



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: August 9, 2004, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: August 1, 2004
CWP WA-CW3204

Abnormal August Weather Pulse Crops Damaged by Wind Storm

Field Crops

Grain harvest was not deterred by rain storms experienced towards the end of the week. Numerous grain producers anticipated the wet weather and pushed early in the week to harvest grains. Whitman County experienced heavy rain and hail, which took a toll on both wheat and barley. Spokane and Whitman counties had gusty winds and dust damage to dry peas and lentils. Standing lentils and recently swathed lentils were scattered from fields. Losses were estimated to be from 30 to 50 percent. Some hay producers in Walla Walla, Stevens, Grant, and Spokane Counties had hay get wet, both in windrows and bales. Christmas tree growers reported initial sales of Noble and Grand fir in Grays Harbor County.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 5% very poor, 14% poor, 52% fair, and 29% good. Lincoln County livestock producers were thankful for the rain, but were still having to haul water to their livestock.

Fruits and Vegetables

In Benton County, some grapes were beginning to show color. Grant County was combining onion and radish seed crops. In Adams County, reports of limb rub and bruising occurred in apples due to high winds. Yakima County started harvesting early apple varieties, including Gingergold and Gala.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.4
Last Week	7.0

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	10	33	57	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	24	43	33	0
Subsoil	11	34	55	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	12	49	39	0
Irrigation Water	2	6	92	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	1	5	94	0
Hay & Roughage	2	3	88	7

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

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2003	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Headed	0	100	0	0
Spring Wheat Harvested	42	24	37	25
Winter Wheat Harvested	55	35	61	51
Barley Harvested	44	20	34	21
Potatoes Harvested	21	17	26	19
Corn Silage Harvested	7	1	3	1
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	5	1	1	0
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	95	94	100	99
Dry Peas Harvested	70	20	46	27
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	93	91	100	97
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	54	36	42	35

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	8	26	55	9
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	3	96	1
Spring Wheat Dryland	2	4	35	55	4
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	94	6
Barley Dryland	2	8	32	51	7
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	91	9
Potatoes	0	1	7	90	2
Corn	0	0	1	97	2
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	2	94	4

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: Rain showers throughout the week helped to revitalize the parched rural landscape. All areas of the county received sufficient rain to wet the soil to a depth of several inches. The rain was especially welcomed by sweet corn growers who found it challenging to keep crops irrigated. Christmas tree growers reported initial sales of Noble and Grand fir. Greenhouse tomato growers reported strong sales and rapidly ripening fruit. Commercial gladiola growers were kept busy harvesting cut flowers for retail sales. Spring flower bulb growers continued digging bulbs. Home gardeners feasted on zucchinis, tomatoes, cucumbers, sweet corn, and green onions.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Rain showers broke the dry spell, but only made a small dent in the moisture deficit. Grain crops looked better than expected given the lack of rainfall. Corn generally looked good, except for the areas where irrigation was inadequate.

Kittitas: Sporadic rain brought some relief from very hot, dry conditions. Pastures were showing heat stress. Sweet corn was mostly tasseled and enjoying the warm weather. A small number of timothy fields were cut for the second time, but most producers were waiting. Range conditions were good at higher elevations. Lower rangeland was past growing conditions.

Kitsap: Rain helped reduce irrigation requirements, with some vegetable producers having a difficult time harvesting due to mud. Vegetable crops were in full production with area Farmer's Markets offering a great selection.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions remained favorable throughout the South Puget Sound area. The hard rain on Friday caused some damage, but there were no reports so far of any damage.

Skagit: The weather conditions were mostly dry, with slight amounts of precipitation. Potatoes, cucumbers, blueberries, apples,

and turf grass were being irrigated. Processing of blueberries was winding down, with harvest of fresh market produce continuing. Potato harvest continued on a larger scale.

Snohomish/North King: Most of the week was cooler than normal. The Thursday Snohomish Farmer's Market was filled with a brilliant rainbow of fresh flowers. Strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries were still available. Vegetables and herbs were available from basil to zucchini. More rain fell in one hour in a freak Friday afternoon thunderstorm than fell in all of July in much of Snohomish County. The storm dropped 0.5 inches balls of hail in Snohomish and Lake Stevens. By 5:00 pm, 0.82 inches of rain had fallen in the area, smashing the 1984 record of 0.38 inches for August 6. The harvest hit area was a swath from Mountlake Terrace northeast to Lake Stevens, where as much as 2 inches of rain fell. The average rainfall for the month of August is 1.14 inches. A few farms in Snohomish reported that massive amounts of soil came downhill onto their farmland. A massive surge of sand and debris was so big on one dairy farm that a backhoe had to be used to clear the road so that a milk truck could get through. There were no reports of crop damage so far.

