



California Crop Weather

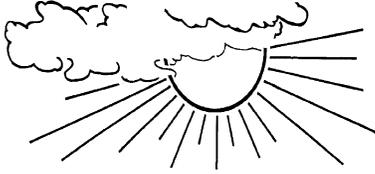
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEATHER



At the start of the week, a high pressure ridge lay over California. This, combined with a light offshore flow at the surface, resulted in unusually warm temperatures in southern California, where some locations reported high temperatures in the 90s. It was not as warm in northern California, where cool air trapped under an inversion led to widespread fog in the early morning hours. At the start of the week, this fog was light and burned off quickly, allowing temperatures to warm slightly above normal levels. As the week progressed, though, the fog grew denser and more persistent. In some areas of the San Joaquin and southern Sacramento Valleys, it would not burn off at all, resulting in very cool daytime temperatures. By the end of the week, a low pressure trough moved through southern California, bringing scattered showers to that part of the state. This system had little effect on northern California, where widespread fog and low clouds persisted.

FIELD CROPS

Cutting, windrowing, raking, and baling for **alfalfa** hay was complete. New alfalfa fields continued to be planted. **Cotton** defoliation and harvest activities were winding down. **Sudan** hay and **sorghum** harvests were essentially complete. Harvest of **corn** for silage was complete in many counties. **Rice** growers continued to reshape berms and level paddies.

FRUIT CROPS

Grape growers continued to prune, irrigate, cultivate and remove old vineyards. Limited volumes of table grapes were being harvested. **Pomegranate** harvest ended in Fresno County. Post-harvest activities such as pruning and irrigation were underway in stone-fruit orchards. A few **persimmons** remained to be picked and kiwifruit season was wrapping up. **Jujubes** were still being picked. Fall **strawberries** were being sold and new **blueberry** bushes were being planted. **Raspberry** nursery stock harvest had begun. **Navel** oranges were harvested but picking was slow in some areas due to moist weather. Growers were still waiting to make gains on color. Thrips were being monitored. **Lemons**, **pummelos** and **mandarins** were also being harvested. **Olives** were still being picked.

NUT CROPS

Almond and **walnut** pruning remained underway. Weed spraying was winding down. Some pre-plant fumigation was underway for new nut orchards in Merced County.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Warm temperatures encouraged significant growth of **broccoli**, **cauliflower**, and **lettuce**. However, as temperatures dropped in some areas, winter vegetables began to flourish. The **radicchio** harvest continued. Fresh **onion** harvest was halfway finished and exhibited a lower-than-expected yield, but **spinach** showed strong potential. **Carrots**, cauliflower, and fall broccoli also continued their harvests, as did many farmers' market crops such as **amaranth**, **basil**, green and long **beans**, **bittermelon**, carrots, **cilantro**, **collard greens**, **cucumbers**, **daikon**, **dill**, **donqua**, **eggplant**, **gailon**, **garlic**, **kabocha**, **kale**, leaf lettuce, **leeks**, **lemongrass**, **mint**, **monqua**, **mustard greens**, onions, **okra**, **ong choy**, **opo**, **parsley**, chili **peppers**, **radishes**, **saluyot** (okra leaf), **sinqua**, summer and winter **squashes**, **swiss chard**, **tong ho**, **yam leaf**, and a variety of **herbs**. Lemongrass fields were covered and groundwork continued as fields were irrigated, weeded, fertilized, and treated to control pests.

LIVESTOCK

Cattle and sheep producers continued to contend with poor rangeland and pasture conditions throughout the state. Cattle ranchers continued supplemental feeding programs. Fall beef cow calving continued, and was nearly complete in some areas. Milk and poultry production continued to benefit from the mild weather. Sheep and lambs were grazing on alfalfa fields and idle farmland in central areas, and feeder lambs were grazing on sudan and alfalfa fields in the Imperial Valley. Fall lambing continued. Both in-state and out-of-state honeybees were being over-wintered and readied for spring pollination.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 12/07/08

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 12/07/08	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 12/07/08	January 1 - 12/07/08	Week Ending 12/07/08	July 1 - 12/07/08	July 1 - 12/07	July 1 - June 30
NORTH COAST	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
Eureka	47	-2	58	36	41	0	0.14	5.71	12.94	37.53
Ukiah	49	2	68	30	1674	1454	0.01	4.48	11.14	37.96
Santa Rosa	51	1	67	37	1258	923	0	3.38	8.75	30.3
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	53	1	62	43	713	443	0	2.18	5.01	19.7
San Jose	--	--	--	--	1454	1334	0	0	3.8	14.42
Salinas AP	55	3	74	40	648	432	0.01	1.53	3.12	12.44
Monterey FAA	54	2	72	38	429	145	0	0.62	4.62	18.72
King City	55	5	77	33	1518	1043	0	0.61	2.76	11.44
Paso Robles AP	53	5	78	31	1892	1552	0	0.55	2.66	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	48	0	70	28	2934	2504	0	4.11	9.14	33.3
Red Bluff FSS	49	2	72	30	2987	2610	0	3.06	6.9	22.29
Chico AFS	49	2	65	31	2596	2043	0.01	11.12	7.12	26.32
Marysville	46	-3	64	34	2420	2442	0	3.49	6.05	21.04
Sacramento AP	46	-2	56	33	2114	1932	0	2.99	4.62	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	47	-1	57	33	2386	2214	0.01	1.41	3.79	13.95
Fresno	47	-1	54	39	3306	2792	0	1.47	2.57	10.6
Bakersfield	49	-1	64	40	3498	3128	0	1.06	1.51	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	54	2	72	38	696	410	0	2.51	2.87	12.36
Santa Barbara	56	3	71	38	1001	736	0.03	1.98	3.41	16.25
Ventura	58	0	75	42	704	0	0	2.45	3.17	14.38
Los Angeles	64	4	79	51	2788	2458	0	1.87	2.61	14.77
Riverside	62	6	92	46	3132	2377	0	0.96	1.97	9.58
San Diego AP	61	2	76	52	1910	1798	0	3.67	2.41	9.9
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	43	4	75	19	1751	1552	0	0.95	1.47	5.37
Lancaster	50	5	73	29	2938	2343	0.01	1.58	1.68	6.92
Daggett AP	55	4	80	35	4362	3937	0	0.22	1.68	3.93
Thermal AP	60	4	79	39	5518	4872	0	0.77	1.49	3.16
Blythe	61	5	79	43	5812	5383	0	0.73	2.16	3.6
Imperial	63	5	84	44	5268	5162	0	0.37	1.46	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	35	3	61	11	669	296	0	1.77	4.19	12.01
Mt. Shasta	40	4	60	23	911	446	0	8.03	11.71	37.02
Blue Canyon	52	12	62	41	1343	574	0	8.73	19.88	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	56	28	1551	1090	0	5.69	10.97	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.