



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: August 23, 2004, 1:00 p.m.  
Week Ending: August 22, 2004  
CWP WA-CW3404

## Cereal Harvest Quickly Coming to a Close Rain Helped Improve Soil Moisture

### Field Crops

Rain fell in most parts of the state towards the end of the week. Some parts of Whitman County experienced severe thunderstorms and mud slides. Widespread showers came to the Palouse Sunday, bringing all harvest activity to a halt. Some early seeding of winter wheat began in Adams County. Spokane County growers reported losses of 30 to 50 percent of their dry pea and lentil crop from an August 2 wind storm. Blight was appearing in some Franklin County potato fields as harvest continued. Christmas tree growers in Thurston County continued shearing Douglas fir and top working Noble fir.

### Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 7% very poor, 19% poor, 47% fair, and 27% good. Some livestock producers in Thurston County started feeding supplemental hay to compensate for the lack of forage in pastures.

### Fruits and Vegetables

Blueberry harvest was nearing completion in Thurston County and still ongoing in Whatcom County. Early apple activity increased in Benton County and began in Franklin County. Pear harvest began in Okanogan County. Sweet corn harvest continued throughout the state.

#### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.0
Last Week	6.9

#### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	8	28	58	6
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	21	45	34	0
Subsoil	10	34	56	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	14	49	37	0
Irrigation Water	4	5	91	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	6	92	0
Hay & Roughage	2	6	85	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 Harvested	81	64	85	65
Winter Wheat Planted	1	0	2	1
Winter Wheat Harvested	87	76	91	84
Barley Harvested	85	52	84	59
Potatoes Harvested	37	31	30	25
Corn Silage Harvested	11	10	7	7
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	15	10	19	7
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	100	96	100	100
Dry Peas Harvested	91	85	89	63
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	100	96	100	100
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	75	74	85	75

#### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Potatoes	0	1	7	90	2
Corn	0	0	3	95	2
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	4	93	3

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:** The rural landscape continued to radiate a kaleidoscope of color as the summer season began a slow transition to fall. The golden tassels of corn quickly disappeared beneath the rotary blades of corn-topping machinery, as growers minimized the potential for lodging from early fall storms. The golden glow of straw was all that remained of cereal grain fields which were harvested under ideal conditions of low humidity. The three commercial dahlia farms in the county were a riot of color, as plants sported thousands of blooms in a vast assortment of vibrant colors. Heavy rainfall over the weekend provided enough moisture to wet the soil profile to about 5 inches. Sweet corn growers were jubilant to have copious rainfall at the time of kernel development. Home gardeners continued to feast on mouth watering corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, plums, and Gravenstein apples!

**Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific:** Grain harvest and late season haying were gradually winding down. The weather was favorable for both. Corn generally looked good except for areas that did not have adequate irrigation equipment.

**Kitsap:** Cooler temperatures helped sustain production schedules. Local small fruit and vegetables were featured items at all eight area Farmer's Markets.

**Pierce/South King:** The weather remained favorable to the crop producers in the South Puget Sound area. The rain will be most appreciated. There were no unusual situations to report and no reports of crop damage due to a weather event.

**San Juan:** Three quarters of an inch of rain was received on Saturday. The rain was needed to alleviate the very dry pasture conditions.

**Snohomish/North King:** The week was very dry again with welcomed rain showers over the weekend. Some areas received at least 1.5 inches. Unirrigated pastures were dormant but should begin to grow again with the renewed moisture. Local corn and early apples were being harvested.

**Snohomish/North King (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The weekend weather was more typical of a fall day than late summer. Rain was heavy at times. There were no reports of crop damage due to the stormy conditions.

**Thurston:** A week of sunny, warm weather with daytime temperatures averaging 80 degrees came to an end over the weekend, as cooler temperatures and heavy rain fell across the rural landscape. Ag producers were jubilant that the additional moisture helped, at least temporarily, to reduce the potential for wildfires. More than 1.75 inches of rain fell in most areas of the county, which helped to saturate the soil profile several inches. Blueberry harvest was rapidly nearing completion bringing about a record breaking short season. Organic and conventional truck vegetable growers continued to report excellent sales at the Olympia's Farmer's Market. Some livestock producers began feeding supplemental hay to compensate for the lack of forage in dried up pastures. Christmas tree growers continued shearing Douglas fir and top working Noble fir. Home gardeners feasted on zucchinis, cucumbers, tomatoes, and sweet corn.

**Whatcom:** The weather was dry and warm during the week. Rain showers were received over the weekend which cooled down the temperatures. Producers continued to green chop. Potato plants continued the de-vine process. Green bean harvest was in full swing. Blueberries continued to be harvested.

## Central

**Benton:** Early apple harvest activity increased. Grapes were coloring early due to the hot temperatures. Wheat harvest was nearly complete. Summer vegetable harvest continued.

**Benton (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Harvest continued and was slowed down by rain. Wheat producers in the Horse Heaven hills area were close to being done, while producers near the Rattlesnake river were 0.50 to 0.75 percent done. The yields reported were above average for spring wheat and average for hard winter wheat. Apple harvest continued. Hay was reported down in some places. Some rain (between 0.1 to 1.0 inches) was received over the weekend, which slowed down harvest.

**Franklin:** The weather conditions were warm and dry during most of the week, but rain was received on Sunday. Potato harvest

continued. Late blight appeared in fields. Wheat and barley harvest began. Apple picking began.

