



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

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Washington Crop Weather

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Solid Rainfall Gave New Grain a Boost While Apple Harvest Wound Down

Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.1. Widespread rain continued to fall in grain growing counties. Whitman County reported above average precipitation for October which really helped crop emergence. Reseeding and late seeded re-crop were about all the planting still left. In Walla Walla County, wheat stands continued to look very promising while in Spokane County the rain came so fast some erosion occurred in seeded fields. The field corn and potato harvest continued in the central part of the State. In Pacific County, Christmas tree harvest was already underway.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, nighttime temperatures hovered in the mid-30s and a couple of nights the temperatures dropped in the mid-20s. Apple harvest was winding down as Fuji, Pink Lady and a few Braeburn apples were still coming in. In Pacific County, cranberry harvest efforts were nearly complete, and raspberry producers continued late season weed control and pruning operations.

Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 10 percent very poor, 15 percent poor, 47 percent fair, 26 percent good and 2 percent excellent. On the east side, several counties reported most cattle had returned from summer pastures, and fall calving was underway. In Stevens County spring calves were going to market, while in Pend Oreille and Spokane Counties, new snowfall occurred and some ranchers had begun to feed hay. In Pacific County, oyster and clam harvest operations continued for shellfish growers, with good yields and prices.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	4.1
Last Week	4.7

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	7	14	51	28
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	6	18	66	10
Subsoil	16	25	58	1
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	13	35	50	2
Irrigation Water	0	3	94	3
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	6	91	1
Hay & Roughage	3	6	69	22

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	99	98	97	99
Winter Wheat Emerged	82	80	70	82
Potatoes Harvested	96	94	96	96
Field Corn Mature	100	99	99	100
Field Corn Harvested for Grain	70	58	79	81
Field Corn Harvested for Silage	99	98	99	100
Alfalfa Hay 4 th Cutting	100	99	100	NA

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	3	6	38	51	2
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	4	15	78	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

Clark: Farmer's Markets are now closed for the season. Clark County had five active markets for 2009, which was one more than last year.

Clark/Skagit/Cowlitz/Wahkiakum: Conditions have been wet for the past two weeks, but things dried out on Friday afternoon. Some sweet corn was cut for silage and some was sold to processors. There was no market for blackberries this year, so most berries were left on the vine un-harvested. Pumpkin harvest was going well in Clark County. The hay crop in the Ridgefield area was good this year. All hay had been cut in Cowlitz County prior to the rain in mid-October. Field corn in Wahkiakum County had poor germination and a mediocre yield.

Grays Harbor: Christmas tree growers were busy harvesting Noble fir boughs and preparing fields for harvest. Livestock producers took advantage of unseasonably warm temperatures near the end of the week to do fence repair. Home gardeners were harvesting root vegetable crops and sowing winter cover crops.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Most fieldwork has been completed. Temperatures have been typical for the season.

Mason: The warm weather caused the grass to begin growing again. Pumpkin sales were brisk. Producers were digging peony roots and planting trees.

Pacific: Variable fall weather gave producers an opportunity to continue late season field activities. Oyster and clam harvest operations continued for shellfish growers, with good yields and prices. Christmas tree harvest activities were underway, and cranberry harvest efforts were nearly complete. Raspberry producers continued late season weed control and pruning operations. Beef producers had cattle on full pasture feeds.

Pierce/South King: Wet fields prevented cover crop planting and late season harvests.

Pierce/South King (2nd Report): Crop conditions remained normal for this time of year. Field conditions were not good as producers were having a hard time getting onto fields to work. There were no unusual situations to report and no reports of crop damage due to adverse weather conditions.

San Juan: Cool, moist conditions slowed pasture re-growth.

Snohomish/North King: Temperatures were mild and heavy rains were received throughout the week, with accumulations of 4.0 inches in some areas. There was water in some lowland fields. Pumpkin harvest at U-Pick farms continued through the end of October, but many pumpkins still remained in fields. Apple harvest continued and Christmas tree farms were busy tagging trees and getting ready for the holiday season.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report): The area received rain most of the week with accumulations ranging from 1.5 to 2.0 inches. The local rivers and streams began to swell with the increase in precipitation, and some areas suffered minor flooding.

Thurston: The tapestry of fall color was beginning to fade across the rural landscape as big leaf maple and other deciduous trees began to lose their foliage. Ag producers took advantage of unseasonably warm temperatures late in the week to complete fall chores. U-Pick pumpkin growers breathed a sigh of relief that another harvest season had ended with better than expected sales. Christmas tree growers continued preparing fields for harvest. Turfgrass growers reported slow sales.

Whatcom: More rain in the county continued to leave standing water in fields, and apple and pumpkin sales continued.

Central

Douglas: Many parts of the county were still well below the normal amount of rainfall for this time of year.

Douglas/Chelan: More rain and snow was received, along with high winds most of the week. Moisture levels were still below normal. Late variety apple harvest was complete. Winter wheat was still below average.

Franklin: Temperatures were cool and normal at the beginning of the week, and warmed up later in the week. Two days of precipitation was received during the week. Apple harvest was heavy, and a large portion of the field corn was being harvested. Late planted winter wheat was emerging nicely with the continued warmer weather, and potatoes continued to be harvested.

Kittitas: Some hay farmers were killing out timothy hay fields so they can replant in the spring. Livestock producers were working calves and weaning. Some have already been sold.

Klickitat: A few scattered showers helped with the moisture content and gave an extra boost to crops and grass to emerge. Frost was received in the mornings but temperatures warmed up during the day. Not much crop damage has been reported so far.

