

# OREGON CROP WEATHER



**NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE**

USDA, NASS, Oregon Field Office

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**Weather:** The past week was warm and dry for most of the State, as many counties reported high temperatures either in the 80's or the low 90's. Ontario had the highest recorded temperature at 94 degrees, above its normal measure high of this time of the year. Cool mornings and evenings continued from late August, with some south central and northeastern counties reporting low temperatures below freezing; both Burns and Lakeview reported the lowest record temperature at 29 degrees. The Barry Point fire is now considered contained. Smoke from wildfires are still affecting the air quality of southeastern counties, negatively impacting the drying of hay and general outdoor work in Klamath County. Some counties reported light precipitation, mainly in the Willamette Valley and in the Coast. Crescent City received the most rain at 0.24 inches, slightly below its normally measured amount for this time of the year.

**Field Crops:** Red clover was swathed in Washington and Yamhill counties; field corn has silking ears, wheat straw baled and oats ready to combine. Second cuttings of alfalfa were finishing up around the State, and third cuttings were underway as well. Most grain harvest was completed in Sherman and Wasco counties, some spring barley was ripe but the straw was too green to cut. Grass seed fields were mowed and post harvest weed spraying on fallow ground took place as well. Peppermint harvest neared completion. Field corn may have experienced some problems with pollination this year due to the extreme heat; too early to tell though as harvest had not started yet.

**Fruits and Nuts:** Warm and dry weather has allowed for orchard, berry and vineyard crops to be able to continue maturing nicely. Apples looked to be very good, with a great crop in Lane County, while Douglas expects to start harvesting various varieties within the next few weeks. Gravensteins in Washington were also ripe. Blueberries are nearly finished in Lane County, with a great

blackberry crop expected and some fall raspberries have already come in as well. Looks to be a good hazelnut crop this year. Orchard floor prep for hazelnuts has been ongoing. Bartlett pear harvests were in full swing, with a nice initial crop. Asian pears coloring and prunes were ripening. Peak pear harvest was expected for next week, with winter pears about 3-4 weeks away from their peak harvest time, although harvests in Hood River County have nearly been completed. Limited grapes were sent to wineries in Yamhill County. There was some late season pressure on crops in Douglas County by the Spotted Winged Drosophila, but other pest problems appeared to have been minor.

**Vegetables:** Sweet corn harvest continues in Marion County, reporting to be in good quality; in contrast, sweet corn in Umatilla County suffers heat-related stress, and some may even not be adequately pollinated. A great variety of vegetables are at farmers markets and stands, including but not limited to, sweet corn, zucchini, tomatoes, and eggplant. Most vegetables are maturing well with the warm weather in the Northwestern parts of the state. Potatoes harvest is slowly beginning, as potatoes were being rolled to kill off vines. Onion harvest, storage, and packing have started.

**Nurseries and Greenhouses:** Irrigation of nursery crops continued last week.

**Livestock, Range and Pasture:** The Barry Point Fire has been contained; it burned a total of 93,071 acres of land in both Oregon and California. Other fires have still persisted in the eastern part of the State due to the lack of precipitation. Pastures in Washington County looked good, but were in need of more rainfall. Irrigation is still a major concern for ranchers.

**Soil Moisture - Week Ending 09/02/12**

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	25	47	28	0
Subsoil	28	36	36	0

**Crop Condition - Week Ending 09/02/12**

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Winter wheat	0	6	23	48	23
Spring wheat	0	7	28	57	8
Barley	1	4	21	64	10
Corn	0	0	17	83	0
Range and pasture	10	33	25	29	3

**Crop Progress - Week Ending 09/02/12**

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5 year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Alfalfa hay, second cutting	94	91	94	99
Alfalfa hay, third cutting	33	30	35	69
Winter wheat harvested	98	94	92	98
Barley harvested	94	84	93	96
Spring wheat harvested	92	82	79	93
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.5

## Western Oregon

**DOUGLAS:** Warm dry weather continued to allow orchard, berry, vineyard and vegetable crops to mature nicely. We have seen some late season pressure on berry crops from Spotted Wing Drosophila but other pest problems have been minor. Bartlett pear crops were beginning to be harvested. Peak harvest was about a week away. Winter pears are still about 3-4 weeks away from harvest. Gala apple crops are within a week of harvest but other commercial varieties are still 3-4 weeks away from their peak harvest. Water supply for irrigation continued to be good and irrigation continues to be a primary activity as temperatures are still daily reaching into the 80's. Next week looks hotter so irrigation needs will continue for several weeks.

