



# California Crop Weather

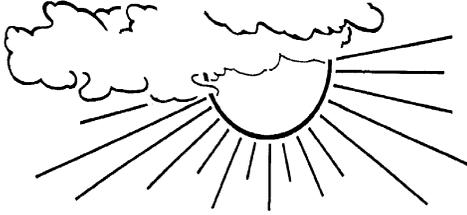
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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## WEATHER



Near normal temperatures started the period with dry conditions statewide except scattered rain showers noted on the far northwest coast, where rainfall amounts were generally less than a tenth of an inch. The weather pattern for the Golden State began to shift by the middle portion of the period as low pressure dropped south and moved over the interior Great Basin of Nevada. This resulted in increasingly dry northerly winds for the north and central portions of the state. This persistent northerly wind flow originated in western Canada and brought a cold air

mass in its wake. Humidity values dropped into the single digits and teens for much of interior northern California by the later portion of the period. Along with the dry and colder northerly wind flow, local interior valleys began to experience scattered frost and even freeze events as the winds locally abated. Some areas affected included the Northeast Plateau, Northwest interior and isolated portions of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys and nearby Mother Lode foothills. By the later portion of the period, the wind focus moved toward Southern California with Santa Ana winds developing. These drying winds affected areas from mainly the southern Central Coast region to the greater Los Angeles, San Diego and Inland Empire areas. During this later portion of the period, dry conditions continued statewide except some minor snow accumulations were noted over some of the higher elevations of the Sierra Nevada associated with the slow moving Great Basin low pressure system.

## FIELD CROPS

**Wheat** fields were being cultivated and prepared for fall planting. **Alfalfa** growers started the seventh cutting of alfalfa hay. **Sudan** grass and **sorghum** harvest continued. **Rice** harvest continued as fields were still maturing. **Cotton** bolls continued to open; defoliation was almost complete. Fall **sugar beet** harvest was winding down. **Safflower** harvest continued. Harvest of **corn** for grain and silage was nearing completion. **Dry bean** harvest was almost complete.

## FRUIT CROPS

**Grape** and stone fruit growers continued to irrigate, cultivate, and treat to control diseases and insect pests. The raisin grape harvest was winding down. There were no signs of damage to the raisins from recent rains. Table grape harvest continued with Autumn Royal, Christmas Rose, Crimson Seedless, Princess, Red Globe, and Summer Royal as the major varieties picked. Good quality was reported. Wine and juice grape harvests continued. Sprauge's Last Chance, Autumn Flame, and Carnival **peaches**; Angeleno, Autumn Beaut, and September Yummy **plums**; Flavor Fall **pluots**; September Red, Arctic Snow, and September Bright **nectarines** were all picked and packed. Gala, Granny Smith, and Rome Beaut **apples**, Mission **figs**, and Asian **pears** were being harvested. **Kiwi**, **Quince** and **jujube** harvests continued. **Pomegranate** harvest continued with Early Foothill, Wonderful, and Flamingo varieties being picked. **Olive** harvest began in Tulare County. Some citrus growers treated to control fungus, insects and weeds. Valencia **orange** harvest was still slow. Navels continued to size and mature. **Mandarins** were maturing and harvest was expected to begin soon. Picking of **lemons** continued in the desert areas.

## NUT CROPS

**Walnut** and **Pistachio** harvests continued. **Almond** harvest was nearly complete, with late variety shaken nuts being picked up.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Farmer's markets were slowing across the state. In Tulare County, **cucumber**, summer and zucchini **squash**, **tomato**, **eggplant** and bell **pepper** harvests continued. Fall vegetable planting and preparation was ongoing. **Strawberries** were showing good growth and blossoms. Fresh market and processing tomatoes, **watermelon**, and **cantaloupe** harvests continued in Merced County; bell pepper harvest finished. In Imperial County, winds endangered seedling **lettuce** and **broccoli** crops. In Fresno County, **garlic** and **onion** harvests were slowing, while the harvests of bell peppers, **carrots** and processing tomatoes continued. Harvest of farmer's market crops carried on, including **amaranth**, **basil**, **beans** (green and long), **bittermelon**, **cilantro**, **collard greens**, cucumbers, **daikon**, **dill**, **donqua**, eggplant, **gailon**, **kabocha**, leaf lettuce, **leeks**, **lemongrass**, **kale**, **mint**, **moqua**, mustard greens, **okra**, **ong choy**, **opo**, **parsley**, chili peppers, **radishes**, **saluyot**, **siqua**, **spinach**, summer and winter squashes, sweet **corn**, **swiss chard**, **tong ho**, **yam leaf**, as well as many varieties of **herbs**. Fall broccoli was planted, fall lettuce was thinned, and fall **asparagus** harvest continued. Fields were weeded, irrigated, fertilized, and treated for insects and mildew. For watermelon, cantaloupe, mixed melon, and **honeydew**, harvests continued more slowly. **Pumpkin** vines showed good signs of growth and fruit sizing.

