



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

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Winter Wheat Harvest Moved Along While Potato Harvest Picked up Speed

Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.9. Walla Walla County reported farmers were beginning to finish up winter wheat harvest and fall planting was getting started. For some counties, spring grains harvest will be delayed due to late planting and rain. In Grant County, sweet corn harvest continued, while dry bean harvest was getting underway. Both spearmint and peppermint harvest continued. Christmas tree growers continued top working Noble fir and shearing Douglas fir.

Fruits and Vegetables

In Douglas and Chelan Counties, some producers had chosen not to harvest their cherry crop. This was due to low prices and the fact that warehouses were not accepting fruit. In these counties, growers were mowing and chopping debris in an effort to control unwanted pests. Whatcom County reported blueberry harvest was winding down. In Snohomish County, early apple harvest was underway.

Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 15 percent very poor, 31 percent poor, 35 percent fair and 19 percent good. On the east side, Walla Walla and Garfield Counties reported range and pasture at upper elevations were still in good shape. However, Douglas County was recently approved for Emergency Conservation Program funding for supplemental livestock water, due to drought-like conditions. In Pacific County, shellfish growers planted additional clam seed and continued oyster and clam harvest operations.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.9
Last Week	5.3

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	11	61	28	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	19	35	42	4
Subsoil	16	57	27	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	20	39	41	0
Irrigation Water	1	3	95	1
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	4	7	89	0
Hay & Roughage	3	5	69	23

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	62	46	55	75
Winter Wheat Planted	1	NA	NA	1
Winter Wheat Harvested	88	71	83	87
Barley Harvested	65	39	51	73
Potatoes Harvested	38	35	49	45
Field Corn Silked	96	93	100	97
Field Corn Doughed	40	18	41	50
Field Corn Dented	15	11	12	30
Field Corn Mature	2	1	5	10
Field Corn Harvested for Silage	10	NA	20	17
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	10	7	13	19
Dry Peas Harvested	93	72	90	91
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	96	89	97	99
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	67	65	53	64

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	10	42	46	2
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	36	51	13
Barley Dryland	2	12	58	25	3
Barley Irrigated	0	2	41	28	29
Potatoes	0	1	57	32	10
Corn	0	2	40	57	1
Dry Edible Beans	0	4	55	39	2

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: Cannery pea harvest was complete. Most growers reported disappointing yields and quality, due in part to triple-digit temperatures last month. Sweet corn continued to look very good. Unseasonably warm temperatures the first part of the week provided ideal conditions for the harvest of cereal grains. Christmas tree growers began shearing Douglas fir. Home gardeners continued feasting on cucumbers and tomatoes.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Temperatures were fairly normal for the week. Conditions were still very dry, and pastures were in need of precipitation.

Jefferson: The weather was hot and dry during the week. Field test plots of 13 varieties of dryland wheat, including quinoa and amaranth, were harvested. The purpose of the test plots was to find out the feasibility of growing grains without water in the micro-climate. This has been a very successful year for early harvest of blueberries. The last of the strawberries were ready for harvest.

Mason: Gorgeous late summer weather was great for harvesting corn. Summer vegetables were coming in, and pumpkins looked great. It has been an excellent vegetable year.

Pacific: Warm, dry conditions continued to challenge producers, but allowed them to complete a variety of field activities. Raspberry growers initiated post harvest pruning operations, and cranberry growers continued irrigation, weed and insect control efforts. Pasture conditions continued to decline in quality due to low soil moisture.

Shellfish growers planted additional clam seeds, and continued oyster and clam harvest operations.

San Juan: Weather conditions were still very dry and cool.

Snohomish/North King: There was a cooling trend throughout the week. A few scattered showers brought a trace of precipitation. Irrigation continued where available. Most crops were doing well. Early apple harvest was underway, and blueberry harvest was nearly over. Summer squash and cucumbers were abundant. The spotted-winged drosophila, an invasive berry-infesting insect was reported in Snohomish County.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report): The weather cooled down, with an average temperature around 78 degrees. There was no measurable precipitation around the area. Several crops, that were not normally irrigated, were being irrigated.

Thurston: A one day thermal blast with temperatures reaching the mid-90s provided nearly ideal conditions for the harvest of cereal grains. Christmas tree growers continued topworking Noble fir and shearing Douglas fir. Turfgrass growers were busy mowing and irrigating fields. Livestock producers continued feeding hay since non-irrigated pastures were dried up.

Whatcom: Producers continued to irrigate as conditions remained dry. Sweet corn harvest began for fresh market sales. Blueberry harvest was winding down.

Central

Douglas/Chelan: Many producers chose not to harvest their cherry crop due to the market and the fact that warehouses were not accepting the fruit. Growers mowed their orchards in order to chop up the debris and to control unwanted pests. Other soft fruits were still being picked. Winter wheat harvest was nearly complete. Yields suffered due to dry conditions. The loss was approximately 30 percent in Douglas County. Pastures remained dry, and livestock water was limited. Douglas County was recently approved for Emergency Conservation Program funding for supplemental livestock water due to the drought.

Grant: Sweet corn harvest continued. Dry bean cutting began. Both spearmint and peppermint harvest continued. The third cutting of alfalfa was in progress, and potato harvest will begin this week. Dryland wheat harvest was mostly complete, with seeding of the 2010 crop beginning.

