



California Crop Weather

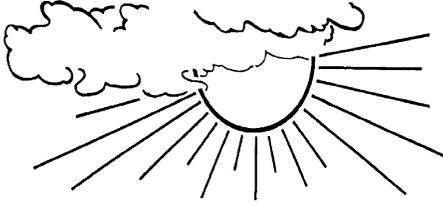
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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

WEEK ENDING: January 4, 2009
RELEASED: January 5, 2009

FREQUENCY: Weekly
VOL. 29 NO. 28

WEATHER



At the beginning of the week, cool, moist air remained over much of northern California, resulting in cool and foggy weather over much of the interior. Some isolated shower activity occurred along the extreme northern coast and across the far northern counties, the result of storm systems passing through the Pacific Northwest. Southern California basked in sunny and unseasonably warm weather, as the cool high pressure over the north created a dry offshore flow across the southern counties. This pattern persisted through the first of the New Year. Finally, by the second, a cold front pushed through northern California, spreading showers across the state. The front was strong enough to even reach southern California, where temperatures dipped to more normal levels, and some showers fell. By Sunday, the storm had exited the state, and high pressure was beginning to rebuild over California, bringing clearing skies to the state.

FIELD CROPS

Field work continued with ground preparation, cultivation, irrigation and weed control in **alfalfa**, **barley**, **oat**, **rye** and **wheat** fields. Some alfalfa forage in Imperial County sustained frost damage. Grain fields were emerging and progressing well due to ongoing wet conditions. **Cotton** plow down was virtually complete. **Rice** growers continued to reshape berms and level paddies. Rice fields were being cultivated, bedded, fertilized and irrigated to prepare for spring planting. Fall and winter **potatoes** were almost finished in Kern County and fields were prepared for February planting of spring potatoes.

FRUIT CROPS

Orchard pruning and brush shredding were underway, along with dormant spray applications. Vineyard pruning and tying, as well as cane shredding and removing old vineyards, were also taking place. **Pomegranate** orchards were being planted. Cold temperatures were beneficial in providing chilling hours for stone fruit. **Strawberry** blocks were being replanted and soil fumigations were underway. New **blueberry** and **raspberry** bushes were planted. Navel **orange** picking moved forward. **Tangerines** and **mandarins** were picked. Melo Gold, Oro Blanco and Cocktail **grapefruit** were harvested, as were Chandler **pummelos**. Citrus growers were treating groves for thrips, septoria, insects and weeds, as well as irrigating, applying foliar nutrients, and protecting their groves from freezing temperatures.

NUT CROPS

Pruning was taking place in nut orchards. Pre-plant fumigations were underway. New **almond** and **pistachio** orchards were being planted.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Some crops in colder areas of the state were affected by frost, but any damage remains to be seen. **Radicchio**, **cilantro**, **endive**, and **cauliflower** harvests continued. **Asparagus** fields were finished being prepared for spring. Commercial fall **broccoli** harvest was winding down; winter **lettuce** emerged nicely after recent rains. Commercial **onions** were transplanted and onion bulbs were planted for seed production. Cool winter vegetables grew well and some growers both harvested and planted green onion, **spinach**, and **carrots**. Harvests continued more slowly for farmers market crops such as **amaranth**, **basil**, **beets**, carrots, **cilantro**, **collard greens**, **daikon**, **dill**, **donqua**, **gailon**, **garlic**, **kale**, **kabocha**, leaf lettuce, **leeks**, **lemongrass**, **mint**, **mustard greens**, onions (green, red, white and yellow), **ong choy**, **opo**, **parsley**, **chili peppers**, **peanuts**, **radishes**, **saluyot** (okra leaf), spinach, winter **squashes**, **swiss chard**, **tong ho**, **yam leaf**, and a variety of **herbs**. Groundwork continued as fields were weeded, irrigated, fertilized, and treated for weeds, insects, and mildew. Lemongrass fields were covered.

LIVESTOCK

Rangeland and pasture growth have improved due to wet conditions, but more rain was still needed. Overall grazing conditions and nutritive value remained poor. Cattle ranchers continued supplemental feeding programs. Fall beef cow calving neared completion. Sheep and lambs were grazing on alfalfa fields, harvested grain land, and idle farmland. Feeder lambs were grazing on sudan and alfalfa fields in the Imperial Valley. Spring lambs were being born. Both in-state and out-of-state honeybees were fed and over-wintered, and movement of bees into the state increased for spring pollination.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 01/04/09

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 01/04/09	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 01/04/09	January 1 - 01/04/09	Week Ending 01/04/09	July 1 - 01/04/09	July 1 - 01/04/09	July 1 - June 30
NORTH COAST	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
Eureka	43	-5	55	27	41	0	1.28	13.66	17.89	37.53
Ukiah	46	0	60	25	1,674	1,454	0.55	8.09	17.12	37.96
Santa Rosa	48	1	61	28	1,260	923	0.2	6.06	13.45	30.3
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	48	-1	58	33	713	443	0.04	4.62	8.42	19.7
San Jose	--	--	--	--	1,484	1,334	0	0	6.04	14.42
Salinas AP	48	-2	65	30	648	432	0.09	3.88	5.09	12.44
Monterey FAA	49	1	65	32	429	145	0.02	2.56	7.41	18.72
King City	46	-2	67	24	1,512	1,043	0.15	1.27	4.48	11.44
Paso Robles AP	44	-2	63	23	1,892	1,552	0	1.46	4.8	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	42	-2	60	26	2,934	2,504	0.2	7.64	13.6	33.3
Red Bluff FSS	44	-1	60	28	2,987	2,610	0.06	4.58	10.58	22.29
Chico AFS	43	-1	58	27	2,596	2,043	0.01	13.68	11.02	26.32
Marysville	43	-2	61	24	2,418	2,442	0.03	5.75	9.54	21.04
Sacramento AP	43	-1	61	25	2,114	1,932	0.04	4.63	7.43	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	43	-2	60	26	2,386	2,214	0.25	2.77	5.79	13.95
Fresno	43	-2	56	32	3,306	2,792	0.09	2.65	4.17	10.6
Bakersfield	44	-3	58	34	3,498	3,128	0.11	1.8	2.37	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	50	-2	71	31	695	410	0.03	3.13	4.93	12.36
Santa Barbara	49	-3	69	35	1,001	736	0.03	4.04	6.42	16.25
Ventura	51	51	68	34	838	0	0.02	4.63	5.38	14.38
Los Angeles	58	0	76	46	2,784	2,455	0	4.66	5.13	14.77
Riverside	57	3	81	39	3,124	2,377	0	0.97	3.72	9.58
San Diego AP	55	-3	69	44	1,904	1,798	0.03	6.1	4.04	9.9
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	41	5	79	18	1,751	1,552	0	1.54	2.21	5.37
Lancaster	43	0	65	24	2,938	2,343	0	2.62	3.05	6.92
Daggett AP	47	-1	72	30	4,358	3,937	0	1.8	2.3	3.93
Thermal AP	53	0	73	34	5,516	4,872	0	0.84	1.98	3.16
Blythe	53	0	69	37	5,799	5,383	0	1.39	2.64	3.6
Imperial	55	0	72	36	5,250	5,162	0	1.35	1.91	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	29	1	46	2	644	296	0.09	3.36	5.28	12.01
Mt. Shasta	32	-2	46	13	917	446	0.25	10.03	17.07	37.02
Blue Canyon	40	1	52	24	1,343	574	0.89	15	29.82	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	49	-7	1,546	1,090	0.04	8.44	16.26	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.