



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: October 11, 2005
Week Ending: October 9, 2005
CWP WA-CW4105

October Rains Continued Pumpkin Harvest Underway

Field Crops

Washington continued to experience typical October weather. Periodic rain showers covered most of the state throughout the week. Corn harvest, winter wheat seedings and fall field activities were delayed slightly by fall rains. Corn silage producers in Whatcom County reported that this may be the best corn crop they had ever seen. This was evident by their thirty plus ton per acre crop that was seen in some areas. Rains helped improve moisture conditions for seeded winter wheat. More rain is needed in order to establish stronger wheat stands to help withstand the winter months.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 1% very poor, 17% poor, 25% fair, and 57% good. Cattle producers were weaning calves and preparing them to be shipped. Other marketable livestock were being taken to the stockyards. Sows were readying for winter litters. Dairymen continued to empty their lagoons in preparation for the winter months.

Fruits and Vegetables

Apple and sweet corn harvests continued. Pumpkin harvest was underway in many areas and business at u-pick farms increased as annual fall festivities drew closer.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.3
Last Week	5.3

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	5	22	68	5
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	19	41	39	1
Subsoil	22	40	38	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	14	49	37	0
Irrigation Water	1	2	97	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	6	92	0
Hay & Roughage	1	6	87	6

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

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2004	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	79	74	84	87
Winter Wheat Emerged	44	40	63	64
Potatoes Harvested	75	70	80	73
Corn Silage Harvested	65	53	69	72
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	92	90	83	80
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	99	98	100	100

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	3	45	40	10
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	85	15
Corn	0	4	11	70	15

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

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Western

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Fall harvest was wrapping up in the area. Some sweet corn suffered frost damage, but corn silage was generally good. Fall rains were sufficient for fall planting.

Island/San Juan/Skagit: Weather was normal for this time of year, with intermittent rain storms and cooler temperatures. No apparent crop losses were reported.

King/Snohomish: Fall weather continued with occasional showers and rain. Pumpkin and apple harvests were underway. Business at U-Pick pumpkin farms was beginning to pick up. Pastures were getting the needed moisture for the fall flush of growth, but they were being hindered by low temperatures. Corn silage harvest was about done. Dairymen were emptying their lagoons.

Mason: Rain received at intervals totaling .75 inches. Moist conditions coupled with some strong winds kept many inside although producers worked around the weather, winterizing the irrigation systems and battening down the hatches. The leaves were still on the trees enough to interfere with the beginning of deer hunting

season next week. Some doe activity was seen around fields but no bucks have shown up yet.

Pierce: Continued light to moderate rain was improving fall pasture conditions, but was too late to be useful in producing a second cutting of hay.

San Juan: Fall rains slowed field work. Farmers Markets were winding down.

Thurston: Heavy and consistent rain continued. Pasture were starting to green up slowly. Cattle have been on hay for five weeks. Calves were weaned.

Whatcom: It rained a couple of days. Temperatures have been in low 60's during the day and the 40's in the evenings. Corn silage harvest continued between rain showers. Producers were stating that they were getting the best corn crop that they have ever had. Production of 30 plus tons per acre was seen in some areas. Potato harvest was winding down.

Central

Franklin: Fourth and fifth cutting alfalfa was made. Rain left most of these cuts in the field lowering potential quality. The rain also delayed potato harvest.

Kittitas: Significant rains and cooler temperatures were evident in regrowth on cool-season grasses. Range users were still gathering cattle. Timothy growers without fall irrigation water were considering a dormant seeding sometime in the next month. We received a couple of light

frosts.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from six degrees below normal to three degrees above normal, with .01 of an inch of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: Previous rains improved the moisture conditions for planting winter wheat. However, much more is needed to relieve drought conditions. Wheat that was planted early resulted in poor stands. Rangeland was still in very poor condition.

Ferry/Okanogan: Apple harvest was well underway. Cattle producers were starting to wean calves in order to ship for delivery. They were also starting to move cattle to fall pastures. Some alfalfa producers still have not mowed their third cutting. A few had cut, but have not baled it yet due to the rains the county received a week ago.

