



California Crop Weather

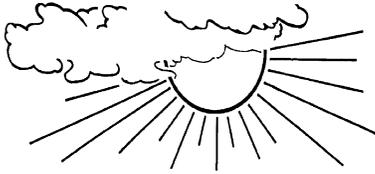
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: March 22, 2009
RELEASED: March 23, 2009

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WEATHER



High pressure was beginning to build over California at the start of the week, ejecting a low pressure system which had brought some precipitation to the state the previous weekend. The high pressure continued to strengthen through the week, with daytime temperatures warming to well above normal levels across the state. On Saturday, a cold Pacific storm system reached the northern California coast and spread showers and much cooler air across the state, moving from the northwest. By Sunday, the precipitation and cool air had spread completely across California, bringing valley rain and mountain snow to most portions of the state.

FIELD CROPS

Weed spraying in **wheat**, **oat**, and **sorghum** grain fields was still underway. Wheat was doing well in Kern County. Early planted fields of wheat and oats were progressing. Growers continued with field preparations for spring planting. Pre-treatment weed control was ongoing in **safflower** fields. **Alfalfa** for forage was being cut in Tulare County. Newly planted alfalfa fields were being irrigated and established fields were treated with herbicides to remove weeds. Winter **silage** continued to grow well. Field preparations continued for **cotton**, **corn**, and **bean** planting. Inventories of summery **hay** were being depleted. Sweet **potato** hotbeds continued to be planted. Potatoes continued to be harvested.

FRUIT CROPS

Irrigation began in vineyards, and site prep, such as herbicide spraying, continued. **Grape** buds were still swelling. Bloom continued in **apple**, **peach**, **cherry**, **nectarine**, **pluot**, **prune**, and **pear** orchards. In the Sacramento Valley Cling peach bloom was complete and leafing out occurred in some areas. Mowing of orchard center rows began in the Sacramento Valley. **Persimmons** were beginning to leaf out in the Sacramento Valley as well. Bee hives remained in stone fruit orchards throughout the state. Orchard clippings were mulched in the San Joaquin Valley in lieu of burning. Scattered freeze damage to orchard crops was reported in parts of the San Joaquin Valley. Spring **strawberries** and **blueberries** were blooming. **Kiwis** began to show leaves but no blossoms. **Olive** orchard maintenance continued. New growth and buds were apparent on citrus trees but bloom had not yet arrived. Washington, Nucellar, and Atwood navel **oranges** were still being picked. Harvest ramped up for Minneola and W. Murcott **mandarins** as well as Valencia oranges. Some mandarin orchards in the San Joaquin Valley were covered with nets to discourage cross pollination.

NUT CROPS

Compost and fertilizers as well as blight treatments were applied to **walnut** orchards. Scattered freeze damage was reported in parts of the San Joaquin Valley. Irrigation began in **almond** orchards. **Pistachio** trees were blooming.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Broccoli and **cauliflower** harvests were underway in Monterey. Processing **spinach** was nearing harvest while processing broccoli was being picked on the west side of Stanislaus. Plantings of **squash** and **cucumbers** continued to germinate under hot caps in Tulare. Greenhouse vegetables were also being harvested. In Merced, **radicchio** harvest finished as **asparagus** cutting continued. Both fresh and processed **tomato** fields were being planted. In other areas, **carrots** were being planted while harvest remained underway in Imperial. **Onions** were fertilized, treated with pesticides, and irrigated.

LIVESTOCK

Sutter and Butte counties reported pastures were growing well due to recent rains and sunny weather. Bees were working the last almond orchards and were moving to dried plums. Predator problems were noted in the Sutter Buttes area. Cattle were gaining weight steadily on Tulare range and pastures. Additional rain was needed to support the grasses and weight gains. Supplemental feeding of hay and nutrients continued in Merced. Calving still occurred but sheeping off of alfalfa fields was finished.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 03/22/09

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION				
	Average Week Ending 03/22/09	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal		
					January 1 - 03/22/09	January 1 - 03/22/09	Week Ending 03/22/09	July 1 - 03/22/09	July 1 - 03/22/09	July 1 - June 30	
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --				
NORTH COAST											
Eureka	48	-2	57	37	0	0	2.71	24.19	31.32	37.53	
Ukiah	53	0	73	39	0	0	0.77	18.85	33.83	37.96	
Santa Rosa	58	4	78	41	14	0	0.45	17.99	26.93	30.30	
CENTRAL COAST											
San Francisco AP	56	1	68	46	0	0	0.30	13.88	17.73	19.70	
San Jose	--	--	--	--	8	0	0.00	0.00	12.87	14.42	
Salinas AP	56	2	73	41	18	0	0.31	10.63	10.87	12.44	
Monterey FAA	55	2	69	44	21	0	0.49	10.11	12.81	18.72	
King City	58	3	80	39	11	0	0.15	5.61	10.56	11.44	
Paso Robles AP	56	3	79	39	2	0	0.26	6.25	11.69	13.95	
SACRAMENTO VALLEY											
Redding	57	3	76	40	9	0	0.08	18.39	28.56	33.30	
Red Bluff FSS	57	2	76	44	10	0	0.11	14.51	20.03	22.29	
Chico AFS	57	3	77	39	3	0	0.14	26.13	22.41	26.32	
Marysville	58	2	77	44	8	0	0.10	13.91	18.98	21.04	
Sacramento AP	58	3	76	43	5	0	0.04	13.51	15.41	17.52	
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY											
Stockton WSO	57	2	76	43	4	0	0.44	8.69	11.71	13.95	
Fresno	60	4	78	44	18	0	0.06	6.43	9.34	10.60	
Bakersfield	63	5	83	43	65	0	0.16	4.41	5.34	5.72	
SOUTH COAST											
Santa Maria AP	57	3	82	40	18	0	0.39	9.02	12.06	12.36	
Santa Barbara	56	0	76	42	6	0	0.39	9.10	15.30	16.25	
Ventura	56	0	72	43	110	0	0.08	9.18	13.40	14.38	
Los Angeles	62	1	84	50	212	31	0.08	8.73	13.21	14.77	
Riverside	63	5	90	41	146	0	0.03	4.09	9.20	9.58	
San Diego AP	59	-1	74	50	118	1	0.14	8.95	9.12	9.90	
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR											
Bishop	52	4	78	28	0	0	0.03	2.14	4.18	5.37	
Lancaster	57	4	80	32	4	0	0.05	5.37	6.89	6.92	
Daggett AP	63	4	84	47	35	0	0.01	3.80	3.68	3.93	
Thermal AP	69	4	92	46	206	87	0.00	1.47	3.37	3.16	
Blythe	70	5	92	49	210	95	0.00	1.82	3.79	3.60	
Imperial	70	5	92	49	220	121	0.00	1.86	2.81	2.75	
CASCADE - SIERRA											
Alturas	43	4	65	19	0	0	0.29	5.70	8.66	12.01	
Mt. Shasta	44	2	65	28	0	0	0.85	31.45	32.73	37.02	
Blue Canyon	43	3	59	24	2	0	2.26	35.48	55.00	67.04	
Yosemite	53	7	70	36	0	0	0.01	16.64	31.90	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.