



California Crop Weather

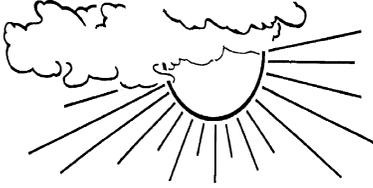
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: September 13, 2009
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WEATHER



Weather across California at the start of the week was relatively mild for the time of year, in the wake of the previous week's cold front. Temperatures were near or slightly above normal. As the week progressed, high pressure centered over the Four Corners region spread across California, resulting in a warming trend which lasted through Friday in the North, and into Saturday across Southeastern California. On Saturday, a low pressure system moved across Northern California, bringing widespread thunderstorm activity. Unfortunately, many of these storms were dry and sparked numerous wildfires. Very little rain fell with these storms. On Sunday, temperatures had cooled down considerably across the State. A cold front was approaching the northern coast, bringing some rain to the far northern coastal stations on Sunday.

FIELD CROPS

Warm temperatures helped open bolls in **cotton** fields. Some early planted fields received defoliation and harvest-aid applications. Other fields were treated for whitefly and aphids one last time for the season. **Rice** harvest started in early planted fields in Colusa, Sutter, Yuba, and Merced counties. Other rice fields were drained in preparation for harvest. **Sunflower** seed harvest continued. **Alfalfa** continued to be cut and baled with areas working on their sixth and seventh cuttings. **Corn** continued to be cut for silage and harvested for grain. **Beans** were being cut in San Joaquin for drying. **Cowpeas** progressed toward maturity with drying pods in Tulare County.

FRUIT CROPS

Fig, **nectarine**, **plum**, Bartlett **pear**, raisin **grape**, table grape, wine grape, juicing grape, Gala **apple**, and Granny Smith apple harvests continued, primarily in the San Joaquin Valley. The **prune** harvest was completed, while the **peach**, **plum**, and **nectarine** harvests continued to slow down. The wine grape harvest continued along the North Coast, as high temperatures increased sugar levels. **Pomegranates** continued to develop in size and color, along with light harvesting of Foothill and Early Wonderful varieties in the San Joaquin Valley. The Valencia **orange** harvest continued at a slower pace in the San Joaquin Valley. Navel oranges for the upcoming season continued to develop in size. The **lemon** harvest continued along the Central and Southern coasts. Normal spraying and maintenance continued in orchards and vineyards.

NUT CROPS

The **almond** harvest continued, though at a slower pace, in both the San Joaquin Valley and Sacramento Valley. Shaking was completed for the Nonpareil variety, while some shaking continued for other varieties. Sweeping, gathering, and delivering activities continued for all varieties. Quality looked good overall, though concerns about lower yields, likely caused by the March frost, remained. Ground preparation and spraying was continued to prepare for the upcoming **walnut** and **pistachio** harvests.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Sutter County's harvest of **sweet corn**, **tomatoes**, **cucurbit**, **watermelon**, **cantaloupe**, and other melon varieties for farmers' markets continued. Treatments for stinkbug, mites, and mold continued for processing tomatoes. Treatments for weeds and worms in melon fields continued. Processing tomato, melon and **bean** harvest continued. In San Joaquin County, the harvest of tomatoes for processing and fresh market purposes continued. Excellent yields have been reported. Some tomato fields were being sprayed with fungicide for mold prevention. Picking of **pumpkins** started and the picking of melons and bell **peppers** continued. Tulare County growers continued the harvest of **eggplant**, **squash**, **peppers**, **okra**, **cucumbers**, and tomatoes. **Strawberry** blocks were replanted, others were tilled and fumigated. In Merced County **basil**, tomato, bell peppers, onions, **honeydew**, **sweet potatoes**, cantaloupe, and watermelon harvest continued. **Radicchio** planting continued. **Tomatillo** harvest was completed.