Klickitat: The weather was great for the Klickitat County Fair. Mid-week highs were in the 90s, cooling to the 70s and 80s by the end of the week. Overnight lows were in the 60s mid-week, dropping back to the 40s and 50s by the weekend. There was a hint of fall in the morning air. The end stage of grain and hay harvests were slowed by lack of precipitation. Areas that did not get early summer

rain were reporting problems with quality and quantity of grain harvests. Overall, cattle remained in excellent shape. It has been a good year for most ranchers, as just a few were supplementing grazing with hay. Moisture levels in summer fallow fields were adequate for normal seeding to begin. Early apple varieties such as Gravensteins and Bartlett pears were ripening in home orchards. Home canners were busy preserving soft fruits and pickling cucumbers, zucchinis, and dilly beans. Rosehips turned red in the wild patches. Tansy ragwort and yellow star thistle infestations were setting seed. The impact of deer populations browsing unprotected yards and gardens seems greater than recent years.

Klickitat (2nd Report): Temperatures were in the 100s last week, but cooled off to the 80s by the end of the week. Harvest was almost complete, and the third cutting of alfalfa began. Producers in the Goodnoe Hills and lower valley were beginning fall preparation.

Yakima: Average temperatures were generally warmer than normal, varying from one degree below normal to 12 degrees above normal, with no precipitation. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams: Harvest was complete throughout the county, and winter wheat seeding began. Seeding conditions were adequate, but better than last year.

Asotin: Dry weather during the week allowed harvest to progress. Winter wheat yields have been average to slightly above average in much of the higher elevations. The quality of grain was reported excellent in most locations.

Asotin/Garfield: Warm, dry weather allowed farmers to progress rapidly with harvest. Many producers completed harvest with good results. Harvest should be finished in another week.

Ferry: Cooler nights down to 38 degrees, helped slow drying. Small grain crops on dryland have not done well, with some reaching only 6-12 inches tall.

Garfield: The lower part of the county was planting spring crops. The upper elevations were very green. Farmers were worried that winter may arrive before the end of September.

Lincoln: Harvest was nearing completion. Soil preparation for fall winter wheat seeding began. Moisture was average.

Stevens: Dry weather should get the grain harvest in full swing this week and allow the second cutting to be finished.

Stevens (2nd Report): Warm weather allowed grain producers to resume harvest. Hay producers continued working on the second cutting.

Walla Walla: Cooler temperatures were welcomed. Harvest was winding down, and grain yields and test weights were very good. Seeding activities were beginning, and the third cutting of hay was in full swing. Mountain grass was holding up as a result of the recent rains.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Wheat harvest was finishing up with good yields begin reported. Warm days and cool nights helped pastures and rangeland.



Weekly Weather Statistics
August 17 - 23, 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	51	78	64	+3	102	+14	32	+9	0.00	-0.35	0	30.08	-5.79	84	135
Hoquiam	48	89	63	+2	95	+11	27	+6	0.00	-0.36	0	53.64	-14.00	79	147
Kelso	46	99	69	+5	133	+34	64	+29	0.00	-0.35	0	34.93	-11.29	76	124
Olympia	46	90	66	+4	115	+24	46	+18	0.02	-0.30	1	42.64	-7.73	85	149
Seattle-Tacoma	57	87	68	+4	129	+22	59	+17	0.00	-0.28	0	32.39	-4.56	88	141
Shelton	44	91	65	+0	110	+5	43	+1	0.01	-0.28	1	57.57	-7.15	89	148
Tacoma WA AP	47	89	66	+3	118	+16	48	+13	0.00	-0.33	0	33.46	-6.54	84	133
Vancouver WA	49	97	72	+8	154	+50	84	+48	0.00	-0.29	0	28.07	-12.98	68	136
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	52	105	74	+8	170	+49	100	+45	0.00	-0.08	0	6.78	-2.03	77	71
Omak AP	49	102	75	+9	177	+61	107	+56	0.00	-0.28	0	8.29	-6.52	56	88
Stampede Pass	42	86	63	+8	91	+42	40	+31	0.00	-0.48	0	74.87	-5.85	93	166
Wenatchee AP	59	101	78	+6	195	+38	125	+38	0.00	-0.11	0	4.16	-4.01	51	60
Yakima AP	47	101	73	+5	164	+34	94	+31	0.00	-0.08	0	6.57	-1.26	84	64
NORTHEAST															
Colville	46	101	73	+8	164	+54	94	+47	0.00	-0.28	0	17.86	-3.09	85	109
Deer Park	43	95	69	+2	132	+7	62	+3	0.12	-0.09	1	18.40	+0.07	100	117
Republic	50	96	73	+11	167	+76	97	+62	0.04	-0.25	1	11.75	-3.83	75	101
Spokane AP	51	95	72	+5	158	+32	88	+28	0.09	-0.07	1	15.68	-0.61	96	120
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	58	102	77	+4	188	+23	118	+23	0.00	-0.07	0	3.37	-3.80	47	57
Moses Lake	50	101	73	-1	165	+0	95	+0	0.00	-0.07	0	4.88	-2.29	68	63
Quincy	56	99	75	+5	176	+37	106	+34	0.00	-0.07	0	8.69	+0.98	113	65
Ritzville	48	101	71	+4	152	+23	82	+21	0.03	-0.09	1	11.25	+0.05	100	87
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	54	105	77	+1	193	+5	123	+5	0.04	-0.03	1	5.01	-1.39	78	56
Pasco	49	100	74	+1	169	+5	99	+5	0.00	-0.10	0	6.76	-0.62	92	72
Pullman	43	98	71	+5	146	+36	77	+28	0.00	-0.21	0	22.99	+2.08	110	119
Walla Walla Rgn	58	107	78	+4	196	+28	126	+28	0.00	-0.21	0	18.44	-0.85	96	98
Whitman Mission	46	104	73	+4	160	+23	90	+21	0.00	-0.14	0	16.83	+3.23	124	104
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	56	102	77	+4	189	+25	119	+25	0.00	-0.21	0	10.84	-1.36	89	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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