



California Crop Weather

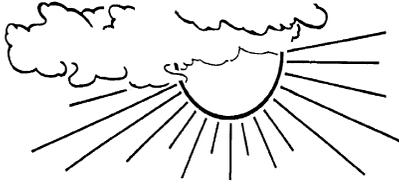
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

California Field Office • P.O. Box 1258 • Sacramento, CA 95812 • (916) 498-5161 • (916) 498-5186 FAX • www.nass.usda.gov/ca

WEEK ENDING: September 21, 2008
RELEASED: September 22, 2008

FREQUENCY: Weekly
VOL. 29 NO. 13

WEATHER



The work week started warm and dry with slightly above seasonal temperatures. Eventually, a trough of low pressure system formed off the coast and moved inland by mid week, bringing some shower and thunderstorm activity to the North Coast and Northern Mountains. This also brought a nice breeze from the Pacific Ocean and took down daytime high temperatures from the mid 90s to the 80s in the Central Valley. The Southern California coast and mountains experienced the same cooling pattern. The

central coast remained mostly in the mid 60s throughout the week. Towards the end of the week, a stronger low pressure system moved across Northern California, and brought more showers across the North Coast, Coastal Range as well as in the Northern Mountains and the far Northern Sierra Nevada. Slightly cooler temperatures (high 70s) were also observed in the Northern Sacramento Valley and Southern California. Now the weather will transition to a more autumn-like stage. Therefore, expect an increase in shower activity and more pleasant temperatures over the next few months.

FIELD CROPS

Corn for grain and silage continued to be harvested. Some **wheat** fields were being cultivated and prepared for fall planting. **Alfalfa** growers were still cutting, windrowing, raking, and baling for the production of alfalfa hay. Alfalfa seed fields were being harvested. Sudan grass was being harvested for hay and sprayed for worms. **Cotton** fields were setting bolls. Cotton defoliation began and growers continued to look for aphid, mite, and lygus. **Rice** fields continued to mature while growers were draining the fields. Fall **sugar beet** harvest was winding down. **Safflower** harvest continued.

FRUIT CROPS

Grape growers continued to harvest their crop. Thompson, Flame and Crimson Seedless, Autumn Royal, Christmas Rose, Lindy Black, Kyoho, Princess, Red Globe, Sarah Anne and Summer Royal table grapes were picked. Harvesting of grapes for raisins continued. Wine and juice grapes were also picked. Varieties included Alicante Bouchet, Barbera, Cabernet Sauvignon, Carnelian, Carignane, French Colombard, Grenache, Merlot, Muscat, Syrah and Zinfandel. Picking of early **pomegranates** continued. Stone fruit varieties picked were Autumn Bright, Autumn Flame, Autumn Flare, Full Moon, Gattie, O' Henry, September Flame, September Sun, September Snow, Snow Magic and Sweet September **peaches**; Angelino, Betty Ann, Ebony Sun, Holiday, Howard Sun and September Yummy **plums**; Apple Fire, Black Pearl, Dapple Fire, Flavor Fall, Flavor Treat and Flavor Heart **pluots**; and Autumn Flare, Autumn Bright, Arctic Mist, Arctic Snow, August Red and September Red **nectarines**. Gala, Granny Smith, Golden and Red Delicious **apples**, Brown Turkey and Mission **figs** and Asian **pears** were being harvested. Fall **strawberry** harvest continued in Oxnard as well as parts of Tulare County. Elsewhere growers were preparing fields for fall berries. **Olives** were sizing well where groves looked to have good yields. Valencia **orange** harvest remained slow. Navels were developing size. **Lemon** harvest continued.

NUT CROPS

Almond and **walnut** harvests continued. Yields looked low in some walnut groves, though overall the crop still looked good. Some groves were still being irrigated. **Pistachio** picking was gaining speed with more areas beginning harvest.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Farmers' market vegetables performed well across the state. In Tulare County, the **honeydew** harvest continued, showing good signs of quality and maturity. **Eggplant, squash, peppers, okra, cucumbers, and tomato** harvests continued. In Fresno County, **garlic** and **onions** were nearing completion, while bell peppers and processing tomato harvests continued. **Carrot** harvest began, fall **broccoli** was planted, fall **lettuce** was thinned, and the **asparagus** harvest started. Farmers market crops continued, including **amaranth, basil, beans, cucumbers, cilantro, daikon, dill, dongua, eggplant, gailon, okra, ona choy, parsley, chili peppers, radishes, sinqua, spinach, summer squashes, sweet corn, swiss chard, tong ho, yam leaf**, as well as many varieties of **herbs**. Fields were weeded, irrigated, fertilized, and treated for pest control. Mixed melon, **cantaloupe, honeydew, and watermelon** harvests carried on and **pumpkin** plants showed good signs of growth and fruit sizing. Organic popcorn was dried; lettuce was harvested for seed. Sutter County experienced harvests of corn, tomatoes, **cucurbits, watermelon, cantaloupe, and other melon varieties** for farmers' markets. The cucumber harvest was slowing down and melon, pumpkin, squash and watermelon seed crops continued. In Merced County, worm spraying continued for tomatoes. In Colusa County, the vine seed harvest was in full swing. Processing tomatoes were also harvested in San Joaquin County, while spring broccoli and **cauliflower** were planted.

