



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

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Washington Crop Weather

Released: August 10, 2009
Week Ending: August 9, 2009
CWP WA-CW3009

Cooler Weather Brought Relief to Producers

Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.3. Very dry conditions persisted across the state, and crops continued to show the effect of the lack of precipitation and record hot weather. Producers were busy irrigating, although showers did bring some moisture to locations across the state, halting the harvest of some crops. Dry peas and lentils were harvested in the Spokane area. Second cutting of hay was underway in Spokane and Stevens Counties and the majority of the grass seed harvest was complete. Producers will soon be getting their summer fallow fields ready for planting. Christmas tree growers reported heat scorch damage on Noble and Grand firs as a result of last week's triple digit temperatures.

Fruits and Vegetables

As raspberry harvest wound down, blueberry harvest was in full swing. Peach and nectarine harvest continued and field crews anticipated the harvest of Bartlett pears and early apple varieties in the next couple of weeks. Cannery pea harvest started the end of the week. Sweet corn growers spent the majority of their time irrigating fields.

Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 8 percent very poor, 28 percent poor, 42 percent fair and 22 percent good. Oyster and clam harvest operations continued for shellfish growers, along with bed management and stock transfers. In Thurston County, the majority of non-irrigated pastures and hayfields were brown from lack of moisture. Livestock producers continued to make haylage. Some early fall calving was reported.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.3
Last Week	6.6

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	22	50	28	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	21	35	44	0
Subsoil	24	47	29	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	18	38	44	0
Irrigation Water	1	3	95	1
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	4	7	89	0
Hay & Roughage	2	11	67	20

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	36	21	27	41
Winter Wheat Harvested	63	38	57	63
Barley Harvested	21	14	30	38
Potatoes Harvested	31	19	30	32
Field Corn Silked	90	75	53	81
Field Corn Doughed	13	12	8	23
Field Corn Dented	6	3	4	12
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	98	97	95	98
Dry Peas Harvested	69	32	40	67
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	85	81	80	91
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	48	25	8	36

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	11	20	36	25	8
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	2	57	27	14
Spring Wheat Dryland	4	18	52	23	3
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	38	48	14
Barley Dryland	6	18	54	20	2
Barley Irrigated	0	2	39	32	27
Potatoes	0	1	57	32	10
Corn	0	2	40	57	1
Dry Edible Beans	0	2	65	30	3

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/Cowlitz/Skamania/Wahkiakum: The heat wave tapered off the first part of the week and enabled producers to get back to berry harvesting.

Grays Harbor: Cannery pea harvest began late in the week. Livestock producers continued making haylage. Sweet corn growers spent the majority of the time keeping fields irrigated.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Conditions were very dry but cooler than the previous week. Livestock producers were feeding hay to cattle.

Jefferson: The record heat and drought continued. For the first time in a long time, nighttime temperatures stayed above 70 degrees for several days. Daytime temperatures were between 90 and 100 degrees. Farmers reported record blueberry production. The second harvest of wheat was finished early.

Mason: Moderate temperatures and cloudy days were a nice break from the hot weather. Conditions were very dry, and the effects of the hot weather were being seen. Trees were beginning to lose their leaves.

Pacific: Cooler conditions were a relief to producers, with light rain adding much needed moisture to surface soils. Despite the rain, cranberry growers continued irrigation of their bogs and vine weevil control activities. Oyster and clam harvest operations continued for shellfish growers, along with bed management and stock transfers. Raspberry growers completed final post harvest activities.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions returned to normal during the week. There were no unusual

situations to report and no reports of any crop damage.

San Juan: Weather conditions were very dry with continued cool temperatures.

Skagit: Rain was received during the week.

Snohomish/North King: The weather was cooler and cloudy by the end of the week. A good rain was much needed. Crops showed less heat stress with the cooler temperatures. Blueberry harvest continued, and the early apple varieties were nearly ripe. Home gardeners were harvesting tomatoes. Some hay was still being put up, but pasture growth stopped.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report): The excessive heat finally broke and temperatures returned to normal or slightly below normal. The average temperature for the week was 68 degrees. There were overcast conditions for most of the week, but little to no precipitation was received. The crops were beginning to show the effect of no precipitation.

