



California Crop Weather

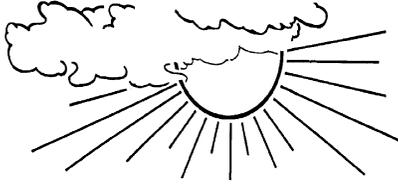
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEATHER



A series of cold low pressure systems moved down the West Coast during the week, producing heavy rain, unusually low snow levels and high winds across the state. The first of the series of systems moved across southern California. This brought very heavy rains to the south, resulting in local river flooding, and heavy snows in the mountains and deserts. High pressure brought a brief respite to the storms at midweek for the north, while San Diego County endured more heavy rains and flooding. The next system soon began to affect northern California. This next system spread showers across the state, starting along the north coast and moving across central California by Sunday. Seasonably cool temperatures were reported across northern California, while southern California was cooler than normal. Significant precipitation fell all across the state, the heaviest amounts being recorded in southern California.

FIELD CROPS

Field work continued with ground preparation, cultivation, irrigation and weed control in **alfalfa**, **wheat** and **rye** fields. New alfalfa fields continued to be planted. Seed alfalfa fields were dormant. **Cotton** harvest activities were winding down. Cotton plow down was nearly complete. Small grain planting continued. Grain fields were emerging with the recent rains and supplemental irrigation. **Rice** growers continued to reshape berms and level paddies. Rice fields were being cultivated, bedded, fertilized and irrigated to prepare for spring planting.

FRUIT CROPS

With harvest mostly ended **grape** growers were busy pruning, cultivating, and removing old vineyards. Only a few grapes were being picked. These included Rose, Kyoho, Crimson Seedless, and Autumn Royal varieties. Elsewhere vines were going into dormancy, as were fruit trees. Herbicide applications were underway in some fruit orchards. Many new **pomegranate** orchards were planted. **Blueberries** were also planted. **Raspberry** and **strawberry** nursery stock harvests were underway. Harvest of citrus slowed due to wet and cold weather. Growers were running irrigation water and wind machines to protect trees from freezing temperatures. Because of the cold, Navel **oranges**, **mandarins**, and **grapefruit** were being packed from existing inventories in some areas.

NUT CROPS

Almond and **pistachio** trees were being planted. Pruning was taking place in established orchards.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Heavy rains across the state halted field activities. Vegetable crops were also hit by freezing temperatures, although it remains to be seen if there was any significant damage. **Broccoli**, **cabbage**, **carrots**, **cauliflower** and **spinach** harvest continued. **Onions** and **garlic** were emerging. **Radicchio** harvest continued; **endive** harvest began. **Asparagus** fields continued to be prepared for spring harvest. In Fresno County, the harvest of farmers market crops such as **amaranth**, **basil**, **beets**, carrots, **cilantro**, **collard greens**, **daikon**, **dill**, **donqua**, **gailon**, **garlic**, **kale**, **kabocha**, leaf **lettuce**, **leeks**, **lemongrass**, **mint**, **mustard greens**, green onions, onions (red, white and yellow), **ong choy**, **opo**, **parsley**, **chili peppers**, **peanuts**, **radishes**, **saluyot** (okra leaf), **spinach**, winter **squashes**, **swiss chard**, **tong ho**, **yam leaf**, and many different kinds of herbs continued more slowly; fields were also being weeded, irrigated, fertilized, and treated to control weeds, insects, and mildew. In Tulare County, **okra**, saluyot, **squash** and **bittermelon** were harvested. Lemongrass fields were being covered; winter vegetables were growing well in the cooler weather.

LIVESTOCK

Rangeland and pasture continued to improve with recent rains. However, overall grazing conditions remained poor, and cool temperatures inhibited forage growth initiated by the increased moisture. Cattle ranchers continued supplemental feeding programs. Fall beef cow calving neared completion. Milk production continued at a relatively high level. Sheep and lambs were grazing on alfalfa fields, harvested grainland, and idle farmland in central areas. Feeder lambs were grazing on sudan and alfalfa fields in the Imperial Valley. Both in-state and out-of-state honeybees were fed and over-wintered, and movement of bees into the state increased for spring pollination.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 12/21/08

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 12/21/08	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 12/21/08	January 1 - 12/21/08	Week Ending 12/21/08	July 1 - 12/21/08	July 1 - 12/21/08	July 1 - June 30
NORTH COAST	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
Eureka	40	-8	55	28	41	0	0.98	8.39	15.62	37.53
Ukiah	38	-8	48	23	1,674	1,454	1.37	5.9	13.83	37.96
Santa Rosa	42	-5	54	27	1,260	923	1	4.5	10.86	30.3
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	46	-4	54	34	713	443	0.65	3.69	6.45	19.7
San Jose	--	--	--	--	1,484	1,334	0	0	4.76	14.42
Salinas AP	45	-6	55	30	648	432	0.73	2.9	3.91	12.44
Monterey FAA	46	-4	56	33	429	145	0.38	1.77	4.79	18.72
King City	43	-6	57	27	1,512	1,043	0.3	0.97	3.5	11.44
Paso Robles AP	43	-4	57	26	1,892	1,552	0.48	1.32	3.53	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	38	-7	50	23	2,934	2,504	0.86	5.32	11.04	33.3
Red Bluff FSS	40	-6	51	25	2,987	2,610	0.44	3.63	8.44	22.29
Chico AFS	41	-4	52	22	2,596	2,043	0.37	11.49	8.77	26.32
Marysville	42	-4	55	23	2,420	2,442	0.95	4.6	7.61	21.04
Sacramento AP	42	-3	52	28	2,114	1,932	0.38	3.76	5.79	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	42	-3	51	28	2,386	2,214	0.29	1.85	4.66	13.95
Fresno	43	-3	56	31	3,306	2,792	0.52	2.13	3.23	10.6
Bakersfield	45	-3	56	34	3,498	3,128	0.42	1.58	1.87	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	44	-7	62	11	696	410	0.21	2.76	3.74	12.36
Santa Barbara	48	-4	62	34	1,001	736	1.72	3.66	4.53	16.25
Ventura	48	0	64	34	838	0	1.83	4.27	4.17	14.38
Los Angeles	53	-6	68	41	2,770	2,455	2.33	4.2	3.55	14.77
Riverside	48	-6	71	33	3,117	2,377	0	0.97	2.56	9.58
San Diego AP	53	-4	62	44	1,904	1,798	2.71	5.39	3	9.9
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	26	-12	47	7	1,751	1,552	0.14	1.07	1.78	5.37
Lancaster	39	-3	52	25	2,938	2,343	0.9	2.48	2.23	6.92
Daggett AP	38	-10	49	25	4,358	3,937	1.58	1.8	1.93	3.93
Thermal AP	49	-5	63	34	5,516	4,872	0.07	0.84	1.63	3.16
Blythe	49	-5	61	36	5,799	5,383	0.66	1.39	2.4	3.6
Imperial	51	-5	63	38	5,248	5,162	0.98	1.35	1.66	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	18	-11	33	-14	643	296	0.67	2.58	4.7	12.01
Mt. Shasta	23	-11	35	6	911	446	0.34	8.57	14.2	37.02
Blue Canyon	28	-12	38	20	1,343	574	2.13	11.35	24.16	67.04
Yosemite	26	-11	36	16	1,546	1,090	1.32	7.01	13.22	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.