



Washington Crop Weather

Released: October 7, 2002, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: October 6, 2002
CWP Vol 02 No 30 WA-CW4002

Cooler Weather has Colored the Countryside with Brilliant Autumn Shades Cattle Ranchers were Stressed by Drought Conditions

Field Crops

Cool brisk mornings and light frosts at night turned the countryside into a tapestry of autumn colors across the state of Washington. Scattered showers received across the state last week were welcomed by farmers and ranchers alike. Winter wheat seeding began to wind down. Potato, corn harvested for silage and dry edible bean harvests continued. Christmas tree growers were removing sticks from the tops of Noble firs. Turf grass growers kept busy seeding while the weather held last week.

Livestock

Dry conditions caused ranchers to haul water to cattle. Douglas and Chelan Counties utilized emergency conservation for livestock water and emergency CRP grazing programs. Some dairy farms were harvesting another cutting of grass silage. Range and pasture conditions were 13% very poor, 44% poor, 33% fair and 10% good.

Fruits and Vegetables

Apple, pear, grape and sweet corn harvests continued in full swing. Organic vegetable growers reported strong demand for their produce at local farmer's markets. Greenhouse tomatoes continued to have strong sales. U-Pick pumpkin farms and corn mazes were busy despite cool wet weather received last week.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.2
Last Week	6.8

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	15	51	34	0
Subsoil	5	50	45	0
Irrigation Water	0	5	95	0
Hay & Roughage	0	10	90	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	90	80	80	83
Winter Wheat Emerged	65	54	64	65
Potatoes Harvested	78	70	56	63
Corn Harvested	5	0	6	6
Corn Silage Harvested	70	52	66	73
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	50	39	69	70

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	0	5	95	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: Cool temperatures, early in the week, resulted in sporadic frost throughout the county. The cool temperatures, combined with sunny days and crystal blue skies, transformed the county into a tapestry of autumn colors. The brilliant gold, yellow, and red foliage of native and vine maples against a background of emerald green conifers have transformed the rural landscape into an artistic masterpiece unequaled by even the world's greatest artists. Rainfall at the end of the week, was welcomed by almost all ag producers with the exception of those in the middle of the sweet corn harvest. Nearly 2,000 acres of corn have been harvested in the county. Early reports were that dry conditions this growing season resulted in decreased yields on some fields. Greenhouse tomato growers continued to report strong sales. The Annual Harvest Celebration was held on Saturday, October 5, showcasing the diversity, quality, and productivity of the county's agricultural industry on seven individual farms.

Pierce/South King: Last week's soaking rain helped break the dry spell that the area was suffering. There have been no reports of crop damage due to the weather. No unusual situations were reported for the week.

Snohomish/North King: The first light frost in several areas occurred on October 1. The beautiful colors of fall were everywhere. The county farms had a steady stream of visitors picking out the perfect pumpkin. Corn mazes around the county were busy even though a few rainy days required rain gear. A few dairy farmers expect to get one more cutting of grass silage. Vegetable harvest was slow. Sweet corn was still available at several farms.

Thurston: Cool, brisk days early in the week, validated that the autumn season had arrived. The weather provided the ideal climate for ag producers to finish fall chores prior to the rainy season. Significant rainfall fell near the end of the week, bringing a welcome end to a very long dry spell which began in June. Turfgrass growers finished seeding some fields just prior to the rain. Livestock producers continued feeding hay to supplement the lack of forage growth. Christmas tree growers removed sticks from the tops of Noble firs. U-Pick pumpkin farmers continued to do a brisk business. Organic truck gardeners reported strong demand for their produce at regional farmer's markets.

Central

Benton: Apple and grape harvest continued under ideal conditions. Grape yields were higher than expected in a saturated market. Final fall irrigation and herbicide applications were being applied.

Chelan/Douglas: Apple crop harvest was underway; however, it is expected to be the smallest crop since 1986. Pear harvest was 76 percent complete. Pear size was down this year and yields have been average. Winter wheat was planted. Recent moisture has been very welcomed. Dry conditions continued. Emergency conservation for livestock water and emergency CRP grazing programs were being utilized by

many cattle producers. Pastures and grazing conditions were below normal.

