



# California Crop Weather

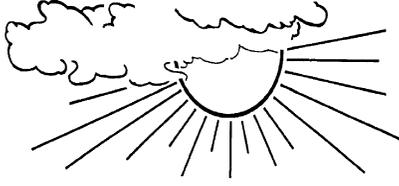
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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: September 14, 2008  
RELEASED: September 15, 2008

FREQUENCY: Weekly  
VOL. 29 NO. 11

## WEATHER



A quiet weather pattern persisted through the week over California with generally warm daytime temperatures and mild overnight minimums, and no significant precipitation reported. The week began with high pressure over the West Coast on Monday, which shifted to the east on Tuesday. A low pressure system moving across the Pacific Northwest then brushed California. This cooled temperatures somewhat for Tuesday and Wednesday. By Thursday, temperatures were warming again as high pressure began to rebuild over the West. The high pressure persisted through the weekend. Temperatures were somewhat moderated across coastal regions and adjacent inland valleys by a moderate onshore flow. Overnight minimum temperatures were slightly below normal across much of the state, due to very low humidity.

## FIELD CROPS

**Wheat** fields continued to be harvested. Wheat being baled for straw was slowing down. **Alfalfa** growers were still cutting, windrowing, raking, and baling for the production of alfalfa hay. Alfalfa seed fields were being harvested. **Corn** for grain and silage continued to be harvested. **Cotton** fields were in full bloom and setting bolls. Growers continued to look for aphid, mite, and lygus in cotton. **Rice** fields continued to mature while growers were draining the fields. Fall **sugar beets** were being irrigated and treated to control insects and diseases. Early planted sugar beet fields were still being harvested. **Safflower** harvest continued. **Sudan** grass was being harvested for hay and sprayed for worms. **Black eye** beans were dried for harvest.

## FRUIT CROPS

**Grape** harvest was on schedule. Thompson, Flame, Black and Crimson Seedless, Autumn Royal, Princess, Lindy Black, Kyoho, Red Globe and Summer Royal table grapes were being harvested. Wine and juice grapes were also picked. Varieties included Alicante Bouchet, Barbera, Cabernet Sauvignon, Carignane, Carnelian, Chardonnay, Grenache, Merlot, Muscat, Sarraz and Zinfandel. Grape raisin harvest continued. Harvest of early **pomegranates** was still underway. Stone fruit harvest also continued. Autumn Flame, Full Moon, Ivory Princess, Jasper Gem, Jasper Treasure, O'Henry, Rich Lady, September Flame, September Sun, September Snow, Snow Magic, Spring Treat, Summer Zee, Sweet September and Sweet Sun **peaches**; Angelino, Betty Ann, Ebony Sun, Flavor Fall, Fortune, Friar, Howard Sun and September Yummy **plums**; Apple Fire, Black Pearl, Dapple Fire, Flavor Treat and Flavor Heart **pluots**; Autumn Flare, Autumn Bright, Arctic Mist, Arctic Pride, Arctic Snow, August Red, Ruby Bright, September Red, Summer Bright, Summer Fire, Sunny Gun and Zee Fire **nectarines** were being picked and packed. Gala and Granny Smith **apples**, Brown Turkey and Mission **figs**, and Asian **pears** were being harvested. Fall **strawberry** harvest had begun in Tulare County. Some strawberry blocks were being replanted. **Olives** were sizing well, though some groves looked to have low yields. Many growers were irrigating where yields looked low to prevent loss. Some groves were not expected to be harvested. Valencia **orange** harvest remained slow with the bulk of the picking for domestic markets. Navels were developing size. **Lemon** harvest was underway in the desert regions, with some picking still taking place in the coastal areas.

## NUT CROPS

**Walnut** harvest began in certain orchards. A few walnut growers were still preparing for harvest or applying treatments for pests. **Pistachio** harvest was also underway with **almond** harvest still in full swing.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

In Tulare county, local markets for **eggplant, squash, peppers, okra, cucumbers, and tomatoes** experienced active harvests. However, tomato distribution was dragging, leaving packed volume piling up in cold storage. In Fresno County, **garlic** and **onion** harvest was winding down, while bell peppers and processing tomato harvests continued. The **carrot** harvest began. On Fresno's Westside, fall **broccoli** was planted, fall **lettuce** was thinned, and **asparagus** harvest began. Farmers market crops continued, including **amaranth, basil, bean** varieties, **cilantro**, cucumbers, **daikon, dill, dongua**, eggplant, **gailon**, okra, **ona choy, parsley**, chili peppers, **radishes, sinqua, spinach**, summer squashes, sweet **corn, swiss chard, tong ho, yam leaf**, as well as many varieties of **herbs**. Fields were weeded, irrigated, fertilized, and treated for pest control. Mixed melon, **cantaloupe, honeydew**, and **watermelon** harvests carried on and **pumpkin** plants showed good signs of growth and fruit sizing. In Sutter County, honeydew harvest started. Beans were treated for worms and lygus, while melons were treated for worms and weeds. The processing tomato harvest slowed, but beans, cucumbers, melon, squash and seed crops persevered. In Merced County, worm spraying continued for tomatoes. The freezer squash harvest was completed, but fresh market tomato, sweet potato, bell pepper, processing tomato, cantaloupe, and honeydew maintained their harvests.