**Grant:** Sweet corn harvest continued. Dry bean swathing began.

**Kititas:** The second cutting of timothy hay was underway. Sweet corn harvest began. Range and pasture conditions were normal for this time of the year. Irrigation water supplies should be adequate for the remainder of the irrigation season.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures varied from 12 degrees above normal to 2 degrees below normal, with 0.53 inches of precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to weather conditions reported.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Harvest was completed and winter wheat seeding should begin to pick up next week. Seed bed moisture should be adequate throughout the county.

**Adams(2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The week was mostly hot and dry allowing grain farmers to complete harvest before a front moved through on Sunday bringing some rain. Seeding operations were beginning, although the unsettled weather predictions for the following week had some debating a delay.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Harvest progressed well with a couple of rain delays. Yields were good to excellent in some cases.

**Ferry:** Rainfall of about one inch was received over a 36 hour period, which helped 3-4 inches of topsoil. Every little bit helps.

**Ferry/Okanogan:** Winter wheat harvest was in full swing. Pear harvest began. Pasture conditions looked good. Some pastures had water problems with some springs and creeks drying up.

**Lincoln:** Harvest was nearly completed and growers will begin to focus on winter wheat seeding. Moisture during the week and expected moisture next week should make for good seeding conditions, especially if weed problems do not persist.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** Spotty rain showers in the northern part of the counties shut harvest down for a day or so. Rain also came over the weekend, which again stopped harvest. Forecasts for more

rain next week will most likely hinder harvest as well. A lot of grain had been harvested, but a fair amount remained for some of the larger operators. Yield reports were good except for the peas and lentils that were unharvested prior to the big wind storm. Losses were at approximately 30-50 percent.

**Stevens:** A thunder and wind storm with gusts of up to 50 mph struck the Colville area on Wednesday. No agricultural damage was reported. Sunday rain fell on and off all day, with a nice moisture accumulation that should benefit fall pastures. Grain harvest was nearly complete in most of the county.

**Walla Walla:** Hot, hot, hot! Range and pastures were rapidly drying up. Harvest was wrapping up throughout the county. Reported yields remained better than average overall.

**Whitman:** Harvest continued to progress through the week, but was interrupted with thunderstorms in the northern part of the county on Wednesday. Severe thunderstorms made their way through the southern part of the county on Thursday causing damage and mud slides south and west of Colfax. Harvest activity was halted in the Colfax-Pullman area due to rain. Widespread showers came to the Palouse on Sunday, bringing all harvest activity to a halt. Harvest was about 75 percent complete with the western area of the county all but finished. The eastern half was still finishing up. About another week of cutting will wrap up the 2004 harvest. Producers were hoping that the rain break was short-lived.

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](mailto: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>

**Weekly Weather Statistics  
August 23, 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		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	56	78	65	4	111	23	41	18	1.02	0.67	2	29.15	-6.62	81	146
Everett	56	81	66	4	114	23	44	16	1.00	0.65	2	29.62	-6.46	82	156
Hoquiam	56	71	63	2	93	9	23	2	1.13	0.77	2	63.97	-3.42	95	182
Kelso	57	84	70	6	143	44	73	38	0.88	0.53	2	32.44	-13.62	70	127
Olympia	52	87	68	5	128	37	58	30	1.19	0.87	2	46.19	-3.98	92	158
Sea-Tac	57	83	67	3	124	17	54	12	0.73	0.45	2	34.58	-2.24	94	139
Shelton	57	85	68	4	130	25	60	18	0.46	0.17	2	62.16	-2.28	96	157
Tacoma	57	83	69	5	131	29	61	26	0.77	0.44	2	32.14	-7.72	81	138
Vancouver	59	88	72	8	158	54	88	52	1.35	1.06	1	31.50	-9.40	77	148
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	58	99	79	12	203	82	133	78	0.17	0.09	1	8.50	-0.28	97	91
Stampede Pass	51	80	65	10	107	58	44	35	0.01	-0.47	1	71.03	-9.33	88	169
Wenatchee	59	95	81	9	215	58	145	58	0.01	-0.10	1	9.62	1.47	118	83
Yakima AP	56	96	77	9	188	58	118	55	0.53	0.45	1	7.67	-0.13	98	74
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	58	96	76	11	184	74	114	67	0.00	-0.28	0	9.56	-11.33	46	79
Deer Park	51	97	73	6	163	38	93	34	0.32	0.11	2	18.57	0.28	102	130
Spokane AP	59	96	76	9	182	56	112	52	0.05	-0.11	1	14.31	-1.94	88	112
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	60	99	80	7	212	47	142	47	0.03	-0.04	1	5.66	-1.48	79	69
Moses Lake	60	99	79	5	202	37	132	37	0.12	0.05	1	5.30	-1.84	74	66
Quincy	58	97	79	10	206	67	136	64	0.20	0.13	1	5.70	-1.97	74	62
Ritzville	60	99	78	10	196	67	126	65	0.03	-0.09	1	10.80	-0.36	97	77
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	60	103	82	6	227	39	157	39	0.00	-0.07	0	6.77	0.38	106	69
Pasco	62	100	79	6	202	38	132	38	0.08	-0.02	1	8.07	0.70	109	82
Pullman	54	90	73	9	164	54	94	45	0.09	-0.12	2	15.56	-5.29	75	108
Whitman Miss.	60	103	80	11	210	73	140	71	0.12	-0.02	2	16.76	3.18	123	119
<b>ID PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D'A' AP	61	95	77	8	188	53	118	51	0.03	-0.30	2	13.87	-11.71	54	110
Lewiston ID	64	96	81	8	219	55	149	55	0.08	-0.13	1	11.92	-0.27	98	100

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 2004: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.