



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

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Washington Crop Weather

Released: July 27, 2009
Week Ending: July 26, 2009
CWP WA-CW2809

Winter Wheat Harvest Gaining Momentum While Heat Waves Pushed Fruit Along

Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.7. Winter wheat harvest was in full swing and going well with reports of average yields. In Whitman County, harvest was rolling in the western end of the county. In Grant County, second cutting of timothy hay was winding down while onion and carrot seed harvest was underway. Dry pea harvest continued as well as bluegrass seed. Pend Oreille reported grass straw was baled. Christmas tree growers reported aphid infestations in Noble fir plantations.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, cherry harvest is wrapping up except for some late maturing varieties; some blocks were not harvested this season as the market was saturated with good quality and large-sized sweet cherries. Early maturing peaches, nectarines and plums as well as Bartlett pears were sizing and coloring up nicely with producers cleaning and mowing orchards in anticipation of harvest. Green beans, cucumbers, tomatoes and sweet corn harvest continued. Most of the hops have crested the trellis and cones were starting to form. In Pend Oreille County, raspberry harvest was in full swing and pickers were getting ready for apricots. In Pacific County, dry weather challenged cranberry producers to provide adequate moisture for crops as growers irrigated bogs and continued weed and insect control activities. Berry maturity and size looked good.

Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 5 percent very poor, 17 percent poor, 43 percent fair and 35 percent good. On the east side, Stevens County reported cows went to slaughter showing the first signs of short pastures and the lack of grazing available. In Klickitat County, cattle seem to be coping with the heat. On the west side, livestock producers continued harvesting conventional hay under nearly ideal conditions. In Pacific County, shellfish farmers continued seeding of both clams and oysters, along with limited harvest.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.7
Last Week	6.9

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	14	54	32	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	15	38	47	1
Subsoil	14	44	42	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	13	39	48	0
Irrigation Water	0	5	95	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	6	91	0
Hay & Roughage	2	7	74	17

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 Harvested	2	NA	3	7
Winter Wheat Harvested	15	8	16	22
Barley Harvested	1	NA	1	8
Potatoes Harvested	18	9	12	16
Field Corn Silked	50	35	48	57
Field Corn Doughed	7	1	5	8
Field Corn Dented	2	NA	1	4
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	96	90	93	95
Dry Peas Harvested	30	17	28	33
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	75	70	57	77
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	5	NA	1	7

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	9	13	26	46	6
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	5	54	23	18
Spring Wheat Dryland	2	15	39	43	1
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	4	39	44	13
Barley Dryland	3	13	34	49	1
Barley Irrigated	0	7	45	26	22
Potatoes	0	1	62	26	11
Corn	0	2	46	51	1
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

Clark: The county was experiencing a heat wave!

Clallam/Jefferson: The dry conditions continued and temperatures were the same as last week.

Grays Harbor: The prolonged dry spell kept cannery pea and sweet corn growers busy irrigating fields. Christmas tree growers reported aphid infestations in Noble fir plantations. Dairy producers continued harvesting both conventional hay and haylage. U-Pick raspberry and blueberry growers reported excellent fruit quality and yields. By the end of the week, temperatures in the low 80s exacerbated dry conditions throughout the rural landscape. Ag producers expressed concern over the potential impact of a forecasted 'thermal blast' during the coming week, with temperatures expected to approach 90 degrees for several days. The rural landscape continued to be very, very dry with non-irrigated fields and pastures brown from lack of water. Fire danger remained very high. Home gardeners continued to harvest a bounty of fresh vegetables including new potatoes, beets, carrots, and zucchini squash.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Conditions continued to be very dry and temperatures were cooler in the middle of the week.

Pacific: Dry weather challenged producers to provide adequate moisture for crops. Cranberry growers irrigated bogs and continued weed and insect control activities. Berry maturity and size looked good, providing for a possible record crop this fall. Harvest operations were winding down for raspberry growers, and shellfish farmers continued seeding of both clams and oysters. Pasture conditions continued to decline with the hot, dry weather.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions were okay for the South Puget Sound area. The hot weather was taking its toll on crops. There were no reports of any unusual situations or crop damage due to adverse weather

conditions.

San Juan: The weather continued to be warm and dry. Irrigation, where available, was in full swing. The first, and possibly the only, cutting of hay was complete.

Snohomish/North King: The weather was hot and muggy most of the week, with a few thundershowers. Most of the precipitation was in the foothills and did not amount to much. Crops were doing well, but soils without irrigation were dry. Raspberry harvest wound down, and blueberry harvest continued.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report): The weather continued to be very dry. Most farmers had to irrigate on a continuous basis. Temperatures were in the high 70s.

