



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

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Week Ending: September 20, 2009
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Winter Wheat Seeding Continued Along With the Apple Harvest Grape Picking Has Begun

Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.7. Grain growing counties reported winter wheat seeding was speeding along. Growers appear to be expecting an early winter. A week of warm, dry weather left some farmers concerned about soil moisture and a few were holding back, waiting for fall rains before they seeded. Emergence continued to be a problem in some areas where rains had fallen, and these fields were being reseeded due to the soil crusting and the new seedlings not being able to push through. In Whitman and Grant Counties, garbanzo bean harvest was about done. Other eastern counties reported potato harvest, the last cutting of alfalfa, mint and grape harvest were well underway.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, vegetable, hop, and winter pear harvest continued. Apple growers brought in the remaining Gala and Honeycrisp apple crop and started harvesting early strains of Fuji apples. The apple harvest was looking very good. In Pacific County, cranberry growers prepared for the upcoming harvest by repairing equipment and doing general bog maintenance.

Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 9 percent very poor, 35 percent poor, 36 percent fair, 17 percent good and 3 percent excellent. On the eastern side, cattle were expected to be out on pasture for another month, but conditions were deteriorating in several counties. Stevens County reported their first light frost for the season and early weaning of calves due to pasture conditions and more reasonable hay prices. In Pacific County, shellfish growers completed seeding and transplanting operations.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.7
Last Week	6.5

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2008	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	100	99	99	100
Winter Wheat Planted	60	39	43	49
Winter Wheat Emerged	20	10	4	15
Barley Harvested	100	99	98	100
Potatoes Harvested	57	56	55	61
Field Corn Doughed	95	90	75	91
Field Corn Dented	65	63	43	71
Field Corn Mature	30	20	10	42
Field Corn Harvested for Grain	2	1	NA	5
Field Corn Harvested for Silage	30	20	21	33
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	75	50	66	65
Alfalfa Hay 3 rd Cutting	93	88	91	96
Alfalfa Hay 4 th Cutting	35	15	35	35

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	18	39	43	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	18	33	46	3
Subsoil	18	58	24	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	18	39	43	0
Irrigation Water	1	2	97	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	3	7	90	0
Hay & Roughage	3	8	83	6

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

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	2	20	75	3

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: Sweet corn harvest began at the end of the week. Growers were anticipating above average yields due to the increased heat units this summer. Christmas tree growers were tagging trees for sale. Cut flower peony growers were busy digging plants and dividing roots. Daffodil growers were planting fields for next spring's blooms. Dairy producers continued pumping lagoons onto forage fields. Commercial dahlia growers reported good demand for cut flowers at the Olympia Farmer's Market.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Pastures were responding well to recent rains, and warm daytime conditions continued.

Mason: About 0.2 inch of rain was received during the week. The dew was enough to keep things watered. Corn harvest was complete. This was the best year ever for the corn crop. Producers were harvesting squash and pumpkins.

Pacific: The last week of summer was a busy time for producers. Shellfish growers completed seeding and transplanting operations and prepared for the fall holiday harvest season. Cranberry growers continued their preparations for the upcoming harvest, including equipment and bog maintenance and repair. Pasture conditions improved with increased soil moisture.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions were good for the South Puget Sound area. No unusual situations

were reported, and there were no reports of crop damage due to a weather event.

San Juan: The weather was cool, and some new precipitation will help forage re-growth.

Skagit: Overall, it was a good summer for area producers. Potatoes were being harvested and harvest will continue into December. Cucumber and green pea harvest was finishing up. Corn was being harvested and beet seed harvest will commence in October. The spinach seed crop yield was a little bit above average this year. The 2010 cabbage seed, bulb crop, and wheat crop were being planted. Berries were ripe for the picking and sweeter than normal due to the sunny weather.

Thurston: Ag producers took advantage of another week with only isolated rain showers to do fall chores. Christmas tree growers continued shearing and top working Noble fir. Commercial blueberry growers were mowing cover crops in established fields. Organic vegetable growers were harvesting sweet corn, potatoes, tomatoes, and other warm season crops for sale at Farmer's Markets and to fulfill CSA shares. Turfgrass growers were busy mowing and fertilizing established fields.