Thurston: Ag producers welcomed a week of cooler temperatures. Rain showers late in the week did little to alleviate dry conditions. Christmas tree growers continued to report heat scorch damage on Noble and Grand fir as a result of the previous week's triple digit temperatures. The majority of non-irrigated pastures and hayfields were brown from lack of moisture. Blueberry harvest was in full swing.

Whatcom: Producers were busy irrigating as dry weather continued. Raspberry harvest was winding down, while blueberry harvest continued. The fourth cutting of silage grass was being put up for storage.

Central

Chelan: Tree fruits were developing well. Relatively large apple and pear crops were anticipated. Gala apples and Bartlett pears harvest will begin on August 20.

Douglas/Chelan: Temperatures cooled off, and winter wheat harvest progressed. Most producers in the county reported below average yields. Seeding of the 2010 winter wheat crops was delayed due to lack of moisture. Producers were waiting for some additional moisture in order to begin planting. Soft fruit harvest continued.

Douglas: Most of the winter wheat crop has been harvested. Producers will soon be getting their summer fallow fields ready for planting.

Kittitas: Hay farmers were waiting for the second cutting of Timothy hay to grow. Sweet corn was filling the kernels and enjoying the hot weather. Irrigated wheat was nearing maturity, and range conditions were dry but good for this time of the year.

Klickitat: Cooler weather was a relief from the recent heat wave, as the mean daily temperature showed a 10 degree drop to the 60s by midweek.

Overnight lows remained in the 50s every night except one, and the daytime highs fell into the 60s from the 90s reported on Monday and Tuesday. Spotty precipitation on Thursday and winds gusting to 30 mph delayed grain harvest one day, but no crop damage was reported. Preliminary test results showed weight and quality quite good and yields slightly above average. Some early fall calving began. Cattle pastures survived better than most years, though it was beginning to be depleted. Cattle were doing well. Grapes were starting to color, and peach harvest continued. Home gardeners harvested onions, potatoes, and early varieties of corn.

Yakima: Scattered thundershowers midweek brought little precipitation to the county, but brought some relief from the high temperatures in the mid to upper 90s earlier in the week. Daytime temperatures hovered between mid-70s to the mid-80s for the rest of the week. Peach and nectarine harvest continued, while field crews mowed and moved bins into orchards in anticipation of pear and apple harvest.

Eastern

Adams: Harvest was wrapping up, and farmers were beginning to think about winter wheat seeding.

Adams (2nd Report): A passing front late Friday night slowed wheat harvest in the eastern portion of the county. Most dryland wheat in the western area of the county was already in the elevator, and yields were widely variable.

Asotin/Garfield: Harvest was progressing well until rain showed up mid-week halting the harvest. Rain totals ranged from 0.5 to 2.0 inches. Producers feared that sprout damage might occur. Dry weather was needed for producers to complete the harvest.

Garfield: Substantial rain on Thursday and Friday halted harvest for three days. Cooler conditions were welcomed by all.

Lincoln: Harvest was progressing across the county.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Harvest continued after the rain ended.

Pend Oreille: The high temperature for the week was 88 degrees and the low was 42 with a trace of precipitation. Sub-irrigated hay was showing a one-third drop in grass hay this season, and irrigated hay was showing slow growth. Non-irrigated farms had half of the normal growth, so some farmers were using hay fields as pasture.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Rain on Friday stopped all harvesting operations. There were reports of up to 0.5 inch of rain in southern Spokane County, but only

0.25 inch fell in the northern areas. Only a few combines have been out cutting wheat. Dry peas and lentils were being harvested, with below average yields reported. The second cutting of hay was underway, but was slowed down due to the rain. The majority of the grass seed harvest was complete in Spokane County.

Stevens: Scattered showers continued but did not produce any meaningful moisture. Approximately 50 percent of the second cutting of hay was put up, but there was some damage due to the rain. Grain harvest was delayed but should start as soon as the weather dries out.

Stevens (2nd Report): The week began with temperatures in the mid-90s. A welcome cooling trend later in the week was enjoyed by both livestock and producers. Grain harvest continued with average yields, and hay producers continued swathing and baling the second cutting of small grain hay. Pastures were holding up nicely thanks to the plentiful rainfall during July.

