

# WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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Washington Agricultural Statistics Service

## Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending July 28, 2002

### WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Blueberry and Raspberry Harvest in Full Swing  
Some Standing Crops in Walla Walla County Destroyed By Fire**

### FIELD CROPS

Winter wheat yield reports in Walla Walla continued to indicate less production than anticipated. Some standing crops in the county were also destroyed by fire. Potato growers were killing vines in Skagit County. Christmas tree growers continued shearing and top working Noble fir.

### LIVESTOCK

In Thurston County, livestock producers were disappointed that the drought conditions were quickly decreasing forage growth where irrigation was not available. Pastures held up well, but the heat was beginning to take its toll in Stevens County. Range and pasture conditions were 2% very poor, 33% poor, 52% fair and 13% good.

### FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Gladiola growers in Grays Harbor County reported their first blooms of the season. Spinach was in the bolting stage in Skagit County. Blueberry and raspberry harvest was in full swing with berries ripening rapidly due to the additional heat units in the western part of the state.

| Days Suitable for Fieldwork |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| This Week                   | Last Week |
| 6.9                         | 7.0       |

| Soil Moisture and Supply |           |    |    |   |
|--------------------------|-----------|----|----|---|
| Soil Type                | % Acreage |    |    |   |
|                          | VS        | SH | AD | S |
| Topsoil                  | 9         | 45 | 46 | 0 |
| Subsoil                  | 0         | 40 | 60 | 0 |
| Irrigation Water         | 0         | 5  | 95 | 0 |
| Hay and Roughage         | 0         | 7  | 91 | 2 |

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              | 16          | 8         | 17   | 17         |
| Spring Wheat Harvested              | 6           | 3         | 6    | 5          |
| Barley Harvested                    | 4           | 2         | 7    | 7          |
| Potatoes Harvested                  | 19          | 18        | 10   | 9          |
| Alfalfa Hay 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cutting | 83          | 79        | 89   | 92         |
| Alfalfa Hay 3 <sup>rd</sup> Cutting | 15          | 10        | 12   | 9          |
| Dry Peas Harvested                  | 12          | 4         | 14   | 12         |

| Crop Condition *       |           |   |    |    |    |
|------------------------|-----------|---|----|----|----|
| Crop                   | % Acreage |   |    |    |    |
|                        | VP        | P | F  | G  | EX |
| Winter Wheat Dryland   | 0         | 5 | 37 | 48 | 10 |
| Winter Wheat Irrigated | 0         | 2 | 9  | 83 | 6  |
| Spring Wheat Dryland   | 0         | 7 | 53 | 37 | 3  |
| Spring Wheat Irrigated | 0         | 3 | 12 | 79 | 6  |
| Barley Dryland         | 1         | 6 | 46 | 40 | 7  |
| Barley Irrigated       | 0         | 0 | 4  | 89 | 7  |
| Potatoes               | 0         | 0 | 10 | 80 | 10 |
| Corn                   | 0         | 0 | 9  | 91 | 0  |
| Dry Edible Beans       | 0         | 2 | 5  | 92 | 1  |

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:** Weather conditions were hotter and drier than normal. The continuing drought was worsening the condition of grass crops. The annual Lavender Festival in Sequim brought large crowds to local farms and gardens.

**Grays Harbor:** Warm summer breezes sweeping across the rural landscape, provided nearly ideal conditions for the harvest and curing of spring flowering bulbs. Very warm temperatures throughout the week resulted in phenomenal sweet corn growth, where irrigation was available. Raspberry harvest continued with some damage to fruit from warm temperatures early in the week. Christmas tree growers continued shearing and top working Noble fir. U-Pick vegetable farms were doing a booming business selling early vegetables and cut flowers. Greenhouse tomato growers were harvesting ample quantities of ripe fruit as a result of additional heat units. Gladiola growers reported their first blooms of the season. Livestock producers continued irrigating pastures and cutting hay under nearly ideal conditions.

**Pierce/South King:** There were no unusual situations to report for the week. The weather turned cooler the last few days of the week. There were no reports of crop damage.

**Skagit:** Blueberry harvest began. Raspberry fruit developed very fast with temperatures in the 80's early in the week. Cooler temperatures later in

the week were a welcome relief. Harvest continued on peas, cauliflower, and broccoli. Spinach seed was in the bolting stage. Potato growers were killing vines. So far, no late blight has been reported. Small batches of the first tea crop in the county were being harvested.

