



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS  
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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: August 17, 2009  
Week Ending: August 16, 2009  
CWP WA-CW3009

## Rains Dampened Grain Harvest Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.3. Whitman and Walla Walla Counties reported rain and cooler weather interrupted the winter wheat harvest. Whitman County reported yields were favorable with many fields above average. Walla Walla County continued to report favorable yields. In the north eastern part of the State, winter wheat harvest had yet to begin due to rain. Some winter wheat seeding for the 2010 crop was reported in the far northern counties. Grant County reported sweet corn harvest, third cutting of alfalfa and mint harvest were in full swing. Franklin County reported potatoes had been sprayed with broadleaf herbicide in anticipation of upcoming digging operations. Christmas tree growers continued top working of Noble fir.

### Fruits and Vegetables

Pacific County reported irrigation of cranberries and raspberries continued. Blueberry, peach and nectarine harvest continued. Pear and early apple varieties were expected to be harvested soon.

### Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 5 percent very poor, 28 percent poor, 41 percent fair and 26 percent good. On the west side, livestock producers continued making haylage. Pacific County reported shellfish growers harvested clams and oysters for late season markets and moved oysters to fattening beds for final production.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

| Week      | Days |
|-----------|------|
| This Week | 5.3  |
| Last Week | 6.3  |

### Moisture and Supply

| Item                      | Percent |    |    |    |
|---------------------------|---------|----|----|----|
|                           | VS      | SH | AD | S  |
| Topsoil                   | 10      | 56 | 34 | 0  |
| Topsoil 5 Yr Avg          | 21      | 36 | 43 | 0  |
| Subsoil                   | 15      | 53 | 32 | 0  |
| Subsoil 5 Yr Avg          | 19      | 40 | 41 | 0  |
| Irrigation Water          | 1       | 8  | 91 | 0  |
| Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg | 5       | 8  | 87 | 0  |
| Hay & Roughage            | 2       | 7  | 77 | 14 |

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          | 46                | 36        | 48   | 60         |
| Winter Wheat Harvested          | 71                | 63        | 67   | 76         |
| Barley Harvested                | 39                | 21        | 47   | 56         |
| Potatoes Harvested              | 35                | 31        | 35   | 38         |
| Field Corn Silked               | 93                | 90        | 92   | 95         |
| Field Corn Doughed              | 18                | 13        | 35   | 39         |
| Field Corn Dented               | 11                | 6         | 9    | 21         |
| Field Corn Mature               | 1                 | NA        | NA   | 2          |
| Field Corn Harvested for Silage | NA                | NA        | 4    | 10         |
| Dry Edible Beans Harvested      | 7                 | NA        | NA   | 13         |
| Proc. Green Peas Harvested      | 100               | 98        | 99   | 99         |
| Dry Peas Harvested              | 72                | 69        | 82   | 85         |
| Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting         | 89                | 85        | 94   | 96         |
| Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting         | 65                | 48        | 46   | 57         |

### Crop Condition\*

| Crop                   | % Acreage |    |    |    |    |
|------------------------|-----------|----|----|----|----|
|                        | VP        | P  | F  | G  | EX |
| Spring Wheat Dryland   | 3         | 12 | 41 | 43 | 1  |
| Spring Wheat Irrigated | 0         | 2  | 26 | 67 | 5  |
| Barley Dryland         | 4         | 15 | 40 | 40 | 1  |
| Barley Irrigated       | 0         | 7  | 45 | 36 | 12 |
| Potatoes               | 0         | 1  | 37 | 49 | 13 |
| Corn                   | 0         | 2  | 20 | 75 | 3  |
| Dry Edible Beans       | 0         | 5  | 45 | 50 | 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 welcomed heavy rain showers in the early part of the week which helped to temporarily alleviate dry conditions. Soils however remained dry. Cannery pea harvest was in full swing. Christmas tree growers began shearing Douglas fir. Greenhouse tomato growers reported prolific yields and good demand for fruit. Livestock producers continued making haylage.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** There were much cooler temperatures and light precipitation was received sporadically throughout the week. The moisture was likely to benefit pastured livestock.