Whatcom: Honeycrisp apple harvest was in full swing as apples were ripening quickly due to the continued summer conditions. The quality and quantity of the crop was good to excellent. Corn and potato harvest continued.

Central

Douglas/Chelan: Total precipitation for the 2009 crop year was 7.64 inches, which was well below average. Approximately one third of the land planted to winter wheat required reseeding due to recent rains. Most of the crop had not yet emerged. This second planting is late and may cause problems down the road. Dry conditions caused fall pastures to be unusable for many producers. Livestock water supplies continued to be a problem. Pear and apple harvest continued. The pear crop looked good, but sunburn damage was reported in Golden Delicious apples.

Franklin: The weather was slightly cooler than the previous week. Just a trace of precipitation was received over the weekend, followed by a pretty good wind. Apple harvest continued, and more acreage in the fourth cutting of alfalfa went down.

Grant: Apple harvest continued, and potato harvest was in full swing. The last cutting of alfalfa was being finished up. Bean cutting continued, and dryland wheat producers had to reseed due to untimely rains. Mint harvest was underway, and the grape harvest continued.

Klickitat: High temperatures during the week were in the 70s and 80s and cooling into the 60s on Sunday. Low temperatures were generally in the 40s and 50s, but dipped down to the high 30s on Sunday. In the Central Valley area, average wind speed was in the single digits on five days and between 10-15 mph for the other two days. There was more cattle movement between fields as stubble fields were eaten down. Some haying continued. Large acreages of winter wheat were greening up the landscape as emergence proceeded. In vineyards, the first grapes

were picked. Tonnage was good. Late nectarines will finish up next week, and late peach harvest continued. Variable weather all summer has caused erratic growth resulting in split pit which drops the fruit quality a grade. It has been one of the worst years for split pits in soft fruit. Home gardeners were very busy harvesting and putting up beans and tomatoes. Carrots, beets, turnips and other root crops were also of good size to dig.

Klickitat (2nd Report): The weather was warm during the day and cooled off during the night. Windstorms were received during the week. Fall work was in full swing, and the third cutting of hay continued. Moisture levels were low throughout the county, but crops were still emerging.

Yakima: The county experienced a gradual cooling in temperatures as the week progressed. Daytime highs were in the mid-80s to the mid-70s. Nighttime temperatures dropped from the lower 60s to the mid-40s, with some areas reaching the mid-30s. Scattered showers dropped a trace of precipitation in some areas of the county. Vegetable and hop harvest continued. Winter pears were being harvested. Growers brought in the remaining Gala and Honeycrisp apple crop, and began harvesting early strains of Fuji apples.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures were generally warmer than normal, varying from one degree below normal to nine degrees above normal. There was .01 inch of precipitation during the week. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: Another week of dry weather with temperatures well above normal had farmers concerned about moisture for planting winter wheat. Some have begun to plant, while others were waiting for rain. Rangeland was also in need of rain to improve fall grazing conditions.

Garfield: Growers are expecting an early harsh winter, so seeding was almost done. Cattle were still in the mountains for another month at least. Harvest was fair to good.

Lincoln: Winter wheat seeding continued in some areas due to the timely rains, which helped with good emergence.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Rain caused some problems with the emerging winter wheat crop. Some reseeded has been done.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The week started with a frost warning on Monday morning. Temperatures were down to 25-30 degrees in parts of the county, with frost visible in the draws. Conditions were dry in most of the county, and most producers waited for

rain to seed crops. Wheat was being seeded. Trees were turning color due to the dry conditions. Pasture grass was short due to the lack of moisture, and some supplemental feeding was taking place.

Stevens: There were some reports of early weaning of calves due to very poor pasture conditions. Some producers pulled their cattle off ranges and put them on hay ground re-growth. Soil was too dry to sprout winter wheat, so producers were in no hurry to plant. The first widespread light frost was received last night.

