

# OREGON CROP WEATHER



**NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE**

**USDA, NASS, Oregon Field Office**

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**Weather:** It was dry week with warm days, making for a pleasant Labor Day weekend. High temperatures reached up to 100 degrees in Grants Pass and Medford, whereas Crescent City only made it to 67 degrees. All of the other non-coastal regions reported highs in the upper 80's to upper 90's. Lows ranged from only 26 degrees in Christmas Valley up to 50 degrees in Portland. Moisture was reported at twelve stations, with Astoria/Clatsop accumulating 0.38 inches. Most stations only received 1 or 2 days of precipitation, with Tillamook reporting moisture on 3 days.

**Field Crops:** Field corn was setting ears, and the wheat harvest was nearing completion. The second cuttings of grass hay were being made, and the third cuttings of alfalfa were being baled in Southern Oregon. Wheat yields look low in Malheur and Umatilla counties. Fields were being prepared for fall crops throughout the State. Peppermint harvest is completed with reports of above average yields.

**Vegetables:** Sweet corn harvest has begun in the State. Benton, Linn, and Lane counties report average yields for the early season corn plantings. Green bean harvest continued in Washington County. Growers were sending table beets to the cannery. Pumpkins were turning yellow in Josephine County. In eastern Oregon, potato and onion harvests were underway. Potato yields in Umatilla County were coming in lower than in previous years.

**Fruits and Nuts:** Most prunes and plums were just about ready for harvest in the Willamette Valley. Apples, peaches, nectarines, and some berries continued to be picked. Hazelnuts continued to fall. Final flailing was being done in hazelnut orchards to prepare for harvest after another month of nut drop. Walnuts continued to size. Grapes were looking good; harvest is expected to start in mid-September, which is a week or two early. Grapes also look to be early in the Umpqua Valley due to recent warm weather. Some harvest movement is expected within the next two weeks. Apple, pear, and peach harvest continued in The Dalles and Mosier areas. Southern Oregon pears, wild berries, and some plums were picked. Grapes were sizing and showing color.

**Nurseries and Greenhouses:** Nurseries were irrigating, fertilizing, preparing new planting beds, and doing plant rotation of container plants. Greenhouses were getting started with fall decorative plants and fall vegetable starts. Christmas tree growers were making plans for harvest, which is only two months away.

**Livestock, Range and Pasture:** Range fires continued in southeastern Oregon. Producers were forced to move livestock, in some areas, and those with affected permits began to look for different grazing options. Some higher elevation rangeland remained in decent condition, whereas lower elevation rangeland and dryland pastures were depleted in many areas. Irrigation continued without interruption, but some water sources began to drop to low levels. Livestock remained in good condition throughout the State.

**Soil Moisture-Week Ending 09/03/06**

	<b>Very short</b>	<b>Short</b>	<b>Adequate</b>	<b>Surplus</b>
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	47	31	22	0
Subsoil	40	36	24	0

**Crop Progress-Week Ending 09/03/06**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>This week</b>	<b>Last week</b>	<b>Last year</b>	<b>5 year average</b>
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Alfalfa hay, third cutting	45	-	-	-
Winter wheat harvested	99	96	100	100
Barley harvested	90	71	95	88
Spring wheat harvested	89	77	96	96
Days suitable for fieldwork	7.0	7.0	-	-

**Crop Condition-Week Ending 09/03/06**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>Very poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Range and pasture	28	21	32	15	4

## WESTERN OREGON

**CLACKAMAS:** No rain yet. Quite hot late in the week. Strong east wind on Thursday night and Friday. Prunes are nearly ripe. Good apple crop. Tomatoes, green beans, and sweet corn are in abundance. No pasture. Feeding hay morning and night. Calves are all using the creep feeder. Field preparations for fall seeding are raising clouds of dust.

**BENTON/LINN/LANE:** Dry conditions continue in the south Valley. Peppermint harvest is completed with reports of above average yields. Sweet corn harvest has begun with reports of average yields for early season plantings. Fields are being worked for planting and the orchards are being harvested.

**COOS/CURRY:** Five days of fog this week kept drying of soils and pasture to a minimum. Temperatures were near normal for the week for Coos and northern Curry, with high temperatures in southern Curry of 77.7 degrees, nearly 8.46 degrees below average. No significant rainfall in the area. Brookings (South Curry): The low temperature for the period was 47.86 degrees, 1.29 degrees below the 5-year average. The high temperature for the period was 77.7 degrees, 8.46 degrees below the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 0.09 inches, compared to a 5-year (including drought years 2001-2004) average of 0.01 inches. The precipitation for Weather year stands at 107.02 inches, 40.17 inches above the 5-year average (including drought years 2001-2004). The historical average (through July) is 70.49 inches precipitation. Bandon (Coos & Northern Curry): The low temperature for the period was 46.13 degrees, 1.55 degrees below the 5-year average. The high temperature for the period was 71.0 degrees, 2.12 degrees above the 5-year average. The precipitation for the period was 0.01 inches compared to a 5-year average (including drought years 2001-2004) of 0.01 inches. The Weather year precipitation stands at 69.13 inches, 21.28 inches above the 5-year average (including 4 drought years, 2001 – 2004). The historical average is 57.92 inches through July.

