



California Crop Weather

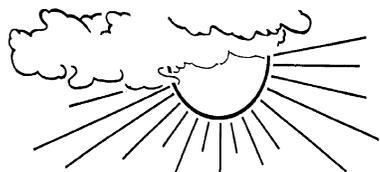
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: April 5, 2009
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WEATHER



On Monday, high pressure in the wake of a fast moving cold front had developed over California. This resulted in a dry and mild weather regime for the first two days of the week. In Southern California, strong offshore flow developed and brought very dry conditions to that region. A cold front moved across the Northern California coast on Wednesday. This system brought some light showers to the coast and to the far northern mountains. By Thursday a few showers had spread to the Northern Sierra Nevada, and there was some isolated light rain showers in southern California as well. An increased onshore flow resulted in a deep marine layer, which brought clouds and abundant moisture to that part of the state. As the cold front moved into the Great Basin, a surface high pressure center settled over that region, which led to strong northerly winds across most all of California on Friday. Gusty offshore flow continued across southern California on Saturday, but the winds were beginning to diminish in Northern California, as a high pressure ridge moved over the area. On Sunday, most of the state enjoyed dry and mild weather as the state lay between the high pressure to the east, and a low pressure area off the coast to the west.

FIELD CROPS

Weed spraying in **wheat**, **oat**, and **sorghum** grain fields continued. Wheat crops were ahead of the fertilizing schedule in Imperial County. **Rice** fields were being tilled for planting. **Alfalfa** fields were being chopped and bailed for feed. **Corn** fields continued to be planted. **Safflower** continued to emerge. **Cotton** planting was still underway. **Potatoes** continued to be harvested. Sweet potato hot bed planting was complete. Irrigation for field crops will be needed if no rainfall is in the forecast.

FRUIT CROPS

High winds throughout much of the Sacramento Valley hampered orchard spraying and bee pollination. **Grape** bud-break was doing well with shoot growth accelerating. In the southern central valley, grapes were beginning to leaf out. **Pomegranates**, **pears**, **prunes**, **apricots**, **cherries**, and **apples** were blooming. **Nectarine** and **peach** bloom was complete in the San Joaquin Valley. Stone-fruit growers were also treating their vineyards for weeds and insects. Spring **strawberries** and **blueberries** were blooming. New blueberry bush plantings continued. The harvests of **oranges**, **lemons**, **mandarins**, **minneolas**, and **pummelos** were ongoing. **Valencia** harvest was picking up speed. **Olive** trees were being trimmed.

NUT CROPS

Walnut blight treatment continued in the San Joaquin Valley. Mites were present on **almonds** throughout the state. Control measures were being employed and little damage due to mites was reported. Freeze damage in almond orchards was confirmed. **Pistachio** trees began to leaf out. High winds and cooler temperatures caused growers to irrigate for frost protection.

VEGETABLE CROPS

The **asparagus** harvest continued along the Central Coast and in the lower San Joaquin Valley. **Leaf lettuce** and **broccoli** harvest was still underway. Both fresh market and processing **tomatoes** were planted in Merced County. Stanislaus County harvested broccoli and **spinach** and also transplanted tomatoes. **Carrots**, **onions**, and **garlic** were being harvested, cultivated, irrigated, and treated with herbicide. **Melons** were still being planted. **Snow peas** in Tulare County were picked and outdoor plantings of **zucchini**, **squash**, and **cucumber** continued.

LIVESTOCK

Foothill pastures and rangeland in the northern part of the state were in fair to good condition. Central and southern areas were in decline following several weeks of dry weather and slow growth. Beef cattle received increased amounts of supplemental feed and nutrients as rangelands continued to deteriorate in Merced County. Soils have reportedly begun to dry out in Tulare, just as early vegetation entered the reproductive stages. Non-irrigated rangeland in the Sutter - Buttes area was heavily grazed. Some calving continued. Dairy herds were downsized due to the low milk price. Sheep continued to be moved off alfalfa. Bees were pollinating dried plums in the Sutter - Buttes and other northern areas, and were pollinating stone fruit in central areas.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 04/05/09 - "Data not available at publication"

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 04/05/09	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 04/05/09	January 1 - 04/05/09	Week Ending 04/05/09	July 1 - 04/05/09	July 1 - 04/05/09	July 1 - June 30
NORTH COAST Eureka Ukiah Santa Rosa CENTRAL COAST San Francisco AP San Jose Salinas AP Monterey FAA King City Paso Robles AP SACRAMENTO VALLEY Redding Red Bluff FSS Chico AFS Marysville Sacramento AP SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY Stockton WSO Fresno Bakersfield SOUTH COAST Santa Maria AP Santa Barbara Ventura Los Angeles Riverside San Diego AP SOUTHEAST INTERIOR Bishop Lancaster Daggett AP Thermal AP Blythe Imperial CASCADE - SIERRA Alturas Mt. Shasta Blue Canyon Yosemite	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			

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.