



California Crop Weather

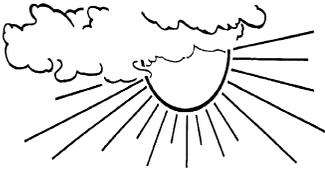
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEATHER



A high pressure system brought dry conditions to most of California at the start of the week. Very dry conditions were reported across Southern California. A low pressure system in the Gulf of Alaska slowly edged toward the Northern California coast. As it approached, it generated some showers across the far northern coastal region on Monday and Tuesday, while the rest of the State remained dry with very mild temperatures. Eventually, the low pressure system moved closer and finally brought rain to most of the State by Wednesday.

On Thursday, most of the State was in between storm systems, as the first system moved to the east and another low pressure system developed in the Gulf of Alaska. The new system moved ashore late Thursday and spread showers first across Northern California, and then into Southern California by Friday. These storms also brought significant snowfall to the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Saturday saw some residual shower activity across the State as the low pressure moved eastward. By Sunday, high pressure was beginning to build along the West Coast and brought a dry and mild weather pattern to California.

FIELD CROPS

Recent rain showers have improved soil moisture supplies for dry land crops. Early planted grain fields were growing well with **wheat** headed nearly two-thirds complete and some cutting for **oat** hay underway. Wheat conditions continued to improve with recent precipitation as the crop was rated mostly good to excellent. Seedbed preparations for **corn** and **cotton** halted in some rain affected areas, but the main activities included cultivation to remove weeds, herbicide applications, and reshaping seed beds. Some operators were able to start planting. However, the majority of operators were waiting for warmer soil temperatures. **Rice** producers continued preparations for planting.

FRUIT CROPS

Plum, peach, apricot, and **nectarine** bloom was complete in all but the latest varieties. Trees were almost fully leafed-out and showing fruit. Thinning continued in apricots. **Cherry** bloom was nearly complete as bees were being moved out of orchards. **Prunes** were past full bloom and beginning to leaf-out in Sutter and Yuba Counties. Weed treatments and bloom sprays continued in stone fruit orchards. Recent hail storms in the San Joaquin Valley hit stone fruit orchards hard, causing significant fruit damage. **Grapevines** continued to leaf-out while vineyards were being pruned and sprayed. **Pomegranates** were leafing-out. **Apples** were starting bloom and leafing-out. **Strawberries** were being transplanted in Siskiyou County. Early **blueberries** in Tulare County were starting harvest. **Olive** groves were pruned. **Orange** and **avocado** trees were in bloom in early locations. Navel oranges, **tangerines**, **tangelos** and **lemons** continued to be harvested and packed for export. The harvesting of late variety navel oranges and early Valencia oranges began to pick up.

NUT CROPS

Almond bloom was over as almond trees were leafing-out and nuts were growing larger. Freeze damage was becoming apparent in areas hit hard by the March cold spell. **Walnuts** were continuing to leaf-out while early varieties were in bloom. Growers were applying blight sprays. **Pistachios** were blooming and leafing-out. Walnuts, almonds, and pistachios continued to be exported.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Kern County reported **carrots**, **melons**, **peppers** and processing **tomatoes** being planted. In Tulare County, **squash**, tomato, and peppers were being planted. Fresno County reported **onion** and **garlic** continued to grow well while being treated with herbicides for volunteer wheat. Harvesting of **asparagus**, **broccoli** and some head **lettuce** had begun. Some heavy rains made for muddy conditions for harvest of lettuce and broccoli. Processing tomatoes were being planted from seed as well as transplanting. Bell pepper, carrot, **cantaloupe**, **honeydew** and **watermelon** fields were being prepared for planting. Spring vegetables such as **beets**, **radishes**, **cabbages**, **turnips**, **daikon**, green onions, **spinach**, **herbs**, **mustard greens**, **choys**, **chards** and **kales** continued to be harvested. **Eggplant** and squashes continued to be planted. In Merced County, fresh market tomato and processing tomato planting continued as asparagus harvest continued. Some tomato fields were damaged by frost. In Stanislaus County, broccoli and **spinach** continued to be harvested. San Joaquin County reported continued harvesting of asparagus.

LIVESTOCK

Non-irrigated rangeland continued to improve in response to the late spring rains, with greening reported across the State. Range conditions were poor for this time of the year for much of the State. Livestock were moved to rangeland in some areas. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued. Sheep and cattle grazed on retired farmland and alfalfa fields. Pollination activities were winding down in stone fruits and blueberries. Some bees were being moved to citrus or shipped out-of-state. Milk production was negatively impacted by muddy corral conditions at some dairies.