**JOSEPHINE:** Night temperatures ranged from 39-50 degrees to 80-95 degrees during the day. Plants subjected to sunburn and extreme heat, have been under stress in August. Extreme fire danger with curtailed mechanical activity except for agriculture and that has to comply with safety regulations. Summer produce was ripening quickly where water was in good supply.

**LANE:** Good weather continued. Mornings were cool, but day time temperatures still good. Apples looking very good; a great crop with little insect damage even for those who didn't spray. Blueberries nearly done. Blackberries going crazy. Some fall

raspberries were already in. Vegetables mostly doing very well. Tomatoes turning color nicely. Huge hazelnut crop this year. Bartlett pears in full harvest, nice crop.

**WASHINGTON:** Red clover swathed and some harvested, field corn has silking ears, wheat straw baled and oats ready to combine. Gravenstien apples ripe, Asian pears coloring and prunes ripening. Filberts dropping hulls and blackberry harvest ongoing. Sweet corn looked good, great variety of vegetables at farmers markets and stands. Nursery's irrigating. Pastures were dry but cattle look good. High temperature 78 degrees, low 40 degrees and no rain.

**YAMHILL:** Sweet corn and green bean continued to be harvested. Radish for seed still waiting to harvest, but should be ready next week. Orchard floor prep for hazelnuts was in full swing. Some grapes were seen headed to the winery over the weekend but it was very limited. Some red clover seed went through combines this week and other fields were just getting swathed. Ground being worked up for fall planting was dry. Grass seed fields are getting mowed. Third cutting of alfalfa was started this week with swathing occurring. Corn for silage was looking good but is still a month out.

## Eastern Oregon

**HOOD RIVER:** Pear harvest was getting close to done.

**KLAMATH:** Smoke from fires continued to make working outdoors challenging. Those with health issues encouraged to remain indoors. The smoke may have also caused delays for drying of hay. Grain harvest was well underway. Potatoes were being rolled to kill off vines. Temperatures were in the high 70's and low 80's with some frost in portions of the county.

**LAKE:** Did not receive any precipitation during the week--county was currently 80 percent of normal for the water year. The Barry Point Fire was considered contained--it burned a total of 93,071 acres of private and USFS land in Oregon and California.

**MALHEUR:** Weather continued to be hot and dry. Lots of smoke and fires. High temperature of 96 was about 10 degrees above normal and lows were around 50-55. Normal low was 56. No precipitation. Onion harvest, storage, and packing started. Potato harvest was slowly getting started. Wheat harvest should be done except for some straggler fields.

**SHERMAN/WASCO:** Most grain was harvested. A little wheat was saved for seed and a little spring barley that was ripe but the straw was too green to cut.

Some stubble mowing and post harvest weed spraying on fallow ground. Both County fairs are done. Sherman ran 20 degrees cooler than Wasco did last week. Winter wheat seeding began.

**UMATILLA:** Field corn may have had some pollination issues from the peak heat this summer. Too early to tell as harvest has not started. Sweet corn appeared to be hit by the heat and some may have missed the "nick" and not adequately pollinated. Cooler temperatures were prevailing with highs in the 80s and lows in the 40s. Potato harvest started in earnest.

**UNION/BAKER:** Peppermint harvest still underway but nearing completion. 3rd cutting of alfalfa and 2nd cutting of grass hay taking place. Warm and dry conditions persisted, along with smoke haze from wildfires in region. Certified seed potato harvest will begin very soon in the Grande Ronde Valley. Sugarbeet and sunflower seed crops doing very well under current growing conditions. Irrigation water use from surface water sources restricted due to lack of rainfall and reduced stream flow.

