



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: October 5, 2009
Week Ending: October 4, 2009
CWP WA-CW3809

Winter Wheat Seeding Continued but Dry Conditions Prevailed

Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.3. Seeding continued in grain growing counties with reports of more operations wrapping it up for the season. Walla Walla County received rain over the weekend, but Whitman and other counties were experiencing dry conditions and farmers became concerned. The east-central portion of the State received heavy winds, drying out newly planted winter wheat, and farmers were assessing the damage. Spokane and Pend Oreille Counties noted it was a very poor year for bluegrass seeding. The fourth cutting of alfalfa in Walla Walla County was damaged by rain. Hay supplies in general appeared to be abundant for all classes, and prices were lower than in years past. In Franklin County, corn silage and high moisture grain harvest continued. Christmas tree growers were finishing up shearing trees and were spot spraying Canada thistle infestations.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, daytime high temperatures ranged from the mid-70s early in the week to upper 50s, as a widespread storm dropped from a trace to 0.4 inch of precipitation in the county. Nighttime lows approached freezing, but no frosts were reported. A few hops were harvested as well as tomatoes and peppers, although cool temperatures did slow things down. Apple harvest continued with Red Delicious and Fuji apples coming in. Cranberries and harvest activities were picking up in Pacific County.

Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 11 percent very poor, 31 percent poor, 38 percent fair, 17 percent good and 3 percent excellent. Cattle operations on the east side of the State reported cattle were continuing to come in from mountain pastures. In Pacific County, oyster seed set failures continued to be a concern this year, even as harvest activities picked up.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.3
Last Week	6.9

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	14	45	40	1
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	12	28	56	4
Subsoil	18	40	42	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	16	38	46	0
Irrigation Water	1	4	95	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	3	6	91	0
Hay & Roughage	3	10	70	17

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	83	73	71	75
Winter Wheat Emerged	58	45	45	47
Potatoes Harvested	71	61	63	69
Field Corn Doughed	99	97	95	99
Field Corn Dented	90	68	87	95
Field Corn Mature	43	35	27	69
Field Corn Harvested for Grain	8	7	6	27
Field Corn Harvested for Silage	55	50	38	56
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	100	99	89	87
Alfalfa Hay 3 rd Cutting	99	97	99	99
Alfalfa Hay 4 th Cutting	70	57	65	70

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	2	22	74	2

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: Sunny days and frosty nights have expedited the transition of the rural landscape into a tapestry of fall colors, as native trees and shrubs began to display their fall foliage. Ag producers took advantage of another week with no rain to complete fall chores. Yellow Finn potato harvest was completed with good yields reported. Greenhouse tomato production was rapidly decreasing, as plants were no longer producing new fruit. Livestock producers continued applying liquid manure to forage fields. Christmas tree growers continued top working Noble fir.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Overnight temperatures cooled down. Corn harvest began.

Mason: The first frost of the season came on September 29. All of the tomatoes were up, and garlic was being planted.

Pacific: Cooler fall weather reminded producers that winter was on its way. Cranberry growers continued to prepare for harvest operations or initiated early harvest activities. Production this year should be well above last year's levels. Shellfish growers prepared for their upcoming holiday harvest season. Oyster seed set failures continued to be a concern this year. Christmas tree growers also prepared for the holiday season harvest, and raspberry growers completed post harvest pruning and weed control.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions remained

normal for this time of year. There were no unusual situations to report and no report of any crop damage due to a weather event.

San Juan: The weather was cool with some precipitation, which will help fall plantings.

Snohomish/North King: Heavy rains were received early in the week in much of the county. A few light frosts were received in outlying areas of the county. The weather was sunny by the end of the week. Pumpkin farms were doing good business, and gardeners prepared for the winter.

Thurston: Another week of beautiful fall weather provided ideal conditions for ag producers to complete fall chores prior to the rainy season. Organic vegetable growers were finishing the harvest of warm season vegetable crops and planting winter cover crops in their place. Christmas tree growers were finishing shearing trees and spot spraying Canada thistle infestations. Livestock producers were using rotational grazing to take advantage of fall forage growth. Turfgrass growers continued mowing and harvesting established fields.

Whatcom: Heavy rains hampered harvest of corn and potatoes in some areas of the county. Fields were seeded in grass and winter wheat for crop cover. Raspberry growers continued to prune and tie vines.

