



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507
(360) 902-1940 Fax (360) 902-2091

Washington Crop Weather

Released: September 15, 2003, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: September 14, 2003
CWP WA-CW3703

Winter Wheat Being Reseeded Due to Crust Caused by Recent Rain Cooler Temperatures Enhance Fruit Color in Yakima Valley

Field Crops

Rain and cooler temperatures made a welcome visit to the Palouse during the week. Precipitation caused some winter wheat seeded recently to crust and inhibit emergence, thus reseeding was taking place in various locations around eastern Washington. Seeding conditions remained mostly fair. Christmas tree growers were finishing shearing and top-working Noble fir. Corn silage harvest continued along with potato harvest.

Livestock

Rains received over the past week helped pasture condition, but more is needed. Range and pasture conditions were 4% very poor, 23% poor, 54% fair, and 19% good. Oyster transplanting in Pacific County continued in preparation for fall production and harvest.

Fruits and Vegetables

Bartlett pear, Golden Delicious and Granny Smith apple harvest was underway in central Washington. Peaches and nectarines were also being harvested around the Yakima Valley with high quality fruit. Cool nights have enhanced the fruit color. In Benton County, some producers were complaining about apple splitting. Also around the central region, harvest of sweet corn, carrots, lima beans, and onions continued. Western Washington pumpkins were coloring nicely and U-Pick operations were gearing up for opening at the end of the month. Raspberry pruning and weed control was underway while blueberry harvest finished.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.4
Last Week	6.9

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	28	43	29	0
Subsoil	16	33	51	0
Irrigation Water	6	7	87	0
Hay & Roughage	3	6	75	16

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

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2002	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	100	99	100	99
Winter Wheat Planted	45	36	61	50
Potatoes Harvested	49	47	66	42
Corn Silage Harvested	18	13	21	28
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	55	40	26	25
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	96	93	99	98

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Potatoes	0	0	18	76	6
Corn	0	1	11	88	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	2	11	61	26

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

Clark: Rains provided much needed relief for pastures and crops. Grass was beginning to respond with new growth. Warm temperatures and damp conditions were a concern for the development of late blight and other fungal diseases. Farmers will need to be vigilant in observing crops for any sign of disease.

Grays Harbor: The past week of cool, rainy temperatures convinced most everyone that our summer dry spell was now history and fall has arrived. U-Pick pumpkin farms were gearing up for opening at the end of the month. Christmas tree growers were finishing shearing and top-working of Noble fir. U-Pick vegetable growers were harvesting carrots, onions and potatoes.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: Significant rains the past week stopped cereal grain harvest and provided some relief for the drought. Sweet corn harvest began.

Jefferson: Had about ½ an inch of rain after 60 days of no moisture. Fire hazard was at an extreme and this year was reported as the driest on record since 1890. Farmers markets were full and busy. In-stream flows were still fairly adequate.

Pacific: Much needed rainfall replenished surface soil moisture for agricultural producers. Christmas tree growers continued top-working and shearing operations. Cranberry producers were finalizing their preparations for harvest with equipment and dike repair continued. Raspberry pruning and weed control were underway. Oyster transplanting for fall production and harvest continued.

Pierce/South King: Field crops and pasture have improved with the cooler weather. No unusual situation to report. No report of crop damage due to weather.

Skagit: Received .76 inches of precipitation during the week, making a grand total of 2.37 inches since April 30, 2003. Dry conditions were spawning high populations of mites in cucurbit crops. Gravenstein apple harvest was in its second week. Potato harvest continued. Pumpkins were coloring up nicely.

Snohomish/King: Mid-week rains were welcome, dropping up to 1 inch of precipitation in some areas of the county. Unirrigated crops and pastures remained very dry though. Apples were coloring up nicely and the dry weather was minimizing disease problems. Pumpkins were ripening and some U-Pick operations were gearing up for next month's harvest.

Thurston: Rain showers throughout the week continued to increase soil moisture to a depth of several inches. Pasture weeds have really perked up due to the combination of rain and warm temperatures. The blueberry harvest has been completed. Christmas tree growers continued shearing and top-working Noble fir. Turfgrass growers were unable to work fields due to wet soil conditions.

Whatcom: Corn silage harvest continued along with potato harvest. Blueberry harvest should be complete. Whatcom County received more rain over the weekend.

Central

Benton: Producers were complaining about apple splitting. Apple harvest was ranging from about 10-20 days earlier with production down substantially. Cool weather has helped producers. Wheat reseeding was being done due to rain a few weeks ago creating a crust on the ground.

Chelan/Douglas: Pear and apple harvest continued. The majority of the winter wheat crop was seeded. Light precipitation was received which required some producers to re-seed. Temperatures have cooled off.

Franklin: Potato, sweet corn, dry bean, and carrot harvest continued. Apples and pears were being picked. Fourth cutting of alfalfa was being made.

Grant: Sweet corn and onion harvest continued. Lima bean harvest was complete. Bartlett pear, Golden Delicious and

Granny Smith apple harvest was underway. Soil fumigation for potatoes in 2004 had begun.

Kittitas: Two good rains helped range and dryland pasture but damaged quite a bit of second cutting hay. Sweet corn harvest was complete, second timothy was 30 percent uncut and 30 percent complete. Temperatures have been dramatically cooler.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 6 degrees below normal to 1 degree above normal with a trace of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Yakima (2nd Report): Harvest continued. Peach and nectarine harvest picking very high quality fruit. Golden Delicious apple harvest progressed very well. Recent cool nights have enhanced fruit color.

