



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: August 31, 2009
Week Ending: August 30, 2009
CWP WA-CW3209

Winter Wheat Harvest Nears Completion

Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.8. Winter wheat harvest was moving rapidly across grain growing counties. Harvest in Walla Walla County was 95 percent complete, while Asotin County reported they were 90 percent done. Spokane County reported spring grain harvest was moving along quickly and most of their winter wheat was harvested. Several counties reported 2010 winter wheat seeding had begun. Adams County reported new winter wheat had emerged. In Stevens County second cutting of hay was nearly finished. Grays Harbor County reported Christmas tree growers were shearing Douglas fir and continued top-working Noble fir.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, hop vines were loaded with cones. Tomato, squash, cucumber, pepper and pumpkin harvest was noted throughout the valley. Peach harvest was going strong and Gala apple harvest had started in the lower valley. As the summer advanced, it became apparent that there were hundreds of acres of neglected and abandoned sweet cherry blocks in Yakima County. Some of these will be removed. Whatcom County reported later variety blueberry harvest had begun and lower honey yield was reported. It was thought this was due to excessive summer heat affecting raspberry bloom.

Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 5 percent very poor, 19 percent poor, 47 percent fair, 27 percent good and 2 percent excellent. On the east side of the State, Walla Walla County reported mountain grass pastures were still in good shape.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.8
Last Week	6.9

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2008	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	79	62	65	85
Winter Wheat Planted	5	1	2	4
Winter Wheat Harvested	94	88	87	93
Barley Harvested	82	65	60	84
Potatoes Harvested	49	38	52	48
Field Corn Silked	97	96	100	98
Field Corn Doughed	62	40	56	62
Field Corn Dented	30	15	14	40
Field Corn Mature	5	2	7	16
Field Corn Harvested for Silage	11	10	25	20
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	20	10	32	29
Dry Peas Harvested	94	93	91	95
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	97	96	98	99
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	70	67	64	76
Alfalfa Hay 4 th Cutting	3	0	6	0

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	30	44	26	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	21	34	41	3
Subsoil	20	50	30	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	19	39	42	0
Irrigation Water	1	12	87	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	5	7	88	0
Hay & Roughage	2	10	81	7

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Potatoes	0	0	77	18	5
Corn	0	0	55	43	2
Dry Edible Beans	0	5	35	59	1

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: In Clark County, east of I-5, conditions were dry and the recent rain was a real blessing. Peaches were doing well and pastures were dried out. Blueberry harvest was at its end and all other crops were in. In Clark County, west of I-5, and a portion of Cowlitz County, the carrot crop looked really good. Many producers were not picking blackberries due to prices. A Ridgefield area producer of Clark County reported the oat crop would not produce much as plants were only standing knee high. Ridgefield area corn was ready to be cut for silage and producers were still trying to recover from having the Pioneer Irrigation system down for two weeks. There was an overabundance of wild blackberries growing in the area. Western Skamania County had a good rain receiving one inch of precipitation that resulted in pastures staying green. Eastern Skamania pastures were drying as expected for this time of year. Cowlitz County, excluding Woodland Bottoms, conditions were hot and dry. Sweet corn came on early this year, about a month back. It looked sparse at first, but looks good now.

Grays Harbor: Warm, sunny days throughout the week provided perfect conditions for harvesting crops including blueberries, vegetables and potatoes. Tulip and daffodil growers began digging bulbs. Christmas tree growers were shearing Douglas fir and continued top-working Noble fir. Dairy producers were applying liquid manure to forage fields. Cut-flower peony growers began digging and dividing roots for fall sales. Cut-flower dahlia growers reported excellent sales at the Olympia Farmer's Market.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Pastures improved slightly from recent precipitation.

Jefferson: Most farmers reported one of the best seasons in decades. Strawberry harvest was abundant and all varieties of blueberries ripened within ten days. Dryland wheat had a good solid crop. Along with record high temperatures, conditions were the driest in 116 years. Recent cool morning weather started to show the first signs of fall.

Mason: The end of summer had come, and it was a wonderful Indian summer. All the warm weather crops looked good. Fall has begun.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions remained very 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.

San Juan: Conditions continued to be very dry, with warm days and cool nights.

Thurston: Agricultural producers took advantage of a week of nearly ideal weather to finish combining cereal grains. Christmas tree growers continued top-working Noble fir and shearing Douglas fir. Livestock producers took advantage of the warm, sunny days to cut hay. Organic vegetable growers were busy with harvest of warm season vegetable crops. Blueberry harvest had peaked with some fields completely machine harvested for this year.

Whatcom: Dry conditions remained. Harvest began on earlier planted corn grown for silage. The later varieties of blueberries were being harvested. A lower honey yield was reported due to excessive summer heat which affected the raspberry blooms. Raspberry growers reported a minimal loss to raspberries due to high temperatures received at the end of July and beginning of August.

Central

Douglas/Chelan: Dry conditions made seeding of the 2010 crop difficult. Dryland wheat farmers continued seeding even though moisture was limited. Soft fruit harvest continued. Pear harvest had begun and the crop looked good.

Klickitat: Weather was warm and dry. Third cutting went well with a few fields left to harvest. Farmers will likely start planting on the east end of the county this week.

Klickitat (2nd Report): Highs were mostly in the 70s and 80s with one day over 90. Lows were mostly in the 40s and 50s though some higher elevation locations had overnight lows into the upper 30s. Grain harvest was winding down. Hay fields were still being irrigated prior to the last hay cuttings. Some fallow fields were already being seeded. Grapes were coloring with warm days and cooler nights. Late varieties of peaches were being harvested. Fall calving continued.

