



Washington Crop Weather

Released: September 30, 2002, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: September 29, 2002
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Winter Wheat Seeding Progressed Rapidly Hay Feeding Makes Up for Lack of Forage Growth

Field Crops

The seeding of winter wheat progressed rapidly during the week in Whitman County, and the remaining winter wheat acres should be completed within a week. Southeastern counties noted that rain was needed for proper stand development. Corn silage harvest was well underway in western Washington with yields slightly lower than normal due to dry conditions.

Livestock

Livestock owners across the state continued feeding hay to make up for the lack of forage growth in pastures. The third cutting of timothy hay was nearly completed in Kittitas County. In Asotin and Garfield Counties, several livestock producers applied to use the CRP grazing option, as there has been no fall regrowth of pastures. Range and pasture conditions were 13% very poor, 44% poor, 27% fair and 16% good.

Fruits and Vegetables

Apples, pears, potatoes, carrots, lima beans, and sweet corn were being harvested. Cherry pruning was nearly complete in Grant County. Wine grape quality was described as excellent. Corn mazes and pumpkin fields were busy with fall activities.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.8
Last Week	6.8

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	15	54	31	0
Subsoil	5	54	41	0
Irrigation Water	0	1	99	0
Hay & Roughage	0	7	93	0

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

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2001	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	80	67	68	71
Winter Wheat Emerged	54	43	51	51
Potatoes Harvested	70	69	43	49
Corn Silage Harvested	52	26	54	58
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	39	34	51	55

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	0	6	94	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	2	10	88	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Sweet corn harvest was in full swing under nearly ideal harvest conditions. U-Pick pumpkin farms were doing a brisk business. Christmas tree growers were spot spraying blackberries in tree plantations. Asian pear growers began harvest. The county remained very dry due to the lack of rain.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions remained favorable for the South Puget Sound area. There were no unusual weather situations to report. No crop damage due to weather conditions were reported.

Snohomish/North King: The weather was a pleasant mixture of late summer and early fall. Mornings were cool, followed by mostly sunny afternoons. Heavy rain fell in several areas Saturday night and Sunday morning. Corn silage harvest was well underway with yields

slightly lower than normal due to dry conditions. Corn mazes and pumpkin fields were busy with fall activities. Roadside stands were busy with sales of sweet corn, vegetables, and fall flowers.

Thurston: U-Pick pumpkin farms were doing a brisk business as beautiful fall weather inspired families to spend a day out in the country choosing just the right pumpkin for carving. Soils continued to be very dry due to the lack of significant precipitation. Christmas tree growers continued shearing Douglas fir. Livestock owners continued feeding hay to make up for the lack of forage growth in pastures. The blueberry harvest was complete. The county remained exceptionally dry due to the lack of any significant rainfall in the last several months.

Central

Benton: Harvesting of various crops continued under ideal conditions. Wine grape quality was described as excellent.

Chelan/Douglas/Okanogan: Pear harvest was complete. Apple harvest was going at full speed with the main varieties and will remain so through October. Apple harvest is expected to taper off in early November. Yields were moderate and quality was looking very good.

Franklin: Cool, sunny weather was received throughout the week, with occasional wind. The final cutting of alfalfa continued. Potatoes, carrots, sweet corn, and apples were being harvested. Planting of winter wheat and soil fumigation were underway.

Grant: The fourth cutting of alfalfa was nearly complete. Fall alfalfa seeding was mostly

finished. Sweet corn and lima bean harvest continued. Mid and late season apple harvest was underway. Cherry pruning was nearly complete.

Kittitas: Bartlett pear harvest was completed with average yields. Apple harvest was underway with below average yields. The third cutting of timothy hay was nearly complete. Potato harvest was underway. Sweet corn harvest was complete, with good yields being obtained. Ground preparation for new seeding of timothy hay was being done. Range and pasture conditions were in good shape.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 3 degrees below normal to 4 degrees above normal, with .08 inches of precipitation. There were no crop losses due to weather conditions.

Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: Conditions remained very dry. Seeding of winter wheat was in full swing. Very little wheat was emerged and rain was needed for proper stand development. Several livestock producers applied to use the CRP grazing option, as there has been no fall regrowth of pastures.

Stevens: Spotty rain was received over the weekend. Cattle producers were beginning to gather cows and calves. Pastures were in very poor condition.

Whitman: The seeding of winter wheat progressed rapidly during the week, and the remaining winter wheat acres should be completed within a week. Dry topsoil conditions continued to be a concern in many areas of the county. Grazing conditions were mostly poor to fair throughout the county.

Whitman (2nd Report): Winter wheat seeding continued, along with fall tillage operations. The weather was beginning to cool off and become more fall like.

**Weekly Weather Statistics
September 30, 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	41	70	55	-1	36	-2	0	0	0.13	-0.40	1	0.72	-1.14	39	6
Everett	48	70	58	3	59	18	1	-1	0.20	-0.36	1	0.59	-1.48	29	8
Hoquiam	44	75	57	-3	49	-11	2	-8	0.09	-0.84	1	1.67	-1.44	54	8
Kelso	43	84	61	3	77	20	15	5	0.34	-0.29	1	0.48	-1.80	21	4
Olympia	39	79	57	2	52	14	0	0	0.04	-0.58	1	0.54	-1.63	25	6
Seattle-Tacoma	49	75	60	3	74	18	10	3	0.15	-0.34	1	0.42	-1.39	23	5
Shelton	39	81	57	0	53	1	0	-8	0.00	-0.76	0	0.34	-2.22	13	2
Tacoma	41	75	58	1	57	8	0	-7	0.12	-0.37	1	0.58	-1.28	31	6
Vancouver	45	86	63	7	94	41	28	20	0.31	-0.19	1	0.61	-1.32	32	3
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	34	79	56	2	46	6	0	-7	0.00	-0.07	0	0.03	-0.45	6	1
Omak	36	79	60	7	73	36	13	6	0.08	-0.06	1	0.12	-0.65	16	4
Stamper Pass	36	72	54	8	38	28	2	2	0.18	-0.76	1	0.91	-2.38	28	5
Wenatchee	46	78	62	3	82	17	12	-6	0.02	-0.05	1	0.32	-0.07	82	4
Yakima AP	35	80	57	0	51	-1	1	-12	0.00	-0.07	0	0.00	-0.39	0	0
NORTHEAST															
Colville	35	82	59	7	63	30	2	-5	0.02	-0.20	1	0.13	-0.97	12	3
Deer Park	31	75	54	-1	33	-8	0	-9	0.03	-0.16	2	0.38	-0.47	45	7
Spokane AP	36	74	56	1	40	-2	0	-9	0.02	-0.12	2	0.52	-0.19	73	5
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	41	80	61	1	78	6	12	-10	0.00	-0.07	0	0.00	-0.35	0	0
Moses Lake	38	82	60	-1	72	0	7	-15	0.00	-0.07	0	0.00	-0.35	0	0
Quincy	40	79	61	4	81	24	13	-3	0.01	-0.06	1	0.01	-0.41	2	1
Ritzville	39	80	59	4	66	19	4	-6	0.02	-0.12	1	0.02	-0.52	4	1
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	40	84	63	-2	90	-3	24	-11	0.00	-0.07	0	0.00	-0.34	0	0
Pasco	37	83	61	0	78	5	12	-10	0.00	-0.07	0	0.01	-0.34	3	1
Pullman	33	73	53	-3	23	-18	0	-8	0.13	-0.15	1	0.45	-0.51	47	4
Whitman Mission	33	81	56	-2	42	-13	0	-13	0.01	-0.20	1	0.22	-0.43	34	3
IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	36	77	56	-2	41	-8	0	-11	0.00	-0.28	0	0.73	-0.43	63	3
Lewiston ID	43	82	62	2	85	14	19	-5	0.00	-0.17	0	0.29	-0.46	39	5

Summary based on NWS data.
 Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2002
 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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