



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
Washington Field Office
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507
(360) 902-1940 Fax (360) 902-2091

Washington Crop Weather

Released: November 5, 2007
Week Ending: November 4, 2007
CWP WA-CW4407

Lack of Rain Remains a Concern for Wheat Growers Christmas Tree Harvest Looks Promising

Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.7. Whitman, Benton, Walla Walla and Garfield Counties reported rainfall was needed as conditions have returned to a dry pattern. Chelan County reported winter wheat crop in much of their county did not emerge very well due to lack of moisture. Garfield County reported some grain growers were filing for crop losses due to the lack of moisture. Grant County reported corn harvest for grain continued and potato harvest was winding down. Grant County also reported an increase in winter wheat planted. Christmas tree growers were gearing up to begin wholesale harvest in earnest the week of November 5th.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, the mornings were cold with temperatures approaching mid-20s. Apple harvest was nearing completion with the Pink Lady variety constituting most of the harvest. Grant County reported fresh carrot harvest was in progress. Grays Harbor County reported Asian pear harvest was complete. In Thurston County, commercial blueberry growers took advantage of the dry weather to mow cover crops in established plantations. Snohomish County reported pumpkin growers were doing brisk business.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 3% very poor, 33% poor, 20% fair, 40% good and 4% excellent. On the east side, Stevens County reported cattle producers began winter feeding. Pend Oreille County reported large numbers of cattle moved to market in an effort to avoid having to purchase hay. Ferry County reported frosts and lack of water were bringing cattle down to the lowlands. On the west side, livestock producers reported strong sales of haylage and conventional hay.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.7
Last Week	6.3

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	10	19	64	7
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	9	28	56	7
Subsoil	21	39	39	1
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	10	36	51	3
Irrigation Water	5	7	87	1
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	5	93	1
Hay & Roughage	18	16	64	2

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

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2006	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	100	99	100	99
Winter Wheat Emerged	89	86	89	90
Potatoes Harvested	95	93	99	98
Field Corn Harvested for Grain	83	82	95	70

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	4	57	34	4
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	5	91	4

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.

Washington State University
Cooperative Extension Service
Linda Fox
Dean/Director, WSU Extension

USDA
Farm Service Agency
Jack M. Silzel
State Executive Director

USDA/NASS--Washington Field Office
Chris Messer – Director
Alan Funk- Ag Statistician

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clallam/Jefferson: The area experienced cooler temperatures with highs in the 50s and lows in the 30s. No unusual crop situations to report.

Grays Harbor: Beautiful fall weather prevailed throughout the week allowing agricultural producers to complete a myriad of farm chores prior to the onset of the rainy season. U-Pick pumpkin farms reported excellent sales due to the brisk, sunny weather. Christmas tree growers were gearing up to begin wholesale harvest the week of November 5. Dairy producers took advantage of dry field conditions to pump lagoons. Commercial dahlia growers began digging tubers. Potato growers continued sorting and packing Yellow Finns for retail sales. The Asian pear harvest was completed. Ornamental nurseries were moving tender plant materials into unheated hoop houses for winter protection.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Virtually all crops were in the bin except for Christmas trees and boughs. Dry weather helped make vehicle access to the Christmas tree plantations a lot easier than expected for late October.

Mason: The area experienced cool temperatures, frosty mornings and fog all week. The nights were clear. A weak front moved through with some drizzle. Grasses looked good for this time of year.

Pierce/S. King: The moderate weather conditions allowed producers to work their fields and crops. No unusual crop conditions to report. No report of any crop damage due to a weather event.

Skagit: High temperatures averaged 50 degrees. There was 0.2 inch of precipitation recorded at the WSU North West Research and Extension Center in West Mount Vernon. With 0.2 inch of rain last Tuesday many potato farmers were able to get into their fields. Area bulb and wheat farmers were finishing up planting their 2008 crop. Potato harvest was 80 percent complete. The crop was doing well this year with lower yields in fields that were not irrigated last summer. Apple harvest was going on and local corn was finishing up for the year.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: There was rain and cooler nights with heavy frost on Wednesday and Thursday morning but some nice days for fieldwork. Most wheat was planted and potatoes harvested. There were no reports of crop failures due to inclement weather.