## LIVESTOCK

Dryland pasture and rangeland forage continued to decline due to the prolonged dry weather, with poor to very poor conditions reported in most areas. Lower-elevation water sources continued to dry out. Fire danger remained high. Beef cattle on dry pasture and rangeland were receiving supplements of hay and other nutrients, and herd reduction continued in some areas due to the poor feed and water conditions. Movement of cattle to lower elevations for over-wintering continued. Fall beef cow calving continued, with reportedly good to excellent calving conditions. Irrigated pastures were in good condition. Cooler weather benefited both poultry and dairy production. Sheep 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.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 09/14/08**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 09/14/08	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 09/14/08	January 1 - 09/14/08	Week Ending 09/14/08	July 1 - 09/14/08	July 1 - 09/14/08	July 1 - June 30
<b>NORTH COAST</b>	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
Eureka	51	-7	57	47	30	0	0.03	0.90	1.09	37.53
Ukiah	70	0	97	46	1,539	1,332	0.00	0.00	0.62	37.96
Santa Rosa	61	-6	77	44	989	794	0.00	0.00	0.46	30.30
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco AP	62	-2	72	54	525	364	0.00	0.01	0.21	19.70
San Jose	--	--	--	--	1,251	1,163	0.00	0.00	0.20	14.42
Salinas AP	62	-2	73	55	452	343	0.00	0.00	0.17	12.44
Monterey FAA	60	-1	68	54	288	113	0.00	0.00	0.32	18.72
King City	67	0	87	51	1,222	908	0.00	0.00	0.13	11.44
Paso Robles AP	68	-2	95	48	1,646	1,416	0.00	0.00	0.18	13.95
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	77	2	100	55	2,696	2,256	0.00	0.09	0.99	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	77	1	101	55	2,700	2,348	0.00	0.00	0.68	22.29
Chico AFS	74	1	97	52	2,312	1,862	0.00	0.20	0.62	26.32
Marysville	72	-3	97	49	2,165	2,181	0.00	0.00	0.36	21.04
Sacramento AP	70	-2	91	51	1,875	1,718	0.00	0.00	0.31	17.52
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	72	-2	94	52	2,100	1,980	0.00	0.22	0.24	13.95
Fresno	78	1	101	57	2,901	2,512	0.00	0.01	0.18	10.60
Bakersfield	80	1	100	60	3,064	2,765	0.00	0.00	0.19	5.72
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria AP	63	-1	71	50	454	345	0.00	0.00	0.26	12.36
Santa Barbara	64	-2	73	51	809	623	0.00	0.00	0.39	16.25
Ventura	65	0	73	55	472	0	0.00	0.07	0.22	14.38
Los Angeles	72	-3	83	62	1,996	1,937	0.00	0.00	0.31	14.77
Riverside	75	0	94	56	2,297	2,024	0.00	0.00	0.35	9.58
San Diego AP	70	-2	76	65	1,365	1,415	0.00	0.00	0.25	9.90
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	--	--	93	45	1,754	1,528	0.01	0.41	0.48	5.37
Lancaster	77	3	100	50	2,704	2,183	0.00	0.00	0.43	6.92
Daggett AP	84	2	104	64	3,799	3,505	0.00	0.15	1.09	3.93
Thermal AP	84	-1	109	63	4,641	4,219	0.06	0.34	0.87	3.16
Blythe	86	-2	107	65	4,806	4,665	0.06	0.65	1.27	3.60
Imperial	86	-1	107	67	4,342	4,384	0.00	0.33	0.69	2.75
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	61	3	91	33	628	296	0.00	0.11	1.07	12.01
Mt. Shasta	66	6	91	40	842	450	0.00	0.17	1.51	37.02
Blue Canyon	71	7	81	56	1,238	582	0.00	0.00	1.93	67.04
Yosemite	73	5	93	52	1,474	1,066	0.00	0.00	1.41	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.