



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: October 26, 2009  
Week Ending: October 25, 2009  
CWP WA-CW4009

## Rains Arrived Just in Time for Wheat Germination

### Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.7. Much needed rain for emerging winter wheat was received on the eastern side of the State, and many counties reported the new rainfall was sufficient to sprout the new crop. Wheat in Walla Walla County continued to look the best as they have had adequate moisture throughout the fall planting season. In other counties, most of the seeding was done but some re-cropping of the wheat crop, due to wind and drought, continued. In the central portion of the State, dry corn harvest was under way, potato harvest was winding down and processing carrot harvest was ongoing. Christmas tree growers were sharpening their chain saws for harvest.

### Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, apple harvest continued with Red Delicious, Granny Smith and Fuji varieties coming into the packing houses. Fruit quality was good considering the early season freeze. Producers were cautious about what went into long-term storage. In Pacific County, cranberry production continued to exceed last year's harvest. The dry harvest of berries in the northern county was nearly completed.

### Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 9 percent very poor, 15 percent poor, 49 percent fair, 25 percent good and 2 percent excellent. In Stevens County, about 80 percent of the livestock were being fed hay. Cheaper hay had renewed interest in owning pregnant cows. Some people who sold out were talking about what cow prices needed to be for them to get back in. There was not much movement of weaned calves as prices were way below production costs. Hay prices will allow producers to carry calves over the winter if they want to gamble on improved spring demand. In Pacific County, oyster and clam harvest was ongoing with good production levels and prices.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	4.7
Last Week	4.8

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	11	21	64	4
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	7	18	66	9
Subsoil	19	30	51	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	16	33	50	1
Irrigation Water	0	3	97	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	5	93	0
Hay & Roughage	3	8	69	20

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	98	94	93	96
Winter Wheat Emerged	80	72	62	75
Potatoes Harvested	94	88	91	93
Field Corn Mature	99	97	88	98
Field Corn Harvested for Grain	58	34	60	72
Field Corn Harvested for Silage	98	90	91	96
Alfalfa Hay 4 <sup>th</sup> Cutting	99	97	98	99

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	3	7	42	45	3
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	2	55	41	2
Corn	0	2	38	58	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.

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 five farmer's markets in Clark County were done for the season.

**Jefferson:** Rain came on October 21. The Bil Quil river hit the level where the mill had to curtail its diversion and close down. Salmon runs hit their high and then numbers dropped. There were record lows in Chimacum creek and record highs in Jimmy-come-lately where supplementation occurred.

**Grays Harbor:** U-Pick pumpkin farms reported a brisk business over the weekend. Christmas tree growers sharpened their chain saws in preparation for harvest. Livestock producers took advantage of several nice days with no rain to repair fences. Spring bulb growers reported excellent sales of both daffodil and tulip bulbs to home gardeners. Greenhouse tomato growers were removing spent plants from the greenhouse. Home gardeners were harvesting apples and squash.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** Most fieldwork was completed as winter approached.

**Mason:** The area received much needed precipitation. The fall Pacific storm pattern came through and delivered rain. Producers finished fall fertilization and were ready for winter.

**Pacific:** Fall harvest activities were in full swing. Oyster and clam growers began the major holiday harvest season with good production levels and excellent prices. Cranberry growers continued their harvest operations with much improved yields over last year. Dry harvest of cranberries in the northern areas of the county was nearly completed. Christmas tree growers continued preparations for harvest, which should begin next week. Pasture conditions improved with higher soil moisture levels.

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

**San Juan:** Warm temperatures and precipitation helped stimulate fall re-growth for hay and pasture lands.

**Snohomish/North King:** Precipitation fell over the region for most of the week. Ninety-five percent of harvest and fall planting was completed. Temperatures stayed in the 50s and 60s during the day and mid-40s overnight.

**Snohomish/North King (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Cool weather and a few heavy rains were received. An accumulation of over three inches of precipitation was reported in some areas. Little fieldwork was done. U-Pick pumpkin farms did good business on the nicer days. Apple harvest continued. Pasture growth was about done for the year. Spotted Winged Drosophila were busy in the remaining wild blackberries.

