



# California Crop Weather

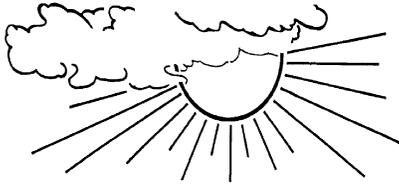
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: February 22, 2009  
RELEASED: February 23, 2009

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## WEATHER



California experienced a week of unsettled weather as a series of low pressure systems affected the state. Early in the week the first couple of systems moved through bringing moderate amounts of rain and low snow levels. Snow fell as low as the foothills in northern California, and over the Grapevine in the south. The middle of the week through Saturday was mostly dry. The next system began to affect the northwest late Saturday and brought more rain along with much higher snow levels as it tapped into a moisture source southwest of California.

## FIELD CROPS

Recent rainfall continued to promote vegetative growth in field crops. Field work was in progress with ground preparation, cultivation, irrigation and weed control as weather permitted. **Wheat** crops in many areas of the state were in excellent condition due to the rain. More rain was needed in other areas. Herbicide sprays were applied to grain fields. **Cotton** fields were being bedded. Sweet **potato** hotbeds were being planted.

## FRUIT CROPS

Grape pruning and tying continued. Bee hives were placed to assist pollination for cherry trees. Rains were welcomed throughout the state. Orchard site preparation such as pruning, spraying, and tree planting was winding down. Harvest continued for **oranges, mandarins, lemons, and grapefruit**. Fruit quality remained good. Valencia orange harvest was just beginning while the Navel orange harvest was winding down. Forecasted reductions in water deliveries due to the drought remained a concern for citrus growers.

## NUT CROPS

The **almond** bloom prevailed through wet conditions with most orchards blooming in the San Joaquin Valley. Bee hives were set out to assist pollination. Tree removal, planting, and pre-plant fumigations were ongoing though delayed in some areas due to the wet conditions.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Field preparation for spring planting and harvesting of winter vegetables were halted early last week because of rainy weather. As field conditions improved, plastic was applied to berms in preparation for **squash** planting and **cantaloupe, tomato, and onion** fields were prepared. **Lemongrass** fields were covered. The **asparagus** harvest began, as did the harvests of greenhouse vegetables such as squash, **eggplant** and **bitter melon**. Spring **lettuce** grew well and the **radicchio** harvest progressed. The harvest continued slowly for farmers' market crops such as **basil, beets, carrots, collard greens, daikon, dill, gailon, kale, leeks, lemongrass, mustard greens, green onions, potatoes, radishes, saluyot** (okra leaf), **spinach**, winter squashes, **swiss chard**, and many varieties of herbs.

## LIVESTOCK

Non-irrigated pasture and rangeland continued to improve with the additional rainfall this past week, though grass growth was reportedly somewhat slow. More precipitation was needed. Ranchers continued supplemental feeding of hay and nutrients. Irrigated pasture was in good condition. Some remaining beef cow calving was underway. Dairy herds were reduced in response to market conditions. Spring lambing continued, as well as some kidding. Sheep, lambs and cattle were grazing on idle land and harvested alfalfa fields. Some sheep were moved off wet new alfalfa to avoid crown damage.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 02/22/09**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION				
	Average Week Ending 02/22/09	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal		
					January 1 - 02/22/09	January 1 - 02/22/09	Week Ending 02/22/09	July 1 - 02/22/09	July 1 - 02/22/09	July 1 - June 30	
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --				
<b>NORTH COAST</b>											
Eureka	50	0	62	37	0	0	0.73	17.97	27.51	37.53	
Ukiah	49	-1	66	35	0	0	2.23	14	29.71	37.96	
Santa Rosa	53	1	70	36	6	0	3.85	13.28	23.64	30.3	
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>											
San Francisco AP	53	0	64	42	0	0	2.34	11.03	15.47	19.7	
San Jose	--	--	--	--	2	0	0	0	11.08	14.42	
Salinas AP	52	-1	66	38	13	0	1.26	8.6	9.28	12.44	
Monterey FAA	52	-1	64	41	18	0	1.86	8.24	10.64	18.72	
King City	52	-1	72	36	0	0	1.13	4.58	8.85	11.44	
Paso Robles AP	50	-1	67	32	0	0	1.29	4.71	9.82	13.95	
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>											
Redding	47	-3	67	36	9	0	4.68	16.9	24.97	33.3	
Red Bluff FSS	49	-3	68	37	9	0	5.27	12.9	17.54	22.29	
Chico AFS	49	-1	66	35	0	0	4.28	22.32	19.45	26.32	
Marysville	51	-2	66	38	4	0	2.75	11.03	16.53	21.04	
Sacramento AP	51	-1	64	39	0	0	2.49	10.4	13.65	17.52	
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>											
Stockton WSO	51	-1	65	37	0	0	1.15	7.11	10.22	13.95	
Fresno	51	-1	67	36	0	0	0.87	6.14	7.92	10.6	
Bakersfield	55	0	71	40	22	0	0.21	4.01	4.45	5.72	
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>											
Santa Maria AP	52	-2	67	35	4	0	1.63	7.74	10.12	12.36	
Santa Barbara	53	-2	68	36	2	0	1.15	8.42	12.87	16.25	
Ventura	54	0	73	39	102	0	1.73	8.65	11.44	14.38	
Los Angeles	59	-1	75	47	172	5	1.4	8.52	11.29	14.77	
Riverside	56	-1	78	39	96	0	0	1.47	7.8	9.58	
San Diego AP	58	-1	73	46	88	0	0.37	8.79	7.68	9.9	
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>											
Bishop	38	-5	59	18	0	0	0.16	2.09	3.8	5.37	
Lancaster	45	-4	61	29	0	0	0.54	5.33	6.01	6.92	
Daggett AP	47	-8	64	32	3	0	0.08	3.55	3.33	3.93	
Thermal AP	56	-4	77	33	52	1	0.14	1.47	3.12	3.16	
Blythe	57	-3	74	40	53	2	0.05	1.84	3.52	3.6	
Imperial	58	-3	78	39	62	19	0.21	1.74	2.61	2.75	
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>											
Alturas	36	2	58	20	0	0	0.09	3.11	7.51	12.01	
Mt. Shasta	37	-1	53	27	0	0	4.09	21.48	28.5	37.02	
Blue Canyon	38	-1	52	28	2	0	1.64	23.88	48.43	67.04	
Yosemite	--	--	55	27	0	0	0.33	14.43	28.19	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.