



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: October 19, 2009
Week Ending: October 18, 2009
CWP WA-CW4009

Apple Freeze Damage Remains Unknown While Wheat Emergence Struggled in Some Counties

Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.8. Rain was reported in eastern grain growing counties. In Walla Walla County, winter wheat looked good while Whitman County did not receive as much rain as needed. Dry conditions combined with cold temperatures, caused wheat emergence problems in many other counties. Field corn harvest activity was reported in Franklin County, while hay growth on the eastern side slowed dramatically due to the cold, pushing the fourth cutting along. Hay was abundant and selling at low prices. Christmas tree growers continued preparing fields for harvest and taking inventory.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, daytime high temperatures gradually increased from the low 40s to the mid 60s by end of the week. Nighttime lows were at or below freezing early in the week, but apples including Granny Smiths, Red Delicious and Fujis, continued to come in. Last week's frost damage appeared to be hit and miss throughout several apple growing counties, but there was damage and increased apple juice production will result. A full damage assessment will not be known until the week's end. Cranberry harvest continued with improved yields over last year.

Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 10 percent very poor, 14 percent poor, 49 percent fair, 25 percent good and 2 percent excellent. Cattle continued to come in off summer range and livestock water was inadequate in Chelan County. Producers reported freezing temperatures finished pasture growth for the season. Range conditions were good in some areas but this was attributed mostly to reduced cattle numbers. Shellfish producers initiated the holiday season harvest.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	4.8
Last Week	6.7

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2008	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	94	93	86	91
Winter Wheat Emerged	72	71	62	68
Potatoes Harvested	88	86	86	87
Field Corn Dented	100	96	99	100
Field Corn Mature	97	77	49	88
Field Corn Harvested for Grain	34	30	33	56
Field Corn Harvested for Silage	90	70	67	83
Alfalfa Hay 4 th Cutting	97	75	89	37

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	6	12	47	31	4
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	2	54	34	10
Corn	0	2	42	53	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.

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	13	21	56	10
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	9	23	62	6
Subsoil	18	34	48	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	17	36	46	1
Irrigation Water	0	3	96	1
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	3	6	91	0
Hay & Roughage	3	7	72	18

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

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COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clark: Farmer's Markets were nearing the end of their season, but pumpkins were hitting their peak.

Grays Harbor: Several fall storms late in the week brought fieldwork to a screeching halt.

Temperatures in the mid-60s, along with the rain showers resulted in nearly ideal conditions for the germination of fall cover crops in sweet corn and cannery pea fields. Christmas tree growers continued preparing fields for harvest. U-Pick pumpkin farms reported brisk sales.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: There were freezing temperatures early in the week, and rain was received by week's end. Corn harvest finished up, and cranberry harvest was underway.

Mason: Rain was received during the week, providing a welcome boost to fall fields. Cover crops were being planted, and the last calves were being weaned.

Pacific: Fall rains increased soil moisture but limited field activities for producers. Cranberry growers continued harvest operations with improved yields over last year. Shellfish producers initiated the holiday harvest season for both oysters and clams, with good market conditions and prices. Pasture conditions improved with fall rains, and Christmas tree growers continued preparations for the holiday season.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions remained normal for this time of year. There were no unusual

situations to report and no reports of crop damage.

San Juan: The weather was cool and moist, with greater than average rainfall at the end of the week.

Snohomish/North King: The weather was warmer and about 4.0 inches of heavy rain was received during the week. Fieldwork was halted due to the rain, but apple harvest continued. U-Pick pumpkin farms continued doing business between the storms.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report):

Approximately 2-3 inches of rain were received during the week. The precipitation should greatly benefit the planted crops. Many farmers began preparing for the winter months.

Thurston: Heavy rain showers, lightning and strong winds brought the beautiful fall weather to a screeching halt. Fortunately, streams and rivers were at a very low level, which prevented flooding. Temperatures in the low 60s continued to increase pasture growth, and helped fields recover from the summer drought. Christmas tree growers continued preparing fields for harvest and taking inventory. Organic vegetable growers were harvesting the last of the late summer vegetables. U-Pick pumpkin farms reported a brisk business despite the stormy weather.