Thurston: Ag producers were jubilant with a "million dollar rain" which ended a very long dry spell. Fortunately, enough precipitation fell in most areas of the county to wet the soil to a depth of several inches. Dehydrated plants were quickly revitalized with the additional moisture. Turfgrass growers were kept busy mowing newly germinated fields. Christmas tree growers began shearing Noble and Douglas fir. Sweet corn fields opened for U-Pick retail sales. Home gardeners were applying fungicides for the prevention of late blight fungus on both potatoes and tomatoes.

Whatcom: The temperatures were a bit cooler this past week. Showers and half a day of rain were received. Blueberry harvest continued. Some of the potatoes were continuing the devining process. Green chopping continued.

Central

Benton: Recent rain improved soil moisture. Soft fruit and summer vegetable harvest continued. Grapes were beginning to show color in early areas, which was about one week ahead of normal.

Benton (2nd Report): Harvest continued. Some rain showers were received ranging from 0.4 inches to 0.6 inches. No reports of crop losses were received.

Chelan/Douglas: Rain was received over a three day period. Winter wheat harvest ended. Some areas reported receiving 2.5 inches over a 20 minute period which cut ditches through the summer fallow and washed topsoil over roadways. There was no reported damage to the wheat crop. The pear crop looked average, and the apple crop looked good. Fires in Chelan County continued to burn. Smoky conditions continued.

Ferry/Okanogan: Winter wheat harvest was well underway, until the county received rain on Wednesday morning and periodically through Friday. Up to 1.5 inches of precipitation was received in various parts of the counties. Alfalfa hay harvest was also affected

by the rainstorms.

Franklin: Cooler temperatures and some rain was received during the week. Potato harvest continued. Sweet corn, winter and spring wheat were being harvested. Dry bean harvest began.

Grant: Sweet corn harvest continued. Onions and radish seed crops were being combined. Most of the second cutting of alfalfa was rained on.

Okanogan (2nd Report): Rain was received over a substantial part of the county.

Yakima: The harvest of early apple varieties, including Gingergold and Gala, had begun.

Yakima(2nd Report): Average temperatures varied from 7 degrees above normal to 8 degrees below normal, with 0.14 inches of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams: Rains slowed winter and spring cereal harvest. Overall, the harvest was nearing completion and growers were beginning to think about seeding winter wheat.

Adams (2nd Report): Big winds Monday night kicked up dust, but caused little damage in dryland country; however, the summer breezes were not as kind to apple growers—with reports of limb rub and bruising. Later in the week, thunder and dry lightning rolled through, followed by showers with about one third of an inch of precipitation. Harvest was stopped for a couple of days due to the rain. Yields reported to date have been mostly better than average, with spring wheat reported significantly better than average.

Asotin/Garfield: Thunder storms throughout the week interrupted harvest several times. Hail in some areas caused damage to unharvested crops, but the damage was not widespread. Warmer temperatures Saturday and Sunday will allow farmers to resume harvest early this week.

Lincoln: Rains slowed harvest and maintained current moisture conditions. Overall, harvest was nearing the half way point in the county, with reports of average to above average winter wheat yields. Spring cereal reports were widespread from good to poor, depending on locations and amounts of precipitation during the growing year.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Rain was received in portions of the county which improved pasture and range conditions, although much more rain is needed as some ranchers have reported that they have been hauling water to their livestock. Wheat harvest was in full swing in the southern area of the county and will be progressing to other parts of the county this week.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: It was a wild week of weather. Monday evening a severe windstorm blew through the area. The wind gusts and dust did major damage to peas and lentils. Standing lentils were shattered at a rate of at least 40 percent loss. Swathed lentils were not in fields anymore. What was left was shattered as it blew

across fields. Peas were also shattered and beat around by the winds. It rained on Friday, which made matters worse. Rainfall received was between 0.20 inches to 1.0 inches. Producers were already concerned about sprout damage to wheat and bleach in the peas that remained.

