



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: September 8, 2009  
Week Ending: September 6, 2009  
CWP WA-CW3409

## Fall Seeding Picked Up Speed and Soil Conditions Looked Good While Apple Harvest Began Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.9. Grain harvest continued to wind down. In Whitman, Walla Walla and several other counties reported emphasis had moved from combining to planting the new winter wheat crop. There were no reports of farmers 'dusting in' new grain, while Walla Walla County and others reported good soil moisture conditions in summer fallow. Several counties reported the new winter wheat crop had already emerged, but some would need to be reseeded due to crusting. Some garbanzo and lentils remained to be cut in Whitman County. Stevens County finished the second cutting of hay.

### Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, hop harvest was in full swing. Harvest of late variety peaches and nectarines continued. Gala apple harvest continued in the lower Yakima Valley and began in the later maturing areas. Honeycrisp apple harvest had begun. Mowing and harvest bin deployment was ongoing throughout Red and Golden Delicious apple orchards in anticipation of harvest. Apple packers reported Gala apple size and quality was far superior to last year's harvest. In Ferry and Chelan Counties, pear and early season apple harvest picked up.

### Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 8 percent very poor, 37 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 18 percent good and 3 percent excellent. On the east side of the State, Asotin reported additional rain was needed for grazing land. In Stevens County, cows and calves were in good condition, benefiting from the rain showers in July and August. In Pacific County, cranberry growers continued irrigation of their bogs and made initial preparations for harvest. Yields looked good for the year. Shellfish growers finished oyster and clam seeding activities and continued harvest operations. Pasture conditions improved with the showers.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.9
Last Week	6.8

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	15	50	35	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	22	35	41	2
Subsoil	17	54	29	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	18	39	43	0
Irrigation Water	1	4	94	1
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	4	8	88	0
Hay & Roughage	3	8	73	16

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	96	79	81	94
Winter Wheat Planted	25	5	20	20
Winter Wheat Harvested	99	94	95	98
Barley Harvested	97	82	73	92
Potatoes Harvested	52	49	53	52
Field Corn Silked	100	97	100	99
Field Corn Doughed	74	62	60	72
Field Corn Dented	38	30	15	47
Field Corn Mature	10	5	8	23
Field Corn Harvested for Silage	16	11	19	20
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	40	20	36	40
Dry Peas Harvested	99	94	92	97
Alfalfa Hay 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cutting	100	97	100	100
Alfalfa Hay 3 <sup>rd</sup> Cutting	75	70	67	86
Alfalfa Hay 4 <sup>th</sup> Cutting	5	3	9	4

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Potatoes	0	2	57	30	11
Corn	0	2	35	60	3
Dry Edible Beans	0	5	42	53	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:** Summer came to a screeching halt over the weekend as a major storm moved through the area, delivering more than an inch of rainfall in some areas. Sweet corn growers took advantage of warm, sunny days early in the week to begin the process of topping fields in preparation for harvest. The top 20 inches of the corn plant is removed to prevent lodging of the plant prior to mechanical harvest. Christmas tree growers were busy top-working Noble fir and shearing Douglas fir. Dairy producers continued applying liquid manure to forage fields. Home gardeners were harvesting peaches and pears.

**Mason:** Dry pastures recovered thanks to the 1.2 inches of rain received during the week. Nursery stock planting will begin this week.

**Pacific:** Rain showers provided much needed soil moisture for agricultural producers. Cranberry growers continued irrigation of bogs and made initial preparations for harvest. Yields looked good. Shellfish growers finished oyster and clam seeding activities and continued harvest operations. Pasture conditions improved with the rain showers, and raspberry growers continued weed control and pruning operations.

**Pierce/South King:** Lots of rain and high winds were received in southeast King County and northeast Pierce County. A tornado was reported in the Enumclaw/Buckley area. There have been no reports of any crop damage so far, but corn may have been damaged.

