



California Crop Weather

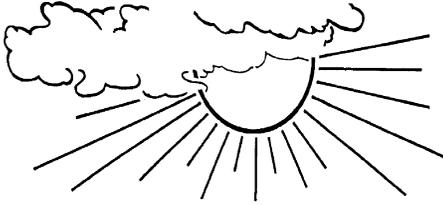
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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

WEEK ENDING: August 17, 2008
RELEASED: August 18, 2008

FREQUENCY: Weekly
VOL. 29 NO. 8

WEATHER



Last week, a ridge of high pressure over our region brought very warm temperatures, especially over the Central Valley, with temperatures in the upper 90s to 115. Close to the southern California coast and nearby mountains, the temperature was in the low 80s to low 90s. In the San Francisco area, temperatures were more pleasant; low 70s to mid 80s. By mid week the ridge of high pressure extended northward, close to the Canadian border and became stronger. Most places along the Sacramento Valley experienced hot triple digit readings, breaking some previous records. Saturday was the peak of the heat wave. Over the weekend, a trough of low pressure moved close to far Northern California. Diurnal heating combined with limited moisture, a fairly unstable atmosphere, and orographic effect helped to develop cumulus clouds and isolated thunderstorms over the mountains. With the upper level trough in place, perfect conditions have set the weather for near to below normal daytime high temperatures into the middle of this week.

FIELD CROPS

Barley and **wheat** fields continued to be windrowed and baled for grain hay. **Alfalfa** seed fields continued to mature and were being dried down before harvest. Fields continued to be windrowed, raked, and baled for alfalfa hay. Harvest of **corn** continued for silage and grain. **Cotton** bloom and boll setting continued. Growers continued to look for aphid, mite, and lygus in cotton. **Rice** fields continued to grow nicely while being treated for weeds. **Safflower** fields were still being harvested. **Sorghum** was growing in Kern County.

FRUIT CROPS

Grape harvest remained underway, and was even beginning to slow in some areas. Flame and Thompson Seedless, Diamond Muscat, Black Emerald, Red Globe and Summer Royal varieties were being picked. Zante **currants** were being harvested. Stone fruit harvest moved forward. August Flame, August Lady, Autumn Red, Autumn Snow, Brittany Lane, Early Saturn, Elegant Lady, Ivory Princess, Jasper Gem, Jasper Treasure, O'Henry, O'Henry II, Pink Giant, Prima 20, Prima 23, Rich Lady, Ryan Sun, September Flame 32, Snow Angel, Snow King, Spring Flame, Spring Snow, Spring Treat, Strawberry Heirloom, Summer Sweet, Summer Zee, Sweet Dreams, Sweet Kay, Sweet Sun and Vista Gem **peaches**; Black Splendor, Catalina, Cherry Bomb, Crimson Gold, Fortune, Friar, Kelsey, Lone Star, Red Crimson, Royal Diamond and Simka **plums**; Apple Fire, Dapple Dandy, Dinosaur Egg, Emerald Sweet, Flavor Grenade, Flavor Heart and Mango Tango **pluots**; Arctic Belle, Arctic Queen, August Bright, August Fire, August Pearl, Candy Pearl, Diamond Bright, Diamond Pearl, Red Lion, Red Roy, Ruby Bright, Summer Bright, Summer Fire, Sunny Gun and Zee Fire **nectarines**; **figs**, Gala **apples** and Asian **pears** were all being harvested. Pear harvest looked below average in some areas. Late season **strawberries** were harvested. Valencia **orange** harvest was slow. **Lemon** harvest continued. **Olives** were sizing nicely, but the crop looked light in some groves.

NUT CROPS

Almond harvest was well underway. Many new acres were in production this year. Quality of fruit nuts looked good. **Walnut** orchards were being prepared for harvest, while weed spraying and irrigation continued.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Ground continued to be prepared for fall vegetables in Imperial Valley, with applications of pesticides for nematode suppression for **carrot** production. In southern San Joaquin Valley, carrot harvest slowed way down for the month of August but will start to pick up in September. In central San Joaquin Valley, commercial **tomato** harvest was about 95 percent complete with very good quality. Carrot harvest was virtually complete; three fourths of the **garlic** was picked. Harvest of **okra**, long **beans**, **squash**, sweet **corn**, **cilantro**, and various Oriental vegetables continued. Harvests of **watermelon**, **cantaloupe**, **honeydew**, and mixed **melon** were still going strong. **Peppers**, **eggplant** and **cucumbers** were being picked with good quality. Fall crop carrots were being planted and irrigated. In northern San Joaquin Valley current vegetables harvested included fresh market tomatoes, melons and bell peppers. Farther north, harvests of fresh market **onion**, summer squash, and processing tomatoes continued, as well as worm spraying for tomatoes. In southern and central Sacramento Valley harvests continued for fresh market and processing tomatoes, sweet corn, beans, cucumbers and melons with good quality reported. Fungicide and insecticide treatments on tomatoes and beans continued as well as treatments for weeds and worms in melon fields.

