

# WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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## Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending June 16, 2002

### WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Rain Received in the Central Washington Area Caused Fruit Damage**

**Warm Days Made for Perfect Haying Conditions**

### FIELD CROPS

Spotty showers received across the eastern part of the state did little to relieve drought conditions. Some cereal crops were stressed by hot temperatures and little moisture in eastern Washington. Lincoln and Adams Counties reported some frost damage on grain crops. Western Washington crops were making significant growth spurts as a result of the lower 90 degree days last week. Christmas tree growers were concerned about sunburn on fir trees.

### LIVESTOCK

Sunny summer days last week made for perfect haying conditions. Dairymen were harvesting green chop and applying liquid manure to fields. Range and pasture conditions were 1% very poor, 10% poor, 70% fair and 19% good.

### FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Rain received in the Benton County area caused some damage to the cherry, peach, pear and nectarine crop. Pend Oreille County reported that the frost received during the months of April and May has destroyed 100% of the cherry crop and 95% of the other soft-fruit crop in the Green Bluff area. Asparagus harvest was winding down for the season. Strawberry harvest was getting underway.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
6.8	6.1

Soil Moisture and Supply				
Soil Type	% Acreage			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	2	29	69	0
Subsoil	1	30	69	0
Irrigation Water	0	0	100	0
Hay and Roughage	9	26	65	0
VS=Very Short, SH=Short, AD=Adequate, S=Surplus				

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2001	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Headed	47	37	52	55
Winter Wheat Headed	76	50	90	90
Barley Headed	41	31	49	52
Corn Planted	99	97	100	100
Corn Emerged	90	68	98	99
Dry Edible Beans	91	70	97	94
Alfalfa Hay 1 <sup>st</sup> Cutting	84	65	88	71

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	7	42	41	9
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	93	7
Spring Wheat Dryland	1	10	58	30	1
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	92	8
Barley Dryland	0	6	60	33	1
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	90	10
Potatoes	0	0	7	88	5
Corn	0	0	13	87	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	1	14	84	1
VP=Very Poor, P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good, EX=Excellent					

\* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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# COUNTY COMMENTS

## WESTERN

**Clallam/Jefferson:** Summer weather was a very welcome change after previous weeks of colder than normal temperatures. Record breaking heat in the high 80's mid-week helped late planted crops.

**Grays Harbor:** Most ag producers were jubilant over an entire week of warm, sunny weather. Livestock owners harvested a premium crop of hay under nearly ideal weather conditions for maximum forage quality. Pumpkin and sweet corn growers reported rapid plant growth due to increased heat units. Christmas tree growers complained about bird damage to new leader growth. Dairymen continued harvesting green chop and applying liquid manure to forage fields. The prolific bloom of Scotch Broom resulted in "rivers of gold" throughout the rural landscape.

**Grays Harbor/Lewis:** A brief period of record high temperatures of 80-90 degree weather made for excellent haying weather. Those who hesitated are paying the price with light rain over the weekend and more predicted. Corn and other spring crops had a growth spurt during the nice weather.

**Pierce/South King:** There were no unusual weather situations to report. The hot weather helped many crops catch up to where they should be for this time of the year. No reports of crop damage due to the weather was reported.

**Snohomish/North King:** There were record breaking hot temperatures all around the Puget Sound area for several days. Thursday's official temperatures ranged from high 80's to the mid-90's. Recently planted crops, especially corn, were emerging and showing rapid growth. The local strawberry harvest was underway. A few ranchers took advantage of the heat wave and got grass hay harvested.

**Thurston:** Livestock producers were ecstatic with a week of nearly perfect weather for harvesting hay. The earlier than normal harvest resulted in premium quality hay as forages were at maximum nutritional levels. Record breaking warm temperatures mid-week resulted in commercial turfgrass growers and small fruit producers racing to keep irrigation systems functioning. The additional heat units were a welcomed bonanza for organic vegetable growers. Christmas tree growers expressed concern that temperatures exceeding 90 degrees F. would result in annual needle necrosis (sunburn) on true firs. Dairy producers reported rapid growth of field corn planted for silage. Many parts of the county have taken on an illuminous golden glow from the prolific bloom of Scotch Broom, a highly invasive non-native shrub.

## CENTRAL

**Benton:** Dry, windy conditions from the past months continued to show up on some of the cherry orchards as they were harvesting. The county received some rain ranging from .20 inches to .60 inches in the higher elevations. There were some calls from producers about crop damage on cherries, pears, peaches and nectarines.

**Grant:** Green pea harvest was on going. Dryland area needs rain. Sweet corn and dry bean planting continued. Lima bean planting was complete.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures were warmer than normal, ranging from 1 to 17 degrees above normal. There was .04 of an inch of precipitation on June 10. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

## EASTERN

**Adams:** Hot, dry conditions were detrimental to both winter and spring cereals as conditions were lowered. Frost damage to spring cereals was also present in draw bottoms.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Hot summer temperatures lasted several days and caused more damage to already drought stressed crops. Cooler temperatures and more rain is needed for proper heading and filling of grain crops. Early pastures in the lower elevations were no longer producing any forage due to the dry weather and heat.