**San Juan:** Cool and mostly dry conditions continued.

**Snohomish:** A much needed rain fell about mid-week with a heavy shower late Sunday. Sweet corn harvest continued. Home gardeners were busy harvesting summer vegetables and planting fall and winter gardens.

**Snohomish/North King:** The area finally got some much needed precipitation. About a half inch of rain fell across the area over the weekend. Temperatures hovered around 70 degrees for the week. The area is still behind in precipitation for the summer, and many crops were showing the effect of the lack of rain.

**Thurston:** Heavy rain showers at the end of the week brought a quick end to the extended dry spell. Some areas of the county reported nearly an inch of precipitation over the weekend. Pastures started to green up in some areas due to the cooler temperatures and August rain showers. Christmas tree growers reported wholesale buyers were surveying available tree inventories. Most blueberry growers have closed U-Pick sales for the season. Home gardeners reported good yields of Italian prunes and Frost peaches.

**Whatcom:** Two days of rain helped alleviate the dry conditions in the county. Devining of potatoes was completed with harvest beginning by the end of the week. Corn continued to be harvested. Later varieties of blueberries continued to be harvested for fresh and processed markets. A later variety of strawberries were harvested and sold for fresh market as well.

## Central

**Douglas:** A rain storm came through the county over the weekend as producers were finishing up seeding their winter wheat. A number of producers will have to reseed for fear of crusting issues.

**Douglas/Chelan:** Rain was received during the week. Cooler than normal temperatures (as low as 41 degrees) accompanied the recent storms. The northern portion of Douglas County received some hail. The winter wheat crop that was seeded two weeks ago and emerged will benefit from the recent moisture. Harvest continued for pears and just began for early variety apples.

**Klickitat:** Almost half an inch of rain was received in the Goldendale/Centerville area. Daytime highs went from 80 degrees early in the week to 60 degrees by the weekend. Overnight lows were in the 40s and 50s. Rain was welcomed as more fields were seeded for the fall. Winterizing tasks were already underway. Haying was

complete and farmers were picking up and storing pipes. Fruit harvest continued. Later season peach varieties were being harvested and late nectarines will be ready in two weeks. Grape harvest was also expected to begin in two weeks. Overall, the grape crops looked excellent, although lighter than last year's bumper crop. Fruit and grape-growing areas received a trace of precipitation over the weekend. There were reports of some damage to white flesh peach varieties, which are susceptible to skin staining.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures were generally cooler than normal, varying from eight degrees below normal to nine degrees above normal. There was 0.42 inch of precipitation during the week. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.



## Eastern

**Asotin/Garfield:** Harvest was complete for all producers except near the mountain areas. Farmers were now preparing to plant fall grain. Moisture was good in summer fallow in parts of both counties, while other areas needed more moisture for good germination of fall planted crops. Planting is scheduled to begin this coming week for many. Additional rain was needed for grazing land.

**Ferry:** Nights were cooling off, which relieved some of the fire danger.

**Ferry (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The county received approximately a quarter inch of rain accompanied by cooler than normal temperatures (low 40s) during the week. Winter wheat was planted and will benefit from the rains. Harvest continued for pears, and harvest for early variety apples began.

**Lincoln:** Winter wheat seeding was coming along nicely. Seeding moisture was average to good.

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Harvest was complete for most producers, although spotty rains have delayed harvest for some. These same rains provided good seeding conditions for those in the process of planting winter wheat, and should help with getting the crop up and growing.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** A fairly good week allowed most farmers to finish up with harvest. A few were still cleaning up draws that were left and finishing up with odds and ends. A little rain over the weekend put a stop to harvest. Fall work was beginning.

**Stevens:** Widely scattered thundershowers delivered a meaningful amount of rain to some parts of the county. Other areas remained extremely dry.

**Stevens (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The week began with warm, dry weather and ended with rain on Friday and Saturday nights. Grain producers were wrapping up harvest. Hay producers were finished with the second cutting. A few producers with irrigated crops were already into their third cutting. Cow and calves were in good condition.

