



California Crop Weather

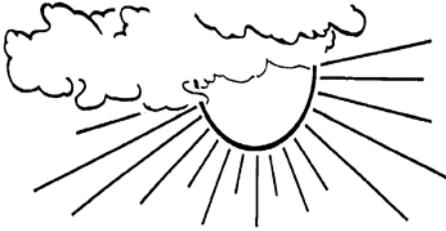
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

California Field Office • P.O. Box 1258 • Sacramento, CA 95812 • (916) 498-5161 • (916) 498-5186 FAX • www.nass.usda.gov/ca

WEEK ENDING: March 9, 2008
RELEASED: March 10, 2008

FREQUENCY: Weekly
VOL. 28 NO. 37

WEATHER



The weather across California was fairly benign this week, the result of upper level high pressure shielding the state from storm systems. High pressure at the surface, over the Great Basin, resulted in a moderately strong offshore flow at the start of the week, bringing low humidity and very mild daytime temperatures across the state. Highs reached the 70s in the northern interior valleys, while southern California had high temperatures in the mid 70s to lower 80s. Due to the relatively low humidity, overnight lows were a little cooler than normal, with overnight lows in the Central Valley falling into the 30s, and lows in southern California in the 40s. The pattern changed slightly by Thursday, when a weak cold front managed to break through the high pressure. The main effects of this system were increased clouds and slightly cooler temperatures across the state. The little precipitation associated with the front was confined to the northern coast and northern mountains, with a few sprinkles also falling across the northern Sacramento Valley. By the weekend, high pressure rebuilt over the region, and sunny skies, mild temperatures and an offshore flow had returned.

FIELD CROPS

Herbicides continued to be applied to small grain fields. Dryland grain was growing well after recent rains and was being aerially fertilized in Fresno County. **Alfalfa** fields continued to grow well and alfalfa weevil spraying continued. Field preparation for spring planting continued. Spring **sugar beet** fields continued to grow well and were being fertilized, irrigated, cultivated and treated to control weeds. In Fresno County, early planted **safflower** was growing well. **Potato** harvest is six to eight weeks away and **sweet potato** hot bed planting continued.

FRUIT CROPS

Grape buds were starting to swell and pruning in vineyards was virtually complete. In many parts of the State stone fruit bloom was in full swing. Bud break was just beginning in other areas. The warmer weather increased bee pollination. Fungicide treatments were applied to protect blooms in moist condition. **Strawberries** were growing well. Citrus harvest picked up speed as groves dried out from earlier rains. Minneola **tangelo** and W. Murcott **mandarin** harvests increased. Oro Blanco and Melo Gold **grapefruit** were picked, as well as Chandler **pummelos**. The Navel **orange** harvest moved forward. The harvest of **lemons** was increasing in the south coastal areas.

NUT CROPS

Leaves were increasing in size and nutlets were growing on early blooming **almond** trees in the northern parts of the State. Jacket split had begun on a few varieties. Petal drop had begun on late blooming varieties. Bloom was nearing its end in the central areas and petal fall was increasing. Less bloom was seen in the south, where petal fall was significant with more trees in the jacket stage. Almond and **walnut** trees were planted in some areas and established walnuts were pruned.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Spring harvest of **broccoli**, Romania **lettuce**, **carrot** and **cauliflower** crops continued. Herbicides were applied to **onion** and **garlic** fields with ongoing cultivation. Winter **radicchio** harvest continued. In Fresno County growers continued to harvest farmers market crops such as **amaranth**, **basil**, **bok choy**, **beets**, broccoli, head and napa **cabbage**, carrots, cauliflower, **celeriac**, **cilantro**, **choy sum**, **daikon**, **dandelion**, **dill**, leaf lettuce, **lemon grass**, **mint**, mustard and collard **greens**, **kale**, **parsley**, green onions, **radishes**, **spinach**, **rutabagas**, **tatsoi**, **tong ho**, **yam leaf**, **yams**, and **yu choy**. **Asparagus** shoots were emerging. Vegetable fields were being weeded, irrigated, fertilized, and treated to control weeds, insects, and mildew. Early planted beet, broccoli, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, garlic, onion, and lettuce crops were growing well with ongoing irrigation. Transplanting of **tomatoes** for the fresh and processing began last week. In Tulare County harvest of early planted spinach varieties began. Outdoor plantings of **zucchini**, summer and yellow crookneck **squash** were growing well under hot caps. Late plantings of beans, mixed squash, eggplants, and miscellaneous oriental vegetables were growing well in green houses.

