

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

Released: September 10, 2001, 1:00 p.m.
Published Weekly
CWP Vol 01 No 27



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507

Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending September 9, 2001

WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Winter Wheat Planting Underway
Dry Conditions Continue to Deteriorate Range and Pastures**

FIELD CROPS

Winter wheat planting was in full swing. Some operators culti-packed fields before seeding to aid in moisture retention. The earliest fields planted with winter wheat had emerged. A few areas were finishing up winter wheat harvest. Spring wheat and barley harvest were winding down. Dry pea harvest was completed. Turfgrass growers were busy planting and irrigating fields on the westside of the state. Christmas tree growers prepared fields for harvest. Fall bulb planting was winding down. Pumpkin harvest began. Sweet corn, onion, and potato harvests continued.

LIVESTOCK

Dry conditions continued to deteriorate range and pastures. Cattle producers were looking for alternative watering and feeding methods. USDA/FSA Emergency Conservation Programs were available in eastern Washington, due to lack of precipitation. Western Washington livestock producers continued to combat Canadian thistle and other noxious weeds. Lincoln County reported grasshopper infestation. Third cutting alfalfa was winding down. Range and pasture conditions were 20% very poor, 50% poor, and 30% fair.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Apple, pear, and other soft fruit harvests were in full swing. Blueberry harvest began to slow with average yields being reported. Cranberry growers prepared for harvest. Farmers' Markets continued to have exceptional organic sales. Western Washington received several reports of bees feeding on the fruit crop. Vegetable, flower, and blackberry harvests continued.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
6.8	6.8

Soil Type	Soil Moisture and Supply			
	% Acreage			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	27	57	16	-
Subsoil	25	60	15	-
Irrigation Water	10	10	80	-
Hay and Roughage	5	20	75	-

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

Crop/Activity	Crop Progress			
	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2000	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	96	93	98	96
Winter Wheat Harvested	99	98	100	99
Barley Harvested	97	92	99	96
Potatoes Harvested	30	26	36	30
Dry Peas Harvested	100	95	99	97
Alfalfa, 3 rd cutting	97	90	91	91
Dry Beans Harvested	20	15	28	23
Corn Harvested for Silage	25	15	23	24

Crop	Crop Condition *				
	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Dry Beans	-	-	-	100	-
Corn	-	-	-	100	-
Potatoes	-	-	10	90	-

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.

Washington State University
Cooperative Extension Service
Michael Tate
Dean/Director, Coop Extension

USDA
Farm Service Agency
James F. Fitzgerald
State Director

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
Doug Hasslen - State Statistician
Jim Johnson - Ag Statistician
Michelle Fox - Ag Statistician

COUNTY COMMENTS

WESTERN

Clallam/Jefferson: Weather conditions were normal. Grain harvest was complete and reports were good. Corn was coming along well. Seed crops looked good and harvest was expected to start soon.

Grays Harbor: Warm, sunny weather provided ideal conditions for fall farm activities. Livestock producers were busy clipping pastures to weaken Canada thistle and other noxious weeds. Sweet corn was topped, with growers projecting harvest to begin about October 1. Christmas tree growers were tagging fields for harvest. Cranberry growers prepared for harvest, slated to begin next week. Home gardeners complained about aggressive yellow jackets eating Italian prunes and other fall fruit.

Pierce/King: Vegetable and flower harvest continued. Fall bulb planting was nearly complete. Pumpkin harvest was underway. Blackberry, blueberry, and tree fruit harvest continued.

Pierce/South King (2nd Report): There were

no unusual weather conditions to report. Crop conditions remained favorable for producers. Fall crops were progressing well. There was no report of any crop damage due to weather.

Snohomish/King: The week was dry, with just a few scattered showers. Sweet corn harvest continued. Early apple harvest was underway. Blueberry harvest was nearly complete. Most pastures were in pretty good condition.

Thurston: Warm temperatures with no rain, continued to exacerbate drought conditions throughout the county. Blueberry harvest was almost complete, with growers reporting overall yields to be about average. Growers were complaining about prolific bee populations feeding on remaining fruit. Turfgrass growers were busy sowing new fields and irrigating. Christmas tree growers continued preparing plantations for harvest. Organic truck gardeners continued to report excellent sales at Farmer's Markets in the Seattle metropolitan area.

CENTRAL

Chelan/Douglas: Wheat harvest was nearly complete. Yields were reported as about average. Apple and pear harvest began. The apple crop was expected to be smaller than last year, but higher than earlier anticipated. Dry pasture conditions continued. Producers were seeking alternative means of watering their livestock. Emergency Conservation Program practices are available from USDA/FSA.

Grant: Sweet corn and onion harvest continued. Dryland wheat began to emerge. Harvest of Gala and Golden Delicious apples, as well as soft fruit, continued.

Kittitas: Corn harvest was about halfway done in the Kittitas Valley. The second cutting of timothy hay will start this week. Livestock were starting to return from summer ranges.

Okanogan/Ferry: Wheat harvest was

winding down. The third cutting of alfalfa was well underway. Apple and pear harvest began. Pasture conditions were still poor in the lower elevations and fair in the higher elevations. Many cattle producers were applying for Emergency Conservation Programs for spring development and livestock water hauling.

Yakima: Average temperatures ranged from 4 degrees below normal to 5 degrees above normal, with no precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Yakima (2nd Report): Weather conditions have been very suitable for tree fruit development. Peak harvest time for Gala apples was over. Growers should be able to start harvesting Jonagold and Golden Delicious apples this week.