LIVESTOCK

Accelerated deterioration of already critically dry rangeland and dry-land pasture forage conditions was widespread. Fire danger was high to extreme. Upper and lower-elevation pastures in many central areas showed signs of depletion as the summer grazing season came to a close. Cattle were gathered from upper elevations for transport to winter pastures. Supplemental feeding of cattle on dry pasture continued. Irrigated pasture remained in mostly good condition. Some early fall beef cow calving was underway. Dairy herd reduction, in response to unfavorable milk market conditions, was ongoing. Some sheep and goats were grazing on dry-land grain fields and retired farmland, with some sheepling-off of harvested tomato fields in Merced. Honeybees were in melon and squash fields in Fresno, and were moved to off-season locations in other areas.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 09/13/09

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION				
	Average Week Ending 09/13/09	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal		
					January 1 - 09/13/09	January 1 - 09/13/09	Week Ending 09/13/09	July 1 - 09/13/09	July 1 - 09/13/09	July 1 - June 30	
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --				
NORTH COAST											
Eureka	57	-2	68	45	8	0	0.35	0.72	0.87	37.53	
Ukiah	73	3	103	46	1,442	1,254	0.00	0.00	0.46	37.96	
Santa Rosa	68	1	97	48	941	738	0.06	0.06	0.35	30.30	
CENTRAL COAST											
San Francisco AP	64	0	85	54	496	330	0.28	0.28	0.16	19.70	
San Jose	--	--	--	--	1,218	1,091	0.00	0.00	0.16	14.42	
Salinas AP	63	-1	85	47	433	309	0.08	0.37	0.14	12.44	
Monterey FAA	60	-2	73	48	236	103	0.19	0.34	0.31	18.72	
King City	68	1	99	46	1,192	848	0.00	0.00	0.10	11.44	
Paso Robles AP	70	0	101	48	1,530	1,334	0.00	0.00	0.13	13.95	
SACRAMENTO VALLEY											
Redding	76	1	100	54	2,489	2,134	0.00	0.00	0.78	33.30	
Red Bluff FSS	77	1	101	55	2,522	2,222	0.00	0.00	0.51	22.29	
Chico AFS	76	3	103	52	2,130	1,762	0.00	0.00	0.47	26.32	
Marysville	75	0	101	52	2,084	2,067	0.00	0.00	0.27	21.04	
Sacramento AP	73	1	97	56	1,822	1,619	0.00	0.00	0.23	17.52	
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY											
Stockton WSO	73	-1	98	54	1,918	1,870	0.06	0.20	0.17	13.95	
Fresno	78	2	100	58	2,796	2,382	0.00	0.00	0.13	10.60	
Bakersfield	80	2	102	62	3,062	2,620	0.00	0.00	0.16	5.72	
SOUTH COAST											
Santa Maria AP	63	-1	78	49	372	314	0.00	0.01	0.21	12.36	
Santa Barbara	66	0	76	56	604	573	0.00	0.01	0.31	16.25	
Ventura	66	0	77	56	562	0	0.00	0.00	0.16	14.38	
Los Angeles	75	0	89	65	1,916	1,819	0.00	0.00	0.24	14.77	
Riverside	--	--	101	58	2,454	1,902	0.00	0.00	0.30	9.58	
San Diego AP	71	-1	80	66	1,421	1,321	0.00	0.00	0.20	9.90	
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR											
Bishop	72	3	98	48	1,697	1,462	0.00	0.25	0.42	5.37	
Lancaster	78	3	104	56	2,503	2,069	0.00	0.00	0.38	6.92	
Daggett AP	85	2	105	64	3,598	3,331	0.00	0.05	1.01	3.93	
Thermal AP	88	2	110	61	4,362	4,014	0.00	0.10	0.76	3.16	
Blythe	93	4	110	77	4,820	4,439	0.00	0.12	1.15	3.60	
Imperial	92	4	110	71	4,638	4,162	0.00	0.00	0.60	2.75	
CASCADE - SIERRA											
Alturas	62	4	96	29	581	296	0.00	0.35	0.92	12.01	
Mt. Shasta	64	3	90	39	774	446	0.00	0.44	1.27	37.02	
Blue Canyon	69	6	88	54	1,090	557	0.01	0.15	1.56	67.04	
Yosemite	--	--	87	50	1,311	1,008	0.00	0.00	1.19	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.