



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: November 10, 2003, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: November 9, 2003
CWP WA-CW4503

Record Breaking Cold Temperatures Spread Across State Winter Wheat Emergence Spotty but Better Than Last Year

Field Crops

Record breaking cold temperatures and killing frost spread across Washington State. There have been reports of crops suffering damage. Farmers have been converting old corn mazes into silage. Winter wheat emergence in the Palouse was spotty in many areas but somewhat better than last year's extremely dry conditions.

Livestock

Livestock owners were kept busy feeding hay and keeping the ice broken in watering troughs. Dairy producers took advantage of frozen soil to apply liquid manure. The pre-holiday oyster harvest in Pacific County was well underway, with maximum processing and distribution of shucked and shell stock products.

Fruits and Vegetables

U-Cut Christmas tree growers have been preparing for opening the day after Thanksgiving. Flood damage reports continue to come in from berry producers in Whatcom County. Orchards in Kittitas County reported that local apple and pear yields were good. Carrot harvest continued in Grant and Franklin Counties.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.3
Last Week	4.5

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	16	42	41	1
Subsoil	12	39	47	2
Irrigation Water	0	3	97	0
Hay & Roughage	0	4	94	2

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

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2002	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	100	100	100	100
Winter Wheat Emerged	96	91	93	96
Corn Harvested for Grain	65	50	49	57

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	3	7	63	27	0
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	100	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: Frigid conditions continued to exist throughout the week, as a result of an unseasonably long cold spell. Temperatures plummeted to the low twenties during the evening and rose only to the mid-40's during sunny, brisk afternoons. The dry conditions and frozen soils provided a real bonus for the harvest of hybrid cottonwoods for pulpwood. Rather than muddy field conditions, trucks and harvest equipment glided smoothly across frozen soils. Livestock owners were kept busy feeding hay and removing ice from watering troughs. Christmas tree growers were sharpening power saws in anticipation of beginning harvest. The frigid temperatures transformed the rural landscape from fall to winter. The majority of deciduous trees have dropped their leaves, leaving only coniferous silhouettes across the barren landscape.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: A near record cold spell and killing frost were received during the week.

Pacific: Cold, dry conditions during the week created opportunities for cranberry growers and other agricultural producers to complete final post harvest activities. The pre-holiday oyster harvest was well underway, with maximum processing and distribution of shucked and shell stock products. Growers and processors were moving product into new geographical area markets in an attempt to improve prices.

Pierce/King: The weather remained cold in the South Puget Sound area, with nights dropping into the lower 20's and

days only reaching into the mid-40's. Many crops have suffered damage due to the cold temperatures. There were reports of damage received to celery and onions.

Snohomish/King: The temperatures were very cold during the day and evening temperatures dropped into the 20's. It was sunny all week, with moderate temperatures by Friday. Farmers were busy converting old corn mazes into silage. Manure spreading will continue until the winter rains set in for good.

Thurston: Frigid conditions continued to dominate agricultural activities throughout the week. Ag producers reported evening temperatures dropping to 14 degrees, and daytime highs only rising to the mid-40's. Livestock owners were kept busy breaking up the ice in watering troughs and feeding hay. Many trees and shrubs have taken on a "freeze dried" appearance due to the abundance of frozen foliage which remains on them. Conifer seedling nurseries were irrigating outdoor plug seedlings for frost protection. Dairy producers took advantage of frozen soil conditions to apply liquid manure. U-Cut Christmas tree growers were placing directional signs on farms in anticipations of opening retail sales the day after Thanksgiving.

Whatcom: Flood damage reports continued to come in from berry producers. Record low temperatures were reported in the county during the week. Field tillage work was complete for the season. However, manure application were on-going during the dry conditions.

Central

Benton: Cold temperatures accelerated apple harvest, but no damage was reported.

Benton (2nd Report): The temperatures dropped into the low teens during the week. Without some of the trees properly shutting down for the year, it might have an impact on some of the yields in 2004. Fruit and grain crops were normal.

Franklin: Temperatures were very cold. Field activities were winding down. Some carrots were still being harvested.

Grant: Carrot harvest continued as warmer temperatures in late mornings and afternoons permitted. Some nursery stock (fruit trees) were being harvested. Growers drained irrigation lines for the winter.

Kittitas: The weather was very cold following the snow a week and a half ago. Winter is upon us. Some producers were still weaning calves. Quite a few cattle were still on

pastures. A few producers were beginning to feed some hay. Some fall fertilizer applications have been occurring on timothy hay ground.