**Snohomish/North King:** The week began with above average warm summer weather. The remainder of the week was more typical of spring with light rain. The cloudy overcast mornings slowed the growth of many crops. Cane berry and blueberry harvest continued with good quality and yields. Farmer's Markets were filled with beautiful flowers, vegetables, and local berries.

**Thurston:** Dry weather and warm temperatures continued to result in exacerbating drought conditions throughout the county. The warm temperatures and lack of rainfall had most vegetable and berry crop producers racing to keep irrigation systems going around the clock. Blueberry harvest was in full swing with berries ripening rapidly due to additional heat units. Livestock producers were disappointed that the drought conditions were quickly decreasing forage growth where irrigation was not available. Christmas tree growers continued to top work Noble and Shasta fir. Annual needle necrosis, due to the extremely warm temperatures over the weekend, were very obvious on many true fir plantations. Home gardeners were picking ripe tomatoes from their gardens!

### CENTRAL

**Benton:** Extremely hot weather kept irrigators busy. Early stone fruit was being harvested. Cherry harvest was complete.

**Benton (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Harvest was almost over, with yields ranging from average to below average. Reports were received from producers about damaged crops from the last storm. Alfalfa cutting and potato harvest began.

**Grant:** Apricot and cherry harvest neared completion. Curly top virus damaged bean and

cucumber crops. Sweet corn and onion seed harvest began. Continued hot weather was stressing crops.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures were warmer than normal, ranging from 3 to 10 degrees above normal. There was .01 of an inch of precipitation on Tuesday and a trace of precipitation on Sunday. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

## EASTERN

**Asotin/Garfield:** Harvest was progressing in most areas of both counties with the exception of the higher elevations. Thunderstorms went through the area during the week, halting harvest for almost a day. Some hail damage was reported in a few areas. Crop yields have been average to well below average. Grain quality has also been affected by the hot temperatures in late June and early July.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** A week with a lot of wind, really matured grain fields in Spokane County. Harvest was about to start in the western part of the county, with pea harvest starting this week. Lentils were being swathed. A few producers finished up the bluegrass harvest. The weather was great for hay producers in Pend Oreille County.

**Stevens:** The weather was hot and dry during the week and continued through the weekend. Hay producers were baling the second cutting of alfalfa and grain hay. Pastures held up well, but the heat was beginning to take its toll.

**Walla Walla:** Winter wheat yield reports continued to indicate less production than anticipated. Wheat kernels were smaller than normal and yields were below normal. Some standing crops were destroyed by fire. Cooler temperatures during the week and heavy winds were reported most days.

**Whitman:** Wheat producers were preparing for harvest. Early areas began. Temperatures cooled down from the near 100 degree mark.

**WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS**  
July 29, 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   |          |      |  |
| <b>WEST</b>                    |                 |     |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |       |          |      |  |
| Bellingham                     | 51              | 82  | 65  | 3   | 105                 | 14  | 35       | 14  | 0.00                    | -0.28 | 0    | 33.05                | -1.60 | 95       | 156  |  |
| Everett                        | 55              | 84  | 66  | 3   | 110                 | 16  | 40       | 12  | 0.00                    | -0.22 | 0    | 31.03                | -3.92 | 89       | 163  |  |
| Hoquiam                        | 54              | 84  | 62  | 2   | 84                  | 7   | 15       | 1   | 0.01                    | -0.26 | 1    | 63.69                | -2.63 | 96       | 178  |  |
| Kelso                          | 55              | 95  | 68  | 4   | 127                 | 26  | 57       | 23  | 0.00                    | -0.20 | 0    | 40.61                | -4.37 | 90       | 153  |  |
| Olympia                        | 50              | 91  | 66  | 3   | 114                 | 17  | 44       | 16  | 0.00                    | -0.15 | 0    | 58.75                | 9.54  | 119      | 168  |  |
| Seattle-Tacoma                 | 54              | 88  | 66  | 0   | 115                 | 3   | 46       | 4   | 0.04                    | -0.10 | 2    | 38.22                | 2.24  | 106      | 151  |  |
| Shelton                        | 51              | 93  | 66  | 2   | 116                 | 5   | 46       | 4   | 0.00                    | -0.16 | 0    | 68.48                | 4.93  | 108      | 159  |  |
| Tacoma                         | 54              | 88  | 68  | 3   | 125                 | 20  | 55       | 20  | 0.01                    | -0.15 | 1    | 30.01                | -8.86 | 77       | 129  |  |
| Vancouver                      | 55              | 96  | 71  | 7   | 148                 | 43  | 78       | 42  | 0.00                    | -0.15 | 0    | 37.43                | -2.56 | 94       | 153  |  |
| <b>CENTRAL</b>                 |                 |     |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |       |          |      |  |
| Ellensburg                     | 53              | 96  | 73  | 5   | 164                 | 31  | 94       | 31  | 0.00                    | -0.05 | 0    | 7.03                 | -1.48 | 83       | 85   |  |
| Omak                           | 54              | 101 | 78  | 10  | 199                 | 72  | 129      | 71  | 0.00                    | -0.14 | 0    | 9.24                 | -4.66 | 66       | 72   |  |
| Stampede Pass                  | 46              | 83  | 62  | 6   | 85                  | 38  | 35       | 28  | 0.05                    | -0.23 | 1    | 76.08                | -2.83 | 96       | 169  |  |
| Wenatchee                      | 61              | 99  | 80  | 6   | 210                 | 42  | 140      | 42  | 0.00                    | -0.06 | 0    | 5.39                 | -2.46 | 69       | 63   |  |
| Yakima AP                      | 55              | 99  | 77  | 7   | 189                 | 42  | 119      | 43  | 0.00                    | -0.02 | 0    | 7.02                 | -0.52 | 93       | 63   |  |
| <b>NORTHEAST</b>               |                 |     |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |       |          |      |  |
| Colville                       | 54              | 100 | 76  | 10  | 185                 | 66  | 115      | 65  | 0.00                    | -0.19 | 0    | 15.49                | -4.54 | 77       | 84   |  |
| Deer Park                      | 48              | 95  | 73  | 3   | 160                 | 20  | 90       | 20  | 0.00                    | -0.14 | 0    | 21.12                | 3.44  | 119      | 120  |  |
| Spokane AP                     | 55              | 95  | 75  | 6   | 177                 | 37  | 107      | 37  | 0.05                    | -0.09 | 1    | 13.90                | -1.81 | 88       | 111  |  |
| <b>EAST CENTRAL</b>            |                 |     |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |       |          |      |  |
| Ephrata                        | 67              | 100 | 82  | 7   | 227                 | 45  | 157      | 45  | 0.00                    | -0.07 | 0    | 5.77                 | -1.16 | 83       | 64   |  |
| Moses Lake                     | 59              | 99  | 79  | 4   | 208                 | 26  | 138      | 26  | 0.00                    | -0.07 | 0    | 5.78                 | -1.15 | 83       | 66   |  |
| Quincy                         | 64              | 96  | 81  | 10  | 219                 | 65  | 149      | 65  | 0.00                    | -0.06 | 0    | 6.28                 | -1.14 | 85       | 60   |  |
| Ritzville                      | 54              | 99  | 77  | 7   | 188                 | 48  | 118      | 48  | 0.00                    | -0.07 | 0    | 9.93                 | -0.92 | 92       | 78   |  |
| <b>SOUTHEAST</b>               |                 |     |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |       |          |      |  |
| Hanford                        | 61              | 106 | 81  | 3   | 215                 | 12  | 145      | 12  | 0.00                    | -0.05 | 0    | 5.64                 | -0.49 | 92       | 51   |  |
| Pasco                          | 57              | 100 | 80  | 5   | 209                 | 29  | 139      | 30  | 0.01                    | -0.05 | 1    | 5.95                 | -1.13 | 84       | 59   |  |
| Pullman                        | 51              | 93  | 72  | 6   | 153                 | 39  | 83       | 36  | 0.00                    | -0.14 | 0    | 17.62                | -2.50 | 88       | 109  |  |
| Walla Walla AP                 | 60              | 100 | 80  | 4   | 209                 | 27  | 139      | 27  | 0.13                    | -0.01 | 2    | 14.92                | -3.70 | 80       | 104  |  |
| Whitman Mission                | 51              | 101 | 78  | 6   | 195                 | 41  | 125      | 41  | 0.03                    | -0.06 | 1    | 13.20                | 0.15  | 101      | 97   |  |
| <b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b> |                 |     |     |     |                     |     |          |     |                         |       |      |                      |       |          |      |  |
| Coeur D'A'AP                   | 57              | 93  | 74  | 4   | 170                 | 26  | 100      | 27  | 0.00                    | -0.19 | 0    | 21.28                | -3.27 | 87       | 119  |  |
| Lewiston ID                    | 62              | 102 | 81  | 6   | 217                 | 42  | 147      | 42  | 0.03                    | -0.11 | 2    | 10.07                | -1.52 | 87       | 105  |  |

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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