Central

Douglas/Chelan: Temperatures cooled down, and apple harvest continued. The crop was in good condition with only some damage due to sunburn. Winter wheat was not maturing normally due to the dry conditions. Some producers were dusting in their crop hoping for good winter moisture, which will help emergence in the spring. Livestock water supplies continued to be a problem.

Douglas: Conditions remained very dry with no rain in the forecast. All of the reseeded wheat was up.

Franklin: Temperatures were slightly cooler than normal throughout the week. A significant rain fell late Friday night and through Saturday. However, high winds kicked up early Sunday morning and blew throughout the day. Air quality was very poor, with air quality advisories posted. Some fourth cutting of hay was down during the rain, along with beans not yet combined. The winds helped dry out both crops to some degree. Apple harvest continued all week. Corn silage, cabbage, and high moisture grain harvest continued.

Klickitat: Temperature highs were in the 50-60s during the week and the lows were in the 30-40s. There was no frost received at the lower elevations, although there was snow in the Simcoes and spotty rain at the lower elevations. The rain was not enough to end the long, dry spell. A freakish windstorm out of the east northeast with gusts up to 40-50 mph on Sunday caused minor damage to trees and barn roofs. The inclement weather made it tougher for cattle producers to move cattle out of mountain pastures.

Fall calves looked good, though pastures were running low except where irrigated. Winter wheat seedings showed some patchiness, and haying was complete. Gardeners were harvesting squash and pumpkins and setting them out to cure, as temperatures were expected to reach 70 degrees in the coming week.

Klickitat (2nd Report): The weather has been cooling off, and frost was received a couple of mornings during the week. There was also a short rain shower on Saturday, with a high windstorm that knocked down trees. Producers were still working on their fall planting and finishing up the fourth cutting of alfalfa.

Yakima: Daytime temperatures ranged from the mid-70s to the upper 50s early in the week, as widespread storms dropped a trace of precipitation to 0.4 inch throughout the county. Despite the precipitation, brush fires were still developing. Nighttime lows approached freezing, but no frosts were reported. A few hops were harvested, as well as tomatoes and peppers—although cool temperatures slowed the yields. Red Delicious and Fuji apple harvest continued.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures were generally cooler than normal, varying from eight degrees below normal to five degrees above normal. There was 0.26 inch of precipitation during the week. There were no reports of crop losses due to weather conditions.

Eastern

Adams/Lincoln: Dry conditions persisted and precipitation was needed.

Asotin: Cooler weather with some rain showers was received over the weekend. More rain was needed for the germination of fall seeded crops.

Asotin/Garfield: Temperatures were cooler than normal by 10 degrees. Showers near the end of the week halted planting of winter wheat. The total rain accumulated was very disappointing, with many areas receiving less than 0.1 inch of precipitation. More rain is needed for proper establishment of the winter wheat crop. Rangeland conditions continued to deteriorate due to the lack of rain.

Columbia: The area received about 0.8 inch of rain over the weekend. There was some snow in the higher elevations on Saturday, and frost covered the ground on Sunday.

Garfield: The first frost was received on October 4. Cattle were returning from mountain pastures, and the calves were doing well. Wheat was cheap and surplus, but growers seeded next year's crop early with expensive varieties rather than proven ones.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Northeast winds blew dust all weekend, drying out the topsoil and battering young wheat plants. Rain was badly needed.

Lincoln (3rd Report): A nice rain was received over the weekend that should generally help crops and pastures. The crops could use more rain, though. Most producers were done with winter wheat seeding and cutting irrigated hay.

Pend Oreille: The high temperature during the week was 68 degrees and the low was 20 degrees with 1.0 inch of precipitation. All farming was halted due to the freezing weather. Hay was about a third of normal for this area.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The week ended with extremely windy conditions that blew over trees and caused large amounts of blowing dust. The area received a small amount of rain on Friday, but the wind dried out any moisture that was received. Farmers were planting in the re-crop areas, hoping that rain will come soon. A number of new seedings of bluegrass for seed have been terminated and planted to winter wheat to try and salvage something out of the acreage. Apple harvest began, and the fall harvest of garden produce continued up on Green Bluff.

Stevens: Demand for all classes of hay was very low. Prices were very scattered, with some producers dropping prices to move hay stored outside.

Stevens (2nd Report): Cold fronts moved through the area and provided about 0.5 inch of rain towards the end of the week. Temperatures dipped below freezing several mornings with highs in the 40s.

