

# *Crop Summary*

**2010 Crop Summary:** January of 2010 brought below average temperatures and snowfall in some areas of the state. Snowpack throughout January and February remained a concern due to a drier than average start to winter. Very little field work occurred in January or February; however, some farmers in Box Elder County began to spread ash towards the end of February to help minimize the possibility of snow mold in wheat.

March brought a variety of weather to Utah, temperatures varied greatly as did precipitation. Southern Utah received more precipitation than northern Utah. By the end of March water levels in some reservoirs were high enough to ease some concerns regarding irrigation supplies, but skepticism continued.

The spring of 2010 was cool, wet, and stormy which delayed field work. The inopportune weather caused crop progress to be delayed approaching the summer. The wet spring did have a positive aspect; farmers were able to delay irrigation. However, some early emerged winter wheat suffered winter snow mold. The persistent rains caused damage to the first cutting of alfalfa. The wet weather also caused Yellow Stripe Rust in wheat.

Fruit trees reaching full bloom were delayed due to the cold spring. Sweet cherry and apricot blossoms in the northern portion of the state suffered damage due to late spring frosts. It became evident during the summer of 2010 that the frosts caused serious damage to sweet cherry and apricot orchards in Northern Utah. The peach crop was basically unaffected by the frosts, and yields were good.

Around the Fourth of July, summer actually began. Hot and dry weather became the norm across the state which allowed crops to grow and ripen. Weevil, grasshoppers, Mormon crickets and cereal leaf beetles were prevalent throughout the summer. Box Elder County producers reported wheat with a disease called “take all” which causes crop death. Cutworms in San Juan County were a serious problem in the safflower, sunflower, and dry bean crops. Corn in Weber County was affected negatively by corn mites.

Afternoon thunderstorms were prevalent during the end of July and throughout most of August, with the occasional outbreak of monsoonal moisture. Winter wheat and barley harvests were completed in-between summer storms. Winter wheat yield across the state varied greatly. Some counties, and producers within the counties, were affected more negatively by the cold spring than others. In Utah County Sweet Cherry yields were better than expected. Peach yields were very good also.

By the end of August, Duchesne, Summit, Garfield, and Sevier Counties were experiencing low temperatures around freezing. The drop in temperature slowed crop progress; however, it also reduced the need for irrigation. Irrigation water supplies were adequate throughout the growing season. Dry and somewhat warm weather in late September created ideal conditions for field work

Onion yield in Box Elder County was above average. Corn progress was delayed about two to three weeks due to the cool spring. Corn silage yields ended mixed. Some producers were forced to cut their grain corn for silage. By the first week of November, corn for grain across the state was about 50% harvested; however, most of the corn that was harvested had to be dried before it could be stored. High moisture levels in corn remained an issue throughout the remainder of 2010. Farmers ended the year optimistic about their winter wheat crop.