Yakima: Average temperatures were generally warmer than normal, varying from three degrees below normal to seven degrees above normal, with a trace of precipitation. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Yakima (2nd Report): Throughout Yakima County there was no rainfall reported and daytime high temperatures fell between the mid 80s to lower 90s. Hop vines were loaded with cones. Tomato, squash, cucumber, pepper and pumpkin harvest continued throughout the Yakima Valley. Peach harvest was going strong and Gala apple harvest started in the lower Yakima Valley. As the summer advanced, it became apparent that there were hundreds of acres of neglected and abandoned sweet cherry blocks in Yakima County. Some of these will be removed.

Eastern

Adams: Wheat seeding throughout the area continued, with some early seedings beginning to emerge.

Asotin/Garfield: Dry conditions allowed many producers to finish grain harvest. Showers at week's end halted harvest for those who still had grain in the field.

Ferry: Hot, dry and windy weather quickly dried out rangeland. Grasshoppers were very prolific in many areas.

Garfield: Harvest was completed except for higher elevations in the Blue Mountains. Fertilizer application started.

Lincoln: Harvest was completed for some farmers. Producers were preparing ground or had begun fall seeding. Other parts of the County were still harvesting and will be for at least another week. Wheat yields were average or a little better for those still harvesting.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Seeding moisture for the winter wheat crop was average, but better than last year. The area needed cool weather to bring up the moisture on the dry hills.

Pend Orielle/Spokane: A little shower on Saturday slowed harvest, but by Sunday afternoon the combines were going again. Producers continued or completed harvest on all crops in the area. A good week of weather would allow a large majority of the producers to complete harvest.

Stevens: The area received a bit of rain over the weekend. Hay producers were nearly finished with second cutting. Grain harvest continued under favorable conditions.

Walla Walla: A couple of rain events were welcomed by some, but not by others. Harvest in this area was probably about 95 percent completed with many expecting to be finished within the next few days. Yields overall were quite good. Some have started to seed winter wheat and reported conditions were better than they have been in several years.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Harvest wrapped up with good yields and test weights. Some seeding had started in the dry areas. Third cutting wound down. Mountain grass was still holding on.

Weekly Weather Statistics
Weekly Weather Statistics
August 24 - 30, 2009

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
WEST															
Bellingham Intl	45	83	62	+2	88	+7	19	-1	0.00	-0.35	0	30.08	-6.14	83	135
Hoquiam	46	77	59	-3	67	-14	7	-14	0.56	+0.12	3	54.20	-13.88	80	150
Kelso	45	88	66	+3	109	+13	39	+4	0.00	-0.42	0	34.93	-11.71	75	124
Olympia	42	92	63	+1	91	+5	21	-3	0.38	+0.02	2	43.02	-7.71	85	151
Seattle-Tacoma	52	86	66	+2	112	+10	42	+6	0.40	+0.08	2	32.79	-4.48	88	143
Shelton	42	93	63	-2	93	-6	23	-14	0.44	+0.07	2	58.01	-7.08	89	150
Tacoma WA AP	43	90	63	+0	94	-2	24	-6	0.38	+0.03	2	33.84	-6.51	84	135
Vancouver WA	48	93	68	+5	127	+29	57	+24	0.07	-0.28	1	28.14	-13.26	68	137
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	45	95	69	+5	138	+29	68	+22	0.00	-0.14	0	6.78	-2.17	76	71
Omak AP	45	97	72	+8	156	+52	86	+42	0.02	-0.22	1	8.31	-6.74	55	89
Stampede Pass	43	82	60	+6	70	+28	19	+12	0.01	-0.56	1	74.88	-6.41	92	167
Wenatchee AP	54	94	73	+4	163	+19	93	+17	0.00	-0.14	0	4.16	-4.15	50	60
Yakima AP	42	93	68	+2	125	+5	55	+1	0.00	-0.14	0	6.57	-1.40	82	64
NORTHEAST															
Colville	44	102	71	+8	149	+51	79	+40	0.10	-0.18	1	17.96	-3.27	85	110
Deer Park	38	98	66	+0	113	+1	43	-7	0.03	-0.18	2	18.43	-0.11	99	119
Republic	46	93	70	+10	143	+63	73	+45	0.00	-0.28	0	11.75	-4.11	74	101
Spokane AP	50	96	70	+5	145	+31	75	+24	0.02	-0.19	1	15.70	-0.80	95	121
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	48	99	71	+0	152	+0	82	+0	0.00	-0.07	0	3.37	-3.87	47	57
Moses Lake	46	99	70	-3	141	-11	71	-11	0.00	-0.07	0	4.88	-2.36	67	63
Quincy	46	91	70	+2	140	+11	70	+9	0.00	-0.13	0	8.69	+0.85	111	65
Ritzville	47	95	68	+3	131	+15	61	+9	0.00	-0.14	0	11.25	-0.09	99	87
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	47	97	74	-2	170	-6	100	-5	0.00	-0.08	0	5.01	-1.47	77	56
Pasco	46	96	71	-2	146	-4	76	-5	0.00	-0.11	0	6.76	-0.73	90	72
Pullman	39	100	68	+5	125	+26	55	+13	0.04	-0.17	1	23.03	+1.91	109	120
Walla Walla Rgn	52	92	74	+3	171	+16	101	+15	0.00	-0.21	0	18.44	-1.06	95	98
Whitman Mission	42	91	68	+0	129	+4	59	+0	0.06	-0.10	1	16.89	+3.13	123	105
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	52	102	75	+5	179	+30	109	+28	0.26	+0.05	1	11.10	-1.31	89	88

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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