

WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending July 21, 2002

WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Walla Walla Wheat Crop Appeared Good But Initial Yields Are Down
Christmas Tree Growers Were Top Shearing and Top Working Noble Fir**

FIELD CROPS

The wheat crop in Walla Walla County appeared in good shape, but yields were reported to be 15 to 20 percent below normal. Temperature fluctuation throughout the season caused the heads to not fill. In Kittitas County, the first cutting of timothy hay was complete, with average yields. Christmas tree growers were top working Noble, Shasta, and Fraser fir and began side shearing Grand fir trees in Thurston County.

LIVESTOCK

Dairy producers harvested a third cutting of green chop. In the west, another week without rain resulted in dry pastures where irrigation was not available. Range and pasture conditions were 2% very poor, 15% poor, 63% fair and 20% good.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Beautiful summer weather with warm temperatures provided ideal growing conditions for both sweet and field corn in western Washington. Blueberry harvest was in full swing with berries ripening rapidly due to the warm temperatures.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
7.0	7.0

Soil Moisture and Supply				
Soil Type	% Acreage			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	4	42	54	0
Subsoil	0	20	80	0
Irrigation Water	0	10	90	0
Hay and Roughage	0	12	88	0

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

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2001	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Harvested	8	2	6	7
Spring Wheat Harvested	3	0	3	1
Barley Harvested	2	0	4	3
Potatoes Harvested	18	15	9	6
Alfalfa Hay 2 nd Cutting	79	67	85	84
Alfalfa Hay 3 rd Cutting	10	5	9	4
Dry Peas Harvested	4	2	8	3
Green Peas Harvested	100	95	100	82

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	4	46	40	9
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	20	75	5
Spring Wheat Dryland	1	12	56	27	4
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	20	75	5
Barley Dryland	0	10	55	32	3
Barley Irrigated	0	0	10	85	5
Potatoes	0	0	5	90	5
Corn	0	0	4	96	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	15	85	0

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: Beautiful summer weather with warm temperatures provided ideal growing conditions for both sweet and field corn. Growers continued irrigating fields to maximize plant growth. Raspberry and blueberry harvest were in full swing, with good yields and quality reported. Christmas tree growers were side shearing and top working Noble fir. Organic vegetable growers continued battling weeds. Dairy producers harvested a third cutting of green chop. Home gardeners continued enjoying new potatoes, carrots, lettuce, radishes, and other produce from their garden.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: Lower stream flows and diminished soil moisture began to become apparent as the result of continued warm (and sometimes down right HOT) and dry weather. Surprisingly, pastures have held up better than expected given the below average rainfall.

Kittitas: The first cutting of timothy hay was complete, with average yields. The second cutting of alfalfa was in progress. Pasture and ranges were in satisfactory condition. Sweet corn was beginning to tassel. Irrigation water supply should be adequate for

the remainder of the growing season.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions were very favorable right now, and most crops were right on time for harvesting.

Thurston: Another week without rain resulted in dry pastures where irrigation was not available. Crop producers continued irrigating to compensate for dry conditions. Blueberry harvest was in full swing with berries ripening rapidly due to the warm temperatures. Turfgrass growers continued cultivating harvested fields for fall seeding. Christmas tree growers were top working Noble, Shasta, and Fraser fir and began side shearing Grand fir trees. Strawberry harvest was nearly complete. Raspberry harvest began with good yields and quality being reported.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 2 degrees to 8 degrees above normal, with no precipitation. No crop losses occurred due to weather conditions.

CENTRAL

Franklin: Temperatures continued to be very warm. Alfalfa cutting continued. Early potato and carrot

harvest began.

EASTERN

Adams: Harvest began in earnest in the southern portion of the county, with decent yields reported from growers overall. Hot, dry weather over the past week moved spring crops toward maturity and may have pinched a little yield.

Asotin/Garfield: Harvest has started in half of Garfield and Asotin Counties. Yields have been mixed.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Typical summer weather was received throughout the week. Pend Oreille County had good weather for making hay. The weather was

good for making hay and harvesting bluegrass. Winter crops were starting to mature and ripen. Harvest was still a few weeks away.

Walla Walla: Although wheat crops appeared in very good shape, initial reports were that wheat (both dryland and irrigated) yields were 15 to 20 percent below normal. The low yields were believed to be caused by too much fluctuation in temperatures—cool in early spring followed by the extreme heat. The heads did not fill.

WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS
July 22, 2002

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	50	80	64	2	98	12	28	7	0.00	-0.28	0	33.05	-1.32	96	156
Everett	50	76	64	1	98	7	28	7	0.00	-0.28	0	31.03	-3.70	89	163
Hoquiam	45	78	61	1	82	5	15	2	0.00	-0.28	0	63.68	-2.37	96	177
Kelso	50	88	68	5	127	29	57	29	0.00	-0.21	0	40.61	-4.17	91	153
Olympia	45	83	65	3	105	14	35	11	0.00	-0.14	0	58.75	9.69	120	168
Seattle-Tacoma	53	81	67	2	119	11	49	9	0.00	-0.14	0	38.18	2.34	107	149
Shelton	48	86	66	0	111	6	41	6	0.00	-0.21	0	68.48	5.09	108	159
Tacoma	48	82	67	3	119	14	49	14	0.00	-0.16	0	30.00	-8.71	77	128
Vancouver	53	90	70	6	140	35	70	35	0.00	-0.14	0	37.43	-2.41	94	153
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	51	94	73	5	161	31	91	31	0.00	-0.03	0	7.03	-1.43	83	85
Omak	59	98	78	11	199	73	129	73	0.00	-0.14	0	9.24	-4.52	67	72
Stampede Pass	44	84	59	4	65	23	8	1	0.00	-0.28	0	76.03	-2.60	97	168
Wenatchee	60	95	78	5	200	33	130	32	0.00	-0.01	0	5.39	-2.40	69	63
Yakima AP	50	95	73	4	165	25	95	25	0.00	0.00	0	7.02	-0.50	93	63
NORTHEAST															
Colville	52	99	75	9	177	59	107	58	0.00	-0.16	0	15.49	-4.35	78	84
Deer Park	45	92	69	-2	131	-7	61	-7	0.00	-0.20	0	21.12	3.58	120	120
Spokane AP	54	92	73	4	163	28	93	28	0.00	-0.14	0	13.85	-1.72	89	110
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	55	96	78	3	195	17	125	18	0.00	-0.07	0	5.77	-1.09	84	64
Moses Lake	53	96	76	1	183	5	113	6	0.00	-0.07	0	5.78	-1.08	84	66
Quincy	54	94	75	5	181	33	111	34	0.00	-0.02	0	6.28	-1.08	85	60
Ritzville	49	96	72	3	158	20	88	20	0.00	-0.07	0	9.93	-0.85	92	78
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	57	101	78	-1	199	3	129	3	0.00	0.00	0	5.64	-0.44	93	51
Pasco	52	100	77	3	192	17	122	17	0.00	0.00	0	5.94	-1.08	85	58
Pullman	45	89	68	3	130	20	60	18	0.00	-0.14	0	17.62	-2.36	88	109
Walla Walla AP	56	97	78	4	201	20	131	20	0.00	-0.07	0	14.79	-3.69	80	102
Whitman Mission	47	97	74	3	172	23	102	24	0.00	-0.07	0	13.17	0.21	102	96
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A'AP	48	91	70	1	144	6	74	5	0.76	0.60	1	21.28	-3.08	87	119
Lewiston ID	59	97	79	4	202	29	132	28	0.00	-0.14	0	10.04	-1.41	88	103

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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