



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

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Lack of Rain Concerned Wheat Farmers While Apple and Pear Harvest Looked Very Good Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.9. Winter wheat seeding continued in Whitman County. Operations were fertilizing and pushing hard to wrap up planting. In general, temperatures in grain growing counties were quite warm and farmers were hoping for more rain for germination. Some operations were holding off seeding until more rain arrives. Those same warm temperatures pushed the final cuttings of alfalfa hay along and hay appeared to be in abundance. Garbanzo bean harvest was essentially over. Christmas tree growers continued shearing and top working Noble fir.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, no frosts or precipitation were noted. Apple harvest continued throughout the county with Jonagolds and Honeycrisp still coming in as Golden and Red Delicious apple harvest started up. Tomatoes, peppers and winter squashes were being harvested with some vegetable fields already being tilled under. There were reports of hops being left in the fields as supply of certain varieties exceeded demand. In Pacific County, cranberry growers initiated early harvest of fresh berries and continued preparations for the bulk of the harvest later this month.

Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 8 percent very poor, 23 percent poor, 41 percent fair, 27 percent good and 1 percent excellent. On the eastern side of the State, some operations were bringing cattle down from the hills to irrigated pasture. In Pacific County, shellfish growers prepared for harvest operations for the coming holiday season.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.9
Last Week	6.7

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	13	54	33	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	18	30	49	3
Subsoil	19	40	41	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	19	39	42	0
Irrigation Water	1	6	93	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	4	8	88	0
Hay & Roughage	4	7	70	19

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

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2008	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	73	60	58	62
Winter Wheat Emerged	45	20	30	32
Potatoes Harvested	61	57	56	64
Field Corn Doughed	97	95	84	96
Field Corn Dented	68	65	58	85
Field Corn Mature	35	30	17	55
Field Corn Harvested for Grain	7	2	3	13
Field Corn Harvested for Silage	50	30	26	44
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	99	75	79	77
Alfalfa Hay 3 rd Cutting	97	93	96	98
Alfalfa Hay 4 th Cutting	57	35	45	21

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	2	23	72	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: Warm, sunny days, with no rain provided ideal conditions for finishing the harvest of sweet corn. Potato harvest started. Cut-flower tulip and daffodil planting finished. Christmas tree growers continued shearing and top-working Noble fir.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Warm daytime temperatures and cool evenings were prominent throughout the week.

Jefferson: Conditions were very dry with no significant rain. Some shallow well owners reported the need to conserve water. The area had a strong tomato harvest.

Mason: The area wrapped up fall harvest with pumpkins and squash. There were a lot of heat units this year, and the grapes did ripen. Producers prepared for rain and will start planting fall nursery items when it begins.

Pacific: Producers welcomed the first days of fall with warm dry conditions. Cranberry growers initiated early harvest of fresh berries and prepared for major harvest activities later next month. Shellfish growers prepared for harvest operations for the coming holiday season, their largest sales time of the year. Pasture conditions were affected by dry soils. Christmas tree growers continued efforts for the upcoming holiday season.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions remained good. No unusual situations were reported. There were no reports of crop damage due to an adverse weather event.

San Juan: Cool and dry conditions continued. Field preparation conditions were good. Harvesting of tree fruit and grain was underway.

Snohomish/North King: Last week marked the first week of fall, but temperatures remained in the low 80s. Around the end of the week temperatures hovered around the mid 60s and low 40s over night. Morning fog returned around bodies of water. There was little precipitation. Corn harvest was in full swing and should be completed this week. The fall planting of wheat and fall seed crops was completed.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report): A good rainfall came and perked up pastures. Some areas received nearly an inch of precipitation. Pumpkin and apple harvest continued and U-Pick pumpkin farms geared up for the Halloween season. Field corn harvest was completed.

Thurston: Agricultural producers took advantage of a week with no rainfall to address fall chores. Livestock producers finished cultivating and reseeding pastures. Christmas tree growers continued shearing Douglas Fir and top-working Noble fir. U-Pick pumpkin farms reported some early sales primarily for carving. Organic vegetable growers reported brisk sales of fall produce at the Olympia Farmer's Market.