Eastern

Adams: Precipitation at the start of last week caused most winter wheat seeded within the past 10 days to crust and inhibit emergence, thus reseeding of winter wheat was taking place throughout the county on at least 50 to 60 percent of the acres. Seeding conditions remained in fair condition.

Asotin/Garfield: A welcome rain came last Monday to most of the area. Rainfall totals ranged from .3 to 1.00 inches. Since it has been very dry for over three months more moisture was needed for proper establishment of winter wheat. Most producers have been waiting for rain prior to planting. Producers will now have to wait for cheatgrass to sprout prior to weeding and seeding. The rain also benefitted the rangeland that was in need of moisture. More rain was needed for all crops and pastures.

Lincoln: Precipitation at the start of the week crusted unemerged winter wheat inhibiting emergence, thus causing growers to reseed winter wheat. Seeding conditions remained in fair condition.

Pend Oreille: Last week we received rain. The amount varied by area but reports of up to 1 inch was received. This along with cooler weather was welcome news. Producers were starting fall work with a small amount of producers actually talking about planting winter wheat. Grazing conditions were

still poor with a number of producers needing to supplement their feeding requirements.

Stevens: Rain on Monday decreased fire danger and dampened the upper soil profile for winter wheat growers.

Walla Walla: Much needed rain fell on Sunday night through Monday. Reports, depending on the area of the county, ranged from 1 inch to 2.1 inches. Conditions have been so dry that there have been no reports of excessive runoff. Since the rain, temperatures have been cooler. Fall tillage operations were in full swing.

Whitman: Rain and cooler temperatures made a very welcome visit to the Palouse during the week. Rainfall totals for the week were greater than the total received all summer. Rain and cooler temperatures slowed field work but the moisture helped improve fall planting prospects. Producers in the western part of the county had been seeding winter wheat. Central and eastern operations were working stubble ground.

Whitman (2nd Report): Field work was interrupted by welcomed rain showers early in the week. Soil crusting (due to recent rainfall) on some early seeded deep-furrow winter wheat may require re-planting but the acreage affected was quite limited. Winter wheat planting should accelerate over the next two weeks.

Weekly Weather Statistics

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

Free e-mail subscriptions are available via automated mailing list for National and State reports. You can subscribe to individual reports and they will be sent directly to your e-mail address soon after the official release time.

Subscribe at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/sub-form.htm>

September 15, 2003

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	39	71	58	-1	61	0	1	-7	0.12	-0.30	2	0.12	-0.67	15	2
Everett	47	70	59	1	67	1	3	-8	0.18	-0.31	3	0.20	-0.72	22	4
Hoquiam	45	70	59	-3	61	-16	2	-13	1.73	1.04	5	2.39	1.13	190	6
Kelso	46	77	61	-2	75	-6	10	-12	0.00	-0.53	0	0.00	-1.01	0	0
Olympia	39	74	59	0	65	1	5	-5	0.52	0.03	4	0.71	-0.21	77	5
Sea-Tac	47	70	60	-2	71	-11	5	-16	0.40	-0.02	4	0.43	-0.36	54	5
Shelton	38	75	59	-3	65	-15	4	-17	0.42	-0.15	4	0.54	-0.50	52	5
Tacoma	39	73	59	-2	67	-7	6	-9	0.61	0.19	4	0.92	0.09	111	5
Vancouver	47	81	64	3	97	17	29	8	0.76	0.31	3	0.83	-0.04	95	4
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	35	76	57	-4	50	-25	2	-21	0.00	-0.14	0	0.00	-0.26	0	0
Omak	37	79	59	-2	62	-10	8	-15	0.24	0.03	1	0.26	-0.16	62	2
Stampede Pass	38	67	50	0	15	-9	0	-2	2.89	2.15	4	2.93	1.53	209	5
Wenatchee	45	75	62	-4	82	-26	15	-29	0.00	-0.10	0	0.00	-0.24	0	0
Yakima AP	36	79	59	-4	65	-23	9	-22	0.05	-0.05	1	0.05	-0.19	21	1
NORTHEAST															
Colville	36	76	59	0	62	-3	8	-10	0.56	0.28	2	0.56	0.00	100	2
Deer Park	30	72	55	-7	34	-43	2	-24	1.23	1.02	2	1.23	0.81	293	2
Spokane AP	36	75	56	-5	46	-31	2	-24	0.55	0.35	2	0.55	0.14	134	2
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	42	75	60	-8	69	-47	9	-41	0.21	0.13	1	0.21	0.06	140	1
Moses Lake	39	77	59	-8	64	-52	9	-41	0.18	0.10	1	0.18	0.03	120	1
Quincy	42	76	60	-4	70	-28	9	-28	0.07	-0.07	1	0.07	-0.20	26	1
Ritzville	37	75	56	-6	47	-37	5	-23	0.43	0.29	2	0.43	0.19	179	2
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	41	82	62	-9	85	-55	20	-50	0.24	0.17	1	0.24	0.05	126	1
Pasco	41	85	64	-3	97	-16	27	-22	0.23	0.16	1	0.23	0.03	115	1
Pullman	33	74	56	-4	41	-29	2	-20	0.83	0.62	3	0.88	0.46	210	4
Whitman Miss.	39	81	62	-2	83	-8	17	-16	1.25	1.11	3	1.25	0.97	446	3
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	36	75	56	-7	43	-43	5	-26	1.08	0.80	3	1.08	0.52	193	3
Lewiston ID	47	81	62	-5	86	-26	23	-27	0.99	0.78	3	0.99	0.57	236	3

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2003

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.

Copyright 2002: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.