EASTERN

Adams: Winter wheat seeding was in full swing, with some growers already finished and other growers just getting started. The earliest seeded fields were already starting to emerge and rows were visible. Growers reported moisture conditions as better than expected, but not as good as in the past few years. Most fields were culti-packed prior to seeding to help assure seed placement into moisture.

Asotin/Garfield: Dry weather allowed the harvest to be completed. Farmers were turning their attention to seeding fall crops. Moisture conditions were poor. Rain is needed for proper establishment of winter wheat and winter barley. Rangeland was generally in poor condition due to the drought. Rain is also needed for fall recovery of rangeland.

Lincoln: Great weather allowed harvest to continue. Yields were average to below average for winter wheat, and about 40-50 percent below average for spring wheat and barley. Seeding began. The grasshopper problem will become evident very shortly.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Harvest was nearly complete, with a few farmers in the northern

part of the county waiting for spring cereals to ripen. Winter wheat seeding was in full swing in the southern end of the county.

Pend Oreille: The weather conditions continued to be dry, with no moisture. Harvest was almost complete, except for a few later seedings of spring grains. Pastures and grazing were seriously low, with water becoming a factor. Very little fieldwork was being done due to the lack of moisture. The lack of rainfall this summer was starting to take a toll on the newer seedings of perennial crops, like bluegrass and alfalfa. Without a rain soon, these stands may have to be reseeded next year.

Stevens: Cooler temperatures prevailed throughout the week. No precipitation was received. Pastures were devastated. Culling continued.

Whitman: Dry conditions prevailed across the county. Very limited seeding of winter wheat has begun on the western edge of the county, but no seeding activity was reported in other areas. Range and pasture conditions were generally poor.

WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

September 10, 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	42	67	57	-3	51	-17	0	-13	0.01	-0.38	1	30.09	-6.67	82	152	
Everett	50	71	59	-2	65	-8	2	-12	0.10	-0.35	1	26.46	-10.72	71	149	
Hoquiam	46	72	59	-4	61	-16	1	-19	0.00	-0.60	0	46.82	-22.08	68	172	
Kelso	43	81	60	-3	75	-12	16	-11	0.02	-0.47	1	20.97	-26.35	44	130	
Olympia	40	75	57	-4	50	-22	1	-13	0.01	-0.44	1	32.50	-18.86	63	146	
Seattle-Tacoma	48	74	60	-3	71	-18	8	-17	0.03	-0.36	1	27.37	-10.44	72	136	
Shelton	38	76	58	-5	56	-31	2	-24	0.08	-0.43	1	44.49	-21.29	68	153	
Tacoma	45	73	59	-3	64	-18	4	-16	0.00	-0.42	0	26.74	-14.19	65	136	
Vancouver	46	86	63	2	95	9	29	5	0.01	-0.41	1	24.24	-17.75	58	147	
CENTRAL																
Ellensburg	38	84	62	-1	85	-1	18	-13	0.00	-0.14	0	7.31	-1.82	80	74	
Omak	39	85	64	4	103	21	33	4	0.00	-0.21	0	6.20	-9.15	40	68	
Stampede Pass	38	69	50	-2	18	-12	0	-7	0.01	-0.67	1	55.79	-26.45	68	176	
Wenatchee	49	83	66	-1	117	-4	47	-7	0.00	-0.14	0	5.76	-2.75	68	69	
Yakima AP	38	84	64	0	96	-2	27	-12	0.00	-0.14	0	5.08	-3.09	62	65	
NORTHEAST																
Colville	37	86	63	4	94	19	25	0	0.00	-0.28	0	13.45	-8.18	62	83	
Deer Park	29	84	58	-5	56	-33	7	-26	0.00	-0.21	0	13.56	-5.28	72	118	
Spokane AP	39	81	61	-2	76	-14	17	-17	0.00	-0.21	0	10.53	-6.27	63	102	
EAST CENTRAL																
Ephrata	43	84	66	-3	117	-11	47	-14	0.00	-0.07	0	5.32	-2.02	72	71	
Moses Lake	40	85	65	-4	108	-20	38	-23	0.00	-0.07	0	6.61	-0.73	90	67	
Quincy	46	82	66	0	111	3	41	-4	0.00	-0.14	0	5.19	-2.84	65	58	
Ritzville	37	82	60	-4	74	-21	14	-22	0.00	-0.12	0	10.39	-1.11	90	78	
SOUTHEAST																
Hanford	46	90	68	-5	128	-26	58	-24	0.00	-0.10	0	6.24	-0.40	94	66	
Pasco	36	88	65	-4	103	-23	34	-26	0.00	-0.11	0	7.97	0.32	104	75	
Pullman	37	81	59	-2	65	-15	6	-22	0.00	-0.21	0	13.19	-8.23	62	107	
Walla Walla AP	48	86	66	-3	116	-15	46	-17	0.00	-0.21	0	15.46	-4.34	78	96	
Whitman Mission	35	87	63	-2	94	-9	28	-13	0.00	-0.14	0	14.10	0.14	101	102	
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE																
Coeur D'A'AP	34	84	60	-5	70	-28	17	-22	0.01	-0.27	1	16.87	-9.52	64	106	
Lewiston ID	49	88	68	1	128	2	58	-3	0.00	-0.21	0	11.85	-0.86	93	105	

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.

Copyright 1998: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.