



California Crop Weather

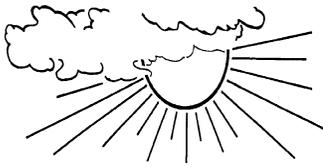
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: April 24, 2011
RELEASED: April 25, 2011

FREQUENCY: Weekly
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WEATHER



The week was mostly cool and cloudy. A long wave trough was parked along the west coast, sending in multiple, weak short wave systems across California. Monday's system was moderately warm, bringing rain showers as far south as the Northern San Joaquin Valley. Snow levels were at 7,000 feet for this wave. Valley locations collected less than a quarter inch of rain and foothill/mountain locations collected up to 1.25 inches of rain. Tuesday was a dry transition day between systems. From Wednesday into Thursday, a much weaker system took showers as far south as the line between Santa Margarita and Yosemite. The short waves on Saturday and Sunday kept precipitation confined to the higher elevations of Northern California. Light rainfall amounts were less than 0.25 inches in the Sierra foothills with snow above 6,000 feet. Southern California was dry for the week. Temperatures remained slightly below normal for the entire week.

FIELD CROPS

The first cutting of **alfalfa** continued in the San Joaquin Valley. Irrigated **winter wheat** fields received their last watering before harvest. Winter wheat, **oats**, and other small grain crops continued to head out. **Rice** planting started with significant planting expected in coming weeks while field preparation activities continued. Some **cotton** fields had crusted from the recent rainfall, leading growers to use light tillage to break through the crust. Field **corn** continued to be planted, as well as **sunflowers**, and **potatoes**. Spring field work continued with weed control in small grain and alfalfa fields, pre-plant herbicide applications, and spring tillage to prepare seedbeds.

FRUIT CROPS

The navel **orange**, Valencia orange and **lemon** harvests continued normally in the San Joaquin Valley as the **grapefruit** and **mandarin** harvests neared completion. Grapefruit and lemons were also picked in the desert and coastal regions. Cool temperatures slowed shoot development in central coast **grape** vineyards while fungicides and fertilizers were applied in Central Valley vineyards. The **strawberry** harvest began in Merced County. Fieldwork and spraying were ongoing in orchards and vineyards.

NUT CROPS

Growing conditions in **almond** orchards were good as recent cool wet weather limited pest activity. Pollination was underway in both **walnut** and **pistachio** orchards, as catkins continued to elongate on walnut trees. Blight control sprays for walnuts were ongoing while bloom sprays for pistachio orchards were also prepared.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Kern County reported **carrots** and **lettuce** being harvested as processing **tomatoes** were being planted. Processing tomato and **bell pepper** planting continued as **cantaloupe** and **honeydew** planting began in Merced County. **Asparagus** harvest continued in San Joaquin and Merced Counties. Sutter County reported continued vegetable planting and ground cultivation.

LIVESTOCK

April showers continued to stimulate growth of grasses and forbs in the foothills and valleys. Non-irrigated pasture and rangeland were reported to be in very good to excellent condition. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued to diminish as more livestock were moved onto open range. Some sheep and cattle grazed on retired farmland. Bee hives continue to be moved amongst stone fruit and citrus orchards. Some hives were moved out-of-state.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 4/24/11