**Jefferson:** Cool, wet, maritime rain came after three weeks of hot weather. Night temperatures were in the high 50s. The first harvest of the dryland wheat demonstration project was completed before the rains came. The ten varieties of blueberries all ripened at once, so there was an abundance of you-pick blueberry options. It was a good and abundant harvest week for crops.

**Mason:** A welcome change of .85 inch of rain fell. Conditions were still dry. Sweet corn harvest began. Warm weather crops were early this year.

**Pacific:** A cooler break in the weather was welcomed by producers. Irrigation of cranberries, raspberries and limited pasture areas continued along with weed control. Shellfish growers harvested clams and oysters for late season markets and moved oysters to fattening beds for final production. Christmas tree growers continued insect and weed control activities.

**Pierce/South King:** A welcomed series of rain events showered the area. The rain may have hurt some of the vegetables crops in the form of cracking.

**San Juan:** The area received the first significant rainfall in months.

**Snohomish/North King:** A few scattered showers helped settle the dust. A few areas received a bit over an inch of rain on Monday. Blueberry harvest continued and home orchardists harvested transparents and other early varieties. Local sweet corn harvest began.

**Snohomish/North King (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The weather turned cooler and the area received much needed precipitation for three days. Temperatures were much cooler, averaging around mid 60s and dipping into the low 50s at night. The weekend was in the low to mid 70s and dry.

**Thurston:** Although some areas of the county received over an inch of rainfall, dry conditions prevailed. Most growers continued to make irrigation a priority. Turfgrass growers were irrigating fields around the clock. Blueberry harvest peaked with good yields reported. Raspberry harvest was nearly completed. Organic truck farmers continued harvesting sweet corn, cucumbers, tomatoes and other warm season crops. Christmas tree growers continued top working Noble fir. Some livestock producers were feeding hay due to the lack of forage in dried up pastures.

**Whatcom:** The area received some much needed rain. Temperatures were in the 60s to low 70s. Raspberry harvest was completed. Potato producers started to devine potatoes.

## Central

**Douglas:** Nearly all the winter wheat crop was harvested. Some producers had already got out their seeding equipment. Seeding for the area has historically started around the first of September, usually coinciding with fall rains.

**Franklin:** Temperatures were near normal the first half of the week and cooler than normal toward the end of the week. One thunderstorm came through during the beginning of the week and saturated some third cutting (still down) and baled alfalfa hay. Some potatoes and beans were harvested. Corn was coming along nicely. Buckwheat was being planted. Many of the potato field foliage were applied with broadleaf in preparation for upcoming digging operations.

**Grant:** Wheat harvest wound down. As expected, dry land wheat yields were poor. Irrigated yields were average. Sweet corn harvest was in full swing. Third cutting of alfalfa was underway. Potato harvest was expected to begin soon. Mint harvest was underway.

**Klickitat:** Weather was cooler than normal. A rain shower received last Tuesday shut down harvest for a few days. Harvest started again at the end of the week. Temperatures started to warm up again.

**Klickitat (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Cooler weather continued with variable temperatures. The mean daily was 50s-60s, lows ranged from 40s-60s and day time highs were 60s-80s. Average daily wind speed was less than 10 mph. Some slight precipitation was received early in the week, approximately 0.1 inch. The precipitation settled the dust but did not interfere with farm activities. Grain harvest continued. Summer fallow fields were under cultivation to prepare seedbeds for planting.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures were generally cooler than normal, varying from ten degrees below normal to three degrees above normal. There was .04 inch of precipitation received during the week. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Harvest was nearly completed and growers began winter wheat seeding. More winter wheat seeding was expected soon.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Grain harvest was slowed due to intermittent showers, cool temperatures and high humidity. Some areas were not able to harvest at all, while other areas could harvest only during the afternoon hours. Warmer, dry weather was needed to complete harvest.

