

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending October 21, 2001

WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Winter Wheat Seeding was 98% Completed With 87% Emerged
Apple, Asian Pear, Cranberry and Grape Harvests Continued**

FIELD CROPS

Winter wheat seeding was completed for most of Washington state. A few areas were re-seeding due to crusting of the soil or emergence problems. Potato, onion, carrot, pumpkin, squash, and sweet corn harvests continued. U-Pick pumpkin patches and corn mazes continued to receive excellent business. Christmas tree growers continued to prepare for harvest with some operations displaying 'Choose and Cut' signs.

LIVESTOCK

Precipitation received across the state last week did little to improve range and pasture conditions. Cattle producers were feeding cattle and weaning calves earlier in the season due to feed shortages. Hay harvest was mostly completed. Dairy operations continued to harvest grass and corn silage. Range and pasture conditions were 20% very poor, 60% poor, 15% fair, and 5% good.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Red Delicious apple and Asian pear harvests began to wind down. Braeburn, Pink Lady, and Fuji apple harvests continued in full swing. Several apple producers were cutting down and pulling out wild apple orchards that host the codling moth. Wine and Concord grape harvests continued. Organic vegetable producers harvested potatoes, corn and squash last week. Cranberry harvest continued for producers in Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
6.0	5.1

Soil Moisture and Supply				
Soil Type	% Acreage			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	10	60	30	-
Subsoil	20	55	25	-
Irrigation Water	-	15	85	-
Hay and Roughage	5	10	85	-

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

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2000	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	98	92	100	96
Winter Wheat Emerged	87	76	91	88
Potatoes Harvested	90	76	90	88
Dry Beans Harvested	99	95	98	97
Corn Harvested for Silage	100	76	100	98
Corn Harvested for Grain	14	8	24	24

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% 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.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

WESTERN

Gray's Harbor: Sweet corn harvest continued at a brisk pace. Growers raced to get harvested corn fields planted with a winter cover crop to prevent soil erosion from winter flooding. U-Pick pumpkin farms continued to report excellent sales. Dairymen continued harvesting corn silage. Christmas tree growers were making final harvest preparations. Asian pear harvest was completed.

Pierce/South King: The weather over the weekend was cool, wet, and windy. Crop conditions were not favorable, but harvesting of local produce continued. The local FSA office has not received any notice of crop damage for the week ending October 21.

Snohomish/ North King: Late vegetable, pumpkin, and squash harvest continued. Fall cultivation and cover crop planting continued.

Thurston: Light rain showers limited agricultural activity during the latter part of the week. U-Pick pumpkin farms continued doing a brisk business. Turfgrass growers continued mowing, fertilizing, and applying herbicides to newly seeded fields. Christmas tree growers were putting up signs on Choose and Cut operations in preparation for harvest. Dairy producers continued harvesting grass and corn silage. Organic truck gardeners continued harvesting potatoes, corn, and squash.

CENTRAL

Grant: Onion and sweet corn harvest was completed. Carrot harvest progressed. Dryland summer fallow preparations were underway.

Okanogan/Ferry: Apple harvest was approximately 90 percent complete. Braeburn and Fuji apples were still being harvested. Some cattle were being fed due to the shortage of pasture and water. Calves were being weaned and sold earlier than normal due to the same reasons. Some grain harvest was taking place in the northern portion of the counties. There was some fourth cutting of hay being put up, but for the

most part hay cutting was complete.

Yakima: Red Delicious, Fuji, and Pink Lady apples continued to be harvested without any weather-related problems. Most areas around the county have experienced a frost over the past week.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures ranged from 6 degrees below normal to 4 degrees above normal, with .03 of an inch of precipitation on October 21. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

EASTERN

Adams: Topsoil and subsoil moisture were in short supply. Winter wheat was in fair to good condition with some spotty stands, despite dry conditions.

Asotin/Garfield: Seeding of winter wheat continued with the majority of the summer fallow complete. There was still some recrop winter wheat that will be seeded, but the total acreage of recrop winter wheat will be lower than last year due

to the dry conditions. The majority of winter wheat has still not emerged. There were concerns of wheat sprouting and drying or molding prior to sprouting. This has been caused by a few showers that have not provided enough moisture for good sprouting and growing conditions. Some producers were considering reseeding. Pasture and rangeland were still in poor condition. Even with precipitation, it will provide little growth this fall due to the lateness of the season.

