

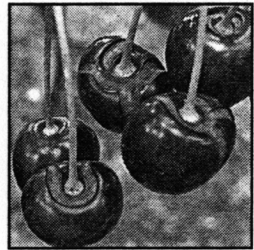
Cherry crop: Major losses

Heavy rains erase any hope of a record cherry harvest; some orchards wiped out

By DAN WHEAT
World staff writer

WENATCHEE — Cherry growers suffered major losses and in some cases were wiped out Wednesday from the rain storm that just wouldn't quit. Hopes for a record-breaking state harvest are gone.

Growers and industry fieldmen were assessing damage today, determining how many cherry crops are salvageable. There were reports of individual losses of up to 80 percent and growers walking away from crops. Losses greater than 40 percent usually



INSIDE

Yakima crop wiped outPage A3

are unprofitable to harvest. Packing houses will have a better idea of the overall loss Friday and Saturday when they start packing again.

In Zillah, wind and hail literally knocked cherries right off the trees and ruined some pear and apple crops there, said Andy Gale, head fieldman for

Stemilt Growers of Wenatchee, which packs one-fourth of the

Please see *CHERRIES*, Page A6



World photo/Don Seabrook

A helicopter flies over a south Wenatchee orchard Wednesday afternoon to blow rain off the cherries. Many Wenatchee area orchardists reported cherry damage due to heavy rains Wednesday.