

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending July 1, 2001

WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Rain and hail storm damages grains and fruits on June 27
Splitting reported in cherry crop**

FIELD CROPS

Rain was reported across most of the state with temperatures slightly below normal. Winter wheat heads were filling. A rain and hail storm severely damaged cereal crops in Adams County. Some wheat was baled for hay due to drought stress. Onion, potato, pea, and dry bean fields in a few areas also sustained damage from the storm. Rain helped growth of newly planted Christmas trees. Fungicides were applied to potato fields in Grays Harbor County. Commercial daffodil bulb growers placed containers in fields.

LIVESTOCK

Alfalfa second cutting continued with good quality reported. Hay harvest was delayed for a few days by rain. Lower elevation pastures were in poorer condition than those at higher elevations. Lack of livestock water was a concern for utilizing pastures. Range and pasture conditions were 2% very poor, 35% poor, 47% fair, and 16% good. Dairymen continued harvesting greenchop.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

The June 27 storm caused damage to apples, cherries, pears, and many soft fruits. Splitting was reported in Bing and Rainier cherries in Yakima County. Douglas and Chelan Counties also reported damage to the cherry crop. Some orchards also sustained tree damage. Strawberry harvest continued. Apricot, raspberry, rhubarb, lettuce, and cabbage harvests began. U-Pick blueberry growers prepared roadside stands for harvest.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
5.3	6.6

Soil Moisture	Soil Moisture and Supply			
	% Acreage			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	9	42	49	-
Subsoil	17	51	32	-
Irrigation Water	-	6	94	-
Hay and Roughage	-	9	91	-

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

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2000	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Headed	84	75	81	80
Winter Wheat Headed	100	98	100	100
Winter Wheat Harvest	-	-	-	-
Barley Headed	87	77	84	82
Potatoes Harvested	2	-	-	-
Alfalfa, 1 st cutting	97	95	96	92
Alfalfa, 2 nd cutting	48	16	46	38

Crop	Crop Condition *				
	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	13	46	39	-
Winter Wheat Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-
Spring Wheat Dryland	6	25	46	23	-
Spring Wheat Irrigated	-	-	10	90	-
Barley Dryland	6	24	46	24	-
Barley Irrigated	-	-	-	100	-
Dry Beans	-	-	5	95	-
Corn	-	-	4	96	-
Potato	-	-	7	93	-

VP=Very Poor, P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good, EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

WESTERN

Grays Harbor: Heavy rainfall, early in the week, resulted in water standing in sweet corn fields. Commercial vegetable growers were elated with the combination of heavy rains and warm temperatures. Plants responded with tremendous growth. Hay producers resumed cutting on Friday, with a forecast of nearly ideal curing conditions for the next five days. Commercial potato growers applied fungicides to fields. Commercial daffodil growers placed bulb containers in fields in anticipation of digging. U-Pick blueberry farms were preparing roadside stands for harvest, which is projected to begin by mid-July on early varieties. Commercial artichoke growers reported excellent plant growth as a result of nearly ideal weather conditions.

King/Pierce: Strawberry harvest was past the halfway point, and early raspberry harvest began. Rhubarb, lettuce, and cabbage harvests were underway. Haying operations continued.

Pierce/Thurston: On Wednesday, the South Puget Sound area received heavy rain which could have caused damage to field crops. The extent of the damage will not be known until later. The Bonney Lake area in Pierce County had a tornado on June 27. There were no reports of crop damage caused by the tornado.

Thurston: Heavy rainfall, early in the week, frustrated hay producers who were forced to delay harvest due to poor weather conditions. Christmas tree growers were jubilant, as the increased soil moisture was ideal for newly planted trees. Organic vegetable growers started harvesting strawberries for sale at Farmer's Markets throughout the Puget Sound region. Turfgrass growers were able to temporarily turn off irrigation systems due to adequate soil moisture. Dairymen continued harvesting green chop as weather permitted.

CENTRAL

Benton: Rain and hail resulted in minor damage to fruit crops. Cherry harvest continued in later areas and varieties.

Chelan/Douglas: Heavy rain, received over a two day period, caused approximately 50 percent damage to a portion of the area's cherry crop. The moisture received will help fill the winter wheat heads and will significantly assist the spring wheat and barley crops. Pasture conditions continued to be of concern, even with recent precipitation.

Franklin: Cooler days than normal continued until mid-week. No adverse conditions were reported until the storm on June 27. Very minimal damage from the wind, rain, and hail was reported to corn, wheat, potatoes, apples, and cherries. The second cutting of hay looked fair to

good, including the BPA load reduction contract acreage.

Grant: A major storm with wind, hail, and rain caused considerable damage to crops and property on the Wahluke Slope on June 27. Damage reports are being received on soft fruit, dry beans, and other crops. Some circle towers were blown down. General rains damaged some cherries ready for harvest. The second cutting of alfalfa was in progress. Dryland wheat harvest will be later than normal due to prior cool weather.

Okanogan/Ferry: The county received a welcomed 2 day rain which accumulated approximately .8 to 1 inch of precipitation. Pasture conditions remained poor at the lower elevations, but high mountain pastures were in fair

condition. Lack of livestock water limits use of some pastures. Spring crops were helped by the recent rains. So far, only one or two producers have reported any amount of damage to fruit crops, as a result of the recent heavy rains.