LIVESTOCK

Dryland pasture and rangeland were reportedly in very poor condition in most areas, and lower-elevation water sources continued to dry out. Fire danger remained high. Cattle on dry pasture and rangeland were receiving supplements of hay and other nutrients. Movement of cattle to lower elevations for over-wintering continued at an increased pace. Fall beef cow calving continued. Irrigated pastures were in good condition. Cooler weather benefited poultry and boosted milk production. Sheep were grazing on idle farmland, harvested grain fields, and some rangeland in the central part of the state. Honeybees continued to pollinate melon fields in the central area and sunflower and vine seed crops in the north.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 09/21/08

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 09/21/08	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 09/21/08	January 1 - 09/21/08	Week Ending 09/21/08	July 1 - 09/21/08	July 1 - 09/21/08	July 1 - June 30
NORTH COAST	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
Eureka	53	-5	63	46	30	0	0.08	1.03	1.31	37.53
Ukiah	64	-5	95	42	1,537	1,385	0.37	0.74	0.82	37.96
Santa Rosa	62	-5	79	43	1,006	837	0.03	0.06	0.61	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	61	-3	72	51	534	393	0.00	0.01	0.27	19.70
San Jose	--	--	--	--	1,280	1,219	0.00	0.00	0.30	14.42
Salinas AP	62	-3	74	47	460	374	0.01	0.02	0.26	12.44
Monterey FAA	61	0	73	51	304	120	0.01	0.02	0.36	18.72
King City	64	-4	80	45	1,220	956	0.00	0.00	0.21	11.44
Paso Robles AP	67	-2	97	46	1,685	1,471	0.00	0.00	0.31	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	71	-3	101	49	2,728	2,347	0.00	0.09	1.13	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	70	-4	97	48	2,726	2,438	0.00	0.00	0.88	22.29
Chico AFS	70	-1	94	47	2,360	1,933	0.00	0.20	0.78	26.32
Marysville	69	-4	95	46	2,204	2,262	0.00	0.00	0.49	21.04
Sacramento AP	67	-4	92	50	1,906	1,788	0.00	0.00	0.42	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	68	-4	91	52	2,133	2,058	0.00	0.22	0.35	13.95
Fresno	74	-1	97	55	2,972	2,604	0.00	0.01	0.27	10.60
Bakersfield	75	-2	95	58	3,132	2,870	0.00	0.00	0.25	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	61	-3	73	48	452	370	0.00	0.00	0.36	12.36
Santa Barbara	65	0	79	51	855	660	0.00	0.00	0.60	16.25
Ventura	63	0	75	51	472	0	0.00	0.07	0.41	14.38
Los Angeles	73	-1	87	61	2,099	2,030	0.00	0.00	0.41	14.77
Riverside	77	3	103	54	2,421	2,113	0.00	0.00	0.44	9.58
San Diego AP	70	-1	77	64	1,440	1,491	0.00	0.00	0.31	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	65	-1	92	41	1,783	1,557	0.01	0.42	0.56	5.37
Lancaster	75	2	100	54	2,788	2,254	0.00	0.00	0.49	6.92
Daggett AP	81	2	103	60	3,923	3,628	0.00	0.15	1.16	3.93
Thermal AP	85	2	107	61	4,822	4,371	0.00	0.28	0.97	3.16
Blythe	88	2	107	67	5,016	4,830	0.00	0.59	1.41	3.60
Imperial	87	2	107	63	4,538	4,548	0.00	0.33	0.78	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	60	4	94	35	656	296	0.07	0.25	1.25	12.01
Mt. Shasta	61	2	93	37	849	446	0.00	0.21	1.72	37.02
Blue Canyon	65	3	82	46	1,256	584	0.01	0.02	2.43	67.04
Yosemite	71	5	92	47	1,519	1,092	0.00	0.00	1.66	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.