Kittitas (2nd Report): Ag activities wound down in the Kittitas Valley. Some fieldwork, in the form of discing and plowing, were still being done. New seeding timothy hay stands were planted and have emerged. Reports from local orchardists were that apple and pear yields were good. Range and pasture conditions were still dry, with precipitation badly needed.

Klickitat: Several killing frosts damaged vegetables but not tree fruits. Many crops were going dormant. A minimal amount of precipitation were received during the week.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 14 degrees below normal to 4 degrees above normal, with no precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to weather conditions reported.

Eastern

Adams: Cold, dry conditions continued, slowing winter wheat growth and development. Moisture was needed to maintain winter wheat conditions.

Ferry/Okanogan: Livestock were either on fall pastures and/or were being supplemented with feed or protein. Temperatures were in the teens up to 45 degrees during the day.

Lincoln: Cold, dry conditions persisted. Moisture was needed to maintain current crop conditions.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: A week of very cold temperatures and arctic wind, with a little snow, came during the week. Both counties were still in need of additional moisture.

Producers were unsure what damage the cold weather will have on the winter wheat that is trying to emerge. Supplemental feeding was the norm now with many growers.

Whitman: Cold, dry days were the norm for the week. Winter wheat remains in mostly fair condition, and the county is in need of precipitation.

Whitman (2nd Report): Throughout the week, the weather conditions remained cold and dry. Despite the record cold, some producers continued on with fall fertilizing and even more reseeding. Winter wheat was in need of precipitation. Emergence was spotty in many areas but somewhat better than last year's extremely dry conditions.

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Weekly Weather Statistics
November 10, 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	18	52	37	-9	0	-7	0	0	0.00	-1.10	0	8.83	2.09	131	23
Everett	27	53	39	-8	0	-7	0	0	0.00	-1.05	0	5.17	-1.39	79	23
Hoquiam	25	56	42	-8	0	-12	0	0	0.04	-2.15	1	15.93	3.72	130	30
Kelso	21	61	41	-7	0	-7	0	0	0.00	-1.39	0	5.51	-2.41	70	24
Olympia	17	55	37	-8	0	0	0	0	0.02	-1.68	1	12.43	3.72	143	30
Sea-Tac	29	57	42	-6	0	-7	0	0	0.01	-1.22	1	9.49	2.83	142	25
Shelton	19	58	37	-10	0	-7	0	0	0.04	-2.12	2	19.19	8.32	177	32
Tacoma	19	55	36	-11	0	-7	0	0	0.00	-1.27	0	9.53	2.72	140	26
Vancouver	23	59	42	-6	0	-7	0	0	0.07	-1.13	2	3.86	-2.82	58	22
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	8	46	29	-11	0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.23	0	0.35	-0.99	26	9
Omak	10	45	29	-9	0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.32	0	1.48	-0.61	71	9
Stampede Pass	13	41	26	-8	0	0	0	0	0.00	-2.54	0	14.91	1.80	114	27
Wenatchee	14	47	31	-11	0	-5	0	0	0.00	-0.21	0	0.48	-0.64	43	9
Yakima AP	11	52	33	-10	0	-6	0	0	0.00	-0.21	0	0.30	-0.82	27	7
NORTHEAST															
Colville	7	53	29	-9	0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.53	0	1.17	-1.87	38	8
Deer Park	1	48	27	-12	0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.52	0	2.54	-0.08	97	14
Spokane AP	9	45	27	-12	0	0	0	0	0.02	-0.42	1	1.30	-0.96	58	13
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	11	50	33	-9	0	-7	0	0	0.00	-0.21	0	0.45	-0.60	43	7
Moses Lake	5	47	31	-12	0	-7	0	0	0.00	-0.21	0	0.33	-0.72	31	7
Quincy	13	49	32	-9	0	-1	0	0	0.00	-0.21	0	0.32	-0.86	27	5
Ritzville	12	51	29	-12	0	0	0	0	0.03	-0.29	1	0.75	-1.01	43	7
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	18	49	35	-12	0	-11	0	0	0.00	-0.20	0	0.34	-0.65	34	4
Pasco	11	53	33	-13	0	-7	0	0	0.00	-0.21	0	0.49	-0.67	42	8
Pullman	12	51	31	-10	0	-6	0	0	0.00	-0.55	0	1.78	-1.33	57	12
Whitman Miss.	8	50	29	-15	0	-7	0	0	0.00	-0.39	0	1.60	-0.60	73	9
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	9	43	28	-15	0	-7	0	0	0.00	-0.67	0	3.00	-0.64	82	12
Lewiston ID	17	53	34	-11	0	-7	0	0	0.00	-0.25	0	1.30	-0.69	65	9

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.
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