STATIONS ¹	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION					
	Average Week Ending 4/24/11.	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	Rain Days ²	This Season		Normal		
					January 1 - 4/24/11	January 1 - 4/24	July 1 - 4/24/11	Week Ending 4/24/11	July 1 - 4/24/11	July 1 - 4/24	July 1 - June 30	
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Days --		-- Inches --			
North Coast												
Eureka_WFO	49	-3	57	38	0	0	122	0.94	38.79	35.40	38.10	
Ukiah	57	0	73	40	18	5	81	0.28	34.59	37.12	38.90	
Santa_Rosa_AG	55	-4	68	38	28	32	81	0.52	35.17	29.78	31.01	
Napa_AP	59	1	70	43	42	30	78	0.17	30.17	25.34	26.46	
Central Coast												
San_Francisco_A	57	0	66	48	25	6	67	0.12	21.01	19.50	20.11	
San_Jose_AP	60	-2	71	46	49	72	56	0.03	13.15	14.42	15.08	
Salinas_AP	59	2	68	42	45	10	64	0.03	14.77	12.48	12.91	
Monterey_AP	55	-2	66	41	28	0	73	0.09	18.30	19.47	20.35	
King_City_Ag	59	-1	74	39	46	45	59	0.03	9.62	11.93	12.30	
Paso_Robles_AP	60	2	77	38	41	14	43	0.03	13.22	12.77	13.08	
Sacramento Valley												
Redding	58	-2	72	41	46	33	84	0.54	30.51	30.81	33.52	
Red_Bluff	59	-2	71	45	49	61	74	0.26	20.33	22.36	24.07	
Willows_6W	59	-1	70	45	34	41	78	0.30	26.78	17.83	19.03	
Oroville	61	2	72	47	39	49	71	0.21	25.89	27.21	28.75	
Marysville	61	-2	73	47	45	105	59	0.18	22.24	20.88	22.07	
Sacramento_AP	60	1	73	46	44	56	56	0.04	21.44	17.08	17.93	
San Joaquin Valley												
Stockton	62	2	76	45	55	77	67	0.05	14.56	13.13	13.84	
Modesto_AP	62	-1	75	47	64	126	69	0.00	13.18	12.32	13.12	
Merced_Macready	62	2	77	42	65	76	62	0.00	14.63	11.84	12.50	
Madera_AP	62	0	77	42	46	88	51	0.00	13.68	11.28	11.94	
Fresno_AP	64	2	79	48	95	99	55	0.00	15.26	10.55	11.23	
Lemoore_NAS	62	1	80	41	61	92	51	0.00	10.21	7.45	7.89	
Visalia_AP	63	2	79	46	76	101	48	0.01	15.43	10.43	11.03	
Bakersfield	66	3	81	48	111	144	43	0.00	10.03	6.07	6.49	
Cascade Sierra												
Alturas_AP	42	-4	57	23	0	0	81	2.41	12.07	9.78	12.13	
Mount_Shasta_AP	45	-3	62	28	0	0	99	0.70	40.06	35.88	39.16	
Blue_Canyon	40	-6	50	33	3	0	91	3.47	71.37	61.81	66.36	
Yosemite_Valley	51	-2	69	37	0	0	75	1.09	47.34	35.00	37.73	
South Coast												
Santa_Maria_AP	58	3	71	43	51	0	58	0.12	22.06	13.55	14.01	
Santa_Barbara_A	58	-2	70	47	60	75	46	0.01	25.23	16.65	16.93	
Oxnard_NWS	59	0	66	50	120	81	48	0.04	22.14	15.30	15.62	
Riverside_AP	63	0	72	54	229	185	37	0.00	9.53	9.86	10.22	
Los_Angeles_AP	62	1	67	56	154	198	42	0.00	16.92	12.77	13.15	
San_Diego_AP	64	2	71	59	223	263	42	0.00	12.27	10.42	10.77	
Southeast Interior												
Bishop_AP	56	2	76	32	16	0	35	0.00	7.19	4.50	5.02	
Daggett_AP	70	5	85	52	235	210	22	0.00	1.90	3.98	4.17	
Lancaster_ATC	62	4	78	48	72	52	36	0.04	9.54	7.23	7.40	
Thermal	76	4	88	64	498	548	12	0.00	2.60	3.45	3.53	
Blythe_AP	76	4	93	57	559	504	17	0.00	2.10	3.98	4.02	
Imperial_CA	75	4	93	57	536	511	14	0.00	2.68	2.92	2.96	

1 Weather stations added as of July 6, 2010.

2 New addition as of July 6, 2010. Total number of days with precipitation events this season.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) is in inches.

Air Temperatures are in Degrees Fahrenheit.

Normal periods 1970-2000 used in Departure From Normal calculations.
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