



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

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Week Ending: January 2012

CWP WA-CW0212

Crop Progress and Condition for the Month of January 2012 Western

Cowlitz: There were very wet conditions with up to 18 inches of snow.

Grays Harbor: Record breaking snow accumulations in the middle of the month found many agricultural producers scrambling to keep snow accumulations removed from farm structure roofs. Snow accumulations of up to 12 inches were followed by a severe ice storm once temperatures rose above freezing. The weight of the ice combined with the snow resulted in enormous damage to trees and some farm structures. There was at least one report of an entire barn collapsing. Christmas tree growers continued cleaning harvested fields in preparation for planting. All reforestation efforts on both commercial timberland and Christmas tree farms were delayed due to the snow accumulations and ice storms. Minor flooding with no damage occurred on the Chehalis and Satsop rivers as the snow melted.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: The area experienced approximately two days of heavy snowfall totaling 16 to 20 inches, followed by ice storm conditions. The heavy snow followed by ice buildup on the timber caused widespread damage to trees, which led to road closures and significant power outages for the entire region. Power outages lasted anywhere from a few hours to several days.

Jefferson: Vegetables looked better than usual despite a record snowfall, as the temperatures were not as low as the last several winters.

Pacific: Cold winter weather limited field activities for agricultural producers in Pacific County. Raspberry and cranberry growers continued post season pruning and bog repair, and pasture conditions continued to decline with cold wet soil conditions. Shellfish growers continued oyster and clam harvest operations, and began preparations for late spring seeding efforts.

Pierce /South King: Crop conditions remained normal for this time of year. Heavy snow and ice rain during the third week of the month did little damage to crop land or pastures in the South Puget Sound area. There was some standing water in fields and maybe a little damage to fences from falling debris but nothing significant. Overall the area farms looked surprisingly good.

Skamania: Up until January 15th there was only up to one inch of rain. Since January 15th there were 11 inches of rain. The west end only saw about three to four inches of snow while the east end saw one to two feet of snow. There was also a half inch of ice on the ground.

Snohomish/North King: Most farming was in stasis with lots of saturation everywhere. There was standing water in the usual places for this time of year. Heavy snow mid-month damaged many trees and flattened pasture grasses. Wind following the snow blew over many other trees and caused power outages throughout the County. Snow/wind-damaged hoop houses and greenhouses were being rebuilt. Some pruning of fruit trees and raspberry caning were being done.

Thurston: Agricultural producers were enjoying a fairly mild winter up until mid-month when the weather turned unseasonably cold with record breaking snow accumulations. Once temperatures rose above freezing, copious amounts of ice formed resulting in heavy loss to trees and some structures. The weight of the ice was more than most trees could bear. Many farms were without electricity for nearly a week. Most agricultural producers reported massive amounts of vegetative debris. The cleanup will require months of power saw work. Fortunately, cold temperatures delayed the rapid melting of the snow which negated predictions of serious flooding. The snow accumulation delayed the digging of conifer seedlings as well as tree planting on forest lands and Christmas tree farms. Most agricultural producers were focused on storm cleanup efforts through the end of the month.

Wahkiakum: Conditions were wet but no real flooding was reported.

Whatcom: January's weather brought severe cold, strong winds, snow, and freezing rain with the last weekend receiving heavy rains. Minus nine degree temperatures hampered milking operations due to freezing pipes. Many fields accumulated standing water and were too wet for livestock to be put out to pasture. The berries were in dormancy and growers were hoping the cold winds from the northeast will not cause any long term damage. No crop damage reported at this time.

Central

Douglas/Chelan: The winter wheat crop was under snow cover from recent storms. Many livestock producers took advantage of the open winter and continued to graze cattle. All cattle were now on full feed. Fruit growers also took advantage of the mild January to prune their trees. High winds, freezing rains and cold temperatures have halted that activity. Moisture levels for January were well below average.

Franklin: Soil moisture was lacking significantly.

Grant: Although a winter storm did come through this county last week, no reports of tree or crop damage have been received so far.

Kittitas: This winter was unusually dry in the Kittitas Valley up until the second week of January when the La Nina effects were finally felt. Significant snow fall finally covered the standing hay and wheat crops. Effects from the snow made an immediate impact, keeping ground temperatures warmer, building a decent snow pack, and making farmers more optimistic about 2012. Mountain reservoir levels were above average for the year due to less water being used last year and the recent precipitation. Hay prices continued to be strong, and

with strong cattle prices, prices may be good for 2012. It seemed like the alfalfa supply for much of the Northwest was very low. Most of the hay in the valley was either gone or committed.

Klickitat: The weather was mainly in the 20's during the night, and in the 40's during the day. We received around a foot of snow on January 17th and the following day we received freezing rain. There were many downed power lines and trees. Snow was slowly melting off with days of sunshine intermixed with rain. Cattle were being fed and some ranchers started calving.

Yakima: After an extremely dry December, Yakima County received a fair amount of precipitation mainly in the form of snow (but some freezing rain) in 3 to 5 days there was between 0.4 to 0.8 inches of moisture. Temperatures remained mild throughout the month averaging in the upper 20's with a low temperature dipping into single digits in the Upper Valley on January 23. Fruit tree pruning proceeded as normal this spring with no reported bud loss due to extremely cold temperatures over the autumn or thus far in the spring.

