



# California Crop Weather

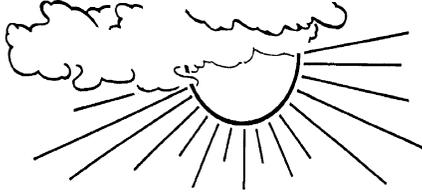
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: October 19, 2008  
RELEASED: October 20, 2008

FREQUENCY: Weekly  
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## WEATHER



Surface high pressure settling over the Great Basin region of eastern Oregon and northern Nevada resulted in very dry and unseasonably warm weather for much of California at the start of the week. In fact, Santa Ana winds blew across southern California at the start of the week, bringing serious wildfire concerns to that part of the state. This warm and dry offshore pattern persisted through Friday. Across the state, afternoon temperatures were 10 to 15 degrees above normal in the north, and almost 25 degrees above normal at some southern California locations. Morning minimum temperatures, however, were closer to normal, thanks to the low humidity and relatively long nights. A weak weather disturbance reached the West Coast on Friday. This system ended the offshore flow, increased clouds across the state, and even brought a few light showers to the state. Temperatures across the state fell to more seasonable levels by Sunday. No significant rainfall reached the state this week, in spite of the scattered sprinkles noted with the passing weather disturbance.

## FIELD CROPS

**Wheat** and **oat** fields were still being prepared for fall planting. The **alfalfa** harvest period was extended because of the prolonged mild weather. **Sudan** hay and **rice** harvest continued. **Cotton** harvest was beginning with defoliation complete in some fields. **Safflower** harvest continued. Harvest of **corn** for grain and silage was nearing completion. Blackeye **bean** harvest was just beginning. Sweet **potato** harvest continued in Merced County.

## FRUIT CROPS

**Grape** harvest was winding down; picking had already ended for some growers. Weather was ideal for harvesting. Stone fruit harvest was about complete. Some orchards were being pruned and cleaned in anticipation of winter. **Kiwi** harvest continued in Yuba County. Light yields were reported due to freezing April temperatures. **Persimmon** harvest advanced. **Pomegranates** were also harvested. Asian **pears** were being picked and packed. **Strawberries** were picked. Some packing houses were continuing to pick Valencia **oranges**. Harvest of Navels began but picking was limited. Satsuma **mandarins** were being harvested in Stanislaus County. Other varieties of mandarins were still maturing. The harvest of desert **lemons** continued and supplies were plentiful. **Olives** and **avocados** were also harvested.

## NUT CROPS

**Almond** and **walnut** harvests were almost complete in some areas. Almond pruning had begun and fertilizing was expected to begin soon. **Pistachio** harvest had ended in Merced County.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Harvests of fresh market **tomatoes** and **cauliflower** continued in Central California counties. **Pumpkin** harvests were in full swing throughout the state. In Tulare County, local pumpkins and Indian **corn** were sold roadside and at Farmers' markets. The Fall-crop **broccoli** harvest began and **spinach** grown for freezer packaging was almost ready for cutting. In Merced County, processing tomatoes and **watermelon** harvests slowed down and producers completed the **cantaloupe** harvest. A few **basil** fields experienced mild frost. Fresno County lost all of its basil to frost. However, organic **parsley** and **cilantro** preformed well. Tomato beds were prepared, and **carrots** were fertilized, irrigated and treated with fungicide. Sutter County farmers continued their fieldwork, preparing the ground while finishing up the **vineseed** harvest. Imperial County growers planted **onions**, carrots, edible **beets**, and **lettuce**. Stanislaus County farmers transplanted cauliflower to the Westside of the county and certified producers planted winter vegetables.

## LIVESTOCK

The mostly poor to very poor dry-land pasture and rangeland conditions continued. Cattle on dry pasture and rangeland were receiving supplements of hay and other nutrients. Movement of cattle to winter pastures continued, as well as some herd reduction. Irrigated pastures were in good condition. Fall beef cow calving was nearing completion. Cooler temperatures increased milk production. Sheep were grazing on harvested grain and melon fields, abandoned alfalfa fields, and idle farmland. Out-of-state honeybees arrived for over-wintering in central areas.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 10/19/08**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 10/19/08	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 10/19/08	January 1 - 10/19/08	Week Ending 10/19/08	July 1 - 10/19/08	July 1 - 10/19/08	July 1 - June 30
<b>NORTH COAST</b>	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
Eureka	50	-5	60	39	33	0	0.04	1.21	3.05	37.53
Ukiah	63	2	88	37	1,670	1,464	0.00	1.22	2.31	37.96
Santa Rosa	65	2	91	43	1,180	935	0.00	0.46	1.89	30.30
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco AP	64	3	84	50	684	451	0.00	0.16	1.06	19.70
San Jose	--	--	--	--	1,477	1,347	0.00	0.00	0.97	14.42
Salinas AP	63	2	92	38	584	440	0.00	0.21	0.79	12.44
Monterey FAA	63	2	83	46	375	148	0.00	0.11	2.04	18.72
King City	64	1	95	32	1,420	1,056	0.00	0.00	0.61	11.44
Paso Robles AP	63	1	91	30	1,860	1,566	0.00	0.04	0.73	13.95
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	66	2	89	45	2,920	2,523	0.00	0.72	2.48	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	67	1	90	47	2,949	2,630	0.00	1.02	2.07	22.29
Chico AFS	65	2	90	42	2,562	2,061	0.00	2.33	1.71	26.32
Marysville	63	-3	86	37	2,381	2,457	0.00	0.54	1.37	21.04
Sacramento AP	64	0	86	43	2,096	1,948	0.00	0.25	1.06	17.52
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	65	0	88	37	2,360	2,232	0.01	0.14	0.95	13.95
Fresno	67	1	90	44	3,236	2,811	0.00	0.09	0.71	10.60
Bakersfield	68	0	92	45	3,410	3,135	0.00	0.00	0.47	5.72
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria AP	63	2	93	39	605	416	0.00	0.08	0.69	12.36
Santa Barbara	61	-2	84	38	942	745	0.01	0.06	1.09	16.25
Ventura	65	65	86	47	866	0	0.00	0.19	0.78	14.38
Los Angeles	72	2	95	52	2,448	2,328	0.00	0.00	0.70	14.77
Riverside	72	4	99	50	2,791	2,356	0.00	0.00	0.66	9.58
San Diego AP	68	1	86	53	1,706	1,725	0.00	1.18	0.65	9.90
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	54	-2	81	27	1,805	1,552	0.00	0.25	0.72	5.37
Lancaster	60	-3	87	34	2,924	2,359	0.00	0.02	0.69	6.92
Daggett AP	67	-3	91	42	4,225	3,934	0.00	0.15	1.28	3.93
Thermal AP	72	-1	99	47	5,245	4,794	0.00	0.28	1.11	3.16
Blythe	74	0	97	53	5,492	5,294	0.00	0.48	1.71	3.60
Imperial	73	-2	98	47	5,004	5,024	0.00	0.33	1.07	2.75
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	47	0	78	17	639	296	0.00	0.57	1.89	12.01
Mt. Shasta	54	3	76	33	890	446	0.00	1.19	3.30	37.02
Blue Canyon	60	6	72	42	1,310	574	0.00	2.08	5.53	67.04
Yosemite	52	-4	77	29	1,553	1,090	0.00	0.13	3.32	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.