**Thurston:** Agricultural producers took advantage of several days with no rain to complete fall chores. The rural landscape had once again turned green due to recent rainfall and cooler temperatures. Christmas tree growers continued preparing fields for harvest. Organic vegetable growers were seeding winter cover crops in harvested fields. U-Pick pumpkin farms reported brisk sales despite less than ideal weather for choosing the perfect jack-o-lantern. Livestock producers were removing irrigation equipment from fields subject to flooding. Home gardeners were kept busy harvesting the last of produce and raking leaves.

**Whatcom:** More rains caused standing water to accumulate in some fields. Corn and potato harvest were completed. Pumpkin sales continued.

## Central

**Douglas/Chelan:** Some rain was received. Winter wheat producers who needed to re-plant completed seeding. The established crop was behind normal maturity due to cool weather and lack of moisture. Apple harvest wound down.

**Grant:** Dry corn harvest was in full swing. Potato harvest was mostly completed. Processing carrot harvest was underway. Recent rains improved moisture conditions in the dryland areas of the county. Apple harvest wound down.

**Klickitat:** The area received a rain shower which helped both the crop and range ground. Grasses and fall wheat grew while the recent moisture and temperatures reached the high 40s to low 60s. The early morning frost kept the crops from really taking off.

**Klickitat (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Wind and rain arrived mid-week followed by another fall storm that ripped through the area Friday night and early Saturday morning. The storm brought more rain with high winds of 40-50 mph that caused damage to trees. In between storms it was a relatively mild week with some blue sky and sun breaks highlighting fall colors. Daytime highs were 50s-60s and overnight lows were 30s-40s with a heavy frost. Temperatures dipped down to the 20s on Sunday morning in the Goldendale and Centerville valley area. Grape harvest continued with about 85 percent picked. Producers reported that late grape varieties need more time to ripen up and hoped the weather would hold. Rain showers while only about a tenth of an inch at a time, caused harvest delays in the vineyards. The crop needed to dry before picking crews moved back in. Crews stayed busy alternating between the vineyards and the start of early pruning in cherry orchard blocks. Recent rain, warmer temperatures and sunshine helped pastures, though some producers were feeding supplemental hay. Home gardeners spread lime and phosphate as they put gardens to bed and were busy in the kitchen processing lugs of tomatoes that ripened up indoors.

**Lincoln:** Rains were beneficial as the winter wheat crop put out secondary roots.

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Rain was received during the week, with most of it soaking into the ground. More rainfall was needed in some areas. Cattle producers continued shipping calves to market and prepared for feeding livestock.

**Okanogan:** Irrigation was shut off for the season and cattle came back home to be weaned. The last of the apples that survived the freeze were picked. It rained lightly on Friday and Sunday.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures were generally warmer than normal, varying from six degrees below normal to eight degrees above normal. There was .06 inch of precipitation received during the week. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

**Yakima (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Apple harvest in Yakima County continued with Red Delicious, Granny Smith and Fuji varieties coming into packing houses. Fruit quality was good considering the early season freeze. Producers were cautious about what went in long-term storage. Yakima County received widespread showers on October 21 that dropped between 0.02 to 0.1 inch of precipitation. Daytime high temperatures declined over the week from the mid 60s to the lower 50s. Nighttime lows remained in the 40s for the most part, with some production areas experiencing lower 30s in the early morning of October 25.

## Eastern

**Adams:** It was a quiet week which featured some rainfall towards the weekend. Growing conditions remained unchanged.

**Asotin:** Warm weather returned with some rainfall, benefitting fall seeded crops and pasture. More moisture was needed in all parts of the county.

**Asotin/Garfield:** The area finally received adequate rain to sprout the rest of the winter wheat that was in dry soil. At this late date, it will probably take a month before winter wheat is completely emerged. This will leave the crop small going into winter in many areas. The rain was too late to make much difference in the condition of rangeland available for fall grazing.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** Some additional rain received helped to get moisture to the seeded winter wheat for germination. If temperatures stay above freezing the wheat might actually sprout and grow prior to snow. Fall work wrapped up for most, but a fair amount of plowing took place after the rain came. Supplemental feeding took place for cattle due to the short dry pasture conditions.

**Stevens:** Rain during the week improved the moisture content of the soil profile, but conditions were still extremely dry. Cattle producers gathered cattle from mountain pastures.

