



California Crop Weather

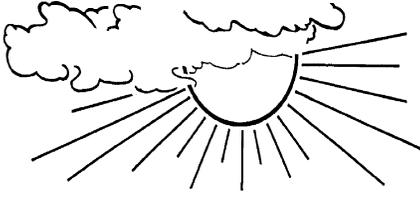
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: March 15, 2009
RELEASED: March 16, 2009

FREQUENCY: Weekly
VOL. 29 NO. 38

WEATHER



At the beginning of the week, a high pressure ridge pushed the remains of a weak frontal system out of the state. Only scattered shower activity was occurring in the northern mountain ranges, and along the north coast. The ridge continued to build over the state Tuesday, bringing dry and mild weather to most of the state through Friday. A low pressure trough began to deepen off the coast at the end of the week, spreading high clouds and gusty winds. By the weekend, the low pressure system had moved ashore in the Pacific Northwest, and had pushed a cold front into Northern California. This front brought light amounts of precipitation to the northern half of the state, with the heaviest amounts concentrated along the north coast. The scattered precipitation continued through Sunday.

FIELD CROPS

Weed spraying in **wheat**, **oat**, and **sorghum** grain fields was still underway. Wheat was growing well in Kern County. Early planted fields of wheat and oats were starting to develop seed heads. Growers continued with field preparations for spring planting. **Alfalfa** fields were dormant in Tulare County. Some fields were being grazed by sheep. Newly planted alfalfa fields were being irrigated and established fields were treated with herbicides to remove weeds. Winter **silage** continued to grow well. Sod growers were preparing the ground for seeding. Field preparations continued for **cotton**, **corn**, and **bean** planting. Inventories of **hay** were being depleted. Sweet **potato** hotbeds continued to be planted. Potatoes continued to be harvested.

FRUIT CROPS

Grape buds began to swell. Vineyard and orchard pruning and maintenance slowed down. **Cherries**, **prunes**, **pears**, and **peaches** began to bloom. Fungicide treatments were applied to protect blooms in moist conditions. Blight treatment was applied in peach orchards. Growers assessed damage from cold temperatures in grapes, **kiwifruit**, and fruit trees. Spring **strawberries** bloomed and were forming berries. Minneola and W. Murcott **mandarin** harvest increased. Early harvest for Valencia **oranges** began. Cold overnight temperatures caused some growers to run wind machines and other protective measures in orchards that still had citrus fruit.

NUT CROPS

Cool temperatures extended the **almond** bloom in parts of the Sacramento Valley. Petal fall was almost complete through much of the San Joaquin Valley. In some areas almond trees began to leaf out. Some scattered freeze damage was reported on almond nutlets in the San Joaquin Valley; no freeze damage was reported in the Sacramento Valley. Male **pistachio** trees began to form pollen sacks. Pruning and weed control in **walnuts** was ongoing.

VEGETABLE CROPS

The harvests of **radicchio**, **asparagus**, **cabbage**, **carrots**, and greenhouse vegetables progressed well. However, harvests continued more slowly for farmers' market vegetables such as **basil**, **beets**, carrots, **cilantro**, collard **greens**, leaf **lettuce**, **leeks**, **lemongrass**, **kale**, mustard greens, green **onions**, **radishes**, **saluyot** (okra leaf), **spinach**, winter **squash**, **swiss chard**, and many varieties of herbs. Outdoor **zucchini**, summer and yellow crooked neck squash, and **cucumbers** germinated under hot caps. Fields were prepared for **tomato** transplants.

LIVESTOCK

Rangeland conditions continued to improve and rangeland grasses continue to grow well. Supplemental livestock feeding of hay and nutrients continued. More precipitation was needed as conditions remained dry overall. Irrigated pasture was in good condition. Some calving continued. Dairy herds were reduced in response to market conditions. Alfalfa fields continued to be grazed by sheep. Placement of hives in orchards continued as more arrived from out of state. Honeybees were being readied for pollination.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 03/15/09

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 03/15/09	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 03/15/09	January 1 - 03/15/09	Week Ending 03/15/09	July 1 - 03/15/09	July 1 - 03/15/09	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	43	-7	53	29	0	0	1.14	21.29	30.13	37.53
Ukiah	48	-5	72	27	0	0	0.13	18.08	32.59	37.96
Santa Rosa	52	-2	67	31	6	0	0.02	17.54	25.95	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	51	-3	60	38	0	0	0.04	13.58	17.05	19.70
San Jose	--	--	--	--	4	0	--	--	12.33	14.42
Salinas AP	49	-5	64	32	18	0	0.00	10.32	10.36	12.44
Monterey FAA	48	-4	57	36	21	0	0.00	9.62	12.43	18.72
King City	51	-4	71	29	6	0	0.00	5.46	10.06	11.44
Paso Robles AP	49	-4	70	27	0	0	0.00	5.99	11.17	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	49	-4	74	30	9	0	0.00	18.31	27.52	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	51	-3	73	31	8	0	0.00	14.40	19.30	22.29
Chico AFS	50	-3	72	30	0	0	0.00	25.99	21.53	26.32
Marysville	51	-5	72	31	4	0	0.00	13.81	18.27	21.04
Sacramento AP	50	-4	69	33	0	0	0.01	13.47	14.88	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	50	-5	68	32	2	0	0.01	8.25	11.23	13.95
Fresno	52	-4	70	34	5	0	0.00	6.37	8.90	10.60
Bakersfield	56	-2	75	36	34	0	0.00	4.25	5.04	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	49	-5	64	33	6	0	0.00	8.63	11.47	12.36
Santa Barbara	52	-4	64	38	6	0	0.01	8.71	14.58	16.25
Ventura	52	0	63	40	110	0	0.00	9.10	12.82	14.38
Los Angeles	58	-3	67	48	194	21	0.00	8.65	12.65	14.77
Riverside	56	-2	73	39	120	0	0.00	4.06	8.80	9.58
San Diego AP	57	-3	63	49	113	0	0.00	8.81	8.67	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	43	-4	71	14	0	0	0.00	2.11	4.07	5.37
Lancaster	48	-4	69	24	0	0	0.00	5.32	6.62	6.92
Daggett AP	54	-5	75	34	5	0	0.00	3.79	3.58	3.93
Thermal AP	65	2	84	40	143	53	0.00	1.47	3.30	3.16
Blythe	62	-2	80	45	138	59	0.00	1.82	3.70	3.60
Imperial	61	-3	83	41	150	84	0.00	1.86	2.75	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	34	-4	60	12	0	0	0.00	4.17	8.34	12.01
Mt. Shasta	39	-2	63	21	0	0	0.11	30.48	31.53	37.02
Blue Canyon	38	-1	52	21	2	0	0.35	33.22	53.02	67.04
Yosemite	42	-3	63	25	0	0	0.00	16.63	30.75	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.