



# California Crop Weather

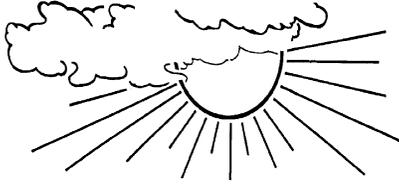
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: September 28, 2008  
RELEASED: September 29, 2008

FREQUENCY: Weekly  
VOL. 29 NO. 14

## WEATHER



The period featured quiet weather with near to somewhat above normal temperatures for much of the Golden State. A moderate warming trend did develop during the early to mid portion of the week as high pressure from the Desert Southwest slowly built north and west through the remainder of the period. Other than a few isolated high mountain thunderstorms, dry conditions were noted statewide except a few trace amounts along the far northwest coast. The coastal valleys of both Southern and

Central California saw the marine layer increase with some cooling sea breezes by the late portion of the period.

## FIELD CROPS

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 irrigated. **Rice** harvest continued and growers were draining the fields. **Cotton** fields were setting bolls and bolls were opening on the lower part of the plant. Cotton defoliation began and growers continued to look for aphid, mite, and lygus. Fall **sugar beet** harvest continued to wind down. **Safflower** harvest advanced. Fields of **corn** for grain and silage were harvested.

## FRUIT CROPS

**Grape** growers continued their harvest. Thompson, Flame and Crimson Seedless, Autumn Royal, Christmas Rose, Kyoho, Princess, Red Globe, and Summer Royal table grapes were being picked. Wine and juice grape varieties picked were Alicante Bouchet, Barbera, Cabernet Sauvignon, Carnelian, Carignane, Chenin Blanc, French Colombard, Grenache, Merlot, Muscat, and Zinfandel. In Fresno County the harvest of raisin grapes was 100 percent complete, with 30 percent on open trays, 27 percent rolled, and 43 percent boxed. The harvest of early **pomegranate** varieties was on the rise. Later varieties continued to size and mature. Autumn Flame, Carnival, Fairtime, Full Moon, Last Tango, September Flame, September Sun, September Snow, Snow Magic, and Sweet September **peaches**; Angelino, Betty Ann, Kelsey, and September Yummy **plums**; Black Pearl, Flavor Fall, and Flavor Treat **pluots**; Autumn Flare, Arctic Mist, Arctic Snow, and September Red **nectarines** were also being harvested and packed. Gala, Granny Smith, Golden, and Red Delicious **apples**, Brown Turkey and Mission **figs** and Asian **pears** were being harvested. **Jujube** harvest began. Navel **oranges** were developing in size. Growers were preparing for gibberelin treatments. Valencia harvest remained slow. **Lemons** were being harvested. **Olive** harvest began and growers reported a lighter than normal crop.

## NUT CROPS

**Almond** and **walnut** orchards continued to be harvested. Some walnut growers were reporting heavy yields. **Pistachios** were also being harvested in parts of the State. Harvest was expected to begin soon in Tulare County.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Farmers' market vegetables grew well across the state. In Tulare County, harvests of **eggplant**, **squash**, **peppers**, **okra**, **cucumbers**, and **tomatoes** continued with good quality. **Cauliflower** and **broccoli** harvests began, while planted **spinach** surfaced and grew well. Cauliflower and broccoli in Stanislaus County also showed good progress. In Fresno County, **garlic** and **onions** were nearing completion, while the harvests of bell peppers, **carrots** and processing tomatoes continued. On Fresno's Westside, fall **broccoli** was planted, fall **lettuce** was thinned, and the fall **asparagus** harvest carried on. Farmers market crops continued harvest, including **amaranth**, **basil**, **bean** varieties, **bittermelon**, collard and mustard **greens**, **cilantro**, cucumbers, **daikon**, **dill**, **dongua**, eggplant, **gailon**, **kabocha**, leaf lettuce, **leeks**, **lemongrass**, **kale**, **mint**, **moqua**, onion varieties, **ona choy**, **opo**, **parsley**, chili peppers, **radishes**, **sinqua**, **spinach**, summer and winter **squashes**, sweet **corn**, **swiss chard**, **tong ho**, **yam leaf**, as well as many varieties of **herbs**. Fields were weeded, irrigated, fertilized, and treated for insects and mildew. **Watermelon**, **cantaloupe**, mixed melon, and **honeydew**, harvests continued slowly. **Pumpkin** plants showed good signs of growth and fruit sizing. Organic **basil** and **parsley** were finished. Sutter County expanded produce planting to include carrots, broccoli, cauliflower, spring mix, head and romaine lettuce. Merced County experienced continuing harvests of fresh market and processing tomatoes, watermelon, bell peppers, cantaloupe, and honeydew.