**Stevens (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Another half-inch of rain solved topsoil moisture problems for now. More rain was forecasted for the coming week. Fall field work was completed. About 80 percent of the livestock were being fed hay. Cheaper hay renewed interest in owning pregnant cows. Some producers who sold out started talking about what cow prices needed to be for them to get back in. Not much movement of weaned calves as prices were way below production costs. Hay prices will allow producers to carry calves over the winter if they want to gamble on improved spring demand.

**Walla Walla:** Winter wheat looked very nice. Temperatures were mild with nice showers received off and on. Fall was definitely in the air.

**Whitman:** Rainfall was received county wide at week's end. Most field operations wrapped up for the year with re-crop winter wheat seeding still to be completed. Winter wheat emergence was slow with cold, dry conditions but improved with rainfall and warmer temperatures.

**Weekly Weather Statistics**  
**Weekly Weather Statistics**  
**October 19 - 25, 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		DAYS
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES			INCHES	DFN	NORMAL	
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham Intl	32	59	49	+1	7	+0	0	+0	1.50	+0.65	5	4.46	-0.06	99	23
Hoquiam	43	60	52	-1	19	-5	0	+0	1.94	+0.37	3	8.05	+0.17	102	20
Kelso	37	61	52	+2	24	+9	0	+0	0.85	-0.11	3	3.90	-1.30	75	16
Olympia	36	62	50	+2	13	+7	0	+0	1.11	+0.01	3	6.20	+0.80	115	22
Seattle-Tacoma_	38	62	51	+0	17	+2	0	+0	0.60	-0.22	3	5.29	+1.03	124	18
Shelton	32	63	50	-1	14	+0	0	+0	2.00	+0.59	2	7.91	+1.24	119	20
Tacoma WA AP	31	63	50	-1	14	+3	0	+0	0.97	+0.13	3	6.22	+1.88	143	22
Vancouver WA	40	65	55	+5	35	+21	0	+0	0.86	+0.07	5	3.20	-1.15	74	22
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	28	67	50	+5	11	+11	0	+0	0.21	+0.07	4	1.31	+0.41	146	10
Omak AP	25	70	48	+5	14	+14	0	+0	0.18	-0.03	2	1.47	+0.01	101	10
Stam pede Pass	34	57	44	+6	1	+1	0	+0	2.27	+0.60	5	6.64	-1.54	81	25
Wenatchee AP	34	65	50	+3	12	+5	0	+0	0.10	-0.04	2	0.97	+0.25	135	9
Yakima AP	26	65	49	+2	12	+5	0	+0	0.06	-0.08	1	1.17	+0.42	156	10
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	25	62	46	+3	0	+0	0	+0	0.58	+0.26	4	1.79	-0.25	88	14
Deer Park	20	55	41	-5	0	+0	0	+0	0.60	+0.31	5	2.42	+0.76	146	16
Republic	26	62	47	+7	3	+3	0	+0	0.53	+0.32	4	2.08	+0.52	133	17
Spokane AP	28	57	44	-2	0	+0	0	+0	0.70	+0.44	2	2.00	+0.56	139	10
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	31	63	48	-2	7	-2	0	+0	0.16	+0.02	2	0.73	+0.05	107	7
Moses Lake	29	63	47	-2	4	-5	0	+0	0.16	+0.02	2	0.90	+0.22	132	8
Quincy	31	65	50	+3	7	+1	0	+0	0.30	+0.16	2	1.37	+0.60	178	10
Ritzville	30	63	45	-2	3	+0	0	+0	0.29	+0.08	2	0.89	-0.25	78	9
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	32	66	51	-3	15	-9	0	+0	0.12	+0.02	2	0.44	-0.19	70	8
Pasco	26	64	49	-3	5	-12	0	+0	0.09	-0.05	2	0.95	+0.21	128	10
Pullman	27	59	45	-2	0	-7	0	+0	0.45	+0.09	4	1.33	-0.71	65	9
Walla Walla Rgn	36	62	52	+1	19	-3	0	+0	0.24	-0.15	3	1.91	-0.19	91	10
Whitman Mission	26	66	49	+2	6	-1	0	+0	0.25	-0.01	2	1.75	+0.30	121	8
<b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b>															
Lewiston ID	34	65	52	+3	18	+2	0	+0	0.21	+0.00	1	0.62	-0.88	41	7

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>