Ferry/Okanogan: Apple harvest was well underway and should be finishing up in about 3 weeks. Cattle were coming off their summer ranges and onto fall pastures. Conditions were very dry and water was a problem in some situations. Producers may have to haul water.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 4 degrees above normal to 8 degrees below normal, with 0.1 of an inch of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: Welcome rain showers went through the area one day last week. The precipitation will help with sprouting winter wheat. Winter wheat seeding continued and should be winding down in another week. More rain is still needed to aid in relief from drought conditions.

Whitman: Winter wheat seeding continued throughout the week and neared completion. Wheat emergence has been slow. Cooler weather and unsettled conditions were the norm for the week. Little or no precipitation was recorded.

National weather website: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/pubs.htm>

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service website: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa>

E-mail: nass-wa@nass.usda.gov

**Weekly Weather Statistics
October 7, 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	35	60	51	-3	12	-13	0	0	0.68	0.08	4	1.40	-1.06	57	10	
Everett	39	61	52	-3	18	-12	0	0	0.55	-0.01	2	1.14	-1.49	43	10	
Hoquiam	40	59	53	-5	20	-28	0	-7	0.66	-0.38	3	2.33	-1.82	56	11	
Kelso	37	68	55	-2	39	-3	1	-5	0.74	0.09	4	1.22	-1.71	42	8	
Olympia	31	68	53	1	30	5	0	0	0.13	-0.55	3	0.67	-2.18	24	9	
Seattle-Tacoma	40	64	54	-3	30	-12	0	-4	0.34	-0.20	2	0.76	-1.59	32	7	
Shelton	29	68	53	-3	29	-9	0	-5	0.24	-0.62	2	0.58	-2.84	17	4	
Tacoma	34	66	54	-2	32	-4	0	-1	0.44	-0.10	3	1.02	-1.38	43	9	
Vancouver	41	65	55	-2	35	-4	0	-5	0.93	0.37	5	1.54	-0.95	62	8	
CENTRAL																
Ellensburg	30	75	53	2	31	7	5	1	0.07	-0.01	2	0.10	-0.46	18	3	
Omak	28	76	51	-2	15	-7	0	-4	0.03	-0.11	1	0.15	-0.76	16	5	
Stampede Pass	32	57	43	-2	0	-7	0	0	0.44	-0.59	3	1.35	-2.97	31	8	
Wenatchee	38	80	57	1	51	7	8	-2	0.07	0.00	2	0.39	-0.07	85	6	
Yakima AP	29	75	53	-2	26	-9	0	-7	0.10	0.03	2	0.10	-0.36	22	2	
NORTHEAST																
Colville	28	80	54	4	31	13	2	1	0.34	0.13	1	0.47	-0.84	36	4	
Deer Park	27	70	48	-5	7	-18	0	-5	0.21	0.05	3	0.59	-0.42	58	10	
Spokane AP	27	68	49	-5	10	-16	0	-5	0.26	0.12	4	0.78	-0.07	92	9	
EAST CENTRAL																
Ephrata	32	76	53	-5	24	-24	0	-12	0.10	0.03	2	0.10	-0.32	24	2	
Moses Lake	28	75	53	-5	28	-20	0	-12	0.08	0.01	2	0.08	-0.34	19	2	
Quincy	33	79	55	-1	34	-4	4	-3	0.11	0.04	2	0.12	-0.37	24	3	
Ritzville	30	68	49	-6	8	-22	0	-6	0.22	0.08	3	0.24	-0.44	35	4	
SOUTHEAST																
Hanford	32	74	54	-7	34	-36	0	-21	0.11	0.04	2	0.11	-0.30	27	2	
Pasco	30	77	55	-4	39	-13	0	-11	0.06	-0.01	1	0.07	-0.35	17	2	
Pullman	23	66	47	-6	7	-20	0	-4	0.13	-0.10	3	0.58	-0.61	49	7	
Whitman Mission	27	71	54	-2	37	0	0	-7	0.16	-0.02	2	0.38	-0.45	46	5	
IDAHO PANHANDLE																
Coeur D' A' AP	27	63	49	-7	10	-23	0	-6	0.46	0.19	3	1.19	-0.24	83	6	
Lewiston ID	36	67	53	-5	24	-28	0	-12	0.35	0.17	3	0.64	-0.29	69	8	

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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