



California Crop Weather

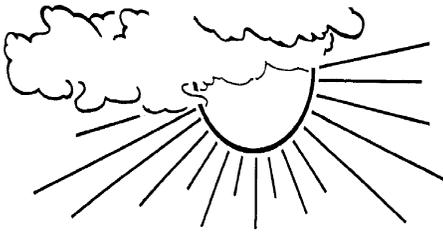
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: March 30, 2008
RELEASED: March 31, 2008

FREQUENCY: Weekly
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WEATHER



Weak high pressure centered over southern and central California brought dry and mild weather to most of California at the beginning of the week, with the warmest temperatures so far this season being reported in the Central Valley, while southern California enjoyed highs reaching the 80s. A series of weak cold fronts moving through the Pacific Northwest brushed California as the week progressed, resulting in a gradual cool down for the state and some scattered shower activity along the north coast and across the northern mountains. By Thursday, overnight minimum temperatures were quite chilly in the Central Valley, with some stations reporting lows in the upper 30s. The strongest frontal system of the week reached northern California late Friday, and managed to spread rain across the Central Valley. Sacramento had its first measurable rain for the month of March from this storm! Clouds and cool weather managed to spread into coastal southern California by Saturday night. On Sunday, the front lingered in southern California. Drizzle and scattered light rain showers fell in the south. Clearing skies were spreading across the north, as high pressure began to rebuild from the west.

FIELD CROPS

Herbicide applications to small grain fields were completed. A few winter forage fields continue being cut for silage in Merced County. The first cutting of **alfalfa** continued and alfalfa weevil spraying was almost complete. Field preparation for spring planting continued. In Stanislaus County, land preparation was being done for upcoming **rice** planting and **oats** were being harvested. **Mustard** for seed remained in full bloom in Fresno County. Spring **sugar beet** fields continued to grow well and were being fertilized, irrigated, cultivated and treated to control weeds, while new sugar beet fields continued to be planted. In Fresno County, early planted **safflower** continued to grow well. **Cotton** planting began in areas across the state.

FRUIT CROPS

Warm weather enhanced fruit set and development of early tree fruit varieties. Growers began laying out plastic sheeting in between rows to enhance fruit sizing. Cultural activities continued in **grape** vineyards and **apple, pear, pomegranate, and prune** orchards; orchards and vineyards were irrigated and treated to control weeds and insect pests. Orchard bloom spraying was complete. Grape growers were also cultivating and tying vines. New tree fruit orchards and **kiwifruit** vines were planted. Stone fruit trees were blooming and leafing out. Spring **strawberries** and **blueberries** were blooming. Blueberry acreage continued to expand with more bushes being planted. Harvesting continued in **mandarin, minneola, lemon, and pummelo** groves. Valencia **orange** harvest began in some locations. Softness and rind puff continued to be sorted out of citrus lots. The warm weather caused some fruit to drop in the field. Citrus growers were irrigating, applying foliar nutrients, and treating to control fungus, insects, and weeds. Harvested groves were topped and pruned.

NUT CROPS

Walnut and **pistachio** trees were blooming and beginning to leaf out. **Almond** orchards were in the petal fall stage. Cultural practices continued such as irrigation and treatments to control weeds and insect pests.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Growers continued to harvest **broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, spinach, Romaine lettuce, asparagus, amaranth, basil, bok choy, beets, head and napa cabbage, celeriac, cilantro, choy sum, daikon, dandelion, dill, endives, leaf lettuce, lemon grass, mint, mustard and collard greens, kale, parsley, green onions, radishes, rutabagas, tatsoi, tong ho, yam leaf, yams, and yu choy**. Vegetable fields were being weeded, irrigated, fertilized, and treated to control weeds, insects, and mildew. Herbicides were applied to onion and **garlic** fields with ongoing cultivation and irrigation. Producers began to spray garlic for rust. Transplanting of **tomatoes** and bell **peppers** for the fresh and processing markets continued, with tomato transplanting 80 percent complete in Fresno County. In Merced County, **radicchio** packing began. Sweet **corn** continued to grow well in Fresno County and parsley finished germinating. In Tulare County, early planted zucchini were blooming and setting fruit while green house plantings of beans, tomatoes, mixed squash, eggplants, and chilies were growing well. In Kern County, lettuce and onion crops continued to grow well and carrots continued to be harvested.

LIVESTOCK

Good range conditions continued in most areas, providing ample feed for cattle. Supplemental feeding remained on the decline. Sheep were being sheared and continued grazing on retired farmland. Bees remained active in stone fruit, nut and pear orchards, while hives were moved out of almond orchards with the completion of pollination in many areas.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 03/30/08

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 03/30/08	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 03/30/08	January 1 - 03/30/08	Week Ending 03/30/08	July 1 - 03/30/08	July 1 - 03/30/08	July 1 - June 30
NORTH COAST	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
Eureka	43	-7	52	31	0	0	1.11	22.25	20.81	37.53
Ukiah	48	-6	69	32	0	0	0.39	16.30	20.62	37.96
Santa Rosa	52	-3	74	35	0	0	0.15	15.15	16.09	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	53	-2	63	44	0	0	0.00	8.67	10.29	19.70
San Jose	57	0	72	44	2	0	0.00	5.55	7.38	14.42
Salinas AP	54	-1	72	40	0	0	0.03	5.01	6.24	12.44
Monterey FAA	53	0	63	43	0	0	0.04	2.56	7.92	18.72
King City	55	-1	79	35	2	0	0.00	3.42	5.54	11.44
Paso Robles AP	53	-1	78	32	0	0	0.00	3.63	6.04	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	53	-3	73	33	0	0	0.14	14.01	16.89	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	53	-3	74	35	0	0	0.01	6.05	12.46	22.29
Chico AFS	56	1	79	33	6	0	0.01	11.41	13.31	26.32
Marysville	55	-3	75	39	2	0	0.08	9.38	11.43	21.04
Sacramento AP	55	-1	74	39	0	0	0.05	8.36	9.01	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	55	-1	76	39	0	0	0.03	5.73	7.00	13.95
Fresno	59	1	79	43	7	0	0.00	3.90	5.17	10.60
Bakersfield	60	1	79	44	12	0	0.00	1.14	2.96	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	53	-1	72	39	0	0	0.00	4.59	6.22	12.36
Santa Barbara	58	1	79	42	6	0	0.01	5.37	8.05	16.25
Ventura	56	0	72	42	15	0	0.00	6.08	6.67	14.38
Los Angeles	62	0	86	52	28	15	0.00	5.95	6.54	14.77
Riverside	--	--	--	--	9	0	0.00	0.00	4.78	9.58
San Diego AP	59	-2	79	52	8	6	0.00	3.76	5.06	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	52	2	75	30	0	0	0.00	5.44	2.56	5.37
Lancaster	58	4	82	31	4	0	0.00	2.18	3.76	6.92
Daggett AP	65	4	84	44	36	6	0.00	2.19	2.58	3.93
Thermal AP	73	6	92	43	90	45	0.00	2.20	2.25	3.16
Blythe	70	3	90	48	74	47	0.00	1.39	2.83	3.60
Imperial	71	4	92	48	78	47	0.00	1.97	2.10	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	35	-5	57	6	0	0	0.26	6.77	5.97	12.01
Mt. Shasta	39	-4	61	23	0	0	0.08	19.14	20.47	37.02
Blue Canyon	39	-1	54	28	0	0	0.55	22.24	34.52	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	6.51	19.28	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.