



# California Crop Weather

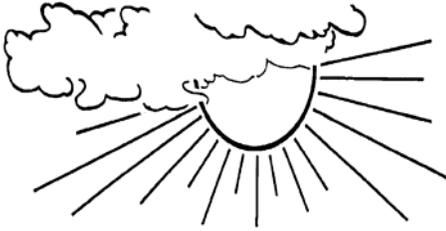
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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

WEEK ENDING: March 2, 2008  
RELEASED: March 3, 2008

FREQUENCY: Weekly  
VOL. 28 NO. 36

## WEATHER



The remains of a vigorous storm system continued to spread showers across California on Monday, with temperatures remaining cool. By Tuesday, a high pressure ridge was developing along the California coast. Combined with an offshore flow, this brought dry weather with very mild temperatures to the state. Daytime highs climbed well above normal, with southern California seeing highs reach the 80s, and temperatures reaching the upper 70s across the northern Central Valley during the week. Nighttime lows remained seasonably cool. The upper level pattern began to shift by late Thursday,

and on Friday a weak weather system moved across northern California, bringing increased cloud cover and cooler temperatures to the northern part of the state, along with some light showers. In southern California, this pattern shift resulted in an increased onshore flow which cooled temperatures significantly, but with little or no shower activity in the Southland. By Sunday, high pressure aloft brought sunny skies to California. As a surface high pressure system settled over the Great Basin, a strong offshore flow produced dry, gusty winds all across the state.

## FIELD CROPS

Herbicides continued to be applied to small grain fields. Some **winter forage** fields were being cut for silage. **Alfalfa** fields continued to grow well and alfalfa weevil spraying had begun. In Tulare and Fresno counties, **cotton** growers were pre-irrigating in preparation for upcoming planting. Spring **sugar beet** fields were growing well and were being fertilized, irrigated, cultivated and treated to control weeds. In Fresno County, early planted **safflower** was growing well.

## FRUIT CROPS

Bloom began in **apricot, plum, nectarine, peach** and **pluot** orchards. **Cherries** were near bloom. Field preparations in vineyards for the new season were mostly complete. New **blueberry** bush planting remained underway in Fresno County. Spring **strawberries** were growing well. Some established fields were still recovering from previous storms that were detrimental to the crop. Pruning in **kiwi** orchards in Yuba County was ending. Harvest was made difficult in citrus groves due to excess moisture. Navel **oranges**, Cara Cara oranges, Melo Gold **grapefruit**, Chandler **pummelos**, Minneola **tangelos**, W. Murcott **mandarins** and **lemons** were picked as field conditions allowed. Rind puff and fruit drop were still noted in orange groves due to the continued warmer weather. **Olive** trees were still being pruned in Tulare County.

## NUT CROPS

**Almond** bloom in the Sacramento Valley was progressing well. The Sonora variety was reaching its peak and other varieties were close behind. Bloom was more advanced in the central and southern San Joaquin Valley. Peak bloom was reached and petal fall had begun on the earliest blooms in the south valley. Groves benefitted from the improved weather conditions, which were excellent for pollination. Warmer weather also reduced the threat of disease in the Sacramento Valley. Nutritional supplements were applied in some groves. **Walnuts** were still being sprayed and pruned.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

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 beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, **garlic**, onion, and lettuce crops were growing well with ongoing irrigation. In Tulare County saturated soils halted vegetable plantings. Early planted vegetables under hot caps were doing well.

## LIVESTOCK

Warmer temperatures continued to benefit rangeland growth. Supplemental feeding of cattle continued to decline. Beef cattle calving and goat kidding were completed. Sheep and lambs continued to graze in alfalfa fields. Movement of bee hives into almond and stone fruit orchards continued, and colony strength inspections were underway in some areas.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 03/02/08**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 03/02/08	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 03/02/08	January 1 - 03/02/08	Week Ending 03/02/08	July 1 - 03/02/08	July 1 - 03/02/08	July 1 - June 30
<b>NORTH COAST</b>	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
Eureka	45	-5	56	32	0	0	0.53	21.67	21.17	37.53
Ukiah	53	1	76	32	0	0	0.04	15.95	21.40	37.96
Santa Rosa	53	0	76	33	0	0	0.00	15.00	16.71	30.30
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco AP	55	1	67	45	0	0	0.05	8.72	10.70	19.70
San Jose	56	1	72	40	0	0	0.00	5.55	7.68	14.42
Salinas AP	55	1	71	40	0	0	0.01	4.99	6.40	12.44
Monterey FAA	54	1	71	42	0	0	0.00	2.52	8.37	18.72
King City	55	1	74	38	0	0	0.00	3.42	5.81	11.44
Paso Robles AP	53	1	73	35	0	0	0.00	3.63	6.41	13.95
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	55	4	78	35	5	0	0.00	13.87	17.54	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	55	3	78	38	2	0	0.00	6.04	12.94	22.29
Chico AFS	54	2	78	37	2	0	0.14	11.54	13.82	26.32
Marysville	54	0	71	38	0	0	0.00	9.30	11.84	21.04
Sacramento AP	54	1	71	38	0	0	0.00	8.31	9.37	17.52
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	54	1	72	38	0	0	0.02	5.72	7.19	13.95
Fresno	55	1	76	39	1	0	0.00	3.90	5.34	10.60
Bakersfield	56	1	77	41	2	0	0.00	1.14	3.01	5.72
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria AP	55	2	74	40	0	0	0.00	4.59	6.48	12.36
Santa Barbara	55	0	74	41	0	0	0.00	5.36	8.45	16.25
Ventura	57	0	80	41	20	0	0.03	6.11	7.05	14.38
Los Angeles	61	1	82	46	25	5	0.00	5.95	6.96	14.77
Riverside	--	--	--	--	5	0	0.00	0.00	5.04	9.58
San Diego AP	58	-2	74	47	2	0	0.00	3.76	5.23	9.90
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	47	2	71	26	0	0	0.00	5.44	2.68	5.37
Lancaster	52	2	77	32	0	0	0.00	2.18	3.91	6.92
Daggett AP	57	1	79	37	4	0	0.00	2.19	2.65	3.93
Thermal AP	65	4	86	43	38	11	0.00	2.20	2.33	3.16
Blythe	64	3	84	45	33	12	0.00	1.39	2.88	3.60
Imperial	64	1	84	45	30	19	0.00	1.97	2.14	2.75
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	37	1	56	18	0	0	0.15	6.66	6.13	12.01
Mt. Shasta	41	2	60	27	0	0	0.03	19.09	21.16	37.02
Blue Canyon	45	6	61	29	0	0	0.60	22.29	35.80	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	46	28	0	0	0.79	7.30	20.04	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.