Whatcom: The county received heavy precipitation toward the end of the week. There was a push to get all of the potato and corn harvested before the fields become too wet to access.

Central

Douglas: Parts of the county received about 0.5 inch of much needed rain. However, growers reported experiencing very dry conditions and more rain is needed.

Douglas/Chelan: Cool temperatures continued, and some precipitation was received. Some producers chose not to harvest their Red Delicious apples due to a freeze. Apple harvest continued for Fuji, Pink Lady and Braeburn varieties, which seemed to have survived the cold weather. Drought conditions continued for winter wheat and fall pastures. Livestock water was still inadequate.

Franklin: Temperatures were cooler than normal throughout the week, but warmed up on the weekend with the arrival of rain shower activity. Field corn and apple harvest continued during the week. There was a report of apple frost damage at the north end of the county. The fourth and fifth cutting of alfalfa was completed. Rains received in the past couple of weeks improved the dryland winter wheat seeded condition.

Klickitat: The week had a cold start that included a surprising snow flurry on Tuesday morning and a steady rain shower that kept ag producers out of fields for a couple of days. Then temperatures returned to seasonably warm by the weekend, when days turned picture perfect and pleasant. Topsoil moisture and the growth of winter seedings were

much improved with the rain. The county-wide burn ban was lifted, and farm clean up continued.

Klickitat (2nd Report): A snowstorm was received during the week, but the snow melted by the afternoon. A couple of rain showers helped with the moisture level but slowed planting operations. Producers should be finished up within the next couple of weeks. Cattle were being brought down from mountain pastures and put on stubble and hay fields.

Lincoln: Warmer weather was received late in the week, along with some welcomed rain. Crops and pastures should benefit from the precipitation.

Yakima: Cool, overcast and rainy weather persisted throughout the week, with most of the county receiving between 0.2 and 0.7 inch of precipitation. Daytime high temperatures gradually increased during the week from the lower 40s to the mid-60s by week's end. Nighttime lows were at or below freezing early in the week. Apple harvest, including Granny Smiths, Red Delicious, and Fuji, continued to filter in.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures were generally cooler than normal and varied from 15 degrees below normal to 5 degree above normal. There was 0.42 inch of precipitation during the week. There were no crop losses due to weather conditions.

Eastern

Adams: Precipitation during the week was enough to maintain current conditions.

Adams (2nd Report): Welcomed rain showers were received a couple of times during the week. More precipitation was needed to allow for reseeding of blown out wheat.

Asotin/Garfield: Temperatures went from record lows last week to near record highs this past week. There may have been some damage to winter wheat from the low single-digit temperatures in some areas. The warm up brought a few showers to the area, but most areas received only small amounts of precipitation. Seeding was mostly complete, though some areas had not received enough precipitation for proper establishment of winter wheat. Much of the crop in lower elevations was dusted in, waiting for more moisture to sprout the grain.

Ferry: Temperatures dropping to zero halted all alfalfa growth, and cool, damp night temperatures prohibited further harvesting. Range conditions were okay in some areas, mainly due to reduced cattle numbers.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The cold was followed by showers and much warmer weather. Additional moisture between 0.5 and 0.75 inch was received over the weekend. The warm temperatures should help sprout the winter wheat seed. Cattlemen reported the freezing temperatures early in the week pretty much

finished off pastures. Several producers were already feeding hay to livestock.

Stevens: Widespread rain, averaging about an inch, helped the topsoil and allowed fall dryland crops to begin emerging. The apple crop was severely damaged by the freezing temperatures. Very little of the crop will be able to be salvaged.

Stevens (2nd Report): Rain and warmer temperatures during the week helped emerging winter wheat. Cattle producers continued shipping calves to market.