**DOUGLAS:** Water levels finally getting pretty low in the Umpqua River system. No irrigation restrictions yet but low flow is causing growers to move pump intakes in the river to deeper spots. Crops are far enough along that water use will fall off after Sep 20 for most perennial crops. Grape maturity levels look to be accelerating with recent warm weather. Harvest for most varieties will be about a week ahead of long term averages. Some harvest movement within the next two weeks.

**JACKSON:** Second cutting of grass hay being made and also some third cutting of alfalfa. Most grain crops are now cut and straw baled or being mulched into the ground. Pear harvest continuing and the crop is looking good. Some plums are also being picked. A lot of people are picking wild blackberries. There are a lot of vegetables at farmers markets and roadside stands. There are many U-Pick signs for fresh vegetables. Greenhouses are busy with fall decorative plant starts and some fall vegetable starts. Nurseries mostly busy with watering and feeding their stock on hand and getting ready for fall plant sales. Most all livestock is looking good if on good irrigated pastures. Dry ground feed is really dead dry now. Fruit and vegetable harvest and some grain harvest, and a good bit of haying this week. The weather has been quite hot and very dry with very little dew at night. Days have been in the mid to high 90's, nights in the mid to upper 50's. Irrigation water is still being delivered without interruptions to keep the crops and pastures growing.

**JOSEPHINE:** Experiencing Fall-like weather here. Cool nights with very hot days and drying east winds. There is still a lot of smoke in the valley from the fires in northern California and southeastern Oregon. Pumpkins are turning yellow and grapes are getting some size to them. Truck gardens are doing a great business in all the summer fruits and vegetables. Lots of tomatoes, corn, squash etc. We are looking forward to some rain! None in sight, though.

**WASHINGTON:** Red clover for seed continues to be combined. Field corn is setting ears. Third cutting alfalfa mostly baled. Filberts are falling. Walnuts are looking good. Many varieties of berries are still available. Apples, pears, peaches and prunes are ripe. Sweet corn harvest and maturation continues. Table beets are going to the cannery. Green bean harvest continues. Nursery irrigation and plant rotation continues. Cows and calves looking slick and Buffalo doing good. No rain that was measurable for over a month. High temperature was 90 degrees and the low was 46 degrees. The high humidity was 62 percent and the low was 32 percent.

**YAMHILL:** The prune harvest is getting under way at the end of this week. Grapes are looking good with harvest expected to start mid-September (a week or two early). Hazelnuts continue to look good but small. Final flailing is being done in hazelnut orchards to prepare for harvest after another month of nut drop. Apples are coming on strong and canning peaches will finish in a couple of weeks. Bartlett pear harvest continues. Italian prune harvest continues. Sure could use some rain for fall planting.

## EASTERN OREGON

**GILLIAM/WHEELER:** Cool mornings with temperatures in the high 30's. No moisture has fallen, but things aren't drying too fast.

**HARNEY:** Range fires are creating some excitement, especially in the south. Conversations have begun to discuss finding replacement forage for those permittees burned out.

**LAKE:** No precipitation during the week or weekend. The northern end received morning temperatures in the mid 20's to the low 30's. This appears to be slowing the growth of the alfalfa.

**MALHEUR:** Onion, field corn and potato harvest are well underway. Temperatures hover around normal. Wheat yields are below normal. High elevation grazing is still good. Lower grazing is drying up. Fires cover some grazing and caused others to move cattle.

**SHERMAN:** In between harvest and seeding for small grains.

**UMATILLA:** Wheat yields are down 20 to 30 percent in irrigated fields. Potato yields are below past several years.

**WALLOWA:** Not much change from previous week as far as weather conditions. Grain producers are continuing with harvest. Range conditions are extremely dry.

**WASCO:** Grain harvest is completed for this year. Field cultivation and fertilization continued on summer-fallow and no till acreage is being readied for fall winter wheat planting. Grain planting will start first in the Tygh Ridge and Center Ridge areas. Rain would be welcome before seeding is started. Fruit harvest continued in The Dalles and Mosier areas on peaches, pears and apples. Final alfalfa hay cutting is under way. Livestock are holding their own on dwindling pasture conditions. No rain fell this week.

**Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: September 3, 2006 (as of 11:00 am) <sup>1</sup>**

Station	Air temperature <sup>2</sup>				Growing degree days <sup>3</sup>		Last week precip. <sup>4</sup>			Season cum. precipitation <sup>5</sup>			
	Low	High	Avg.	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Total	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Total inches	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Days <sup>7</sup>	Total inches	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Pct. normal	Days <sup>7</sup>
<b>COASTAL AREAS</b>													
Astoria/Clatsop	45	87	60	-1	68	-2	0.38	-0.08	2	77.20	10.59	116	188
Bandon <sup>8</sup>	46	71	57	-2	54	-2	0.01	-0.28	1	63.93	4.91	108	144
Crescent City	46	67	55	-5	36	-27	0.02	-0.26	2	79.10	13.77	121	151
Florence	41	91	58	-4	55	-22	-	-0.42	-	81.78	5.15	107	168
Tillamook	37	88	57	-3	47	-16	0.20	-0.40	3	93.94	5.05	106	189
<b>WILLAMETTE VALLEY</b>													
Aurora <sup>8</sup>	47	95	69	+5	132	+29	0.11	-0.21	2	50.05	8.85	121	157
Corvallis	45	94	67	+3	121	+17	0.06	-0.22	1	50.05	7.23	117	161
Detroit Lake <sup>8</sup>	40	98	68	+9	125	+54	0.10	-0.30	1	101.03	33.30	149	176
Eugene	42	95	65	-1	109	-4	-	-0.35	-	45.70	-3.82	92	146
Hillsboro	44	97	68	+5	126	+27	0.05	-0.23	1	43.58	5.89	116	150
McMinnville	43	95	68	+4	129	+25	0.01	-0.25	1	39.88	-3.42	92	151
Portland	50	94	69	+3	135	+16	0.10	-0.25	1	40.54	4.09	111	161
Salem	47	96	67	+3	125	+18	-	-0.26	-	48.13	8.85	123	148
<b>SW VALLEYS</b>													
Grants Pass	47	100	71	+3	149	+17	-	-0.14	-	46.69	15.62	150	133
Medford	47	100	74	+4	167	+27	-	-0.14	-	26.40	7.48	140	107
Roseburg	46	99	70	+3	142	+21	-	-0.21	-	46.39	13.57	141	145
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>													
Condon	37	93	64	+3	99	+13	-	-0.21	-	16.45	2.31	116	102
Echo <sup>8</sup>	39	99	66	-3	110	-18	-	-0.14	-	11.23	2.21	125	104
Heppner	39	94	65	-1	110	-2	-	-0.18	-	17.23	3.26	123	118
Hermiston	35	99	66	-4	111	-17	-	-0.14	-	11.30	2.28	125	84
John Day	37	97	65	+2	108	+8	-	-0.21	-	10.11	-3.30	75	119
Madras <sup>8</sup>	35	95	63	-1	94	+0	-	-0.14	-	12.94	2.46	123	117
Moro	39	95	64	+0	98	-1	-	-0.14	-	18.59	7.41	166	96
Parkdale <sup>8</sup>	35	93	61	-4	82	-18	0.01	-0.20	1	45.27	14.36	146	152
Pendleton	42	98	67	-2	124	-6	-	-0.13	-	14.02	1.95	116	104
The Dalles	44	97	68	+5	126	+27	-	-0.14	-	19.02	6.45	151	99
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>													
Agency Lake <sup>8</sup>	34	87	61	+2	76	+9	-	-0.14	-	19.28	3.02	119	118
Bend	34	95	61	+2	76	+5	-	-0.14	-	20.98	9.22	178	85
Burns	28	94	61	+1	77	+4	-	-0.14	-	16.43	6.41	164	108
Christmas Valley <sup>8</sup>	26	92	58	-6	59	-38	0.02	-0.12	1	9.39	-3.05	75	97
Klamath Falls	39	89	63	-1	92	-3	-	-0.14	-	16.46	2.90	121	106
Klamath Falls <sup>8</sup>	44	88	63	+0	94	-1	-	-0.14	-	15.83	2.27	117	136
Lakeview	36	91	62	+0	84	-1	-	-0.14	-	8.57	-7.11	55	70
Lorella <sup>8</sup>	32	92	62	-2	84	-11	-	-0.14	-	17.90	4.34	132	124
Redmond	28	99	61	-2	78	-6	-	-0.13	-	12.01	3.38	139	98
Worden <sup>8</sup>	30	89	59	-5	68	-27	-	-0.14	-	13.85	0.29	102	129
<b>NORTHEAST</b>													
Baker City	31	94	60	-3	72	-16	-	-0.21	-	10.58	-0.38	97	111
Joseph	35	87	59	+2	69	+11	-	-0.28	-	20.58	-4.39	82	139
La Grande	34	97	63	-3	90	-17	-	-0.24	-	9.28	-8.28	53	93
Prairie City <sup>8</sup>	31	92	60	+5	74	+23	-	-0.28	-	15.99	-5.03	76	115
Union	35	97	63	+1	96	+5	-	-0.28	-	13.22	-0.68	95	116
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>													
Ontario	39	95	66	-4	114	-20	-	-0.14	-	13.20	3.46	136	97
Rome	31	95	65	+0	110	+2	-	-0.14	-	10.42	2.08	125	92

<sup>1</sup> Summary based on NWS data. Copyright 2006: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

<sup>2</sup> Air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

<sup>3</sup> Growing degree days base-50 degrees Fahrenheit.

<sup>4</sup> Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

<sup>5</sup> Season cumulative precipitation starts September 1, 2005.

<sup>6</sup> DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-1990 normals period).

<sup>7</sup> Precipitation days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

<sup>8</sup> Agri-Met weather stations.