LIVESTOCK

Cattle and sheep producers continued to contend with very poor rangeland and non-irrigated pasture conditions, and lower-elevation water sources continued to dry up. Cattle were receiving supplements of hay and other nutrients at all elevations. Irrigated pastures were in good condition. Early fall calving of beef cows continued. Milk production declined with the recent warm temperatures. Sheep and goats were grazing on idle farmland, harvested grain fields, and some rangeland in the central part of the state. Honeybees continued to pollinate melon fields in the central area and sunflower and vineseed crops in the north, and some remained in holding areas. Leafcutter bees were in alfalfa seed fields.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 08/17/08

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 08/17/08	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 08/17/08	January 1 - 08/17/08	Week Ending 08/17/08	July 1 - 08/17/08	July 1 - 08/17/08	July 1 - June 30
NORTH COAST	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
Eureka	57	-2	63	53	18	0	0.02	0.17	0.40	37.53
Ukiah	79	6	107	56	1,227	1,046	0.00	0.00	0.17	37.96
Santa Rosa	69	1	94	47	774	594	0.00	0.00	0.14	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	64	0	80	54	350	242	0.00	0.01	0.08	19.70
San Jose	--	--	--	--	974	905	0.00	0.00	0.09	14.42
Salinas AP	62	-2	74	51	290	224	0.00	0.00	0.09	12.44
Monterey FAA	60	-1	71	47	197	75	0.00	0.00	0.28	18.72
King City	70	1	92	48	930	694	0.00	0.00	0.05	11.44
Paso Robles AP	75	2	105	51	1,312	1,110	0.00	0.00	0.04	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	89	9	112	67	2,190	1,817	0.00	0.07	0.31	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	87	7	111	66	2,190	1,893	0.00	0.00	0.22	22.29
Chico AFS	83	7	105	63	1,888	1,493	0.00	0.20	0.18	26.32
Marysville	82	4	106	57	1,774	1,770	0.00	0.00	0.12	21.04
Sacramento AP	79	4	102	58	1,516	1,358	0.00	0.00	0.10	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	82	5	103	60	1,701	1,581	0.01	0.17	0.09	13.95
Fresno	87	6	107	67	2,368	2,036	0.00	0.01	0.02	10.60
Bakersfield	88	5	105	70	2,496	2,236	0.00	0.00	0.08	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	65	1	79	53	352	236	0.00	0.00	0.07	12.36
Santa Barbara	67	0	76	60	640	441	0.00	0.00	0.14	16.25
Ventura	68	0	77	57	453	0	0.05	0.10	0.05	14.38
Los Angeles	75	0	89	63	1,607	1,518	0.00	0.00	0.11	14.77
Riverside	--	--	--	--	1,806	1,577	0.00	0.00	0.17	9.58
San Diego AP	72	-1	78	66	1,043	1,077	0.00	0.00	0.11	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	78	3	104	50	1,410	1,265	0.00	0.37	0.28	5.37
Lancaster	84	4	103	59	2,192	1,757	0.00	0.00	0.23	6.92
Daggett AP	92	4	108	70	3,084	2,866	0.00	0.15	0.76	3.93
Thermal AP	91	1	109	69	3,870	3,478	0.00	0.12	0.50	3.16
Blythe	95	2	110	77	4,000	3,847	0.03	0.34	0.87	3.60
Imperial	93	2	109	75	3,645	3,587	0.00	0.01	0.38	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	71	7	101	41	610	294	0.00	0.10	0.58	12.01
Mt. Shasta	75	9	100	52	721	412	0.00	0.17	0.74	37.02
Blue Canyon	77	10	91	66	973	476	0.00	0.00	0.80	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	1,153	840	0.00	0.00	0.74	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.