

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending September 23, 2001

WEEK IN BRIEF:

Cranberry Harvest Began

Cattle Producers Were Beginning to Feed Hay Due to Poor Range and Pasture Conditions

FIELD CROPS

Winter wheat planting progressed slowly due to the dry, warm weather. A few winter wheat fields in Adams County were re-seeded due to cheat grass infestation. Carrot, onion, and lima bean harvests continued. Low yields were reported for green onions and sweet corn in Pierce/South King County. Corn harvest for grain was underway with corn harvest for silage in full swing. Potato vine kill was underway while digging progressed slowly. Hybrid poplar trees were beginning to show fall colors. Christmas tree growers continued trimming Noble fir trees. Turfgrass growers continued to seed and net fields.

LIVESTOCK

The third cutting of alfalfa was completed last week, with the fourth cutting winding down. Lack of precipitation and warm weather continued to deteriorate range and pasture conditions. Stevens County reported cattle producers feeding hay, while most ranchers were culling herds due to the feed shortage. Range and pasture conditions were 20% very poor, 50% poor, and 30% fair.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Cranberry harvest began. The blueberry crop harvest was almost completed. Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith apples and D'Anjou pear harvests continued. Organic vegetable farmers continued to have good business at farmers markets. Hop and wine grape harvests progressed.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
6.9	6.9

Soil Moisture	Soil Moisture and Supply			
	% Acreage			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	30	50	20	-
Subsoil	25	55	20	-
Irrigation Water	10	5	85	-
Hay and Roughage	5	15	80	-

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

Crop/Activity	Crop Progress			
	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2000	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	62	58	45	60
Winter Wheat Emerged	38	25	24	38
Potatoes Harvested	37	35	45	42
Alfalfa, 3 rd cutting	100	99	98	97
Dry Beans Harvested	37	30	51	45
Corn Harvested for Silage	38	35	33	41
Corn Harvested for Grain	1	-	1	-

Crop	Crop Condition *				
	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Dry Beans	-	-	-	100	-
Corn	-	-	-	100	-
Potatoes	-	-	5	95	-

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

Clallam/Jefferson: The weather was beautiful for the last week of summer. Crop activities were winding down for many crops and gearing up for fall harvest activities. A local newspaper reported “the rainfall since October 2000 at 56 to 74 percent of average” in the Dungeness Valley. No reports of crop damage have been received.

Gray’s Harbor: Beautiful fall weather, throughout the week, provided local ag producers with the opportunity to finish up with a myriad of fall chores prior to the beginning of the rainy season. Topping of sweet corn fields were completed in anticipation of the harvest. Potato vines completely withered, with digging scheduled in anticipation of harvest. Hybrid poplar plantations were showing fall leaf color. Christmas tree growers continued top working Noble fir trees. Cranberry harvest started early in the week.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions were good for the area. The weather has been a little dry for this time of the year. No unusual situations were reported during the week. The FSA office received reports of low yields for green onions and sweet corn.

Snohomish/King: The weather was very nice, with a few daytime temperatures above normal. Sweet corn and corn silage harvest was underway. Corn mazes can be found all over the area. A few U-Pick blueberry signs were still found. There were no reports of any problems with crops or with drought conditions.

Thurston: Another week of dry and unseasonably warm temperatures resulted in pronounced drought conditions throughout the county. Blueberry harvest was 99 percent complete. Turfgrass growers were seeding and applying netting to new fields. Christmas tree growers were spot spraying blackberries with the herbicide Roundup. Dairymen continued applying liquid manure to forage fields. Organic vegetable producers continued to report brisk produce sales at Farmer’s Markets.

Whatcom: The weather was good, with a few scattered showers on Friday. The berry crop harvest was mostly complete. Silage corn harvest started.

CENTRAL

Franklin: Potatoes, carrots, and sweet corn were being harvested. The fourth cutting of alfalfa continued. Apples were being picked. The weather continued to be warm and dry.

Grant: Onion, lima bean, and sweet corn harvest progressed. The fourth cutting of alfalfa continued. Irrigated wheat planting began.

Kittitas: Potato harvest was underway. Sweet corn processing continued. The second cutting of timothy hay wrapped up, as well as the third cutting of alfalfa hay. Low elevation range and pastureland were still in poor condition, due to lack of precipitation. Winter pasture and range was in high demand. Many producers were

having a hard time finding winter feed.

Yakima: Red Delicious apple harvest began as Golden Delicious harvest wound down. Overall, quality was good, but the weather was not conducive to good fruit color. The grounding of agricultural aircraft was making it difficult for growers to spray growth regulators over their apple crop.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures ranged from normal to 10 degrees above normal, with no precipitation. No new crop losses, due to weather conditions, were reported.

