



California Crop Weather

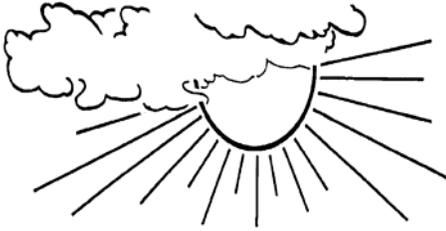
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: March 16, 2008
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WEATHER



On Monday northern California was sitting on a ridge of high pressure that brought clear skies and some high cirrus clouds across the region, with daytime highs in the mid 70s across the interior portions of the state. On Tuesday, a weak low pressure system started to form off the Gulf of Alaska, and slowly moved into northern California. This system brought some traces of rain to the northern Sacramento Valley. The mean temperature was around 70 degrees with overnight lows in the lower 40s. On Wednesday, a high pressure took over California again, bringing a north-westerly flow and a few high clouds over the valley. Another trough slowly moved to northern California between Thursday and Friday. The result was increasing clouds and orographic effect over the northern mountains that brought rain and snow to the northern portions of the state and the Sierra Nevada. The rain continued through Saturday and Sunday. The San Francisco Bay area and the southern California coast and mountains also received rain. Temperatures varied from the upper 50s to mid 60s over the Sacramento Valley during the weekend.

FIELD CROPS

Herbicides applications to small grain fields were winding down. A few winter forage fields were being cut for silage in Merced 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. **Sweet potato** hot bed planting was winding down.

FRUIT CROPS

Bud break on **grapes** was noted in some areas. Grape growers continued to irrigate, cultivate, tie vines and apply treatments for weeds, diseases and insects. Bloom continued in **apricot, cherry, nectarine, peach, plum** and **pluot** orchards. Bloom spray was applied in some areas. **Persimmons** were leafing out in Yuba County. Spring **strawberries** were blooming and forming berries. New **blueberry** bushes were still being planted. Blueberry acreage was noted to be on the rise in Kern County. Citrus harvest moved forward. Navel **oranges, tangelos, mandarins, lemons, pummelos** and **grapefruit** were all picked. Limited picking of Valencia oranges had begun.

NUT CROPS

Almond bloom in the Sacramento Valley was virtually complete with only a few blooming trees remaining. Growing conditions have been ideal. Nutlets of some varieties were differentiating in size and emerging from jackets. Bloom was essentially complete in the southern areas of the State. Trees in the south were greening as leaves continued to grow. Pruning and weed control in **walnuts** was ongoing. Bud swell was noted in some groves.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Harvest of **broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, spinach** and Romaine **lettuce** crops continued. **Asparagus** harvest began in many areas. Herbicides were applied to **onion** and **garlic** fields with ongoing cultivation and irrigation. Winter **radicchio** harvest continued. White **mustard** for seed was in full bloom. In Fresno County sweet **corn** had emerged. Growers continued to harvest **amaranth, basil, bok choy, beets, head and napa cabbage, 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**. Vegetable fields were 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. Transplanting of bell peppers and tomatoes for fresh market and processing continued. Wind hurt tomato transplanting in Fresno County. In Tulare County harvest of early planted spinach varieties continued and harvest of cabbage, cauliflower, and broccoli had started. Beans, mixed squash, **eggplant, chiles** and miscellaneous oriental vegetables were growing well in green houses

LIVESTOCK

Grasslands continued to improve in many areas due to sufficient moisture and recent unseasonably warm weather. Nutritional value of range was good, providing adequate cattle feed. Cattle weight gains continued to improve. Supplemental feeding of cattle continued to decline. Sheep and lambs continued to graze in alfalfa fields and retired farmland. Movement of bees from almonds to stone fruit orchards began.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 03/16/08

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 03/16/08	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 03/16/08	January 1 - 03/16/08	Week Ending 03/16/08	July 1 - 03/16/08	July 1 - 03/16/08	July 1 - June 30
NORTH COAST	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
Eureka	47	-3	57	39	0	0	1.98	23.12	21.03	37.53
Ukiah	50	-2	70	33	0	0	0.59	16.50	21.05	37.96
Santa Rosa	51	-3	69	32	0	0	0.17	15.17	16.47	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	54	0	65	44	0	0	0.36	9.03	10.55	19.70
San Jose	56	-1	71	43	0	0	0.07	5.62	7.60	14.42
Salinas AP	54	0	74	39	0	0	0.41	5.39	6.41	12.44
Monterey FAA	55	3	67	43	0	0	0.37	2.89	8.05	18.72
King City	55	1	80	39	0	0	0.21	3.63	5.78	11.44
Paso Robles AP	53	1	78	33	0	0	0.00	3.63	6.36	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	54	1	73	37	0	0	0.11	13.98	17.43	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	55	1	73	38	0	0	0.01	6.05	12.82	22.29
Chico AFS	56	3	77	30	4	0	0.08	11.48	13.69	26.32
Marysville	55	-1	72	38	0	0	0.00	9.30	11.72	21.04
Sacramento AP	55	1	72	37	0	0	0.00	8.31	9.21	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	54	0	75	37	0	0	0.02	5.72	7.14	13.95
Fresno	57	1	77	35	6	0	0.02	3.92	5.35	10.60
Bakersfield	59	1	81	43	12	0	0.00	1.14	3.05	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	53	-1	78	32	1	0	0.01	4.60	6.46	12.36
Santa Barbara	60	4	78	43	8	0	0.01	5.37	8.46	16.25
Ventura	58	0	79	39	22	0	0.02	6.10	6.97	14.38
Los Angeles	63	2	82	50	34	7	0.01	5.96	6.84	14.77
Riverside	--	--	--	--	10	0	0.00	0.00	4.97	9.58
San Diego AP	60	0	78	46	14	0	0.27	4.03	5.22	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	48	1	77	25	0	0	0.00	5.44	2.61	5.37
Lancaster	54	2	78	31	4	0	0.00	2.18	3.88	6.92
Daggett AP	60	1	81	42	16	0	0.00	2.19	2.63	3.93
Thermal AP	67	3	91	42	52	28	0.00	2.20	2.31	3.16
Blythe	66	1	91	46	48	30	0.00	1.39	2.87	3.60
Imperial	67	2	93	45	57	33	0.00	1.97	2.13	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	38	0	62	20	0	0	0.31	6.82	6.08	12.01
Mt. Shasta	42	1	62	29	0	0	0.19	19.25	20.97	37.02
Blue Canyon	39	0	55	25	0	0	1.89	23.58	35.05	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	64	29	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.