Thurston: Beautiful summer weather during the majority of the week provided nearly ideal conditions for the opening of the U-Pick blueberry farms. Plenty of sunshine during the past two weeks resulted in excellent berry quality. Christmas tree growers reported aphid infestations in Noble fir. U-Pick raspberry farms reported rapid fruit ripening due to the warm temperatures. Turfgrass growers were busy keeping fields irrigated and mowed. Livestock producers continued harvesting conventional hay under nearly ideal conditions. Home gardeners continued feasting on zucchini, cucumbers, new potatoes, carrots and beets. The end of the week brought much warmer temperatures approaching 90 degrees. With a forecast of even higher temperatures in the coming week, ag producers were concerned about the potential impact on their crops.

Thurston (2nd Report): Calving continued with good results so far. The pastures were doing poorly with no moisture. Cattle were already on hay, which was plentiful.

Central

Douglas: Wheat harvesting began.

Grant: The second cutting of Timothy hay was winding down, and the third cutting of alfalfa will begin soon. Dry pea and Kentucky bluegrass harvest continued. Onion and carrot seed harvest were also underway. Planting of the 2010 hybrid onion and carrot seed crop began. Cherry harvest was mostly complete, with many growers turned back by the processors due to the large volume of cherries. Sweet corn harvest in the southern portions of the county was ready to begin. The dryland wheat harvest was underway, with below average yields expected.

Kittitas: Hay growers were trying to keep their second cutting fields irrigated in the 100 degree heat and dry winds. Cool season pastures have slowed growth for the summer. With the heat and wind, range conditions were very dry.

Klickitat: Weather conditions were unseasonably hot, with highs in the 80s and 90s and overnight lows in the 50s and 60s. Winds were light with average gusts to 25-30 mph. Winter wheat harvest was underway. Producers were pleased with yields, though kernel size tended to be smaller than usual. Dryland spring wheat harvest was expected to begin within a week or so after the end of winter wheat harvest. The second cutting of dryland alfalfa was complete. Irrigated alfalfa fields were close to finishing up watering prior to its second cutting. Cattle seemed to be coping with the heat. Valley pastures were mature but typically adequate for the livestock turned out. Harvest of the early varieties of peaches and nectarines

were complete. Grapes were growing well. Bunch thinning and vine training continued in vineyards. Home gardeners finished up with mid-summer seeding for the second harvest and other fall crops including lettuce, radishes, beets and chard. Summer apple varieties, such as Gravensteins, were sizing up well.

Klickitat (2nd Report): The weather has been hot and dry. Crops were taking quite a hit. Wheat was beginning to shrivel up and the hay crop was drying up. The Columbia Hill and Bickelton areas were harvesting.

Yakima: Daytime highs remained in the upper 80s to upper 90s all week, with no precipitation reported throughout the area. Cherry harvest was wrapping up except for the late maturing varieties. Some blocks were not harvested this season as the market was saturated with good quality, large sized sweet cherries. Early maturing peaches, nectarines, plums, and Bartlett pears were sizing and coloring up nicely. Producers were cleaning and mowing orchards in anticipation of harvest. Green beans, cucumbers, tomatoes and sweet corn harvest continued. Most of the hops have crested the trellises and cones were beginning to form.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures were warmer than normal, varying from two to nine degrees above normal. There was a trace of precipitation during the week. There were no crop losses due to weather conditions reported.

Eastern

Adams/Lincoln: Spotty precipitation over the weekend was enough to slow winter wheat harvest and help maintain soil moisture conditions.

Asotin/Garfield: The weather continued to be hot and dry. A few more producers began harvesting.

Garfield: The week was hot and dry, with the forecast for 100 degree weather. Cattle have been in the mountains since last May.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Winter wheat harvest was underway.

Lincoln (3rd Report): Spotty thundershowers were received during the week. Harvest conditions in the southwest part of the county reported below normal yields.

Pend Oreille: The week ending July 26 had a high temperature of 90 degrees and a low of 39 degrees with 0.5 inch of precipitation. Hot, dry weather was taking its toll on hay fields with very low yields reported. Irrigated hay fields were harvested and the first cutting of alfalfa was complete. Pasture grasses were dead and drying. Several thunderstorms caused numerous fires due to the dry conditions. Livestock were already being fed supplemental feed.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Temperatures were hot during the week, and a small amount of rain was received on Sunday. Grass seed harvest was progressing, with some producers finishing up. Grass straw was being baled, and early hay growers geared up for a short second cutting. Cherry growers reported some damage from the previous rain and the hot weather following it. Raspberry harvest was in full

swing, and pickers were getting ready for apricots. Hay yield reports from Pend Oreille County were significantly reduced from normal.