Yakima: Widespread showers dropped 0.1 to 0.2 inch of precipitation during the week. Daytime highs ranged from the lower 50s to the mid-60s. Nighttime temperatures hovered in the mid-30s with a couple of nighttime temperatures dropping into the mid-20s. Apple harvest wound down as mostly Fuji, Pink Lady and a few Braeburn apples came into packing houses.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures were generally cooler than normal, varying from seven degrees below normal to nine degrees above normal. There was 0.15 inch of precipitation received during the week. There were no crop losses due to weather conditions.

Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: Rain showers improved topsoil moisture conditions. Winter wheat was emerging slowly due to cool temperatures.

Ferry: More rain and snow was received during the week. Cattle were on fall ranges, and apple harvest was being finalized.

Garfield: Most of the wheat has emerged, especially in deep furrow applications. Wet pastures made for good grazing. Fall calving was underway.

Lincoln: Rain continued to benefit the growing wheat crop.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Fluctuations in temperatures were received during the week from below freezing with some snow, to mild weather. Supplemental feeding of livestock began for some ranchers due to previous dry pasture conditions.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: On Monday the area received about 0.66 inch of rain which created some erosion on seeded fields. Some additional fall work was done once the fields dried out. On Thursday the first snowfall was received, which turned the ground

white. Needless to say, new wheat growth has been very slow with the colder temperatures. Some growers were starting to feed hay to livestock.

Stevens: More than an inch of rain received during the week solved the topsoil moisture problem. Cattle were being gathered and prepared to go to market.

Stevens (2nd Report): A good soaking rain early in the week improved moisture conditions for winter wheat and fall tillage. Cattle producers continued gathering cows and calves for market. A few ranchers began feeding hay.

Walla Walla: Fall weather has been very favorable for area crops. Rainfall for the month has significantly helped fall seeding. Wheat throughout most of the area was looking very good.

Whitman: October ended with above average precipitation which will help newly seeded winter wheat. Most seeding operations were complete with the exception of reseeded and late seeded re-crops.

Weekly Weather Statistics
October 26 - November 1, 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	36	59	47	-1	5	-2	0	+0	2.32	+1.35	5	6.78	+1.29	123	28
Hoquiam	35	58	49	-3	10	-7	0	+0	4.01	+2.16	6	12.06	+2.33	124	26
Kelso	37	59	50	+1	12	+0	0	+0	1.37	+0.22	4	5.27	-1.08	83	20
Olympia	33	59	48	+2	7	+7	0	+0	1.60	+0.21	4	7.80	+1.01	115	26
Seattle-Tacoma	38	60	48	-2	9	-1	0	+0	1.86	+0.85	4	7.15	+1.88	136	22
Shelton	31	62	47	-2	11	+4	0	+0	2.13	+0.37	4	10.04	+1.61	119	24
Tacoma WA AP	32	59	48	-1	10	+3	0	+0	1.42	+0.39	3	7.64	+2.27	142	25
Vancouver WA	38	64	52	+4	22	+15	0	+0	1.37	+0.40	5	4.57	-0.75	86	27
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	28	59	45	+3	2	+2	0	+0	0.30	+0.12	4	1.61	+0.53	149	14
Omak AP	22	67	42	+2	4	+4	0	+0	0.47	+0.20	2	1.94	+0.21	112	12
Stam pede Pass	30	55	43	+8	0	+0	0	+0	1.91	-0.15	6	8.55	-1.69	83	31
Wenatchee AP	33	62	46	+2	5	+3	0	+0	0.23	+0.07	3	1.20	+0.32	136	12
Yakima AP	23	66	45	-1	7	+5	0	+0	0.15	+0.01	2	1.32	+0.43	148	12
NORTHEAST															
Colville	21	60	40	-2	0	+0	0	+0	0.90	+0.50	4	2.69	+0.25	110	18
Deer Park	19	58	38	-4	0	+0	0	+0	1.18	+0.80	3	3.60	+1.56	176	19
Republic	24	61	41	+4	2	+2	0	+0	0.80	+0.54	5	2.88	+1.06	158	22
Spokane AP	25	57	41	-1	3	+3	0	+0	0.80	+0.47	3	2.80	+1.03	158	13
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	35	62	45	-1	2	-5	0	+0	0.09	-0.05	2	0.82	+0.00	100	9
Moses Lake	30	61	45	-1	5	-2	0	+0	0.37	+0.23	4	1.27	+0.45	155	12
Quincy	33	62	46	+3	5	+5	0	+0	0.28	+0.11	2	1.65	+0.71	176	12
Ritzville	28	56	41	-3	0	+0	0	+0	0.55	+0.29	4	1.44	+0.04	103	13
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	32	67	49	-1	12	-4	0	+0	0.12	-0.02	2	0.56	-0.21	73	10
Pasco	24	70	50	+3	26	+12	3	+3	0.15	-0.03	3	1.10	+0.18	120	13
Pullman	24	57	43	-2	1	+0	0	+0	0.64	+0.19	3	1.97	-0.52	79	12
Walla Walla Rgn	35	66	51	+3	26	+12	0	+0	0.60	+0.12	3	2.51	-0.07	97	13
Whitman Mission	26	68	47	+1	16	+9	0	+0	0.64	+0.33	5	2.39	+0.63	136	13
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	32	66	49	+2	15	+7	0	+0	0.23	+0.02	4	0.85	-0.86	50	11

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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National weather summary:

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