**Ferry:** Cool weather and hard, but isolated rains helped keep rangeland green and slowed the drying of grasses.

**Lincoln:** Harvest was delayed by showers of rain.

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Scattered thunderstorms received during the week delayed harvest for some producers. Wheat yields on the whole continued to be lower than normal.

**Pend Oreille:** The temperature high was 89 degrees, the low was 40 degrees and precipitation received equaled 0.8 inch. Recent rain storms brought much needed rain and pastures showed new growth. Most dry farming hay was completed. Yield was one-third shorter than last year. Irrigated farms were on second cuttings. Livestock was fed hay to supplement pasture. It was early for feeding hay.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** Farmers were frustrated due to rain received during what should be harvest weather. Rain fell off and on the whole week and shut down a large percentage farmers from harvesting wheat. Some growers in the southern part of the county escaped the on and off rain showers and were able to cut pulse crops. There was a possibility of sprouted wheat due to the weather. The cooler weather did help some of the spring wheat and barley to complete the ripening process. Apricots and peaches were picked at Green Bluff. Cool temperatures and rain should help fall pastures.

**Stevens:** Showery and cool weather came to the area. Haying operations came to a standstill with a few producers caught with hay in the windrow during the rainy period. Grain producers were anxious to resume harvesting and sprout became an issue due to damp conditions.

**Walla Walla:** Rain showers slowed harvest, but most were back up and running. Overall reports continued to be favorable with respect to wheat yields.

**Whitman:** Harvest was interrupted with rain and cooler temperatures. The delay cost several days of cutting and most operations will not return to harvesting until the beginning of this week. Progress was slow. Yield reports were favorable, with several reports of above average yields.