Stevens: Two loads of stock cattle went to slaughter during the week, as a result of the lack of grazing available.

Stevens (2nd Report): Stormy weather during the week hampered haying operations. Heavy rain and hail moved through the area from mid-week into the weekend. Several fields of second cutting of hay could not be baled due to the sporadic storms. Standing crops and pastures benefitted from the moisture. Temperatures were in the 90s most of the week.

Walla Walla: Conditions were very hot and dry. It was good threshing weather. Winter wheat harvest was in full swing, and yields and test weights were above average. The second cutting of hay was nearly complete, and the third cutting was just beginning. Lowland non-irrigated pastures were dried up until fall. Mountain ranges were holding up pretty well.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Harvest was going well, and most producers were pleased with yields. Weather conditions were very hot and dry.

Whitman: Harvest was rolling in the western end of the county and around Endicott. Yields were about average. Rainfall hit on Sunday and shut down harvest activities. Rainfall amounts varied, but were generally light.

Weekly Weather Statistics
July 20- July 26, 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	50	82	67	+5	119	+28	49	+28	0.10	-0.18	1	29.01	-5.66	84	132
Hoquiam	50	77	60	-2	70	-7	5	-9	0.00	-0.28	0	53.63	-12.87	81	146
Kelso	54	88	69	+5	134	+35	64	+32	0.00	-0.20	0	34.64	-10.44	77	122
Olympia	50	90	67	+4	123	+28	53	+25	0.00	-0.14	0	41.80	-7.56	85	145
Seattle-Tacoma	55	89	69	+3	134	+22	64	+22	0.00	-0.14	0	31.63	-4.44	88	137
Shelton	46	92	67	+2	120	+11	50	+10	0.00	-0.18	0	56.52	-7.27	89	142
Tacoma WA AP	48	88	68	+3	125	+20	55	+20	0.00	-0.14	0	32.64	-6.31	84	130
Vancouver WA	56	90	73	+9	159	+54	89	+54	0.00	-0.14	0	27.40	-12.69	68	134
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	50	99	77	+9	189	+56	119	+56	0.00	-0.03	0	6.65	-1.87	78	69
Omak AP	58	103	76	+8	186	+60	116	+60	0.44	+0.30	4	8.13	-5.76	59	86
Stampede Pass	50	81	65	+10	108	+63	41	+34	0.04	-0.24	2	73.97	-5.22	93	158
Wenatchee AP	63	100	80	+6	209	+41	139	+41	0.00	-0.04	0	4.07	-3.78	52	57
Yakima AP	52	98	76	+6	183	+38	113	+39	0.00	+0.00	0	6.48	-1.06	86	62
NORTHEAST															
Colville	50	99	73	+6	162	+43	92	+43	0.78	+0.61	3	16.90	-3.12	84	101
Deer Park	43	95	69	-2	133	-7	63	-7	0.00	-0.15	0	17.60	-0.08	100	108
Republic	55	98	75	+12	177	+79	107	+72	0.42	+0.21	3	10.62	-3.87	73	91
Spokane AP	57	94	74	+5	171	+31	101	+31	0.03	-0.11	1	14.82	-0.89	94	112
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	60	99	79	+4	202	+20	132	+20	0.00	-0.07	0	3.37	-3.56	49	57
Moses Lake	56	99	77	+2	190	+8	120	+8	0.00	-0.07	0	4.87	-2.06	70	62
Quincy	56	95	77	+6	192	+39	122	+40	0.00	-0.04	0	8.59	+1.16	116	64
Ritzville	53	98	73	+4	164	+24	94	+24	0.15	+0.08	1	10.89	+0.02	100	82
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	63	103	82	+4	224	+23	154	+23	0.00	-0.03	0	4.95	-1.17	81	54
Pasco	53	100	77	+2	189	+11	119	+12	0.00	-0.04	0	6.69	-0.38	95	70
Pullman	46	95	70	+4	140	+28	70	+25	0.11	-0.03	1	21.46	+1.32	107	114
Walla Walla Rgn	62	103	81	+5	216	+34	146	+34	0.00	-0.12	0	17.53	-1.09	94	97
Whitman Mission	48	100	75	+4	173	+19	103	+20	0.00	-0.07	0	15.84	+2.80	121	101
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	58	101	79	+5	205	+30	135	+30	0.00	-0.14	0	10.71	-0.85	93	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>

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