Snohomish/N. King: Fall had definitely arrived with the cooler temperatures. Highs were in the 50s with lows in the 30s.

Snohomish/King: There was good weather for Halloween, with pumpkin farms doing good business. There were mostly frosty mornings and dry days, with a few scattered showers. Apple harvest was winding down and Christmas tree farms were hustling to prepare for their busy season. Cooler weather slowed pasture growth.

Thurston: Agricultural producers took advantage of a week of good weather to complete fall chores. Most producers enjoyed a leisurely pace now that harvest was complete, the one exception being Christmas tree growers who were gearing up to begin wholesale harvest in earnest the week of November 5. Turfgrass growers took advantage of sunny afternoons to mow fields under nearly ideal conditions. Livestock producers reported strong sales of both haylage and conventional hay. U-Pick pumpkin farms reported excellent sales due to good weather the two weekends prior to Halloween. Commercial blueberry growers took advantage of the dry weather to mow cover crops in established plantations.

Thurston (2nd Report): Grass growth remained slow due to cool weather.

Whatcom: Fall definitely arrived, with evening temperatures dropping into the low 30s. The area received approximately 2 inches of rain with a few dry days in between. Most of the producers were finishing up their field work for the year. Most of the cover crops had been planted and were beginning to emerge.

Central

Benton: Prices were high for forages and supply was short.

Benton (2nd Report): The area was in need of rainfall.

Chelan: Apple harvest was almost complete, with very favorable fall harvest weather conditions.

Chelan/Douglas: Temperatures were cooling off and freezing occurred in the higher elevations. Apple harvest for late varieties finished up. The winter wheat crop in much of the area did not emerge well due to lack of moisture.

Franklin: The week held average temperatures with no precipitation. High moisture field corn was being harvested while most dry field corn moisture was still too high for harvest. Fifth cutting hay silage was being put up. The very last of late potatoes were being harvested. Buckwheat was being harvested but not yet finalized. Apples were being harvested. A few dryland wheat producers reported reseeding winter wheat for lack of moisture and some may be forced to seed into dry conditions as the Federal Crop Insurance seeding deadline is approaching.

Grant: Grain corn harvest was in full swing. Potato harvest was winding down. Fresh carrot harvest was also in progress. No adverse weather conditions causing crop damage was reported.

Grant (2nd Report): Irrigation water supply was off for the season, except for wells.

Klickitat: The area has had a couple of killing frosts this fall, but overall temperatures were warmer than usual. Rain was needed.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 5 degrees below normal to 7 degrees above normal, with no precipitation. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Yakima (2nd Report): Despite a couple of cold mornings with temperatures approaching mid-20s, apple harvest was nearly completed with the Pink Lady variety constituting most of the harvest.

Eastern

Adams: A few producers with winter wheat to patch in noted a need for some surface moisture. Otherwise, it was a typical early November with CRP seeders beginning amidst mostly dry conditions, which also helped corn grain harvesters wrap up most of their activities.

Asotin: Dry weather conditions continued. Rainfall was needed as fall planted wheat heads into the winter.

Ferry: All hay was in for the year. Frosts and lack of water were bringing cattle down to the lowlands.

Pend Oreille: The high was 50 degrees and the low was 12 degrees with no precipitation. Pasture growth was slow and hay was being fed. Winter weather was upon us. No snow yet, but anticipated to come shortly as livestock have heavy coats.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The area experienced typical fall weather. Lack of rainfall was a concern to producers as the area was in need of moisture. Cold morning temperatures were in the low 20s with afternoon temperatures in the mid 50s. It was good weather for finishing up those last fieldwork items. Apple harvest was still going strong with a good crop up on Green Bluff. Producers were supplemental feeding livestock, but this would be considered normal for the time of year. A large number of livestock were moved to market in the last month to avoid having to purchase expensive hay.

Stevens: Farmers busied themselves with the pre-winter chores of checking antifreeze, putting equipment away, and getting firewood in. Cattle producers began winter feeding. Cattle continued to move to market.

Stevens (2nd Report): The area was drier than normal with seasonal temperatures. Fall grains growth was aided by October rain, while not abundant, was adequate. Range and pastures were pretty well depleted. The area had a drier than normal summer and the spotty rains in May and June contributed to this.