## LIVESTOCK

The mostly poor to very poor dry-land pasture and rangeland conditions continued in many areas. Cattle on dry pasture and rangeland continued to receive supplements of hay and other nutrients. Cattle at upper elevations were gathered and moved to winter pastures, and some herd reduction continued at lower elevations due to the poor feed and water conditions. Irrigated pastures were in good condition. Fall beef cow calving continued at a slower pace. Mild temperatures and cool mornings boosted and steadied milk production. Sheep were grazing on harvested grain and melon fields, abandoned alfalfa fields, and idle farmland. Honeybees were moved to winter storage.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 10/12/08**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 10/12/08	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 10/12/08	January 1 - 10/12/08	Week Ending 10/12/08	July 1 - 10/12/08	July 1 - 10/12/08	July 1 - June 30
<b>NORTH COAST</b>	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
Eureka	51	-4	62	35	33	0	0.02	1.15	2.34	37.53
Ukiah	58	-6	84	31	1,636	1,470	0.00	1.22	1.68	37.96
Santa Rosa	63	-1	90	41	1,125	929	0.00	0.46	1.34	30.30
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco AP	63	0	77	51	636	449	0.00	0.16	0.73	19.70
San Jose	--	--	--	--	1,422	1,334	0.00	0.00	0.73	14.42
Salinas AP	59	-4	81	34	540	438	0.01	0.22	0.59	12.44
Monterey FAA	58	-3	71	42	328	151	0.00	0.11	1.82	18.72
King City	61	-3	90	32	1,385	1,052	0.00	0.00	0.48	11.44
Paso Robles AP	59	-5	92	27	1,834	1,567	0.00	0.04	0.62	13.95
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	62	-5	87	39	2,864	2,514	0.00	0.72	1.86	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	63	-5	88	42	2,886	2,613	0.00	1.02	1.64	22.29
Chico AFS	61	-5	88	34	2,508	2,057	0.00	2.33	1.33	26.32
Marysville	63	-5	88	38	2,366	2,433	0.00	0.54	1.00	21.04
Sacramento AP	63	-4	88	46	2,062	1,932	0.00	0.25	0.80	17.52
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	64	-3	87	45	2,318	2,215	0.01	0.13	0.71	13.95
Fresno	63	-5	87	40	3,182	2,789	0.00	0.09	0.53	10.60
Bakersfield	63	-7	86	43	3,336	3,098	0.00	0.00	0.40	5.72
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria AP	62	0	96	36	579	417	0.00	0.08	0.57	12.36
Santa Barbara	63	0	87	41	944	736	0.02	0.06	1.00	16.25
Ventura	63	0	86	43	821	0	0.00	0.19	0.73	14.38
Los Angeles	72	0	97	50	2,360	2,269	0.00	0.00	0.63	14.77
Riverside	72	2	103	47	2,707	2,317	0.00	0.00	0.61	9.58
San Diego AP	70	1	94	52	1,656	1,680	0.00	1.18	0.53	9.90
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	51	-9	87	26	1,815	1,552	0.00	0.25	0.68	5.37
Lancaster	61	-5	93	27	2,936	2,363	0.00	0.02	0.62	6.92
Daggett AP	70	-3	94	44	4,186	3,891	0.00	0.15	1.24	3.93
Thermal AP	76	-1	102	52	5,188	4,720	0.00	0.28	1.09	3.16
Blythe	75	-3	100	51	5,395	5,213	0.00	0.48	1.67	3.60
Imperial	76	-3	101	46	4,929	4,937	0.00	0.33	1.01	2.75
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	42	-8	73	15	639	296	0.00	0.57	1.71	12.01
Mt. Shasta	47	-7	73	32	896	446	0.01	1.20	2.61	37.02
Blue Canyon	50	-6	71	29	1,294	574	0.00	2.08	4.41	67.04
Yosemite	58	-1	80	35	1,553	1,090	0.00	0.13	2.60	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.