Walla Walla: Most fall wheat has been seeded and the crop was looking pretty good. Rains were welcomed, and haying finished up. Cattle were coming off summer pastures, and producers were making preparations for fall dormant grass seeding.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Crops looked good after receiving rain in the past few days. Most producers were finished or very close to finished with fall seeding.

Whitman: Rainfall came to most areas of the county, which helped bring temperatures back up from the abnormally low temperatures that were experienced. More rainfall was needed. Emergence has been slow with the cooler temperatures and lack of rainfall.

Weekly Weather Statistics
October 11 - October 18, 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	25	65	54	+4	36	+25	0	+0	0.54	-0.20	4	2.96	-0.71	81	18
Hoquiam	43	61	53	-2	28	-3	0	+0	3.97	+2.64	6	6.11	-0.20	97	17
Kelso	41	66	56	+4	46	+23	2	+2	1.13	+0.33	3	3.05	-1.19	72	13
Olympia	40	65	53	+4	29	+20	2	+2	2.49	+1.59	6	5.09	+0.79	118	19
Seattle-Tacoma_	42	65	55	+3	43	+20	2	+2	2.86	+2.19	6	4.69	+1.25	136	15
Shelton	37	63	53	+2	30	+11	1	+1	3.84	+2.70	6	5.91	+0.65	112	18
Tacoma_WA_AP	37	65	54	+2	33	+16	0	+0	2.11	+1.43	6	5.25	+1.75	150	19
Vancouver_WA	44	70	58	+6	55	+35	6	+6	0.78	+0.12	5	2.34	-1.22	66	17
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	26	66	47	-2	11	+6	0	+0	0.58	+0.44	3	1.10	+0.34	145	6
Omak_AP	10	79	47	+0	24	+21	5	+5	0.89	+0.68	2	1.29	+0.04	103	8
Stampede_Pass	26	64	47	+7	15	+15	0	+0	1.07	-0.29	7	4.37	-2.14	67	20
Wenatchee_AP	29	61	46	-6	11	-6	0	+0	0.39	+0.32	3	0.87	+0.29	150	7
Yakima_AP	27	65	46	-5	5	-8	0	+0	0.42	+0.32	3	1.11	+0.50	182	9
NORTHEAST															
Colville	14	68	45	-1	8	+6	0	+0	0.54	+0.28	5	1.21	-0.51	70	10
Deer_Park	18	64	45	-3	7	+2	0	+0	0.86	+0.65	5	1.82	+0.45	133	11
Republic	15	75	47	+4	16	+16	0	+0	0.76	+0.55	5	1.55	+0.20	115	13
Spokane_AP	21	69	47	-2	12	+6	0	+0	0.72	+0.51	3	1.30	+0.12	110	8
EAST_CENTRAL															
Ephrata	25	62	48	-5	13	-5	0	+0	0.43	+0.36	3	0.57	+0.03	106	5
Moses_Lake	21	64	47	-6	13	-5	0	+0	0.60	+0.53	4	0.74	+0.20	137	6
Quincy	21	62	46	-4	8	-5	0	+0	0.46	+0.37	3	1.07	+0.44	170	8
Ritzville	20	70	45	-5	12	+2	0	+0	0.43	+0.28	3	0.60	-0.33	65	7
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	29	69	50	-7	23	-14	0	-2	0.18	+0.11	4	0.32	-0.21	60	6
Pasco	26	69	49	-5	24	-3	0	+0	0.39	+0.26	4	0.86	+0.26	143	8
Pullman	13	74	50	+2	27	+16	4	+4	0.68	+0.39	2	0.88	-0.80	52	5
Walla_Walla_Rgn	30	71	51	-5	34	+2	0	+0	0.60	+0.28	4	1.67	-0.04	98	7
Whitman_Mission	18	69	46	-5	16	+0	0	+0	0.52	+0.31	3	1.50	+0.31	126	6
WESTERN_IDAHO_PANHANDLE															
Lewiston_ID	26	75	52	-2	39	+14	11	+11	0.27	+0.06	3	0.41	-0.88	32	6

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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