Yakima: Average temperatures were generally below normal, ranging from 13 degrees below normal to 2 degrees above normal. High winds, rain, and hail on June 26-27 brought .72 inches of rain and caused severe damage to a significant acreage of crops, including apples, cherries, pears and most soft fruits.

Yakima (2nd Report): Widespread precipitation, on June 27, caused significant cracking damage to the Bing and Rainier cherry harvest. Isolated cases of hail wiped out apple, pear, cherry, and soft fruit crops in several orchards in the mid-Yakima Valley. In addition to crop loss, some orchards sustained tree losses from high winds and flash floods. Harvest of Tomcot and other early-maturing varieties of apricots has begun.

EASTERN

Adams: Reports continued to stream in on damages from the hail and rain storms, which occurred on June 27. Winter and spring grains, potatoes, onions, hay, and peas suffered 80-100 percent losses in an area stretching from the Warden area to the northwest, and running approximately 25 miles to the Lincoln County line. Heavy rains also caused damages to fruit crops in the Othello area.

Adams (2nd Report): Severe hail damage was reported to both spring and winter cereals north and northwest of Ritzville.

Asotin & Garfield: A timely rain on June 27—between .45 to 1.25 inches—helped spring crops in many locations. However, drought stress continued with additional wheat being baled for hay. The winter crop may be average at best. The

spring crop was expected to be well below average. Crop health varies with rainfall zone and location within the area.

Lincoln: Spotty rain showers were reported throughout the county, but dry conditions still persist. Winter and spring cereals appeared mostly in fair condition.

Stevens: Most of the first cutting of hay has been baled. Producers were reporting yield reductions of up to 75 percent, due to the lack of rain, and the cold spring. Pastures were adequate at this time, due to recent rains. The end of the week was warm and dry.

Whitman: The county received welcomed moisture mid-week, with accumulations ranging from .6 to 1.0 inches.

WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

July 2, 2001

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation				
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days	
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN			
WEST																
Bellingham	43	71	59	-2	64	-9	4	-10	0.32	-0.03	3	25.50	-8.09	76	139	
Everett	47	70	59	-3	61	-18	2	-16	0.88	0.48	3	24.11	-9.87	71	136	
Hoquiam	47	73	58	-2	55	-8	2	-5	0.43	0.04	2	42.27	-23.17	65	155	
Kelso	43	75	61	-2	78	-5	13	-8	0.65	0.27	1	19.59	-24.68	44	122	
Olympia	41	73	58	-4	59	-16	3	-11	0.69	0.39	3	30.02	-18.70	62	134	
Seattle-Tacoma	49	73	60	-3	73	-19	6	-21	0.63	0.35	3	23.94	-11.52	68	123	
Shelton	42	74	59	-4	65	-24	4	-24	0.76	0.43	2	40.68	-22.33	65	140	
Tacoma	45	72	60	-4	70	-19	6	-18	0.97	0.64	2	26.05	-12.21	68	130	
Vancouver	43	78	62	-1	88	-1	20	-8	0.56	0.28	3	22.62	-16.83	57	136	
CENTRAL																
Ellensburg	40	80	61	-5	79	-29	14	-29	0.52	0.45	3	6.98	-1.35	84	72	
Omak	43	87	64	-1	101	-1	34	-6	0.57	0.34	3	5.76	-7.60	43	60	
Stampede Pass	35	73	52	2	24	-2	4	4	1.03	0.51	3	52.82	-25.21	68	161	
Wenatchee	45	85	64	-6	102	-39	34	-37	0.54	0.44	2	5.52	-2.15	72	66	
Yakima AP	36	86	63	-5	94	-28	31	-23	0.72	0.65	2	4.70	-2.74	63	60	
NORTHEAST																
Colville	40	86	64	0	98	0	29	-6	0.44	0.16	3	12.14	-7.20	63	74	
Deer Park	41	83	61	-4	82	-25	19	-24	0.47	0.24	3	12.74	-4.25	75	107	
Spokane AP	42	85	64	-2	100	-8	36	-8	0.50	0.27	4	9.99	-5.18	66	94	
EAST CENTRAL																
Ephrata	42	86	66	-6	116	-36	49	-34	0.43	0.35	2	5.24	-1.43	79	67	
Moses Lake	43	86	66	-7	111	-41	44	-39	0.37	0.29	3	6.47	-0.20	97	63	
Quincy	44	85	64	-5	102	-28	35	-26	0.03	-0.04	1	5.15	-2.09	71	57	
Ritzville	39	86	61	-5	81	-29	26	-19	0.34	0.20	3	9.17	-1.37	87	74	
SOUTHEAST																
Hanford	45	85	68	-7	130	-39	61	-40	0.73	0.66	3	6.13	0.10	102	61	
Pasco	48	90	69	-3	138	-16	68	-17	0.13	0.06	1	7.50	0.53	108	69	
Pullman	41	81	61	-2	80	-7	17	-11	1.01	0.73	3	12.70	-6.85	65	102	
Walla Walla AP	46	89	69	-3	136	-13	66	-14	0.38	0.20	3	15.25	-2.94	84	92	
Whitman Mission	40	86	63	-6	90	-39	26	-34	0.68	0.54	2	13.78	1.07	108	95	
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE																
Coeur D'A'AP	46	82	62	-4	88	-23	25	-20	0.94	0.58	3	15.90	-7.94	67	96	
Lewiston ID	48	90	68	-3	128	-16	59	-15	0.69	0.46	5	11.12	0.10	101	98	

Summary based on NWS data.
 Season CUMulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2000
 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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