Lincoln: Winter wheat seeding progressed with the majority completed. Recent general rains over the county were mostly welcomed. This should improve crop conditions, as well as provide a final benefit to fall pasture.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Last Friday's rain really helped the

winter wheat.

Pend Oreille: Temperature high was at 54 degrees. The low was 22 degrees with one inch of precipitation. Pasture had new growth of grass. All harvestable crops were in and out of the fields. Marketable livestock were being taken to the stockyards. Sows were ready for winter litters. Sheep were putting on noticeable wool coats in anticipation for winter.

Stevens: Topsoil was wet about two inches below the surface.

Whitman: Fall conditions were experienced through the week. The previous week's rainfall helped improve soil moisture conditions, but additional rainfall will be needed. Most operations have completed seeding or were wrapping up.

Weekly Weather Statistics

October 11, 2005

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	36	61	51	-2	15	-6	0	0	0.78	0.15	5	2.26	-0.47	83	12
Everett	42	65	54	1	31	6	0	0	0.56	-0.01	5	1.94	-0.94	67	13
Hoquiam	40	61	53	-4	23	-21	0	-5	1.50	0.40	7	4.10	-0.54	88	14
Kelso	42	66	55	-1	37	0	0	-3	0.42	-0.26	6	2.75	-0.48	85	12
Olympia	37	65	53	0	23	2	0	0	1.17	0.45	7	3.16	-0.01	100	14
Sea-Tac	42	65	55	-1	36	0	0	-1	0.32	-0.24	4	1.54	-1.05	59	13
Shelton	34	64	53	-3	25	-7	0	-2	0.86	-0.05	5	4.05	0.22	106	13
Tacoma	36	64	54	-1	32	1	0	0	0.44	-0.12	5	1.89	-0.75	72	11
Vancouver	45	69	56	2	45	11	0	-2	0.67	0.11	7	2.50	-0.23	92	13
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	31	66	51	0	15	-3	0	-1	0.11	0.04	3	0.36	-0.23	61	6
Stampede Pass	35	56	46	3	0	-5	0	0	1.22	0.12	5	6.93	2.12	144	13
Wenatchee	37	63	52	-4	14	-21	0	-7	0.13	0.06	3	0.22	-0.27	45	5
Yakima AP	32	68	51	-3	15	-13	0	-4	0.02	-0.05	2	0.37	-0.12	76	6
NORTHEAST															
Colville	30	59	47	-3	4	-10	0	0	0.19	-0.02	2	1.01	-0.39	72	8
Deer Park	25	59	46	-6	2	-17	0	-2	0.10	-0.07	2	1.12	0.02	102	9
Spokane AP	35	62	48	-4	6	-14	0	-2	0.10	-0.04	3	1.17	0.26	129	8
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	34	63	51	-6	13	-26	0	-9	0.61	0.54	3	0.95	0.50	211	7
Moses Lake	32	63	50	-6	9	-30	0	-9	0.55	0.48	3	0.90	0.45	200	5
Quincy	36	62	50	-5	3	-27	0	-5	0.44	0.37	3	0.69	0.17	133	6
Ritzville	35	67	48	-6	6	-18	0	-3	0.05	-0.09	1	1.24	0.50	168	7
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	39	69	54	-6	30	-31	0	-15	0.05	-0.02	1	0.15	-0.29	34	2
Pasco	35	72	55	-2	36	-8	0	-8	0.17	0.10	2	0.96	0.51	213	6
Pullman	32	66	48	-4	10	-13	0	-1	0.02	-0.23	1	0.60	-0.71	46	4
Whitman Miss.	33	76	52	-3	18	-12	1	-3	0.18	-0.02	4	0.89	-0.03	97	10
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	32	59	47	-8	3	-24	0	-3	0.10	-0.18	2	1.10	-0.45	71	7
Lewiston ID	40	73	54	-3	32	-12	3	-6	0.19	-0.01	3	0.64	-0.38	63	6

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2004

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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