



# California Crop Weather

National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

In Cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: April 8, 2007  
RELEASED: April 9, 2007

FREQUENCY: Weekly  
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## WEATHER



Dry and mild weather was the rule over the State for the first part of the week, with a weak high pressure ridge gradually building over the area, in the wake of a minor cold front passage. This pattern resulted in a warming trend for most of California which persisted through Friday. On Saturday, a relatively weak cold front moved across the State from the Pacific Ocean, resulting in increased onshore flow, cloud cover, and some spotty shower activity. Temperatures cooled off slightly but generally remained above seasonal levels. Rainfall amounts were not significant, with the heaviest amounts reported in the mountainous terrain.

## FIELD CROPS

Field preparation for **rice** planting continued. Fresno County rice growers were flooding their fields. Irrigated **wheat**, **barley**, and **oats** were developing quickly in the warm weather, and irrigation was ongoing. Winter wheat heading had begun. Dryland small grains were in poor condition due to lack of precipitation. **Cotton** planting and emergence continued. **Sugarbeet** harvest began in Merced and Fresno Counties. The first cutting of **alfalfa** was nearing completion, and alfalfa weevil spraying was winding down. Field **corn** planting continued, and earlier planted fields were emerging. **Sweet potato** planting began in Merced County. **Safflower**, **sunflower**, and **vineseed** fields were planted in the Sacramento Valley.

## FRUIT CROPS

**Grape** buds continued to swell. Vines were leafing out and forming bunches. Copper and sulfur were being applied to wine grapes in some vineyards. **Peach, cherry, and plum** fruits were in petal fall and fruit set was underway. Early fruit was being thinned. **Apple, pear, and quince** trees were blooming and petal fall began. French **prune** orchards were in bloom in Tulare County. Irrigation activities picked up in fruit orchards due to the warm weather. **Strawberry** harvest advanced in the south coastal region, while plants were setting fruit in the Central Valley. Harvests of **oranges, tangerines, mandarins, and lemons** continued at a slower rate. Some growers continued treatments to control fungus and weeds and applying nutrients. Pruning of frost-damaged limbs continued. **Olive** buds were beginning to swell.

## NUT CROPS

The **almond** crop was looking good and nut sizes were increasing. **Walnuts** were beginning to leaf out and were sprayed for blight. **Pistachio** bloom was underway.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Mixed oriental vegetables continued to be planted, fertilized and irrigated. **Bittermelon, cucumbers, eggplant, lettuce, melons, onions, peppers, squash and tomatoes** were growing well. Fields of **broccoli, carrots, onions, and processing tomatoes** were being weeded, irrigated, fertilized and treated to control insects and mildew. Harvests of **asparagus, bok choy, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cilantro, daikon, dandelion greens, garlic, green onions, kale, leaf and head lettuce, leeks, mustard greens, parsley, parsnips, rutabaga and spinach** remained underway.

## LIVESTOCK

Foothill pastures were drying rapidly, particularly in the central area. Cattle were moving from ranches in central California. Some cattle were moving to irrigated pastures earlier than normal. There was still sufficient green grass in the northern area to hold cattle for a few weeks. Overall weight gains on cattle were reported to be below normal, especially in central California. New crop lambs continued to ship from pastures in central and northern California. Old crop lamb movement from pastures in the Imperial Valley was complete. Bee hives were being placed in blooming orchards and fields. In the northern area, bees were in holding areas waiting to be placed in safflower and vineseed fields.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 04/08/07 – DATA NOT AVAILABLE**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 04/08/07	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 04/08/07	January 1 - 04/08/07	Week Ending 04/08/07	July 1 - 04/08/07	July 1 - 04/08/07	July 1 - June 30
<b>NORTH COAST</b> Eureka Ukiah Santa Rosa  <b>CENTRAL COAST</b> San Francisco AP San Jose Livermore Tele Salinas AP Monterey FAA King City Paso Robles AP  <b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b> Redding Red Bluff FSS Chico AFS Marysville Sacramento AP  <b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b> Stockton WSO Fresno Bakersfield  <b>SOUTH COAST</b> Santa Maria AP Santa Barbara Oxnard Los Angeles Riverside San Diego AP  <b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b> Bishop Lancaster Daggett AP Thermal AP Blythe Imperial  <b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b> Alturas Mt. Shasta Blue Canyon Yosemite	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			

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.