



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS  
Washington Field Office  
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507  
(360) 902-1940 Fax (360) 902-2091

# Washington Crop Weather

Released: September 14, 2009  
Week Ending: September 13, 2009  
CWP WA-CW3409

## The 2010 Winter Wheat Crop Began to Emerge; Some Areas Reseeded

### Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.5. Grain harvest in eastern Washington was essentially over. A few isolated areas remained, but emphasis had shifted to seeding the 2010 winter wheat crop and significant progress had been made. Recent rains had created crusting conditions in areas and some acreage would need to be reseeded. Garbanzo bean harvest was ongoing in Whitman County with reported yields above average while still-green plants were expected to draw out the harvest. In Grant County, potato harvest continued while the sweet corn harvest was nearly done. Franklin County noted many crops were still growing, including buckwheat, apples, potatoes, corn and hay, although the fourth crop was being laid down. Christmas tree growers reported enhanced tree color as a result of last week's heavy rain showers which helped to replenish soil moisture.

### Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, the harvest of peppers, tomatoes, winter squash and hops continued. Nectarine and peach harvest was winding down. Packers and marketers commented about the crop size, quality and the overall movement was good for peaches, nectarines and apricots this season. Apple harvest, primarily of Gala and Honeycrisp varieties, continued. Franklin County also noted the late harvest of peaches and nectarines was about finished. Pumpkins were being shipped

### Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 10 percent very poor, 34 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 19 percent good and 3 percent excellent. On the east side of the State, cattle in Stevens County began moving to the market while in Pend Oreille County grazing land was drying out and some supplemental feeding was occurring. In Pacific County, cranberry and shellfish growers prepared for fall harvest with high expectations.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.5
Last Week	5.9

### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2008	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	99	96	94	98
Winter Wheat Planted	39	25	33	35
Winter Wheat Emerged	10	NA	1	6
Winter Wheat Harvested	100	99	99	100
Barley Harvested	99	97	92	98
Potatoes Harvested	56	52	54	57
Field Corn Doughed	90	74	70	85
Field Corn Dented	63	38	38	60
Field Corn Mature	20	10	9	32
Field Corn Harvested for Grain	1	NA	NA	1
Field Corn Harvested for Silage	20	16	20	23
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	50	40	44	50
Dry Peas Harvested	100	99	97	99
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	88	75	80	92
Alfalfa Hay 4th Cutting	15	5	23	10

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	10	50	40	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	20	36	43	1
Subsoil	13	55	32	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	18	39	43	0
Irrigation Water	1	5	94	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	3	8	89	0
Hay & Roughage	2	14	70	14

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

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	3	15	79	3
Dry Edible Beans	0	5	33	62	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.

Washington State University  
Cooperative Extension Service  
Linda Fox  
Dean/Director, WSU Extension

USDA  
Farm Service Agency  
Judith Olson  
State Executive Director

USDA/NASS--Washington Field Office  
David Knopf - Director  
Alan Funk- Ag Statistician

# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Clark:** The area had another dry, beautiful weekend.

**Grays Harbor:** Christmas tree growers reported enhanced tree color as a result of last week's heavy rain showers which helped to replenish soil moisture. Spring flowering bulb growers took advantage of sunny, warm days at the later part of the week to plant daffodils and tulips. Dairy producers continued pumping manure solids from lagoons onto forage fields. The combination of heavy rain from a week ago and warm temperatures this week resulted in rapid forage growth in pastures and hay fields. Sweet corn growers were pleased with temperatures reaching the mid 80s which helped kernel development. Home gardeners continued harvesting warm season vegetable crops.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** The area received heavy rains on Friday, September 4, that spurred pasture growth.

**Jefferson:** Dry conditions continued with no significant rain received. Local corn was raised this year and there was a bumper tomato crop. Blueberries will finish this week; it was a long season.

**Mason:** Producers were harvesting corn. Squash and pumpkin harvest will begin soon. Some apples trees had been harvested, which seemed to come early this year. The local farmers market slowed considerably.

**Pacific:** Varied late summer weather provided a preview of coming fall conditions. Shellfish growers prepared for their major fall harvest and continued seeding operations and bed management work. Christmas tree growers completed weed and insect control. Raspberry growers continued post-harvest pruning activities. Cranberry growers prepared for fall harvest with good production expectations. Pasture conditions were still marginal with dry soil conditions.

**Pierce/South King:** Crop conditions improved since last week. No unusual situations were reported. There were no reports of any crop damage due to an adverse weather event.

