



California Crop Weather

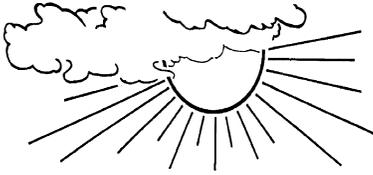
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

California Field Office • P.O. Box 1258 • Sacramento, CA 95812 • (916) 498-5161 • (916) 498-5186 FAX • www.nass.usda.gov/ca

WEEK ENDING: April 19, 2009
RELEASED: April 20, 2009

FREQUENCY: Weekly
VOL. 29 NO. 43

WEATHER



A trough of low pressure moved across the northern part of the state during the beginning part of the week. This feature combined with some diurnal heating and orographic effect brought some isolated showers over the Sierra Nevada, the Coastal range, and the Northern Mountains. Breezy north winds were also reported along the Sacramento Valley and surrounding foothills during this time period. Otherwise, warm and dry weather persisted for the most part throughout the observed period; under the influence of a ridge of high pressure located over eastern Pacific Ocean. The temperature across the state had a gradual increase from mid-week through the weekend as ridge of high pressure slowly moved over the region, bringing very limited breezes through the state and portions of the interior mountain terrain. In the valley and surrounding foothills, day time high temperatures started in the mid 60s and 70s, and by the end of the weekend, they climbed into the low 90s. Higher elevation temperatures rose from the low 60s to mid 70s. Along the California coast, temperatures ranged from the mid 60s to mid 70s during the same time period. The observed period ended up with day time high record temperatures across the valley, surrounding foothills, and southern parts of the state.

FIELD CROPS

Some dryland **grain** fields were showing poor development due to lack of rainfall. **Oat**, **barley**, and **wheat** maturity dwindled due to below normal temperatures and overcast conditions. Cutting of **winter forage** and other small grains for silage continued. Growers will be planting **lima** and **freezer beans** in the upcoming weeks. **Rice** fields were in all stages: unplowed, plowed once, applying water, and other intermediate cultivations. Also rice fields were rolled, flooded, and a few fields were planted. The second cutting of **alfalfa** fields was in progress in the San Joaquin Valley. **Corn** fields continued to be planted. **Cotton** planting was underway. **Potatoes** continued to be harvested. Sweet potato transplanting and hot bed digging continued in Merced.

FRUIT CROPS

Grape tying continued while vines leafed out. Spraying for mildew was necessary for some vineyards. Fruit tree bloom was mostly complete in the Sacramento Valley. **Persimmon**-stem elongation continued. **Kiwis** in the Sacramento Valley leafed out. Irrigation was necessary for most orchards throughout the state. **Strawberry** harvest began in the San Joaquin Valley. Early varieties of **blackberries** were starting to bloom in Tulare County. Cold temperatures caused some frost damage on **pomegranate**, kiwifruit and table grapes in the San Joaquin Valley. Late varieties of Navel **oranges** continue to be packed. Exports of Navel and Valencia oranges, **lemons**, and **tangelos** continued. The Valencia orange harvest gained speed with good maturity and fruit quality.

NUT CROPS

Almonds grew in size on the trees throughout the state. Scouting for ants in orchards began. **Walnut**-blight pesticide applications continued but were dictated by weather conditions. Orchards were flamed for weed control. Close monitoring of reservoir water supplies continued.

VEGETABLE CROPS

The rate of harvest began to increase for head **lettuce** in Monterey County. In Kern County, lettuce was showing good progress and harvest was expected to begin soon. **Potatoes**, **corn**, and **tomatoes** were planted in San Joaquin County, where **asparagus** continued to be harvested. The harvest of asparagus in Merced County also progressed, while fresh market and processing tomatoes continued to be planted. Ground preparation and planting of tomato transplants and seed tomatoes continued in Sutter County. Winds in Fresno County damaged tomato plants, causing some to be replanted. **Broccoli** seed bloomed. **Onions**, **garlic**, and **carrots** were irrigated and fertilized. Spring roadside stands in Tulare County were busy with very good quality. Spring vegetables, such as broccoli, **cauliflower**, mixed lettuce, and **beet greens** will be available through the end of April. Early **squash** and **zucchini** were blooming and setting fruit, allowing for a limited harvest to begin. Pole **cucumbers** were kept under hot caps for another week due to wind and cold temperatures at night.