Stevens: Thunderstorms early in the week, brought much needed moisture to the county. Forage producers were caught with hay in the field (both in the windrow and in the bale) when the storms hit. Harvest was interrupted briefly, but continued as the weekend brought dry weather to the area.

Walla Walla: Thunderstorms and high winds slowed down harvest activities for a short period. No major damage was reported. The heaviest rains and wind appeared to have hit near Walla Walla. There were power outages and downed tree limbs. Some hay producers experienced yet another cutting of hay getting wet while in the windrows. Reports from harvest was good, with many yields average or well above average.

Whitman: The weather included high winds on Monday, followed by cooler temperatures and some rain showers later in the week. Overall, crop conditions looked good. Some damage and/or loss of crops was reported, due to wind, rain, and fire. The moisture helped pastures and rangeland.

Whitman (2nd Report): Thunderstorms and cooler temperatures made an unwanted stop in the Palouse just at the start of harvest. Damaging winds, up to 50 mph, scattered recently swathed lentils from fields onto roads, into ditches, and even into wheat fields. Loss estimates range from 30-50 percent. Heavy rains and hail also took a toll on oilseeds, pulses, and cereal crops. Crop insurance adjusters were busy calculating damage. Producers were making repairs and taking care of business in town, while combines sat idle waiting for drier weather.

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Weekly Weather Statistics

August 9, 2004

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	51	81	63	0	95	4	25	-3	0.34	0.06	4	28.13	-7.00	80	144
Everett	55	77	64	0	99	1	29	-1	0.90	0.62	4	28.62	-6.82	81	154
Hoquiam	53	84	62	1	86	9	17	3	1.43	1.15	3	62.84	-3.91	94	180
Kelso	57	88	69	5	137	32	67	31	0.47	0.20	3	31.56	-13.84	70	125
Olympia	49	83	64	-1	100	2	30	-2	1.00	0.79	3	45.00	-4.57	91	156
Sea-Tac	54	80	65	-2	104	-8	34	-9	0.87	0.66	2	33.85	-2.46	93	137
Shelton	48	87	65	-2	103	-9	33	-9	1.48	1.27	5	61.70	-2.21	97	155
Tacoma	54	82	66	1	111	6	41	-1	0.74	0.51	3	31.37	-7.88	80	136
Vancouver	57	95	69	4	135	27	65	23	0.37	0.16	2	30.15	-10.20	75	147
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	51	94	71	3	151	18	81	18	0.65	0.58	3	8.33	-0.30	97	90
Omak	49	99	72	4	153	25	83	22	0.99	0.78	4	11.71	-2.54	82	75
Stampede Pass	49	76	60	4	69	20	13	3	0.72	0.37	3	71.02	-8.45	89	168
Wenatchee	54	98	72	-3	159	-9	89	-9	0.44	0.37	4	9.61	1.64	121	82
Yakima AP	46	96	70	-2	140	-3	70	-3	0.39	0.32	4	7.14	-0.51	93	73
NORTHEAST															
Colville	50	96	69	3	137	16	67	11	0.65	0.44	4	9.56	-10.82	47	79
Deer Park	45	98	65	-5	108	-32	42	-28	0.55	0.41	3	18.25	0.33	102	128
Spokane AP	51	96	68	-3	129	-11	59	-11	1.00	0.86	2	14.26	-1.69	89	111
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	52	96	71	-5	149	-31	79	-31	0.50	0.44	3	5.63	-1.40	80	68
Moses Lake	52	98	70	-6	145	-35	75	-35	0.06	0.00	1	5.18	-1.85	74	65
Quincy	50	94	71	-2	145	-7	75	-8	0.39	0.32	3	5.50	-2.03	73	61
Ritzville	47	95	69	-2	133	-7	63	-7	0.54	0.47	2	10.77	-0.20	98	76
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	52	96	73	-7	161	-42	91	-42	0.36	0.29	3	6.77	0.52	108	69
Pasco	50	95	74	-2	172	-5	102	-4	0.28	0.21	2	7.99	0.79	111	81
Pullman	44	94	66	-1	115	-4	45	-4	0.22	0.01	2	15.47	-4.96	76	106
Whitman Miss.	45	100	73	2	164	13	94	12	0.25	0.11	2	16.64	3.34	125	117
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'Alene AP	46	97	68	-4	125	-22	56	-21	0.33	0.06	3	13.84	-11.13	55	108
Lewiston ID	56	103	76	2	186	11	116	11	0.27	0.13	2	11.84	0.01	100	99

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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