This report is available the first workday of the week after 1:00 PDT at
www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/California/Publications/index.asp

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 4/15/12

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION					
	Average Week Ending 4/15/12.	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	Rain Days 1/	This Season		Normal		
					January 1 - 4/15/12	January 1 - 4/15	July 1 - 4/15/12	Week Ending 4/15/12	July 1 - 4/15/12	July 1 - 4/15	July 1 - June 30	
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Days --		-- Inches --			
North Coast												
Eureka_WFO	49	-2	56	38	0	0	95	2.16	36.44	34.73	38.10	
Ukiah	52	-4	71	37	0	0	67	1.11	24.33	36.68	38.90	
Santa_Rosa_AG	53	-5	72	38	4	16	47	2.14	22.10	29.44	31.01	
Napa_State_Hosp	54	-4	70	39	1	14	52	2.14	20.79	25.05	26.46	
Central Coast												
San_Francisco_A	55	-2	64	47	0	0	47	2.32	12.97	19.27	20.11	
San_Jose_AP	56	-5	73	43	10	50	43	1.58	6.70	14.22	15.08	
Salinas_AP	55	-2	68	41	12	2	46	1.67	9.96	12.30	12.91	
Monterey_AP	53	-3	63	40	1	0	50	1.63	10.75	19.17	20.35	
King_City_Ag	55	-5	81	35	5	29	33	1.80	6.08	11.80	12.30	
Paso_Robles_AP	53	-5	78	30	0	5	29	1.72	8.23	12.68	13.08	
Sacramento Valley												
Redding	53	-5	70	37	5	12	62	2.44	22.68	30.28	33.52	
Red_Bluff	54	-5	71	40	7	33	48	1.45	19.47	22.07	24.07	
Willows_6W	55	-3	69	42	2	18	52	1.79	19.02	17.64	19.03	
Oroville	56	-3	72	44	0	25	56	1.20	17.69	26.83	28.75	
Marysville	56	-5	71	45	4	69	48	1.96	14.68	20.58	22.07	
Sacramento_AP	55	-4	72	41	2	32	39	1.80	11.62	16.87	17.93	
San Joaquin Valley												
Stockton	55	-5	76	41	0	47	40	1.63	7.63	12.92	13.84	
Modesto_AP	55	-7	76	42	8	90	36	2.04	8.25	12.14	13.12	
Merced_Macready	57	-3	78	43	17	47	35	1.62	7.03	11.67	12.50	
Madera_AP	56	-5	81	40	10	55	28	1.41	7.58	11.06	11.94	
Fresno_AP	57	-4	83	46	36	63	26	1.76	8.00	10.39	11.23	
Lemoore_NAS	57	-4	84	41	18	59	31	0.94	4.38	7.36	7.89	
Visalia_AP	55	-6	82	43	17	67	21	2.28	6.82	10.27	11.03	
Bakersfield	58	-5	88	42	68	101	25	1.34	4.66	5.99	6.49	
Cascade Sierra												
Alturas_AP	43	0	67	22	0	0	54	0.28	5.18	9.52	12.13	
Mount_Shasta_AP	42	-4	64	32	0	0	75	3.67	27.11	35.30	39.16	
Blue_Canyon	38	-6	59	28	0	0	67	2.68	41.86	60.70	66.36	
Yosemite_Valley	43	-8	76	31	0	0	34	2.66	22.33	34.42	37.73	
South Coast												
Santa_Maria_AP	53	-3	71	35	10	0	32	1.99	9.25	13.39	14.01	
Santa_Barbara_A	52	-8	64	38	14	57	25	1.88	9.84	16.57	16.93	
Oxnard_NWS	56	-3	67	41	137	65	23	1.86	9.57	15.20	15.62	
Riverside_AP	58	-5	86	42	196	146	28	0.32	4.97	9.78	10.22	
Los_Angeles_AP	56	-5	67	45	120	172	26	1.07	7.11	12.67	13.15	
San_Diego_AP	58	-5	71	49	78	229	37	0.42	7.55	10.28	10.77	
Southeast Interior												
Bishop_AP	51	-4	78	24	2	0	14	0.23	3.07	4.47	5.02	
Daggett_AP	61	-4	88	41	127	150	17	0.17	1.20	3.96	4.17	
Lancaster_ATC	53	-5	82	35	9	21	25	0.82	3.46	7.18	7.40	
Thermal	65	-7	92	41	288	441	14	0.00	1.32	3.45	3.53	
Blythe_AP	67	-4	94	46	378	403	16	0.02	2.86	3.98	4.02	
Imperial_CA	66	-4	91	45	318	419	12	0.00	0.75	2.92	2.96	

1/ 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.

For more weather information visit www.awis.com or call 1-888-798-9955.

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