## LIVESTOCK

Cattle and sheep producers continued to contend with very poor feed and water conditions on dry-land pasture and rangeland. Cattle on dry pasture and rangeland were receiving supplements of hay and other nutrients at all elevations. Herds were reduced due to the dry conditions and concerns regarding the upcoming winter pasture season. Movement of cattle to lower elevations for over-wintering continued. Irrigated pastures were in good condition. Fall beef cow calving continued. Cooler weather was a positive for poultry and milk production. Sheep were grazing on harvested grain and melon fields, abandoned alfalfa fields, and idle farmland. Honeybees continued to pollinate melons in the central area and sunflower and vineseed crops in the north.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 01/20/08**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 01/20/08	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 01/20/08	January 1 - 01/20/08	Week Ending 01/20/08	July 1 - 01/20/08	July 1 - 01/20/08	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
<b>NORTH COAST</b>										
Eureka	43	-6	53	33	89	0	0.30	9.09	4.05	37.53
Ukiah	45	-2	66	30	1,495	1,454	0.00	2.29	3.81	37.96
Santa Rosa	47	-1	66	31	878	920	0.00	4.51	3.01	30.30
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco AP	48	-1	59	38	544	442	0.00	2.16	1.87	19.70
San Jose	47	-3	62	35	1,184	1,326	0.00	1.31	1.52	14.42
Salinas AP	49	-3	67	33	455	431	0.01	1.78	1.23	12.44
Monterey FAA	51	-2	68	36	326	145	0.01	1.27	2.10	18.72
King City	47	-2	67	30	1,231	1,041	0.00	0.30	1.04	11.44
Paso Robles AP	45	-2	65	28	1,708	1,552	0.00	0.35	1.30	13.95
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	47	1	67	29	2,632	2,497	0.02	4.36	3.92	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	47	0	68	30	2,606	2,600	0.00	2.34	2.89	22.29
Chico AFS	46	1	65	28	2,404	2,042	0.00	2.04	2.70	26.32
Marysville	44	-3	58	27	2,461	2,425	0.00	2.31	2.18	21.04
Sacramento AP	45	-1	58	31	1,902	1,922	0.02	1.74	1.80	17.52
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	44	-2	59	28	2,432	2,204	0.00	1.32	1.44	13.95
Fresno	46	-1	61	32	3,040	2,777	0.00	0.21	1.10	10.60
Bakersfield	46	-2	65	31	3,188	3,091	0.01	0.27	0.69	5.72
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria AP	50	-2	71	33	597	410	0.01	0.49	1.22	12.36
Santa Barbara	48	-4	69	33	578	731	0.01	0.55	1.83	16.25
Ventura	54	0	76	36	610	0	0.00	0.41	1.34	14.38
Los Angeles	56	-3	73	41	2,164	2,277	0.00	1.47	1.40	14.77
Riverside	--	--	63	40	2,862	2,316	0.00	0.00	1.18	9.58
San Diego AP	54	-4	76	43	1,468	1,685	0.00	0.46	1.09	9.90
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	38	0	65	18	2,007	1,552	0.00	0.79	0.89	5.37
Lancaster	41	-4	70	21	2,941	2,343	0.00	0.40	1.03	6.92
Daggett AP	43	-6	65	25	4,304	3,883	0.00	0.16	1.40	3.93
Thermal AP	52	-4	76	27	4,906	4,721	0.00	0.20	1.25	3.16
Blythe	51	-4	69	30	5,510	5,213	0.00	0.12	1.77	3.60
Imperial	51	-5	72	33	5,340	4,940	0.00	0.68	1.13	2.75
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	19	-11	38	-2	493	296	0.04	2.54	2.08	12.01
Mt. Shasta	33	-2	49	20	750	446	0.00	4.10	4.66	37.02
Blue Canyon	41	2	52	27	1,044	574	0.02	7.06	7.37	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	49	24	1,359	1,090	0.00	0.93	4.54	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.