Douglas: The winter wheat in some areas looked surprisingly well even though the area was below average in rainfall. There were 7.31 inches of rain received compared to 10 inches last year. It is not expected that there will be much number one grade wheat this year. The spring wheat looked bad. Many of the stands were very thin. Some farmers had to re-crop.

Douglas/Chelan: Warm temperatures continued. Many cherry growers were choosing not to harvest their crop due to market conditions. Smaller sized fruit was not being accepted at the warehouse because of the large crop. There was no processor market for the smaller cherries. The Douglas County FSA Committee decided a request should be made for emergency conservation funds necessary due to livestock water shortages.

Franklin: The week started out with a light precipitation thunderstorm on Sunday. Windy conditions and cooler weather immediately followed, moving to hot temperatures from mid Monday throughout the remainder of the week. Temperatures hit triple digits on one or two days by early afternoon. Irrigation was continuous on the potato fields and orchards to keep the crop environment cooled down. Fresh beans were harvested. Some open market potatoes were harvested. About five percent of the irrigated and dryland wheat crop had been harvested by the end of the week. The last of the cherries were harvested.

Grant: Dry pea harvest began, as did bluegrass seed. Cherry harvest wound down. Second cutting alfalfa was underway. Dryland wheat harvest was also underway, with lower than average yields expected. In the southern portions of the county sweet corn harvest was expected to begin in the near future.

Klickitat: Hot, dry conditions continued. Daytime temperatures were in the 80s-90s. Night temperatures were in the 40s-50s. Fire danger was high in farming areas. Second cutting of hay was just underway. Livestock were doing fine in the hot weather. Wheat harvest was due to start at lower elevations in about ten days. Peach harvest was actively underway. In home gardens garlic harvest was nearly finished. Cucurbit vines were running and fruit was starting to set.

Okanogan: Conditions were very dry and hot. There were a few scattered showers early in the week. Second cutting of hay was underway and cherry harvest was going strong.

Yakima: Average temperatures were generally warmer than usual, varying from normal to eight degrees above normal. There was a trace of precipitation received during the week. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Yakima (2nd Report): Warmer than normal daytime highs were experienced as temperatures approached 100 degrees a couple of times during the week. No precipitation was noted and dry weather conditions continued to spark localized brush fires. Cherry harvest continued with peak harvest moving to the higher elevations. Blueberry harvest progressed well as the higher temperatures slowed down raspberry production. Apple thinning operations continued. Early-maturing peaches and nectarines neared harvest. Sweet corn harvest continued as did green beans, cucumbers, summer squashes, melons and tomatoes.

Eastern

Adams: Winter wheat harvest was expected to start up for most producers.

Adams (2nd Report): The light rain received on Monday did little to improve dryland conditions; coming too little, too late. Combines were poised at fields' edge to begin harvest in the southwest portion of the county.

Asotin/Garfield: Hot weather ripened crops rapidly and a few producers started harvesting in the lower elevations.

Ferry: Many cherry producers were opting not to harvest a portion of their cherries due to the big crop. Warehouses were accepting the larger sized cherries. There was no market for the smaller cherries including no processing market option.

Ferry (2nd Report): Early spring drought stunted spring grains in most areas. Production possibilities looked extremely poor.

Lincoln: Hot and dry weather progressed throughout the week. Wheat harvest was in full swing in the drier parts of the county, with crops ripening at a steady pace in the other areas. Second cutting of irrigated alfalfa hay continued.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Harvest of winter wheat was expected to start.

Stevens: An excellent twelve hour rain received across most of the county resulted in .40 to 1.0 inch of rain. The wheat should fill well with this boost. Some of the better ground may yield a second cutting of alfalfa. Hot weather was forecasted, which means pastures will not have a positive response.

Stevens (2nd Report): The rainstorm early in the week produced anywhere from .30 to 1.5 inches of rain across the area. Crops and pastures were in dire need of moisture before the storm. Hay producers that cut early in June were beginning second cutting. Cutting and baling of oats and barley continued. Irrigation systems were running at full capacity where water was still available.

Walla Walla: Many producers started harvest. Reports thus far were favorable in regard to yields. Several sweet corn circles were being cut. Wheat harvest was going fast and furious.

Whitman: The hot weather was broken by rainfall early in the week. However, the heat came back later in the week and helped ripen crops. Harvest was expected to begin in the western areas of the county in the next week or so.

