



# California Crop Weather

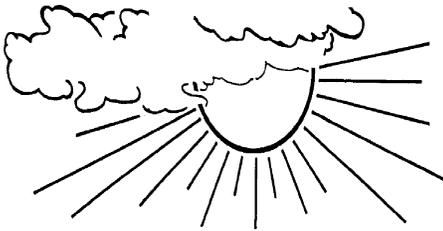
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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: April 13, 2008  
RELEASED: April 14, 2008

FREQUENCY: Weekly  
VOL. 28 NO. 42

## WEATHER



On Monday, a weak cold front entered the northwest portion of the state. Light amounts of rain and snow fell north of Sacramento in the valley and mountains. The southern portion of the state remained dry. Daytime high temperatures were slightly below normal on Monday and Tuesday throughout the Golden State. Dominant high pressure began to build on Wednesday over the state. Daytime high temperatures in the valleys reached the 80's by Friday, and 70's along the coast. The weekend over California was high and dry, due to strong high pressure anchored over the state. Several record high temperatures were broken from Bakersfield to Oakland on Saturday and Sunday. Daytime high temperatures were in the 50's in the mountains, 80's along the coast, 90's in the valley, and over 100 degrees in the desert. The readings were well above normal for mid April.

## FIELD CROPS

Winter forage and other small grain harvest continued in Merced County. The first cutting of **Alfalfa** continued. In Fresno County alfalfa growers continued their summer-long cycle of cutting, windrowing, raking and baling for the production of alfalfa hay. Early planted **corn** and **cotton** emergence continued. **Rice** field preparation was underway across the state. **Mustard** seed continued in full bloom. **Sugar beet** fields continued to grow well and were being fertilized, irrigated, cultivated and treated to control weeds and diseases. **Safflower** fields remained in various stages of growth. **Cilantro** for seed fields were blooming.

## FRUIT CROPS

Fruit crops throughout the State looked good. Many orchards and vineyards were irrigated with the continued dry weather. Fruit growers were also treating for weeds, diseases and insects. Some early variety **grapes** were pushing out. **Apples, cherries, pears, pomegranates, jujubes** and **prunes** were still blooming in some areas. Normal fruit set was anticipated. Thinning of **pluots** was already underway. A few **peach** orchards were also thinned. In Yuba County, a few cherry growers were expecting to begin harvest in a couple of weeks. Spring **strawberries, boysenberries** and **blueberries** were also blooming. New blueberry bushes were still being planted. **Olive** trees were being trimmed. Citrus trees were blooming in the Central Valley. Many growers were irrigating their citrus groves. Treatments for fungus, insects and weeds were also underway. **Mandarins, minneolas, lemons, pummelos** and Navel and Valencia **oranges** were harvested. Valencia maturity was improving in Tulare County and size was becoming less of a concern.

## NUT CROPS

**Pistachios** were blooming and bunches were already seen on some trees. Late variety **walnuts** were still blooming and pushing out new leaves. Blight treatments in walnuts were underway. **Almonds** were developing well throughout the State. A good set was noted in many areas. Disease pressure was low due to the dry conditions. Irrigation measures were increased given the low moisture this season. Growers remained concerned given the State's low water supplies.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Imperial Valley **melon** fields were doing well as growers kept an eye on aphid populations. Sweet **corn** fields were nearing harvest. Fresno and Tulare area organic **tomato** growers were mulching and irrigating their fields. Melon beds were being prepared for spring planting. Transplanting of bell **peppers**, tomatoes for fresh and processing markets, and melons continued. Tomatoes were showing good growth as caps were being removed. **Peas, peppers, cucumbers** and **onions** were also reported to be in good condition. Early **squash** had started to bloom. **Carrots** were being irrigated, cultivated, treated with herbicides, and harvested. Sweet corn had emerged. **Asparagus, broccoli** and head **lettuce** harvests on the Westside continued. Farmer's market crops such as **amaranth, basil, bok choy, beets, leeks, kale, greens, radishes** and **yams** were being harvested. In the Central Valley, **spinach** for the processing market was being harvested. **Radicchio** packing continued as did asparagus harvesting.

## LIVESTOCK

Range conditions continued to decline due to a lack of rain and unseasonably warm weather, with very poor conditions reported in some areas. Supplemental feeding of cattle continued at a low level. Spring calving, lambing, and kidding were underway. Sheep were being sheared and continued grazing on retired farmland. Bees remained active in stone fruit, nut and pear orchards, and movement of hives from almond orchards to holding areas continued. Placement of leafcutter bees near alfalfa seed fields to aid pollination continued.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 04/13/08**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 04/13/08	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 04/13/08	January 1 - 04/13/08	Week Ending 04/13/08	July 1 - 04/13/08	July 1 - 04/13/08	July 1 - June 30
<b>NORTH COAST</b>	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
Eureka	48	-3	77	35	0	0	0.08	34.10	35.34	37.53
Ukiah	56	1	86	33	20	0	0.00	27.47	37.33	37.96
Santa Rosa	58	2	87	35	31	0	0.00	23.97	29.54	30.30
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco AP	58	3	84	42	37	0	0.00	15.88	19.59	19.70
San Jose	60	1	87	39	52	0	0.00	11.29	14.29	14.42
Salinas AP	59	3	91	41	50	0	0.00	10.66	12.27	12.44
Monterey FAA	60	6	85	47	44	0	0.00	7.53	14.49	18.72
King City	60	2	94	38	42	0	0.00	9.33	11.78	11.44
Paso Robles AP	58	2	92	35	24	0	0.00	8.61	12.93	13.95
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	60	2	88	34	56	0	0.00	23.21	31.34	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	61	3	88	35	58	0	0.00	14.72	21.85	22.29
Chico AFS	60	3	90	38	52	0	0.00	19.01	24.72	26.32
Marysville	61	1	88	37	51	2	0.00	15.47	21.02	21.04
Sacramento AP	60	2	89	37	39	0	0.00	13.67	16.95	17.52
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	60	1	93	36	40	0	0.01	10.08	13.10	13.95
Fresno	63	2	94	41	88	5	0.00	8.64	10.55	10.60
Bakersfield	63	1	94	43	108	22	0.00	2.45	6.11	5.72
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria AP	56	1	88	35	27	0	0.00	11.61	13.66	12.36
Santa Barbara	59	2	90	39	48	0	0.00	15.82	16.89	16.25
Ventura	59	0	91	40	80	0	0.00	13.24	14.98	14.38
Los Angeles	66	3	97	48	237	117	0.00	13.41	14.68	14.77
Riverside	--	--	--	--	152	13	0.00	6.31	10.23	9.58
San Diego AP	63	1	89	49	93	47	0.00	7.26	10.35	9.90
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	53	1	82	28	0	0	0.00	7.25	4.54	5.37
Lancaster	57	1	88	35	14	0	0.00	5.15	7.62	6.92
Daggett AP	63	-1	90	44	144	76	0.00	2.58	3.98	3.93
Thermal AP	71	2	98	47	479	324	0.00	3.58	3.52	3.16
Blythe	71	1	95	52	426	344	0.00	1.96	4.02	3.60
Imperial	69	-1	93	48	414	364	0.00	2.37	2.96	2.75
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	41	-1	77	18	0	0	0.11	8.58	9.82	12.01
Mt. Shasta	48	2	77	28	0	0	0.00	27.80	36.43	37.02
Blue Canyon	48	5	66	29	3	0	0.07	35.75	61.63	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	61	37	11	0	0.00	15.74	35.40	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.