EASTERN

Adams: Winter wheat seeding was nearly complete, throughout the county, and was emerging okay for the most part. A few fields were torn out and replanted, because of heavy cheat grass infestations.

Asotin/Garfield: The weather continued to be very dry. Rainfall for the month of September has been zero so far. Temperatures were over 90 degrees and were close to record highs. Some farmers were seeding, but most were still waiting for rain.

Lincoln: Winter wheat seeding was nearly complete except in the northern part of the county.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Above normal temperatures allowed for completion of harvest. Seeding was nearly complete, with the exception of some eastern areas of the county. No precipitation was received. The lack of moisture was a major concern for the producers.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The temperatures were 10-20 degrees above normal during the week. All

the warm weather was not doing any good for the producers who need to seed, or the livestock producers who were running low on pastures. Weather forecasts do not show any rain in sight.

Stevens: The weather conditions were very dry. Cattlemen were beginning to bring cows in off summer pastures and feeding them hay. Calves, in many cases, were being sold immediately. Herd liquidation continued.

Walla Walla: Dry soil conditions were impeding the planting of winter wheat in much of the county.

Whitman: Seeding of winter wheat proceeded slowly, while dry conditions predominated. Winter wheat seeding activity was expected to move forward full speed during the first two weeks of October, regardless of moisture conditions. Rain was very much needed. Grazing conditions were mostly poor and most cattle producers were planning to wean early this year.

WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

September 24, 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	72	58	-1	55	-4	0	-7	0.00	-0.42	0	30.09	-7.09	81	152
Everett	51	76	62	4	82	20	17	8	0.00	-0.49	0	26.46	-11.21	70	149
Hoquiam	46	68	55	-6	40	-35	0	-14	0.00	-0.73	0	46.82	-22.81	67	172
Kelso	46	81	64	4	103	24	34	13	0.00	-0.55	0	20.97	-26.90	44	130
Olympia	41	80	61	3	76	16	11	3	0.00	-0.50	0	32.50	-19.36	63	146
Seattle-Tacoma	51	77	63	2	89	9	25	6	0.00	-0.42	0	27.37	-10.86	72	136
Shelton	43	80	61	0	78	2	16	-3	0.00	-0.59	0	44.49	-21.88	67	153
Tacoma	43	81	62	2	85	13	18	4	0.00	-0.42	0	26.74	-14.61	65	136
Vancouver	50	86	68	8	130	54	60	41	0.00	-0.47	0	24.24	-18.22	57	147
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	44	91	68	10	130	60	60	40	0.00	-0.14	0	7.31	-1.96	79	74
Omak	57	92	74	16	171	103	101	82	0.00	-0.21	0	6.20	-9.36	40	68
Stampede Pass	49	77	62	13	87	65	22	22	0.00	-0.76	0	55.79	-27.21	67	176
Wenatchee	55	91	73	9	163	60	93	53	0.00	-0.08	0	5.76	-2.83	67	69
Yakima AP	45	92	70	10	144	60	74	46	0.00	-0.08	0	5.08	-3.17	62	65
NORTHEAST															
Colville	40	97	68	11	125	64	58	42	0.00	-0.28	0	13.45	-8.46	61	83
Deer Park	35	90	65	6	106	34	37	13	0.00	-0.21	0	13.56	-5.49	71	118
Spokane AP	48	89	69	10	135	63	65	41	0.00	-0.18	0	10.53	-6.45	62	102
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	49	94	75	10	176	65	106	60	0.00	-0.10	0	5.32	-2.12	72	71
Moses Lake	46	93	71	6	148	37	78	32	0.00	-0.10	0	6.61	-0.83	89	67
Quincy	49	92	73	10	161	69	91	58	0.00	-0.12	0	5.19	-2.96	64	58
Ritzville	47	92	71	10	147	68	77	52	0.00	-0.14	0	10.39	-1.25	89	78
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	52	95	75	7	179	45	109	44	0.00	-0.07	0	6.24	-0.47	93	66
Pasco	43	93	70	5	143	35	73	28	0.00	-0.07	0	7.97	0.25	103	75
Pullman	42	89	65	7	108	42	38	18	0.00	-0.21	0	13.19	-8.44	61	107
Walla Walla AP	53	91	74	9	167	55	97	49	0.00	-0.21	0	15.46	-4.55	77	96
Whitman Mission	38	92	68	6	125	39	55	24	0.00	-0.14	0	14.10	0.00	100	102
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A'AP	41	90	69	8	132	50	62	35	0.00	-0.28	0	16.87	-9.80	63	106
Lewiston ID	53	94	75	11	175	68	105	59	0.00	-0.19	0	11.85	-1.05	92	105

Summary based on NWS data.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Season CUMulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2000 Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

NA = Data Unavailable

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