**Lincoln:** Spotty precipitation received was enough to maintain moisture and crop conditions. Frost damage on spring cereals, along with hot weather, kept crop conditions from improving despite the moisture.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** The weather turned much hotter with highs in the upper 80's to lower 90's. Some winter wheat was showing a little stress. The effects of the June 7 frost were evident in some of the low lying areas and may have affected more than had originally been thought. Growers in the Green Bluff area reported that the April and May frost destroyed approximately 100% of the cherries and 95% of the other soft fruit on the Bluff, which was a disaster to them!

**Stevens:** Producers began haying early in the week with clear skies and temperatures in the 90's. Spotty showers occurred during the week, but rainfall is still badly needed

for continued crop development.

**Walla Walla:** Rain was still short (50-75% of normal) for this crop year, especially for non-irrigated crops, although recent rain helped in some areas. Precipitation problems due to low rainfall and high wind speeds lead to high evapotranspiration rates. There has been a 20 percent increase in the wind speed this year. Asparagus harvest was closing for the season. Relevant to surface water for irrigation, snowpack remained in nearby mountains. The Walla Walla River flow below Touchet River now has about 500CFS/Day versus 49 year average of about 200CFS/Day. Irrigated cereals were doing better than the dryland cereals.

**Whitman:** Harvest of the first cutting of alfalfa hay was almost complete across the county. The first cutting was running a little late due to cold spring temperatures holding back the early season growth. Yields were reported as near normal. Light rain and cool temperatures early in the week were followed by hot conditions later in the week, with temperatures over 90 degrees F.

**Whitman (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The weather turned hot for this time of the year with temperatures in the 90's. Winter wheat was heading out and spring crops were rapidly maturing in the warmer weather. The last of the spring seeded crops were being sprayed for weed control and hay was being cut.

## WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

June 17, 2002

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		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	49	83	61	3	79	21	12	5	0.00	-0.42	0	31.41	-1.25	96	148
Everett	49	85	61	3	82	17	19	6	0.00	-0.49	0	29.39	-3.56	89	154
Hoquiam	46	82	59	2	64	15	10	4	0.00	-0.51	0	62.51	-1.77	97	167
Kelso	50	90	65	6	103	36	35	21	0.00	-0.52	0	39.72	-3.48	92	147
Olympia	41	93	61	4	83	25	20	13	0.00	-0.42	0	56.95	9.14	119	158
Seattle-Tacoma	49	94	64	4	96	22	30	15	0.00	-0.35	0	36.37	1.72	105	143
Shelton	48	93	62	3	88	15	23	5	0.01	-0.41	1	68.25	6.30	110	153
Tacoma	46	95	62	3	88	15	25	11	0.00	-0.42	0	28.64	-8.68	77	121
Vancouver	50	97	67	7	122	50	52	34	0.00	-0.42	0	35.65	-2.97	92	146
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	42	91	67	6	120	37	50	24	0.01	-0.13	1	6.83	-1.24	85	82
Omak	42	96	68	8	128	50	58	34	0.00	-0.34	0	8.57	-4.21	67	68
Stampede Pass	43	74	57	10	49	35	8	8	0.02	-0.68	1	72.92	-3.50	95	157
Wenatchee	51	95	72	7	157	44	87	41	0.04	-0.10	1	5.10	-2.29	69	59
Yakima AP	44	95	70	7	138	39	68	32	0.10	-0.04	2	6.55	-0.65	91	59
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	47	95	68	8	130	53	60	37	0.02	-0.34	1	14.29	-4.35	77	79
Deer Park	44	89	64	4	99	22	35	12	0.04	-0.24	1	20.23	3.83	123	116
Spokane AP	45	88	66	5	111	31	47	23	0.59	0.30	1	13.01	-1.57	89	106
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	46	96	71	4	148	23	78	21	0.27	0.14	2	5.30	-1.19	82	60
Moses Lake	48	97	70	3	144	19	74	17	0.34	0.21	1	5.35	-1.14	82	61
Quincy	45	92	70	5	141	33	71	28	0.00	-0.14	0	5.85	-1.20	83	56
Ritzville	45	92	65	4	110	28	48	23	0.09	-0.05	2	9.25	-0.95	91	74
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	50	99	74	4	168	25	98	25	0.12	0.05	2	5.17	-0.70	88	47
Pasco	49	97	73	5	162	32	92	31	0.10	0.03	1	4.87	-1.94	72	54
Pullman	43	84	62	4	84	21	25	8	0.13	-0.22	2	16.47	-2.35	88	106
Walla Walla AP	50	94	71	5	150	31	80	28	0.15	-0.11	1	13.83	-3.90	78	98
Whitman Mission	45	96	68	3	126	22	63	23	0.43	0.22	2	12.00	-0.32	97	93
<b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D'A'AP	45	90	63	1	93	7	34	9	0.08	-0.41	2	18.25	-4.64	80	112
Lewiston ID	45	93	67	1	118	5	59	13	0.50	0.22	2	9.11	-1.35	87	95

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2001

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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