LIVESTOCK

Cattle and sheep were grazing Sutter Butte's rangeland. Central valley range conditions had not improved as grasses had reached maturity in many areas. Further south, rangeland and pasture were reported to be in fair condition. Supplemental feeding of hay and nutrients continued. Low milk prices combined with high feed prices and drought concerns continue to be a problem for dairymen. Early indications of honey production per colony appeared to be up compared with last spring.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 04/19/09

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION				
	Average Week Ending 04/19/09	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal		
					January 1 - 04/19/09	January 1 - 04/19/09	Week Ending 04/19/09	July 1 - 04/19/09	July 1 - 04/19/09	July 1 - June 30	
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --				
NORTH COAST											
Eureka	46	-5	55	36	0	0	0.13	27.28	34.90	37.53	
Ukiah	56	0	92	34	13	0	0.00	19.19	36.89	37.96	
Santa Rosa	59	2	90	37	38	0	0.00	18.48	29.21	30.30	
CENTRAL COAST											
San Francisco AP	56	-1	86	41	12	0	0.00	14.23	19.35	19.70	
San Jose	--	--	--	--	35	0	--	--	14.13	14.42	
Salinas AP	57	0	96	36	36	0	0.00	10.85	12.11	12.44	
Monterey FAA	55	1	86	42	30	0	0.00	10.45	14.21	18.72	
King City	58	0	95	35	33	0	0.00	5.75	11.63	11.44	
Paso Robles AP	57	0	95	31	15	0	0.00	6.27	12.76	13.95	
SACRAMENTO VALLEY											
Redding	59	0	91	31	51	0	0.00	19.02	31.08	33.30	
Red Bluff FSS	61	2	91	36	57	0	0.00	15.24	21.66	22.29	
Chico AFS	59	0	87	36	32	0	0.00	26.48	24.45	26.32	
Marysville	60	-1	89	38	36	9	0.00	14.21	20.79	21.04	
Sacramento AP	61	2	90	39	38	0	0.00	14.85	16.77	17.52	
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY											
Stockton WSO	60	0	92	39	30	2	0.00	9.06	12.95	13.95	
Fresno	61	-1	93	39	72	15	0.00	7.15	10.41	10.60	
Bakersfield	62	-1	95	40	154	31	0.00	4.51	6.02	5.72	
SOUTH COAST											
Santa Maria AP	55	-1	94	33	28	0	0.00	9.06	13.45	12.36	
Santa Barbara	58	0	87	39	16	0	0.01	9.61	16.67	16.25	
Ventura	56	0	92	37	125	0	0.00	9.26	14.75	14.38	
Los Angeles	64	-1	94	48	281	117	0.00	8.93	14.48	14.77	
Riverside	63	1	99	40	208	20	0.00	4.09	10.09	9.58	
San Diego AP	63	0	91	52	174	49	0.00	9.08	10.19	9.90	
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR											
Bishop	54	0	84	28	1	0	0.00	2.16	4.48	5.37	
Lancaster	57	-2	88	32	17	0	0.00	5.36	7.52	6.92	
Daggett AP	62	-4	89	41	96	85	0.00	3.80	3.94	3.93	
Thermal AP	68	-3	99	46	366	324	0.00	1.47	3.49	3.16	
Blythe	69	-3	96	41	408	344	0.00	1.82	3.98	3.60	
Imperial	68	-3	98	44	382	363	0.00	1.86	2.94	2.75	
CASCADE - SIERRA											
Alturas	44	0	77	17	0	0	0.00	7.36	9.72	12.01	
Mt. Shasta	47	1	81	25	0	0	0.03	31.74	36.02	37.02	
Blue Canyon	47	2	71	22	4	0	0.06	38.94	60.81	67.04	
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	4	0	0.00	16.84	34.99	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.