



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: October 12, 2004, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: October 10, 2004
CWP WA-CW4104

Yakima County Apple Harvest Weathering Well Winter Wheat Emerged Quickly

Field Crops

Winter wheat was reported as looking good in most areas with emergence conditions ideal. Also, some winter wheat was aided by sporadic rains received throughout the state. Corn silage harvest was wrapping up in a few areas on the west side with good quality and yields being reported. Harvest of the 2004 potato crop continued as soil fumigation for the 2005 potato crop was underway in Grant County. U-cut Christmas tree growers were grooming fields for harvest.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 5% very poor, 14% poor, 40% fair, and 41% good. In Douglas and Chelan Counties, cattle producers continued to move their cattle to late fall pastures. Okanogan County gathered their cattle from the range.

Fruits and Vegetables

In Skagit County, diseases were reported on pumpkin, squash, cucumber and some seed crops. U-pick pumpkin farms in Thurston County reported record breaking sales. Rains slowed apple and grape harvests in Benton County. However, some apple producers in Benton County were reporting higher than expected yields. Yakima County's apple harvest continued under ideal conditions with the weather conducive to good fruit size and great color development. Sweet corn and carrot harvests continued in Grant County.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.1
Last Week	7.0

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	4	26	70	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	19	41	39	1
Subsoil	2	33	65	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	14	49	37	0
Irrigation Water	0	4	96	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	6	92	0
Hay & Roughage	1	4	88	7

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

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2003	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	86	73	87	88
Winter Wheat Emerged	66	48	61	66
Potatoes Harvested	83	65	73	76
Corn Silage Harvested	70	60	68	79
Corn Grain Harvested	30	15	11	11
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	85	69	96	80

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	0	2	91	7

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 its transition into a tapestry of fall colors as native deciduous trees and shrubs displayed a kaleidoscope of vibrant yellow, gold, and red foliage. Brightly colored pumpkin fields added an illuminous glow to valley floors amongst a checkerboard of green pastures and recently harvested corn fields. Both the sweet corn harvest and forage corn harvest were completed. Commercial dahlia growers were jubilant that the lack of a killing frost had extended the sales season by yet another week. U-Cut Christmas tree growers were sharpening saws and grooming fields for harvest. Home gardeners began adding copious amounts of vegetative debris to the compost heap as they began fall cleanup of both the ornamental landscape and vegetable garden.

Kitsap: Cooler weather and precipitation kept fall crops and pastures in good shape. Fall produce was in good supply at area farmers markets.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions remained good for the South Puget Sound area. No unusual situations were reported. No damage to any crops due to a weather event reported.

Skagit: Fair weather for most of the week allowed for continued harvest of pumpkins, potatoes, and cauliflower. Broccoli harvest was completed. Jonagold apple harvest was underway. Rain late last week gave winter cover crop plantings a boost. Many diseases were reported on vegetables like pumpkins, squash, cucumbers, and some seed crops. Powdery mildew was rampant in vegetable gardens. Attendance at the sixth annual Festival of Family Farms was highest ever, as sunny warm weather stretched through the previous weekend.

Snohomish/North King: Normal Fall weather prevailed most of last week. Activity at Corn mazes and U-pick pumpkin fields was brisk over the weekend with good weather. Corn silage harvest wrapped up for almost everyone, with good quality and yields reported. The grass continued to grow at a rapid pace to the delight of those with livestock.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report): Heavy rains experienced late last week. Apple harvest continued. Many home gardeners were infested with apple maggot this year. Pumpkin harvest was underway. Late grass silage was still being put up.

Thurston: A week of mixed weather found agricultural producers completing both inside and outside chores. Some livestock producers made a final cutting of forage for silage. U-Pick pumpkin farms reported record breaking sales as urban clientele took advantage of several beautiful days to choose the perfect Halloween Jack-O-Lantern. Christmas tree growers continued to report strong demand for both Noble and Grand Fir from wholesale buyers. The lack of a killing frost provided a bonanza to truck gardeners who continued to bring a cornucopia of fall produce and cut flowers to the Olympia Farmer's Market. Home gardeners were busy making apple cider and harvesting the last of the produce for the season.

Whatcom: Corn silage and potato harvests continued. Producers were still green chopping. A couple of days of heavy rain showers were received during the past week.

Central

Benton: No crop losses were reported from damaged crops. Grape and Apple harvests continued. We received some rain that should help wheat already planted in the county.

Benton (2nd Report): Rain slowed apple and grape harvests. Apple yields were higher than predicted. Harvest conditions remained excellent.

Chelan/Douglas: Apple harvest continued. Labor shortages were experienced. Winter wheat crop had emerged. Light rain received on Wednesday was welcomed and will enhance the crops early growth. Cattle producers continued to move their livestock to late fall pastures. Managed grazing of CRP acreage ended.

Franklin: Normal conditions existed for the past week for crop harvest and for 2005 crop planting. 2005 dryland winter wheat was looking good thus far, with better than normal emergence conditions. Potatoes continued to be harvested, as well as field corn and apples.