**Walla Walla:** Fall seeding began for some producers. Conditions have been good so far. Most farmers in the area were pleased with yields overall this year. Some moisture would be welcome.

**Walla Walla (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Cooler weather was welcomed. Soil moisture looked good. Some fall seeding and a lot of seedbed preparation was going on. Lots of hay was available.

**Whitman:** Harvest was wrapping up. Garbanzo beans were pretty much all that is left, as most of the other pulse crops have been harvested. Some lentils remained to be cut in the northeast part of the county. In the western areas of the county, winter wheat seeding began.

**Weekly Weather Statistics**  
**August 31 - September 6, 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
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham Intl	52	77	62	+2	84	+12	15	+1	0.20	-0.16	3	30.28	-6.30	83	138
Hoquiam	49	74	60	-2	72	-6	6	-15	0.66	+0.11	3	54.86	-13.77	80	153
Kelso	48	82	64	+2	99	+9	29	+1	0.62	+0.15	4	35.55	-11.56	75	128
Olympia	45	80	61	+1	82	+7	15	-2	1.14	+0.72	4	44.16	-6.99	86	155
Seattle-Tacoma	54	76	62	-2	88	-6	20	-9	1.32	+0.96	3	34.11	-3.52	91	146
Shelton	47	80	62	-2	84	-7	17	-12	0.99	+0.53	3	59.00	-6.55	90	153
Tacoma WA AP	50	78	62	-2	83	-4	17	-6	1.68	+1.28	5	35.52	-5.23	87	140
Vancouver WA	54	86	68	+6	127	+38	57	+30	1.00	+0.59	3	29.14	-12.67	70	140
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	45	94	67	+5	122	+29	57	+22	0.52	+0.40	3	7.30	-1.77	80	74
Omak AP	47	95	70	+8	141	+52	71	+39	0.34	+0.13	2	8.65	-6.61	57	91
Stampede Pass	42	78	56	+4	46	+13	6	-1	1.28	+0.63	4	76.16	-5.78	93	171
Wenatchee AP	49	94	70	+3	144	+16	75	+14	0.46	+0.32	3	4.62	-3.83	55	63
Yakima AP	48	91	66	+2	115	+10	50	+6	0.42	+0.28	3	6.99	-1.12	86	67
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	44	97	71	+10	146	+64	76	+46	0.19	-0.09	1	18.15	-3.36	84	111
Deer Park	36	92	65	+3	110	+14	44	+6	0.15	-0.06	1	18.58	-0.17	99	120
Republic	46	92	70	+11	139	+72	69	+49	0.37	+0.11	4	12.12	-4.00	75	105
Spokane AP	50	93	69	+7	137	+39	67	+28	0.09	-0.12	1	15.79	-0.92	94	122
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	51	93	71	+2	147	+11	77	+9	0.14	+0.07	2	3.51	-3.80	48	59
Moses Lake	48	91	69	-1	134	-2	64	-4	0.13	+0.06	1	5.01	-2.30	69	64
Quincy	46	90	69	+4	137	+23	69	+19	0.44	+0.31	3	9.13	+1.16	115	68
Ritzville	46	92	69	+6	135	+33	65	+24	0.10	+0.00	1	11.35	-0.09	99	88
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	50	96	72	-1	156	-5	86	-4	0.01	-0.12	1	5.02	-1.59	76	57
Pasco	48	96	71	+3	149	+16	79	+13	0.14	+0.01	1	6.90	-0.72	91	73
Pullman	39	92	67	+6	124	+38	56	+24	0.12	-0.09	2	23.15	+1.82	109	122
Walla Walla Rgn	54	95	74	+5	170	+32	100	+30	0.00	-0.21	0	18.44	-1.27	94	98
Whitman_Mission	43	94	69	+4	135	+25	65	+19	0.00	-0.14	0	16.89	+2.99	122	105
<b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b>															
Lewiston ID	49	97	74	+6	171	+38	101	+33	0.01	-0.20	1	11.11	-1.51	88	89

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Tuesday September 1, 2009

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:

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