**WALLOWA:** Grain harvest was underway for dryland crops, 2nd cutting of hay was finishing up. Rainfall needed.

Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: September 2, 2012 (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	44	68	58	-3	55	-15	0.02	-0.44	1	71.83	+5.22	108	195
Bandon <sup>8</sup>	44	66	56	-3	43	-13	0.01	-0.28	1	65.63	+6.60	111	182
Crescent City	46	65	56	-4	44	-19	0.24	-0.04	2	60.11	-5.22	92	143
Florence	38	69	56	-6	42	-35	0.09	-0.33	1	73.96	-2.67	97	176
North Bend	46	71	59	-2	61	-9	0.09	-0.21	1	40.56	-22.88	64	137
Tillamook	41	72	59	+1	66	+3	0.03	-0.57	1	61.86	-27.03	70	189
<b>WILLAMETTE VALLEY</b>													
Aurora <sup>8</sup>	44	80	64	-1	101	-2	-	-0.32	-	44.59	+3.39	108	188
Corvallis	41	80	63	-3	91	-13	0.01	-0.27	1	46.60	+3.78	109	181
Detroit Lake <sup>8</sup>	43	84	64	+5	97	+26	-	-0.40	-	98.63	+30.90	146	180
Eugene	39	81	63	-3	94	-19	0.03	-0.32	1	42.24	-7.28	85	146
Hillsboro	40	79	61	-4	79	-20	0.02	-0.26	1	31.83	-5.86	84	157
McMinnville	43	81	63	-3	91	-13	0.03	-0.23	1	40.35	-2.94	93	163
Portland	50	79	66	-1	117	-2	-	-0.35	-	40.23	+3.78	110	164
Salem	45	80	64	-2	100	-7	-	-0.26	-	44.91	+5.63	114	153
<b>SW VALLEYS</b>													
Grants Pass	45	87	66	-4	111	-21	-	-0.14	-	28.40	-2.67	91	127
Medford	46	88	68	-3	128	-12	-	-0.14	-	17.61	-1.30	93	101
Roseburg	46	83	66	-2	111	-10	-	-0.21	-	30.70	-2.12	94	135
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>													
Condon	42	87	62	+1	90	+4	0.01	-0.20	1	15.11	+0.97	107	104
Echo <sup>8</sup>	44	87	67	-2	124	-4	-	-0.14	-	8.44	-0.58	94	98
Heppner	43	86	63	-3	96	-16	-	-0.18	-	12.78	-1.19	91	91
Hermiston	42	87	67	-2	120	-8	-	-0.14	-	9.38	+0.36	104	82
Madras <sup>8</sup>	38	83	61	-3	80	-14	-	-0.14	-	8.65	-1.83	83	91
Moro	41	85	63	-2	90	-9	-	-0.14	-	10.69	-0.49	96	88
Parkdale <sup>8</sup>	39	80	60	-5	69	-31	-	-0.21	-	46.34	+15.43	150	161
Pendleton	44	85	65	-4	109	-21	-	-0.13	-	12.10	+0.03	100	90
Prairie City <sup>8</sup>	38	83	61	-3	80	-14	-	-0.14	-	8.65	-1.83	83	91
The Dalles	49	86	70	+6	140	+41	-	-0.14	-	13.09	+0.52	104	95
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>													
Agency Lake <sup>8</sup>	30	81	56	-4	42	-25	-	-0.14	-	14.46	-1.81	89	89
Bend	39	84	60	+0	72	+1	-	-0.14	-	9.90	-1.86	84	45
Burns	29	87	60	+0	70	-3	-	-0.14	-	8.66	-1.36	86	72
Christmas Valley <sup>8</sup>	30	84	57	-8	48	-49	-	-0.14	-	5.75	-6.68	46	81
Klamath Falls	36	83	59	-5	66	-29	-	-0.14	-	7.54	-6.02	56	75
Klamath Falls <sup>8</sup>	38	83	60	-4	74	-21	0.12	-0.02	1	10.22	-3.34	75	100
Lakeview <sup>8</sup>	29	85	58	-5	56	-29	-	-0.14	-	7.98	-7.70	51	89
Lorella <sup>8</sup>	31	85	58	-6	59	-36	-	-0.14	-	8.70	-4.86	64	83
Redmond	30	85	59	-4	64	-20	-	-0.13	-	8.39	-0.24	97	65
Worden <sup>8</sup>	32	83	57	-7	48	-47	-	-0.14	-	7.87	-5.69	58	77
<b>NORTHEAST</b>													
Baker City	30	91	62	-2	82	-6	-	-0.21	-	8.12	-2.84	74	82
Joseph	41	86	62	+5	84	+26	-	-0.28	-	13.43	-11.54	54	125
La Grande	30	88	63	-2	96	-11	-	-0.24	-	12.00	-5.57	68	93
Imbler <sup>8</sup>	32	89	62	-1	85	-5	-	-0.21	-	17.49	-6.03	74	125
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>													
Ontario	45	94	71	+2	147	+13	-	-0.14	-	7.78	-1.96	80	65
Rome	40	93	68	+3	127	+19	-	-0.14	-	5.90	-2.44	71	57

<sup>1</sup> Summary based on NWS data. Copyright 2012: 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, 2012.

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

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

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