



WA

46°N

WINE

## 2022 Vintage Overview

The 2022 growing season in Washington was notable for a cool, wet spring, a hot, but brief, summer, and nearly-unprecedented warm finishing weather in late September and almost all of October. It is expected to be a top quality vintage, despite overall higher tonnages due to increased berry and cluster size.

The growing season started out with a cold, wet winter, putting significant moisture into the soil. Early varieties started to bud at the end of March/early April, aligned with recent history. A freak blizzard hit Columbia Valley April 11-14th. Temperatures went as low as 26 degrees Fahrenheit in some areas. This caused primary and secondary bud damage in early varieties in some locations. It also stalled bud break for two to three weeks.

Cool weather continued through bloom. The cool, high soil moisture conditions, combined with the extremely small crop in 2021, contributed to a very fruitful 2022. Growers spent significant time thinning and working to control vigor.

Summer temperatures finally arrived after the third week of June. July and August had above average heat. However, by that point, the growing season was already two to three weeks behind recent years, as it had been all season.

As a result, most growers picked very little fruit in September. This left the state with both a sizable crop to pick in October and needing a month of exceptional ripening weather to bring the harvest home.

October, however, delivered exactly that. Columbia Valley saw ideal growing conditions, with temperatures five or more degrees above average, resulting in near-perfect finishing weather given the coolness of the season. Growers and winemakers did 10-12 weeks of work in half that time or less.

The final crop was heavier, particularly for white varieties, due to larger berries and clusters. Growers who managed to thin appropriately delivered exceptional flavors at lower Brix and higher natural acidity. It is expected to be a very high quality vintage for white wines and a standout vintage for higher end reds.

*"Color is fantastic, structure is good, flavors are just amazing. It's going to be a stunning vintage,"* one winemaker said. |



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Indicator	Overview	Detail
Vintage hallmark	--	--
Growing season summary	A cool, wet spring and a small crop the prior year contributed to a very large crop. Uncommonly warm temperatures in October led to high quality whites and reds.	2022 had a cold, wet spring delaying bud break and bloom substantially. Warm temperatures didn't arrive until late June, and then it got quite hot. Ideal temperatures in late September and throughout October allowed the larger crop to fully ripen. High quality wines are expected.
Bud break	Two to three weeks behind historical averages.	Two to three weeks behind historical averages.
Bloom	Two to three weeks behind historical averages.	Two to three weeks behind historical averages.
Veraison	Two to three weeks behind historical averages.	Two to three weeks behind historical averages.
Harvest	Two to three weeks behind historical averages.	A cool, wet spring led to a significantly delayed and compressed harvest, with very little fruit picked in September. Most was picked in October and even early November.
Berry size/Cluster size	Larger berries and larger clusters	Both berry and cluster sizes were elevated in many areas and locations, particularly for white varieties.
Yields	Above average	Larger berry sizes and cluster weights contributed to a large crop.
Brix	At or below average	The cooler season gave the potential for winemakers to pick at lower Brix if they chose to.
Acids	At or above average	Acids were at or above historical averages.