Lincoln: Winter wheat planting was complete, except in areas where reseeding was occurring because of poor stand establishment. Stands looked fair with some poor patches due to low subsoil moisture and a few instances of crusting. Moisture, both surface and subsoil moisture, was in short supply and needed.

Lincoln (2nd Report): A little rain was received this past week. The winter wheat was emerging despite lack of moisture. Pasture and hay conditions continued to remain critical.

Whitman: Seeding of winter wheat continued and was near completion for the county. Soil moisture conditions were variable, but with only some exceptions, wheat emergence has been okay. Light showers brought some moisture during the week, but soil conditions remained dry. The forage supply was expected to be very tight, but adequate to meet winter feeding needs.

WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

October 22, 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	35	59	48	-3	2	-6	0	0	1.29	0.50	4	3.62	-0.40	90	16	
Everett	40	60	49	-2	6	-6	0	0	0.85	0.15	5	2.52	-1.51	63	18	
Hoquiam	40	64	51	-4	14	-14	0	0	0.62	-0.80	4	3.29	-3.66	47	15	
Kelso	37	70	50	-3	14	-5	0	0	0.20	-0.66	2	2.46	-2.17	53	12	
Olympia	35	62	48	-2	8	1	0	0	0.00	-0.98	0	1.88	-2.86	40	12	
Seattle-Tacoma	42	61	50	-3	12	-7	0	0	0.26	-0.47	2	1.39	-2.38	37	15	
Shelton	34	63	49	-3	8	-8	0	0	0.34	-0.91	4	2.87	-2.96	49	14	
Tacoma	34	64	50	-2	13	-1	0	0	0.20	-0.55	2	0.37	-3.47	10	7	
Vancouver	36	73	50	-2	11	-6	0	0	0.21	-0.50	3	1.67	-2.21	43	12	
CENTRAL																
Ellensburg	30	66	48	2	7	5	0	0	0.01	-0.13	1	0.24	-0.58	29	4	
Omak	28	65	45	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.21	0	0.39	-0.95	29	3	
Stampede Pass	30	51	39	-2	0	0	0	0	1.78	0.30	5	8.32	1.14	116	20	
Wenatchee	34	67	49	-2	8	-3	0	0	0.00	-0.10	0	0.08	-0.56	13	1	
Yakima AP	26	70	48	-1	4	-6	0	0	0.03	-0.10	1	0.17	-0.50	25	2	
NORTHEAST																
Colville	26	67	44	-1	1	1	0	0	0.26	-0.02	2	1.08	-0.76	59	7	
Deer Park	26	64	42	-5	2	0	0	0	0.30	0.06	3	1.65	0.16	111	11	
Spokane AP	30	68	45	-3	4	1	0	0	0.26	0.04	2	0.99	-0.29	77	9	
EAST CENTRAL																
Ephrata	32	68	50	-2	11	-3	0	0	0.06	-0.04	1	0.22	-0.38	37	3	
Moses Lake	28	68	50	-2	13	-1	0	0	0.07	-0.03	1	0.11	-0.49	18	4	
Quincy	30	69	51	2	15	6	0	0	0.02	-0.10	1	0.09	-0.60	13	3	
Ritzville	29	66	47	-2	0	-7	0	0	0.00	-0.18	0	0.29	-0.73	28	4	
SOUTHEAST																
Hanford	34	70	52	-2	18	-13	0	0	0.03	-0.04	1	0.20	-0.36	36	3	
Pasco	30	70	50	-3	15	-8	0	0	0.00	-0.14	0	0.21	-0.45	32	2	
Pullman	28	70	48	0	8	0	0	0	0.05	-0.27	1	1.35	-0.48	74	7	
Walla Walla AP	36	67	52	-1	21	-6	0	0	0.19	-0.16	1	1.41	-0.45	76	8	
Whitman Mission	29	70	49	-2	2	-9	0	0	0.00	-0.22	0	1.00	-0.29	78	6	
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE																
Coeur D'A'AP	28	68	44	-6	3	-6	0	0	0.18	-0.18	4	1.34	-0.78	63	13	
Lewiston ID	37	74	52	0	17	-4	0	0	0.14	-0.07	3	0.85	-0.53	62	8	

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2001

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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