



California Crop Weather

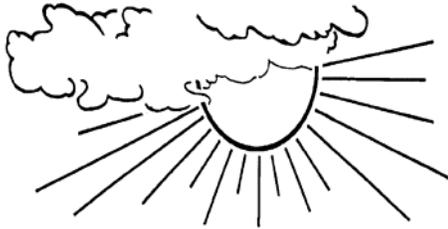
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: March 23, 2008
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WEATHER



An upper level ridge brought warm temperatures and clear skies to most of the state late in the week after a trough moved through the northern portions of California early in the week. The trough brought some rain to the northern coasts, northern mountain regions, and portions of the Sacramento Valley. Some areas along the northern coast reported nearly an inch and a half of rain over a three day period beginning on Monday. Temperatures remained in the low to mid 50's throughout the week, but some areas just inland reached into the mid 70's as the ridge built in for the latter part of the week.

The central and southern coastal regions remained dry throughout the week with above normal temperatures late in the week. Temperatures in the central coastal regions were in the 60's to low 70's while some of the southern coastal areas made it into the 80's by week's end. The Sierra Nevada Mountains received less than half an inch of precipitation as the trough moved through the area midweek. Temperatures fell into the mid 40's for the early part of the week, but rose into the mid 50's as the ridge built in. Areas of the Sacramento Valley saw less than a tenth of an inch of rain and temperatures in the 60's to upper 70's. The desert regions remained dry with temperatures in the mid 70's, but reached into the upper 80's late in the week.

FIELD CROPS

Herbicide applications to small grain fields were almost complete. A few winter forage fields continued to be cut for silage in Merced County. The first cutting of **Alfalfa** was underway and alfalfa weevil spraying was winding down. Field preparation for spring planting continued. **Mustard** for seed was in full bloom in Fresno County. Spring **sugar beet** fields were continuing to grow well and were being fertilized, irrigated, cultivated and treated to control weeds, while new sugar beet fields continued to be planted. In Fresno County, early planted **safflower** continued to grow well. **Cotton** planting began in areas across the state. Sweet **potato** hot bed planting continued to wind down and sweet potato field fumigations continued.

FRUIT CROPS

Grape vines were leafing out. **Apple, apricot, cherry, nectarine, peach, pear, pomegranate, pluot** and **prune** trees were still blooming. Peach bloom was ending in some areas and a good crop was expected on most varieties. Bloom sprays were coming to an end and many early variety stone fruit trees were leafing out. Irrigation was taking place in many vineyards and fruit tree orchards. Insect and weed control were ongoing. Spring **strawberries** and **blueberries** were blooming. Blueberry acreage was still expanding with more bushes being planted. **Kiwi** fruit vines were also being planted. Navel **oranges** were picked and packed in good volume. Valencia orange harvest moved slowly forward. Harvests of **mandarins, minneolas, lemons,** and **pummelos** continued. **Lemon** harvest increased slightly in the south coastal areas. **Olive** growers were finishing maintenance of their groves for the new season.

NUT CROPS

Almond bloom ended. An insignificant amount of flowers remained open. Nutlets in all areas of the State were differentiating in size and emerging from jackets. Trees continued to green as leaves grew. Growing conditions have been ideal so far this season. Pistachio trees were blooming. **Walnuts** broke dormancy in some areas.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Growers continued to harvest **broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, spinach, Romaine lettuce, asparagus, amaranth, basil, bok choy, beets,** head and napa **cabbage, celeriac, cilantro, choy sum, daikon, dandelion, dill,** leaf lettuce, **lemon grass, mint,** mustard and collard **greens, kale, parsley, green onions, radishes, rutabagas, tatsoi, tong ho, yam leaf, yams,** and **yu choy.** Vegetable fields were being weeded, irrigated, fertilized, and treated to control weeds, insects, and mildew. Herbicides were applied to onion and **garlic** fields with ongoing cultivation and irrigation. Winter **radicchio** harvest was complete. Transplanting of **tomatoes** and bell **peppers** for the fresh and processing markets continued. Head lettuce harvest started in the Huron area. In Merced County, **endive** planting began. Sweet **corn** was growing well in Fresno County. In Tulare County, outdoor plantings of squash were pushing out new growth and green house plantings of beans, tomatoes, mixed squash, eggplants, and chilies were growing well. In Kern County, lettuce and onion crops were looking good and carrots were being harvested.

LIVESTOCK

Native grasses continued to grow well providing ample feed for cattle. Range conditions were greatly improved with warm temperatures increasing grass growth rate. Sheep were being sheared and were also grazing on retired farmland. Pollination was wrapping up in almond fields. Bees were busy in stone fruit, nut and pear orchards.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 03/23/08

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 03/23/08	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 03/23/08	January 1 - 03/23/08	Week Ending 03/23/08	July 1 - 03/23/08	July 1 - 03/23/08	July 1 - June 30
NORTH COAST	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
Eureka	45	-5	54	34	0	0	0.96	22.10	20.92	37.53
Ukiah	51	-2	75	32	0	0	0.01	15.92	20.85	37.96
Santa Rosa	52	-2	75	33	0	0	0.00	15.00	16.28	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	53	-2	64	43	0	0	0.00	8.67	10.41	19.70
San Jose	58	2	76	44	0	0	0.00	5.55	7.49	14.42
Salinas AP	52	-2	69	36	0	0	0.00	4.98	6.33	12.44
Monterey FAA	53	0	63	42	0	0	0.00	2.52	7.94	18.72
King City	55	0	78	34	0	0	0.00	3.42	5.65	11.44
Paso Robles AP	51	-2	79	30	0	0	0.00	3.63	6.17	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	54	0	76	36	0	0	0.04	13.91	17.14	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	55	0	76	39	0	0	0.05	6.09	12.65	22.29
Chico AFS	56	2	81	34	2	0	0.08	11.48	13.49	26.32
Marysville	55	-1	75	37	0	0	0.00	9.30	11.56	21.04
Sacramento AP	54	-1	75	38	0	0	0.00	8.31	9.09	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	53	-2	75	36	0	0	0.00	5.70	7.07	13.95
Fresno	57	0	79	39	3	0	0.00	3.90	5.25	10.60
Bakersfield	58	0	80	41	6	0	0.00	1.14	3.01	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	53	-1	77	32	0	0	0.00	4.59	6.31	12.36
Santa Barbara	54	-2	79	40	0	0	0.01	5.37	8.21	16.25
Ventura	57	0	83	39	25	0	0.00	6.08	6.76	14.38
Los Angeles	64	2	88	48	36	11	0.00	5.95	6.64	14.77
Riverside	--	--	--	--	16	0	0.00	0.00	4.85	9.58
San Diego AP	58	-2	81	48	8	2	0.00	3.76	5.13	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	49	1	72	26	0	0	0.00	5.44	2.58	5.37
Lancaster	55	3	78	26	1	0	0.00	2.18	3.79	6.92
Daggett AP	60	0	81	38	12	0	0.00	2.19	2.60	3.93
Thermal AP	65	0	91	43	42	35	0.00	2.20	2.27	3.16
Blythe	65	0	88	41	42	37	0.00	1.39	2.85	3.60
Imperial	64	-1	87	41	40	38	0.00	1.97	2.11	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	39	0	63	17	0	0	0.09	6.60	6.01	12.01
Mt. Shasta	41	-1	66	24	0	0	0.02	19.08	20.68	37.02
Blue Canyon	46	6	61	30	0	0	0.35	22.04	34.77	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	6.51	19.50	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.