**Snohomish/North King:** Much needed rain fell over the Labor Day weekend. Some areas received up to 2 inches of precipitation. Cool weather followed. Summer returned by the end of the week with temperatures in the 80s. Some farmers were getting another cutting of grass. Corn silage harvest was underway and pumpkins were harvested for shipping. Early apple harvest continued and later varieties were ripening well.

**Snohomish/North King (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Weather for the area was mild and started to feel like fall. The temperatures topped out in the low 70s, with a couple days reaching the low 80s. The night temperatures were dipping into the low 50s and upper 40s. There was little to no precipitation in the area but the peninsula did receive rain early in the week. Hay harvest was completed for most of the area. Work began on fall planted crops.

**Thurston:** Unseasonably warm temperatures reaching the high 80s were reported throughout the rural landscape during the latter part of the week. Pastures continued to turn green as a result of last week's deluge of rain. U-Pick pumpkin farm owners were pleased to have the additional heat units to help expedite the ripening process. Commercial blueberry growers finished up this year's harvest with machine harvest.

**Whatcom:** Corn and potato harvests were in full swing. Raspberry growers were busy tying and pruning vines.

## Central

**Douglas:** Several producers in the Waterville area reseeded their winter wheat.

**Franklin:** Sunday temperatures were normal and above normal throughout the remainder of the week. Breezes came in the mornings and quit by mid-day. No precipitation was received. All crops were still growing (buckwheat, apples, potatoes, corn and hay) and progressed nicely with good growing degree days. Remaining acreages of late peaches and nectarines finished up their harvest. Apple harvest continued. Fourth cutting hay began going down at the south end of the county. Potato harvest continued (mostly open market) largely at the south end of the county.

**Grant:** Potato harvest continued. Sweet corn harvest was winding down. Bean cutting was underway. Dryland wheat planting was completed. Some areas needed to reseed due to recent rains.

**Klickitat:** Weather was warm and dry. Farmers were busy getting fields ready for fall planting. The area was short on moisture but the planted wheat was emerging. Third cutting was in full swing. Dryland pasture was getting low.

**Klickitat (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** A trace of rain was received on Monday, and then it was dry the remainder of the week. Highs were 60s-70s early in the week rising to 80s-90s by the weekend. Lows were 40s-50s most of the week but dipped to mid-30s on Tuesday morning giving home gardeners a

scare. Average wind speed was in single digits all week primarily east-northeasterly returning to the usual southwesterly flow on Sunday. Some late hay that was swathed before last week's rain was turned and baled. Cattle were moved to stubble fields as summer pastures gave out. Winter dryland seeding continued. The burn ban was still in effect. Peach and nectarine harvest continued. Vineyards were gearing up for grape harvest. Home gardeners were cleaning up spent row crops and seeding cover crops. Winter squash and pumpkins were sizing up nicely and beginning to color.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures were generally warmer than normal, varying from 8 degrees below normal to 11 degrees above normal, with no precipitation. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The area experienced a gradual warming trend throughout the week that rose from lower 70s and approached lower 90s over the weekend. Trace precipitation was received in a few areas and nighttime temperatures dropped to lower 40s on September 7 and 8. Harvest of peppers, tomatoes, winter squashes and hops continued. Nectarine and peach harvest was winding down. Packers and marketers commented that the crop size, quality and movement were good for peaches, nectarines and apricots this season. Apple harvest, primarily of Gala and Honeycrisp varieties, continued.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Winter wheat seeding was nearly completed and was emerging fine throughout most of the county.

**Asotin:** Above average temperatures and dry weather were the norm. Harvest was completed in almost all locations of the county. Timely rains were needed as farmers began to prepare for fall seeding of wheat.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Above normal temperatures and no rain resulted in poor seeding conditions in many areas of the two counties. Rain was needed for proper germination of fall planted wheat.

**Garfield:** Producers were cleaning up crop aftermath and preparing to seed new crops.

**Lincoln:** Winter wheat just emerged after dry seeding conditions. There was some curling of the wheat after showers received a week ago.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** There was frost and fog on Wednesday. Temperatures climbed into the mid 80s and the area had some very nice weather for mid September. Harvest was completed for the most part with some farming operations struggling to get done. Some fieldwork with a little bit of seeding began to take place. As usual, conditions were dry and the area was in need of moisture. Grazing land was drying out and there was some supplemental feeding. Apple harvest began for early varieties and the peach crop harvest was winding down.

**Stevens:** The area experienced low temperatures in the 30s on a few mornings. Afternoon temperatures reached 90 towards the end of the week. A few irrigated hay producers worked on third cutting. Only a few grain producers were still harvesting. Calves began moving to market.