Weekly Weather Statistics
July 13- July 19, 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 | | | |
| | | | | | TOT | DFN | TOT | DFN | | | | | DFN | NORMAL | DAYS | |
| WEST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bellingham Intl | 52 | 82 | 64 | +3 | 100 | +16 | 32 | +11 | 0.00 | -0.28 | 0 | 28.91 | -5.48 | 84 | 131 | |
| Hoquiam | 50 | 76 | 61 | +1 | 79 | +4 | 11 | +0 | 0.00 | -0.28 | 0 | 53.63 | -12.59 | 81 | 146 | |
| Kelso | 50 | 91 | 68 | +5 | 128 | +30 | 58 | +30 | 0.00 | -0.21 | 0 | 34.64 | -10.24 | 77 | 122 | |
| Olympia | 45 | 91 | 65 | +3 | 105 | +14 | 36 | +14 | 0.01 | -0.14 | 1 | 41.80 | -7.42 | 85 | 145 | |
| Seattle-Tacoma | 52 | 89 | 67 | +2 | 119 | +13 | 50 | +12 | 0.03 | -0.11 | 1 | 31.63 | -4.30 | 88 | 137 | |
| Shelton | 46 | 89 | 66 | +1 | 115 | +10 | 45 | +10 | 0.02 | -0.19 | 1 | 56.52 | -7.09 | 89 | 142 | |
| Tacoma WA AP | 47 | 90 | 66 | +2 | 112 | +9 | 42 | +7 | 0.00 | -0.18 | 0 | 32.64 | -6.17 | 84 | 130 | |
| Vancouver WA | 53 | 91 | 70 | +6 | 141 | +36 | 71 | +36 | 0.18 | +0.02 | 1 | 27.40 | -12.55 | 69 | 134 | |
| CENTRAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ellensburg | 47 | 99 | 74 | +6 | 167 | +39 | 97 | +39 | 0.00 | -0.05 | 0 | 6.65 | -1.84 | 78 | 69 | |
| Omak AP | 53 | 101 | 75 | +8 | 172 | +48 | 102 | +46 | 0.00 | -0.14 | 0 | 7.69 | -6.06 | 56 | 82 | |
| Stampede Pass | 46 | 79 | 60 | +5 | 75 | +33 | 23 | +16 | 0.17 | -0.11 | 1 | 73.93 | -4.98 | 94 | 156 | |
| Wenatchee AP | 56 | 97 | 76 | +3 | 185 | +20 | 115 | +19 | 0.07 | +0.04 | 1 | 4.07 | -3.74 | 52 | 57 | |
| Yakima AP | 50 | 98 | 74 | +4 | 167 | +27 | 97 | +27 | 0.00 | +0.00 | 0 | 6.48 | -1.06 | 86 | 62 | |
| NORTHEAST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colville | 52 | 97 | 73 | +8 | 165 | +49 | 95 | +46 | 0.97 | +0.79 | 1 | 16.12 | -3.73 | 81 | 98 | |
| Deer Park | 46 | 95 | 66 | -4 | 117 | -19 | 51 | -15 | 0.52 | +0.31 | 2 | 17.60 | +0.07 | 100 | 108 | |
| Republic | 52 | 96 | 74 | +10 | 167 | +70 | 97 | +65 | 0.32 | +0.11 | 2 | 10.20 | -4.08 | 71 | 88 | |
| Spokane AP | 50 | 93 | 70 | +2 | 141 | +8 | 74 | +11 | 0.25 | +0.11 | 2 | 14.79 | -0.78 | 95 | 111 | |
| EAST CENTRAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ephrata | 52 | 98 | 75 | +0 | 178 | +2 | 108 | +3 | 0.00 | -0.07 | 0 | 3.37 | -3.49 | 49 | 57 | |
| Moses Lake | 50 | 99 | 73 | -3 | 162 | -14 | 92 | -13 | 0.15 | +0.08 | 1 | 4.87 | -1.99 | 71 | 62 | |
| Quincy | 51 | 94 | 75 | +5 | 177 | +30 | 107 | +30 | 0.00 | -0.04 | 0 | 8.59 | +1.20 | 116 | 64 | |
| Ritzville | 47 | 97 | 71 | +3 | 152 | +16 | 82 | +16 | 0.16 | +0.09 | 2 | 10.74 | -0.06 | 99 | 81 | |
| SOUTHEAST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hanford | 52 | 103 | 78 | +0 | 199 | +3 | 129 | +3 | 0.00 | +0.00 | 0 | 4.95 | -1.14 | 81 | 54 | |
| Pasco | 49 | 103 | 75 | +0 | 177 | +2 | 107 | +2 | 0.02 | +0.02 | 1 | 6.69 | -0.34 | 95 | 70 | |
| Pullman | 45 | 92 | 67 | +2 | 122 | +14 | 54 | +12 | 0.63 | +0.49 | 1 | 21.35 | +1.35 | 107 | 113 | |
| Walla Walla Rgn | 56 | 100 | 77 | +3 | 192 | +13 | 122 | +13 | 0.09 | +0.00 | 1 | 17.53 | -0.97 | 95 | 97 | |
| Whitman Mission | 50 | 101 | 73 | +3 | 165 | +18 | 95 | +18 | 0.12 | +0.05 | 1 | 15.84 | +2.87 | 122 | 101 | |
| WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lewiston ID | 55 | 99 | 76 | +2 | 183 | +12 | 113 | +11 | 0.42 | +0.28 | 2 | 10.71 | -0.71 | 94 | 84 | |

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>
 Washington Agricultural Statistics Service website: http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington
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