Grant: Sweet corn and carrot harvests continued. Soil fumigation for 2005 potatoes and onions was underway. Fourth cutting alfalfa harvest

was nearly complete. Apple harvest was three quarters of the way complete. Fruit size was good and picking continued.

Kittitas: Potato harvest continued. New seeding timothy was completed. Apple harvest continued. Irrigation season ends October 15.

Okanogan/Ferry: Cattle were being gathered in from range land. Late variety apple harvest was progressing and early varieties were done being harvested.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from two degrees below normal to twelve degrees above normal, with .42 of an inch of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Yakima (2nd Report): Apple harvest continued under ideal field conditions as the peak of the Red Delicious crop came in. Weather was very conducive for good fruit size and great color development. Most apple growers experienced an extended harvest period that started a week earlier than normal.

Eastern

Adams: Emerged wheat looked very good. Potato harvest was winding down. Rain showers last Friday night brought about one third of an inch of precipitation which coupled with warm sunny weather should give range land a nice fall start.

Asotin/Garfield: The weather was mostly warm and dry allowing for many producers to complete seeding of winter wheat. Emergence was good in most places, but there are some areas in need of more moisture for proper stand establishment.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: A little rain on Saturday amounted to approximately one quarter of an inch. Fall seeding was winding down and the wheat that had emerged looked good. Pasture was also looking pretty good compared to the last few years which have been dry.

Stevens: Some moisture was received as rain showers moved through the area. Winter wheat seeding and haying were completed in most areas.

Walla Walla: Many area farmers completed their fall seeding. Conditions were favorable for fall work. The area was wrapping up potato and corn harvests.

Whitman: Fall seeding was nearly all completed. Rains made a welcomed return over the weekend giving newly seeded winter wheat a needed drink. Fall tillage work was underway but burning was limited due to weather conditions dominated by high pressure.

Whitman (2nd Report): The nice fall weather was conducive for seeding and fall work. Night time temperatures dropped with reports of morning frost in outlying areas.

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Weekly Weather Statistics

October 12, 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		
WEST															
Bellingham	40	62	53	2	23	5	0	0	3.24	2.59	5	7.05	4.17	245	21
Everett	45	67	56	4	45	22	0	0	0.73	0.14	4	2.83	-0.17	94	20
Hoquiam	45	66	56	0	41	1	0	-3	2.16	1.02	5	6.20	1.29	126	22
Kelso	46	72	60	5	68	35	5	4	1.32	0.61	3	2.68	-0.70	79	10
Olympia	43	70	55	4	38	20	1	1	1.88	1.13	5	5.74	2.40	172	20
Sea-Tac	45	68	56	2	46	14	1	1	1.46	0.88	6	4.29	1.57	158	20
Shelton	46	66	57	4	50	21	1	1	2.42	1.46	6	6.01	1.95	148	20
Tacoma	45	72	56	3	46	19	2	2	1.40	0.82	4	3.96	1.19	143	18
Vancouver	46	76	60	6	70	39	8	8	1.21	0.64	4	2.89	0.05	102	15
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	36	79	57	7	48	33	3	3	0.34	0.26	4	0.76	0.15	125	13
Stampede Pass	40	71	52	9	24	21	3	3	2.00	0.86	4	8.99	3.93	178	20
Wenatchee	42	75	58	4	55	25	5	0	0.08	0.01	1	0.43	-0.06	88	9
Yakima AP	33	78	56	4	43	19	6	4	0.43	0.36	1	0.58	0.09	118	4
NORTHEAST															
Colville	33	77	56	8	39	28	2	2	0.37	0.16	3	1.98	0.56	139	12
Deer Park	30	75	52	3	24	9	0	0	0.20	0.01	2	1.53	0.40	135	12
Spokane AP	38	76	56	6	46	29	3	3	0.16	0.00	1	0.71	-0.23	76	9
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	36	76	58	3	55	21	5	-1	0.20	0.13	2	0.39	-0.07	85	7
Moses Lake	33	76	57	2	50	16	6	0	0.21	0.14	2	0.33	-0.13	72	5
Quincy	37	75	57	4	48	22	5	2	0.21	0.14	2	0.27	-0.26	51	3
Ritzville	33	80	57	6	56	36	4	3	0.06	-0.08	1	0.46	-0.31	60	6
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	38	83	61	3	75	20	15	4	0.28	0.21	2	0.49	0.05	111	6
Pasco	37	81	59	4	68	28	8	2	0.22	0.15	2	0.38	-0.07	84	5
Pullman	33	79	55	4	37	18	6	6	0.18	-0.09	1	0.54	-0.82	40	8
Whitman Miss.	32	83	57	5	52	26	2	0	0.48	0.27	4	0.77	-0.19	80	10
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	36	73	55	3	39	15	0	-1	0.48	0.20	3	2.23	0.64	140	12
Lewiston ID	42	82	62	7	84	44	23	17	0.55	0.34	2	0.88	-0.17	84	11

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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