Whatcom: The weather remained dry and warm which was perfect for the harvest of potatoes and corn. Newly seeded grass had sprouted. Pumpkin harvest began for fresh market sales.

Central

Chelan: Winter pear harvest neared completion. Excellent quality was reported on a relatively large crop. Apple harvest was in full swing, with Gala harvest completed and Golden Delicious nearing completion. Red Delicious harvest started. Early crop yield reports trended slightly lower than predicted.

Douglas: Reseeding of winter wheat was completed.

Franklin: Temperatures were above normal, particularly during the day and evenings. No measurable precipitation was received during the entire week. Precipitation continued to be below normal, specifically in the last five months. Dryland seeding conditions appeared to be average or above average. There were some reports of dryland wheat ground crusting due to less than a quarter inch of rain received two weeks ago. Some of the ground was reseeded in these areas. Buckwheat matured. Apples harvest was ongoing based on varieties. Seed corn was harvested and a few sweet corn fields were still maturing for harvest this coming week.

Kittitas: Timothy seedings were coming along well with warm September days and mild nights. Rangeland graziers started to move cows around and bring some back to irrigated pastures, which did well so far this fall.

Klickitat: Farmers planted their fall crops all over the county. Third cutting of hay was completed and those that had a head start in the spring started work on their fourth cutting. Lack of moisture was a big concern throughout the area.

Klickitat (2nd Report): There was no interruption to fieldwork as normal late September warm and dry conditions continued with highs in the 70s-80s and lows in the upper 30s-40s. There was dew in the mornings and calm days with just a slight north-northeast flow most of the week averaging only three mph wind speed in the Goldendale-Centerville valley. A few agricultural producers had late cutting hay stacked in fields although most hay was barn stored. "Hay for Sale" signs were not an uncommon sight. The sunny, dry week allowed earlier seeded wheat to finish emergence. Harvest activities continued in peach orchards and vineyards. Fall calves were doing well. Gardeners prepped beds for garlic planting. Sunflowers finished bloom and the seed heads were a big attraction to wild birds.

Yakima: Average temperatures were generally warmer than normal. Temperatures varied from two degrees below normal to twelve degrees above normal, with no precipitation. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Yakima (2nd Report): Daytime highs remained between the 70s and 80s, with peaks reaching 90 midweek. Nighttime lows were more variable ranging from lower 60s all the way down to upper 30s. No frosts or precipitation were noted. Apple harvest continued with Jonagolds and Honeycrisp still coming in as Golden and Red Delicious apple harvest started up. Tomatoes, peppers and winter squashes were in harvest with some vegetable fields being tilled under. There were reports of hops being left in the fields as the supply of certain varieties exceeded demand.

Eastern

Adams: Another abnormally warm week made for quick drying of final hay cuttings and moved emerged winter wheat plantings along nicely. High winds came through on Saturday, but there were no reports of damage as a result.

Adams (2nd Report): Winter wheat planting was completed. Some patching to fill in spots of poor stand establishment due to dry conditions will take place this fall after precipitation.

Asotin: Warm, dry weather continued this week. Rainfall was needed to provide moisture for winter wheat. Pears, peaches and apples were picked at local orchards.

Asotin/Garfield: Planting of winter wheat progressed rapidly as the weather stayed warm and dry. Temperatures were well above normal for this time of year. Rain was needed for proper stand establishment.

Ferry: Drought conditions continued and springs were going dry.

Garfield: Producers feared moisture receded from seeded wheat and will result in crop loss.

Lincoln: Warm and unseasonable hot weather persisted. More reseeding of winter wheat was reported than originally thought. The final cutting of irrigated hay was harvested and baled.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The area had a very warm week with record to near record breaking temperatures for this time of year. Area farmers could not believe how dry it was, especially in the south-east part of the county. Areas near Airway Heights and Reardan seeded their summer fallow wheat and indicated that where there was moisture it emerged quickly. The other areas were really dry and a number of growers delayed fertilizing and seeding until rain materializes. Pasture was dry and producers were supplemental feeding. Some calves were moved to market.

Stevens: Grain producers seeded winter wheat. Hay producers wrapped up third cutting. Soil conditions were extremely dry.