## Weekly Weather Statistics August 10 - 16, 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    |        | DAYS |
|                                |                 |    |     |     | TOT                 | DFN | TOT      | DFN | INCHES           |       |      | INCHES            | DFN    | NORMAL |      |
| <b>WEST</b>                    |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                  |       |      |                   |        |        |      |
| Bellingham Intl                | 48              | 73 | 61  | -3  | 75                  | -16 | 9        | -19 | 1.07             | +0.78 | 3    | 30.08             | -5.44  | 85     | 135  |
| Hoquiam                        | 53              | 69 | 60  | -2  | 73                  | -10 | 6        | -10 | 0.01             | -0.27 | 1    | 53.64             | -13.64 | 80     | 147  |
| Kelso                          | 52              | 82 | 63  | -3  | 89                  | -16 | 21       | -19 | 0.29             | -0.02 | 2    | 34.93             | -10.94 | 76     | 124  |
| Olympia                        | 45              | 71 | 59  | -5  | 67                  | -31 | 11       | -20 | 0.82             | +0.54 | 3    | 42.62             | -7.43  | 85     | 148  |
| Seattle-Tacoma                 | 52              | 73 | 62  | -4  | 86                  | -26 | 16       | -26 | 0.76             | +0.53 | 4    | 32.39             | -4.28  | 88     | 141  |
| Shelton                        | 49              | 73 | 61  | -6  | 76                  | -35 | 14       | -28 | 0.97             | +0.73 | 4    | 57.56             | -6.87  | 89     | 147  |
| Tacoma WA AP                   | 46              | 73 | 61  | -5  | 78                  | -27 | 15       | -20 | 0.82             | +0.54 | 3    | 33.46             | -6.21  | 84     | 133  |
| Vancouver WA                   | 53              | 85 | 65  | +1  | 110                 | +5  | 40       | -2  | 0.67             | +0.41 | 2    | 28.07             | -12.69 | 69     | 136  |
| <b>CENTRAL</b>                 |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                  |       |      |                   |        |        |      |
| Ellensburg                     | 51              | 87 | 68  | -2  | 124                 | -5  | 54       | -7  | 0.00             | -0.07 | 0    | 6.78              | -1.95  | 78     | 71   |
| Omak AP                        | 45              | 87 | 66  | -2  | 113                 | -12 | 49       | -7  | 0.14             | -0.11 | 1    | 8.29              | -6.24  | 57     | 88   |
| Stampede Pass                  | 43              | 64 | 51  | -7  | 15                  | -34 | 0        | -14 | 0.81             | +0.40 | 5    | 74.87             | -5.37  | 93     | 166  |
| Wenatchee AP                   | 51              | 87 | 70  | -5  | 138                 | -28 | 68       | -27 | 0.08             | +0.01 | 2    | 4.16              | -3.90  | 52     | 60   |
| Yakima AP                      | 41              | 88 | 65  | -5  | 109                 | -29 | 40       | -30 | 0.04             | -0.03 | 1    | 6.57              | -1.18  | 85     | 64   |
| <b>NORTHEAST</b>               |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                  |       |      |                   |        |        |      |
| Colville                       | 44              | 85 | 65  | -3  | 104                 | -14 | 37       | -12 | 0.64             | +0.41 | 5    | 17.86             | -2.81  | 86     | 109  |
| Deer Park                      | 36              | 85 | 62  | -9  | 84                  | -50 | 25       | -40 | 0.49             | +0.33 | 4    | 18.28             | +0.16  | 101    | 116  |
| Republic                       | 45              | 85 | 65  | +2  | 108                 | +10 | 41       | +6  | 0.89             | +0.61 | 5    | 11.71             | -3.58  | 77     | 100  |
| Spokane AP                     | 47              | 84 | 64  | -6  | 98                  | -37 | 33       | -34 | 0.48             | +0.34 | 4    | 15.59             | -0.54  | 97     | 119  |
| <b>EAST CENTRAL</b>            |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                  |       |      |                   |        |        |      |
| Ephrata                        | 48              | 87 | 69  | -7  | 134                 | -40 | 64       | -40 | 0.00             | -0.04 | 0    | 3.37              | -3.73  | 47     | 57   |
| Moses Lake                     | 51              | 87 | 68  | -8  | 128                 | -46 | 58       | -46 | 0.00             | -0.04 | 0    | 4.88              | -2.22  | 69     | 63   |
| Quincy                         | 48              | 85 | 68  | -4  | 127                 | -20 | 57       | -20 | 0.10             | +0.03 | 1    | 8.69              | +1.05  | 114    | 65   |
| Ritzville                      | 43              | 85 | 64  | -6  | 100                 | -37 | 35       | -34 | 0.13             | +0.06 | 2    | 11.22             | +0.14  | 101    | 86   |
| <b>SOUTHEAST</b>               |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                  |       |      |                   |        |        |      |
| Hanford                        | 50              | 93 | 72  | -7  | 153                 | -43 | 83       | -44 | 0.00             | -0.07 | 0    | 4.97              | -1.36  | 79     | 55   |
| Pasco                          | 49              | 95 | 71  | -4  | 150                 | -22 | 80       | -22 | 0.02             | -0.05 | 1    | 6.76              | -0.52  | 93     | 72   |
| Pullman                        | 50              | 84 | 64  | -3  | 101                 | -15 | 32       | -17 | 0.47             | +0.26 | 3    | 22.99             | +2.29  | 111    | 119  |
| Walla Walla Rgn                | 55              | 90 | 71  | -5  | 151                 | -27 | 81       | -26 | 0.00             | -0.18 | 0    | 18.44             | -0.64  | 97     | 98   |
| Whitman Mission                | 46              | 92 | 69  | -2  | 135                 | -11 | 65       | -12 | 0.01             | -0.13 | 1    | 16.83             | +3.37  | 125    | 104  |
| <b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b> |                 |    |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                  |       |      |                   |        |        |      |
| Lewiston ID                    | 55              | 90 | 71  | -5  | 148                 | -24 | 78       | -23 | 0.08             | -0.07 | 2    | 10.84             | -1.15  | 90     | 87   |

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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