Walla Walla: The area had frosty evenings and cool crisp days. Fall planted crops looked good. Farmers remained optimistic regarding crop potential for 2008.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Temperatures were getting cooler. The area had beautiful fall weather, but was in need of rain.

Whitman: The area had warm dry days and cool frosty nights. Fall had arrived. Rainfall was needed as conditions returned to a dry pattern. Field work was wrapping up.

Weekly Weather Statistics

November 5, 2007

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	PCT		
	---	---	---	---	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	---	---	INCHES	DFN	NORMAL	DAYS
WEST															
Bellingham Intl	27	53	44	-4	0	-7	0	+0	0.28	-0.74	4	5.15	-0.79	87	32
Everett	33	58	46	-2	0	-7	0	+0	0.02	-0.93	2	5.46	-0.33	94	30
Hoquiam	34	59	49	-2	7	-7	0	+0	0.16	-1.82	3	8.15	-2.47	77	32
Kelso	30	63	47	-2	7	-2	0	+0	0.00	-1.24	0	5.76	-1.15	83	18
Olympia	25	61	44	-2	5	+5	0	+0	0.01	-1.50	1	7.13	-0.34	95	29
Seattle-Tacoma	32	58	46	-3	2	-5	0	+0	0.10	-0.99	3	6.56	+0.80	114	31
Shelton	25	54	44	-5	2	-5	0	+0	0.02	-1.90	2	8.28	-1.02	89	28
Tacoma WA AP	26	63	44	-4	4	-3	0	+0	0.01	-1.12	1	6.03	+0.15	103	23
Vancouver WA	30	64	48	+0	5	-2	0	+0	0.00	-1.06	0	4.81	-0.99	83	23
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	21	67	45	+5	11	+11	0	+0	0.00	-0.21	0	0.89	-0.28	76	10
Omak AP	16	58	38	-2	0	+0	0	+0	0.00	-0.28	0	1.39	-0.46	75	10
Stampede Pass	30	50	40	+7	0	+0	0	+0	0.44	-1.80	4	11.98	+0.72	106	36
Wenatchee	28	66	44	+1	5	+5	0	+0	0.00	-0.19	0	0.51	-0.46	53	9
Yakima AP	21	69	42	-3	0	-1	0	+0	0.00	-0.16	0	0.75	-0.22	77	8
NORTHEAST															
Colville	20	59	40	+0	0	+0	0	+0	0.00	-0.45	0	1.80	-0.85	68	19
Deer Park	13	57	36	-5	0	+0	0	+0	0.00	-0.43	0	2.16	-0.08	96	17
Republic	18	59	38	+1	0	+0	0	+0	0.00	-0.28	0	1.88	-0.06	97	15
Spokane AP	21	59	42	+2	1	+1	0	+0	0.00	-0.37	0	1.47	-0.47	76	16
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	24	69	43	-2	4	-3	0	+0	0.00	-0.16	0	0.73	-0.17	81	8
Moses Lake	20	66	42	-2	8	+1	0	+0	0.00	-0.16	0	0.77	-0.13	86	9
Quincy	22	66	42	-2	2	+2	0	+0	0.00	-0.20	0	1.08	+0.05	105	11
Ritzville	23	60	43	+1	0	+0	0	+0	0.00	-0.28	0	1.03	-0.49	68	9
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	21	70	44	-5	3	-11	0	+0	0.00	-0.15	0	0.51	-0.33	61	9
Pasco	22	71	44	-5	5	-6	0	+0	0.00	-0.21	0	0.93	-0.08	92	9
Pullman	20	62	42	+0	1	+0	0	+0	0.00	-0.49	0	2.15	-0.56	79	13
Walla Walla Rgn	30	69	48	+0	10	-4	0	+0	0.00	-0.53	0	1.79	-1.03	63	13
Whitman Mission	19	70	41	-6	0	-7	0	+0	0.02	-0.32	1	1.46	-0.45	76	13
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	29	61	44	-2	0	-7	0	+0	0.01	-0.20	1	1.27	-0.53	71	15

Summary based on NWS data.
 Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2007
 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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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2007/summary/weth1606.pdf>
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