Stevens (2nd Report): Mornings were cool and afternoons were warm. About 0.2 inch of rain was received mid-week. Calves continued to move to market, and grain producers began seeding winter wheat.

Whitman: Winter wheat seeding progressed eastward. Garbanzo bean harvest was finishing up, and soil moisture conditions were still good.

Weekly Weather Statistics
September 14 - 20, 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	48	77	61	+5	81	+29	15	+8	0.71	+0.25	3	1.70	+0.51	143	10	
Hoquiam	45	78	62	+3	88	+17	21	+7	0.69	-0.10	3	1.43	-0.51	74	7	
Kelso	43	84	63	+3	92	+19	26	+9	0.45	-0.11	2	1.08	-0.41	72	7	
Olympia	41	81	62	+5	86	+33	21	+14	0.36	-0.18	3	2.37	+0.98	171	9	
Seattle-Tacoma	50	80	64	+5	101	+28	32	+17	0.30	-0.15	2	1.68	+0.50	142	7	
Shelton	41	83	62	+3	87	+18	22	+7	0.33	-0.32	2	1.65	+0.05	103	7	
Tacoma WA AP	44	81	62	+4	88	+22	22	+11	0.33	-0.13	2	2.77	+1.54	225	9	
Vancouver WA	46	85	66	+7	115	+46	45	+30	0.27	-0.22	3	1.28	-0.01	99	7	
CENTRAL																
Ellensburg	43	86	66	+9	113	+52	43	+27	0.00	-0.14	0	0.52	+0.14	137	3	
Omak AP	41	90	66	+9	112	+54	44	+29	0.04	-0.16	2	0.39	-0.20	66	5	
Stampede Pass	41	70	55	+7	35	+17	1	+1	0.59	-0.22	3	2.64	+0.54	126	8	
Wenatchee AP	52	87	70	+8	140	+48	70	+38	0.02	-0.05	1	0.48	+0.18	160	4	
Yakima AP	41	88	65	+5	104	+29	37	+14	0.01	-0.06	1	0.43	+0.13	143	4	
NORTHEAST																
Colville	43	93	66	+11	113	+62	45	+33	0.24	-0.04	1	0.47	-0.33	59	3	
Deer Park	37	91	62	+4	84	+21	23	+5	0.22	+0.01	1	0.40	-0.20	67	3	
Republic	42	88	66	+13	114	+75	47	+40	0.11	-0.10	1	0.61	-0.03	95	6	
Spokane AP	43	91	65	+8	107	+44	41	+22	0.39	+0.25	2	0.49	-0.04	92	4	
EAST CENTRAL																
Ephrata	48	88	69	+5	131	+32	61	+23	0.00	-0.13	0	0.14	-0.12	54	2	
Moses Lake	44	88	67	+3	118	+19	48	+10	0.00	-0.13	0	0.13	-0.13	50	1	
Quincy	48	88	69	+8	133	+51	63	+36	0.09	+0.01	1	0.61	+0.28	185	5	
Ritzville	40	90	66	+8	116	+46	49	+29	0.04	-0.10	1	0.16	-0.20	44	3	
SOUTHEAST																
Hanford	43	93	70	+4	144	+22	74	+18	0.00	-0.07	0	0.01	-0.24	4	1	
Pasco	38	91	68	+5	129	+31	63	+25	0.00	-0.07	0	0.15	-0.11	58	2	
Pullman	41	91	64	+7	98	+39	32	+16	0.00	-0.21	0	0.11	-0.49	18	1	
Walla Walla Rgn	51	88	70	+6	140	+38	70	+29	0.00	-0.21	0	0.00	-0.60	0	0	
Whitman Mission	37	92	66	+6	110	+33	41	+16	0.00	-0.14	0	0.00	-0.40	0	0	
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE																
Lewiston ID	53	96	73	+10	163	+66	93	+54	0.00	-0.15	0	0.09	-0.45	17	1	

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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