Walla Walla: Temperatures were hot with cooler temperatures expected. The area needed rain. Some producers were waiting for rain to seed wheat. Hay supplies were plentiful. Mountain grass was running out and was really dry.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): The area experienced warm days and cool nights. Producers were busy seeding fall crops. There was no rainfall, but fall seeding went well regardless.

Whitman: Fertilizing and seeding were underway in the central part of the county. Seeding wrapped up out west and operations in the east applied fertilizer. Garbanzo bean harvest wrapped up for the most part with a few scattered fields to finish.

Weekly Weather Statistics
September 21 - 27, 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	35	79	59	+4	64	+23	7	+5	0.00	-0.51	0	1.70	+0.00	100	10	
Hoquiam	41	87	60	+2	72	+10	18	+6	0.00	-0.89	0	1.43	-1.40	51	7	
Kelso	43	93	63	+5	89	+29	21	+9	0.00	-0.61	0	1.08	-1.02	51	7	
Olympia	38	87	58	+3	60	+18	10	+8	0.00	-0.60	0	2.37	+0.38	119	9	
Seattle-Tacoma	48	87	63	+4	89	+29	21	+12	0.00	-0.49	0	1.68	+0.01	101	7	
Shelton	36	89	59	+1	62	+6	6	-4	0.00	-0.74	0	1.65	-0.69	71	7	
Tacoma WA AP	39	89	58	+1	59	+6	11	+4	0.00	-0.49	0	2.77	+1.05	161	9	
Vancouver WA	45	93	66	+9	115	+58	45	+35	0.00	-0.49	0	1.28	-0.50	72	7	
CENTRAL																
Ellensburg	37	93	65	+10	104	+60	38	+29	0.00	-0.08	0	0.52	+0.06	113	3	
Omak AP	34	90	65	+10	104	+62	38	+29	0.00	-0.14	0	0.39	-0.34	53	5	
Stampede Pass	38	80	56	+10	45	+33	8	+8	0.00	-0.91	0	2.64	-0.37	88	8	
Wenatchee AP	47	88	67	+8	121	+49	51	+29	0.00	-0.07	0	0.48	+0.11	130	4	
Yakima AP	36	90	63	+6	92	+35	30	+15	0.00	-0.07	0	0.43	+0.06	116	4	
NORTHEAST																
Colville	35	92	65	+12	103	+66	36	+29	0.00	-0.24	0	0.47	-0.57	45	3	
Deer Park	26	89	59	+4	68	+22	15	+4	0.00	-0.21	0	0.40	-0.41	49	3	
Republic	35	86	63	+13	96	+69	31	+27	0.00	-0.21	0	0.61	-0.24	72	6	
Spokane AP	42	90	65	+10	109	+62	43	+32	0.00	-0.14	0	0.49	-0.18	73	4	
EAST CENTRAL																
Ephrata	40	91	67	+7	123	+45	55	+30	0.00	-0.07	0	0.14	-0.19	42	2	
Moses Lake	37	87	64	+4	101	+23	35	+10	0.00	-0.07	0	0.13	-0.20	39	1	
Quincy	40	87	67	+9	118	+55	51	+33	0.00	-0.07	0	0.61	+0.21	152	5	
Ritzville	38	92	64	+8	100	+49	38	+26	0.00	-0.14	0	0.16	-0.34	32	3	
SOUTHEAST																
Hanford	39	90	67	+3	120	+20	50	+10	0.00	-0.07	0	0.01	-0.31	3	1	
Pasco	36	89	64	+3	96	+18	30	+5	0.00	-0.07	0	0.15	-0.18	45	2	
Pullman	31	93	62	+7	85	+40	29	+19	0.00	-0.28	0	0.11	-0.77	13	1	
Walla Walla Rgn	46	89	69	+7	133	+49	63	+36	0.00	-0.23	0	0.00	-0.83	0	0	
Whitman Mission	33	89	62	+4	83	+23	21	+5	0.00	-0.19	0	0.00	-0.59	0	0	
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE																
Lewiston ID	45	92	69	+9	136	+59	68	+41	0.00	-0.15	0	0.09	-0.60	13	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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