



California Crop Weather

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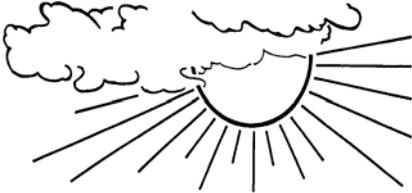
In Cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: March 18, 2007
RELEASED: March 19, 2007

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WEATHER



A ridge of high pressure dominated the weather over California during the week. This brought above normal temperatures and numerous record high maximum temperatures across the State, especially on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday. High pressure began to weaken over the northern portion of the State during the weekend for slightly cooler, but still above normal temperatures. No measurable precipitation was reported in the State this week, although a few coastal stations saw a trace from drizzle over the weekend.

FIELD CROPS

Lack of moisture was beginning to stress dryland **wheat, barley and oats**; Irrigated fields were still progressing well. Herbicide applications continued on wheat and oat fields. The first **alfalfa** cutting of the season began in the San Joaquin Valley, and growers in the Sacramento Valley were preparing for alfalfa harvest. Pesticides were applied to alfalfa fields for aphid and weevil control. **Rice** field plowing and disking began in the Sacramento Valley. **Cotton** pre-plant activities were ongoing, while some areas had begun planting. Field **corn** was planted. **Sweet potato** hotbed planting continued in Merced County. In the Imperial Valley, field crop irrigation was delayed by the irrigation district due to the demands on the system.

FRUIT CROPS

Stone fruit has reaped the benefit of unseasonably warm weather. **Peach, nectarine, cherry and plum** bloom were accelerating, as were petal fall and fruit set. The planting of new orchards and remained underway. **Grapes** of various varieties were swollen to the point of bud break stages in some areas. Some grape vineyards were leafing out. Field activities such as tying and pruning were occurring at a high pace. **Blueberry** bloom continued. **Pomegranates** were irrigated and fertilized. **Orange** packers were planning to pick more fruit, and the processing of frost damaged fruit was expected to pick up speed due to the warmer weather. Minneola **tangelo** and Murcott **tangerine** harvests were gaining momentum in Tulare County. **Pummelo** and **grapefruit** harvests were progressing slowly. **Lemon** harvest continued. The pruning of frost damaged citrus limbs was still taking place.

NUT CROPS

Almond bloom was ongoing in many areas. In other areas blooms were falling and nuts were beginning to grow. Early blight treatment took place in **walnut** orchards. Clipping took place in some **pistachio** orchards to encourage growth.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Preparations to plant **honeydew** and various other melons were underway. The planting of **peppers, cucumbers, sweet corn, eggplant, squash and tomatoes** progressed. Mixed Oriental vegetables were planted in hot houses. Packing and shipping of **radicchio** continued. In some areas **asparagus, amaranth, basil, beets, garlic, cilantro**, red and yellow **onions**, and **turnips** were weeded, irrigated, fertilized, and treated to control insects and mildew. Harvests of **asparagus, bok choy, broccoli, cabbage, daikon, dandelion greens, green onions, kale, leaf lettuce, leeks, mustard greens, parsley, parsnips, rutabaga** and **spinach** were ongoing.

LIVESTOCK

Another week without significant precipitation left many ranges in poor condition. Recovery was not taking place to those grasses that were killed by the January freeze. More rainfall was necessary to sustain grasses that were untouched by the cold snap. Supplemental feeding of cattle was therefore still taking place. Dairies were also suffering due to the dry conditions in pastures. Sheep were grazing on retired farmland and alfalfa fields. Bees were actively pollinating in nut and stone fruit orchards, and in blueberry fields.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 03/18/07

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 03/18/07	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 03/18/07	January 1 - 03/18/07	Week Ending 03/18/07	July 1 - 03/18/07	July 1 - 03/18/07	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	49	-1	60	38	0	0	0.01	31.87	30.65	37.53
Ukiah	62	10	85	41	20	0	0.00	20.49	33.15	37.96
Santa Rosa	59	6	83	41	14	0	0.00	15.97	26.39	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	60	5	77	47	16	0	0.00	10.31	17.36	19.70
San Jose	63	7	81	48	36	0	0.00	7.58	12.58	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	32	0	0.00	0.00	12.21	14.21
Salinas AP	59	5	83	42	15	0	0.01	6.81	10.59	12.44
Monterey FAA	56	3	75	42	10	0	0.00	6.02	12.59	18.72
King City	64	9	93	42	44	0	0.00	4.32	10.29	11.44
Paso Robles AP	65	12	91	39	30	0	0.00	3.73	11.42	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	65	11	86	43	41	0	0.00	18.54	28.00	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	65	11	86	47	42	0	0.00	10.41	19.64	22.29
Chico AFS	66	13	88	45	40	0	0.00	11.32	21.94	26.32
Marysville	64	8	83	47	26	0	0.00	10.46	18.59	21.04
Sacramento AP	64	10	83	46	24	0	0.00	8.78	15.12	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	66	11	87	47	41	0	0.00	6.56	11.45	13.95
Fresno	67	12	87	47	54	0	0.00	4.52	9.10	10.60
Bakersfield	70	13	88	52	76	0	0.00	2.69	5.18	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	62	8	94	43	53	0	0.01	4.38	11.75	12.36
Santa Barbara	58	2	82	43	12	0	0.00	6.15	14.92	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	119	0	0.00	0.00	13.50	14.38
Los Angeles	66	5	93	52	196	25	0.00	2.42	12.91	14.77
Riverside	70	12	98	45	166	0	0.00	1.31	8.99	9.58
San Diego AP	61	1	86	54	62	0	0.00	3.44	8.87	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	60	13	85	34	4	0	0.00	1.30	4.12	5.37
Lancaster	--	--	89	35	53	0	0.00	1.10	6.74	6.92
Daggett AP	73	14	93	47	108	0	0.00	0.33	3.63	3.93
Thermal AP	73	9	102	47	176	67	0.00	0.13	3.33	3.16
Blythe	77	12	99	53	226	73	0.00	3.35	3.74	3.60
Imperial	75	10	101	50	222	99	0.00	0.07	2.78	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	48	9	75	20	0	0	0.00	4.34	8.49	12.01
Mt. Shasta	54	13	77	33	0	0	0.00	21.85	32.08	37.02
Blue Canyon	60	20	70	50	6	0	0.00	38.62	53.90	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	13.15	31.28	37.05

Normal is defined as average over the 30-year period 1961 through 1990. Dashes (-) in Average Week Ending and Departure from Normal columns mean less than five days reporting, while in High and Low columns mean no days reporting.

Weekly summary provided by the Western Regional Climate Center with data reported by the National Weather Service. When data are quality controlled by the National Climatic Data Center, the accumulated growing degree day and precipitation values are updated.