Eastern

Adams/Lincoln: Moisture conditions remained in short supply even with the last couple weeks of wet weather. Winter wheat remained in good to very good condition but above average spring precipitation was going to be required to maintain the crop.

Adams (2nd Report): Up through early January the pastures were very dry with no significant moisture for two months. Since early January there was a lot of moisture making annual triticale pastures very wet which made for forage loss with cattle in the pastures. There was still need for more moisture to set up spring work. Winter wheat improved with the recent moisture and was looking good.

Asotin: The crops were dormant. There was a winter storm on January 18th, and it dropped several inches of snow. The weather turned to rain and it slowly melted off the snow. There was a little washing on some of the fields due to the amount of moisture received over the past weeks.

Ferry: Many areas of the county were significantly under snowfalls normals. Calving started on many ranch operations.

Garfield: There was a good start to January with fairly mild weather. Although mid-month around 10 inches of snow fell across the county, followed by one inch of ice. There did not appear to be any damage to the wheat crop from the storm.

Lincoln: Winter moisture was at the lowest in over 32 years. October through January moisture on average is 6.34 inches. We were sitting with the October through January moisture at 2.68 inches.

Without proper winter moisture it will be hard to hold moisture clear until seeding in September.

Pend Oreille: The snow level was lower than usual (about eight inches) and temperatures were higher than normal. Calving was going well.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Weather for the month of January carried above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation in the form of rain or snow. The lack of snow caused the ground to have about six inches of frost. The rain on frozen ground was not good and moisture was lost down the draw because of the frost. The winter wheat looked pretty good.

Stevens: Very little precipitation accumulated during January raising concerns about moisture conditions for spring seeding. Temperatures less than 10 degrees occurred several times without snow cover. Area hay supplies were tight, with prices on available product increasing.

Walla Walla: The area was dry, with around two to three inches of precipitation below normal. There was very little snow cover. Temperatures ranged from the mid-teens to the mid-60s.

Whitman: There was 2.54 inches of precipitation received during the month of January in Pullman. The majority of the moisture came in the form of snow on the 18th and 19th. Average temperatures ranged from 14 degrees above normal to 10 degrees below normal. The high for the month was 48 degrees while the low was 14 degrees. No crop losses were reported due to the weather at this time.

**Monthly Weather Statistics
January 1 - January 29, 2012**

STATION	AIR				PRECIPITATION			HDD TOT	HDD DFN	DAYS	DAYS
	TEMPERATURE				TOTAL	DFN	DAYS			OF	OF
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN						32	28
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WEST											
Bellingham Intl	60	10	38	+1	2.96	-1.46	17	775	-24	11	8
Hoquiam	54	25	41	-2	8.23	-0.87	22	695	+34	8	2
Kelso	54	23	40	+2	4.86	-1.45	21	722	-36	10	6
Olympia	54	18	37	-2	7.32	-0.21	22	802	+17	19	7
Seattle-Tacoma	55	26	39	-1	6.14	+1.08	21	737	+11	9	6
Shelton	52	21	36	-4	9.08	-0.67	22	823	+84	17	11
Tacoma WA AP	58	21	38	-2	4.95	-0.48	20	786	+39	18	7
Vancouver WA	56	23	41	+3	6.42	+0.73	20	700	-84	10	6
CENTRAL											
Ellensburg	48	11	28	+3	0.32	-0.85	9	1067	-78	29	25
Omak AP	49	2	23	+2	1.12	-0.23	10	1201	-41	29	27
Stampede Pass	42	10	28	+5	9.92	-2.98	18	1064	-129	29	27
Wenatchee AP	47	8	26	-1	0.95	-0.12	9	1114	+9	29	25
Yakima AP	55	6	29	-1	1.35	+0.20	8	1031	+0	29	26
NORTHEAST											
Colville	49	8	27	+3	1.17	-1.07	13	1103	-69	28	26
Deer Park	49	5	28	+4	1.75	-0.03	11	1067	-83	27	22
Republic	43	-6	22	+0	1.24	-0.04	12	1161	-89	27	27
Spokane AP	53	9	30	+3	1.35	-0.51	10	1021	-86	26	21
EAST CENTRAL											
Ephrata	49	4	27	-1	0.24	-0.52	7	1106	+1	29	26
Moses Lake	50	4	27	+1	0.51	-0.25	7	1086	-19	29	27
Quincy	49	4	28	+2	0.10	-0.70	2	1066	-44	29	28
Ritzville	53	7	29	+2	0.69	-0.40	7	1049	-42	28	26
SOUTHEAST											
Hanford	55	12	31	-2	0.84	+0.10	6	973	+46	24	21
Pasco	59	10	33	+0	0.92	-0.05	7	917	-13	24	21
Pullman	52	15	32	+4	2.35	-0.22	12	942	-117	24	17
Walla Walla Rgn	69	19	37	+3	1.86	-0.29	9	816	-85	21	14
Whitman Mission	56	12	33	+1	1.72	+0.23	9	909	-18	28	27
IDAHO											
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE											
Lewiston ID	57	18	36	+3	1.47	+0.27	9	827	-87	19	10

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2011

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1971-2000 Normal 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> Washington

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