LIVESTOCK

Grasslands continued to grow well in many areas, providing adequate cattle feed. Cattle weight gains improved. Supplemental feeding of cattle continued to decline. Sheep and lambs continued to graze in alfalfa fields. Apiary colony strength inspections were completed. Pollination of almond and stone fruit orchards was underway.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 03/09/08

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 03/09/08	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 03/09/08	January 1 - 03/09/08	Week Ending 03/09/08	July 1 - 03/09/08	July 1 - 03/09/08	July 1 - June 30
NORTH COAST	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
Eureka	44	-6	54	31	0	0	0.35	21.49	21.05	37.53
Ukiah	52	0	76	34	0	0	0.00	15.91	21.08	37.96
Santa Rosa	53	0	74	33	0	0	0.00	15.00	16.50	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	54	1	69	42	0	0	0.00	8.67	10.57	19.70
San Jose	55	-1	73	39	0	0	0.00	5.55	7.60	14.42
Salinas AP	54	0	71	38	0	0	0.00	4.98	6.38	12.44
Monterey FAA	54	2	70	42	0	0	0.00	2.52	8.43	18.72
King City	55	1	76	35	0	0	0.00	3.42	5.78	11.44
Paso Robles AP	52	-1	72	33	0	0	0.00	3.63	6.36	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	54	1	77	31	2	0	0.00	13.87	17.39	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	55	1	77	35	1	0	0.00	6.04	12.82	22.29
Chico AFS	52	0	72	32	0	0	0.00	11.40	13.68	26.32
Marysville	53	-2	71	35	0	0	0.00	9.30	11.73	21.04
Sacramento AP	53	0	72	36	0	0	0.00	8.31	9.23	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	53	-1	74	33	0	0	0.00	5.70	7.12	13.95
Fresno	57	2	72	41	0	0	0.00	3.90	5.32	10.60
Bakersfield	57	1	74	39	0	0	0.00	1.14	3.01	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	55	2	74	37	0	0	0.00	4.59	6.46	12.36
Santa Barbara	55	0	75	39	2	0	0.00	5.36	8.44	16.25
Ventura	58	0	77	42	16	0	0.00	6.08	6.97	14.38
Los Angeles	62	1	79	45	21	7	0.00	5.95	6.83	14.77
Riverside	--	--	--	--	2	0	0.00	0.00	5.00	9.58
San Diego AP	58	-1	70	47	2	0	0.00	3.76	5.21	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	45	-2	72	21	0	0	0.00	5.44	2.63	5.37
Lancaster	49	-2	75	23	0	0	0.00	2.18	3.88	6.92
Daggett AP	54	-3	77	33	2	0	0.00	2.19	2.63	3.93
Thermal AP	60	-2	83	35	14	19	0.00	2.20	2.30	3.16
Blythe	60	-3	80	38	14	21	0.00	1.39	2.87	3.60
Imperial	61	-3	82	38	15	26	0.00	1.97	2.12	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	36	-2	58	17	0	0	0.00	6.51	6.09	12.01
Mt. Shasta	41	0	63	20	0	0	0.02	19.08	21.04	37.02
Blue Canyon	44	5	56	32	0	0	0.00	21.69	35.16	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	59	28	0	0	0.00	6.51	19.70	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.