**Walla Walla:** Nearly everyone was finished with the harvest. Several producers in the northern portion of the county were seeding (deep furrow). Others were hoping to receive some precipitation prior to seeding.

**Walla Walla (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Temperatures stayed too hot. The cooler nights were welcome. Rain would be welcomed for seeding. Sub-moisture looked good. Fall seeding progressed. Mountain grasses were holding on.

**Whitman:** Most producers had completed the grain harvest. Operations in central and southeast portions of the county continued to harvest garbanzo beans. Yields were slightly above average but even after being sprayed with herbicide over two weeks many remained green. Pea and lentil ground was fertilized in preparation for seeding winter wheat over the next month. Winter wheat seeding in the west end of the county continued.

# Weekly Weather Statistics

September 7 - 13, 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	47	82	62	+3	83	+20	16	+7	0.79	+0.37	4	31.07	-5.93	84	142
Hoquiam	49	84	62	+2	83	+6	16	+0	0.08	-0.59	1	54.94	-14.36	79	154
Kelso	45	91	65	+4	104	+22	35	+12	0.01	-0.51	1	35.56	-12.07	75	129
Olympia	42	86	63	+4	90	+24	25	+14	0.87	+0.38	2	45.03	-6.61	87	157
Seattle-Tacoma	51	87	65	+4	108	+24	38	+17	0.06	-0.36	2	34.17	-3.88	90	148
Shelton	44	91	63	+2	89	+8	24	+2	0.33	-0.22	2	59.33	-6.77	90	155
Tacoma WA AP	46	85	64	+4	98	+22	31	+15	0.76	+0.34	2	36.28	-4.89	88	142
Vancouver WA	48	96	69	+8	133	+52	63	+42	0.01	-0.43	1	29.15	-13.10	69	141
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	40	96	66	+6	115	+38	49	+25	0.00	-0.14	0	7.30	-1.91	79	74
Omak AP	36	94	66	+7	115	+41	52	+28	0.01	-0.20	1	8.66	-6.81	56	92
Stampede Pass	40	78	59	+9	68	+43	21	+18	0.77	+0.04	1	76.93	-5.74	93	172
Wenatchee AP	46	94	68	+3	125	+14	59	+13	0.00	-0.11	0	4.62	-3.94	54	63
Yakima AP	38	93	64	+2	97	+7	36	+4	0.00	-0.11	0	6.99	-1.23	85	67
NORTHEAST															
Colville	41	88	61	+3	80	+13	19	+0	0.04	-0.24	1	18.19	-3.60	83	112
Deer Park	29	90	60	-1	74	-5	27	-1	0.03	-0.18	1	18.61	-0.35	98	121
Republic	37	91	64	+8	98	+45	38	+25	0.13	-0.08	1	12.25	-4.08	75	106
Spokane AP	40	89	64	+4	102	+23	42	+14	0.01	-0.20	1	15.80	-1.12	93	123
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	40	94	68	+2	128	+9	64	+12	0.00	-0.07	0	3.51	-3.87	48	59
Moses Lake	40	95	66	-2	111	-8	45	-7	0.00	-0.07	0	5.01	-2.37	68	64
Quincy	43	92	66	+2	111	+11	47	+9	0.08	-0.06	1	9.21	+1.10	114	69
Ritzville	40	93	62	+0	87	+1	32	+2	0.02	-0.12	1	11.37	-0.21	98	89
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	43	93	70	-1	139	-4	69	-3	0.00	-0.07	0	5.02	-1.66	75	57
Pasco	41	93	65	-2	109	-7	40	-11	0.01	-0.06	1	6.91	-0.78	90	74
Pullman	37	91	62	+3	87	+15	27	+4	0.00	-0.21	0	23.15	+1.61	107	122
Walla Walla Rgn	48	92	70	+4	141	+21	71	+17	0.00	-0.21	0	18.44	-1.48	93	98
Whitman Mission	38	90	63	+0	93	+0	27	-8	0.00	-0.14	0	16.89	+2.85	120	105
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	47	93	68	+2	126	+11	57	+5	0.09	-0.12	1	11.20	-1.63	87	90

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.

Copyright 2006: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1393>

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service website: [http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics by State/Washington](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington)

E-mail: [nass-wa@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-wa@nass.usda.gov)

Free e-mail subscriptions are available via automated mailing list for National and State reports. You can subscribe to individual reports and they will be sent directly to your e-mail address soon after the official release time. Subscribe at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/sub-form.htm>