Walla Walla: Rain was received over the weekend, but more will be needed. Most haying was complete. Cattle were starting to come off mountain pastures. Hay prices were good if you were buying, but not so good if you were selling. A good share of the grain crop was contracted at earlier higher prices.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Temperatures have dropped significantly. Heavy rain showers on Saturday were welcomed by all except those with their fourth cutting of alfalfa down. Showers were very widespread and were accompanied by heavy winds. Seeding was still underway throughout the area. Deep furrow wheat was up and looking good.

Whitman: Conditions have been very dry with little rainfall. Additional rains would be welcomed as newly seeded winter wheat was emerging. Temperatures cooled off during the week, and fall fieldwork continued. Seeding was wrapping up in most parts of the county, but it was still underway in the eastern portions of the county.

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	34	66	51	-3	14	-15	0	+0	0.72	+0.14	4	2.42	+0.14	106	14
Hoquiam	34	61	51	-7	13	-39	0	-7	0.71	-0.30	4	2.14	-1.70	56	11
Kelso	39	66	54	-4	29	-18	0	-7	0.84	+0.21	3	1.92	-0.81	70	10
Olympia	34	66	51	-4	10	-19	0	+0	0.23	-0.43	4	2.60	-0.05	98	13
Seattle-Tacoma_	42	65	54	-4	28	-18	0	-6	0.15	-0.37	2	1.83	-0.36	84	9
Shelton	31	68	50	-7	7	-35	0	-7	0.42	-0.40	5	2.07	-1.09	66	12
Tacoma_WA_AP	37	65	52	-5	15	-24	0	-3	0.34	-0.18	3	3.11	+0.87	139	12
Vancouver_WA	40	68	56	+0	46	+3	0	-7	0.28	-0.27	5	1.56	-0.77	67	12
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	33	75	53	+0	21	-7	0	-6	0.00	-0.08	0	0.52	-0.02	96	3
Omak_AP	29	76	52	-1	23	-3	0	-6	0.01	-0.13	1	0.40	-0.47	46	6
Stampede_Pass	33	65	47	+2	9	+2	0	+0	0.66	-0.34	5	3.30	-0.71	82	13
Wenatchee_AP	39	74	55	-4	36	-14	0	-12	0.00	-0.07	0	0.48	+0.04	109	4
Yakima_AP	29	75	51	-5	16	-24	0	-8	0.26	+0.19	2	0.69	+0.25	157	6
NORTHEAST															
Colville	32	78	51	-1	19	-3	0	-3	0.20	-0.01	2	0.67	-0.58	54	5
Deer_Park	24	76	47	-7	10	-19	0	-7	0.56	+0.40	3	0.96	-0.01	99	6
Republic	32	74	51	+3	21	+5	0	+0	0.18	+0.03	2	0.79	-0.21	79	8
Spokane_AP	34	73	50	-4	14	-16	0	-7	0.09	-0.05	1	0.58	-0.23	72	5
EAST_CENTRAL															
Ephrata	35	73	55	-4	42	-12	1	-14	0.00	-0.07	0	0.14	-0.26	35	2
Moses_Lake	32	73	54	-5	34	-20	0	-15	0.01	-0.06	1	0.14	-0.26	35	2
Quincy	41	73	55	-2	36	-7	0	-9	0.00	-0.07	0	0.61	+0.14	130	5
Ritzville	32	74	50	-6	18	-17	0	-7	0.01	-0.13	1	0.17	-0.47	27	4
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	40	79	55	-7	42	-34	2	-23	0.13	+0.06	1	0.14	-0.25	36	2
Pasco	36	79	55	-4	42	-16	0	-14	0.32	+0.25	2	0.47	+0.07	117	4
Pullman	30	76	49	-5	12	-19	2	-4	0.09	-0.15	2	0.20	-0.92	18	3
Walla_Walla_Rgn	42	76	55	-6	38	-26	2	-15	1.07	+0.79	3	1.07	-0.04	96	3
Whitman_Mission	33	77	51	-5	20	-22	0	-8	0.96	+0.78	2	0.96	+0.19	125	2
WESTERN_IDAHO_PANHANDLE															
Lewiston_ID	36	79	55	-4	39	-18	10	-6	0.05	-0.13	2	0.14	-0.73	16	3

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday 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: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1393>

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