Walla Walla: Temperatures varied from extremely hot and dry early in the week to cool with some rain at the end of the week. Nearly an inch of rain shut down harvest for a couple of days. Winter wheat yields and test weights were coming in mostly above average. Rain helped soften dry pasture grasses. Some hay was rained on, but dry weather this week should help.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Harvest was progressing well, but rainfall between 0.80 and 1.20 inches later in the week stopped all harvesting.

Weekly Weather Statistics
August 3- August 9, 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	DFN	PCT	NORMAL	DAYS
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES			INCHES				
WEST																
Bellingham_Intl	49	79	63	-1	90	-1	21	-7	0.00	-0.28	0	29.01	-6.22	82	132	
Hoquiam	53	67	60	-2	70	-7	4	-10	0.00	-0.28	0	53.63	-13.37	80	146	
Kelso	57	81	65	+0	104	-1	34	-2	0.00	-0.27	0	34.64	-10.92	76	122	
Olympia	47	83	61	-3	82	-16	18	-14	0.00	-0.21	0	41.80	-7.97	84	145	
Seattle-Tacoma_	55	82	64	-3	98	-14	28	-15	0.00	-0.21	0	31.63	-4.81	87	137	
Shelton	52	78	62	-5	88	-24	20	-22	0.07	-0.14	1	56.59	-7.60	88	143	
Tacoma_WA_AP	50	84	63	-4	91	-14	22	-20	0.00	-0.23	0	32.64	-6.75	83	130	
Vancouver_WA	56	89	69	+4	134	+26	64	+22	0.00	-0.21	0	27.40	-13.10	68	134	
CENTRAL																
Ellensburg	58	97	75	+6	173	+40	103	+40	0.03	-0.04	1	6.78	-1.88	78	71	
Omak_AP	53	101	78	+10	196	+68	126	+65	0.00	-0.21	0	8.15	-6.13	57	87	
Stampede_Pass	45	78	57	+0	53	+4	14	+4	0.04	-0.31	1	74.06	-5.77	93	161	
Wenatchee_AP	61	100	78	+4	197	+29	127	+29	0.00	-0.07	0	4.08	-3.91	51	58	
Yakima_AP	48	99	73	+3	160	+17	90	+17	0.05	-0.02	1	6.53	-1.15	85	63	
NORTHEAST																
Colville	53	98	73	+6	163	+42	93	+37	0.08	-0.13	1	17.22	-3.22	84	104	
Deer_Park	44	95	69	-2	134	-6	64	-6	0.10	-0.04	3	17.79	-0.17	99	112	
Republic	52	97	75	+11	178	+75	108	+67	0.06	-0.22	1	10.82	-4.19	72	95	
Spokane_AP	53	93	72	+2	152	+12	82	+12	0.25	+0.11	2	15.11	-0.88	94	115	
EAST CENTRAL																
Ephrata	52	99	76	+1	184	+4	114	+4	0.00	-0.06	0	3.37	-3.69	48	57	
Moses_Lake	53	100	74	-2	173	-7	103	-7	0.01	-0.05	1	4.88	-2.18	69	63	
Quincy	56	95	76	+4	180	+28	110	+27	0.00	-0.07	0	8.59	+1.02	113	64	
Ritzville	50	98	72	+3	157	+17	87	+17	0.20	+0.13	2	11.09	+0.08	101	84	
SOUTHEAST																
Hanford	58	104	79	-1	201	-2	131	-2	0.02	-0.05	1	4.97	-1.29	79	55	
Pasco	60	103	79	+4	203	+26	133	+27	0.05	-0.02	1	6.74	-0.47	93	71	
Pullman	49	93	69	+2	133	+14	65	+16	1.06	+0.85	2	22.52	+2.03	110	116	
Walla_Walla_Rgn	56	100	76	+1	185	+3	115	+3	0.91	+0.77	1	18.44	-0.46	98	98	
Whitman_Mission	55	101	75	+4	176	+25	106	+24	0.98	+0.84	2	16.82	+3.50	126	103	
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE																
Lewiston ID	56	101	77	+3	191	+16	121	+16	0.05	-0.09	1	10.76	-1.08	91	85	

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2008

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normal 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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