



California Crop Weather

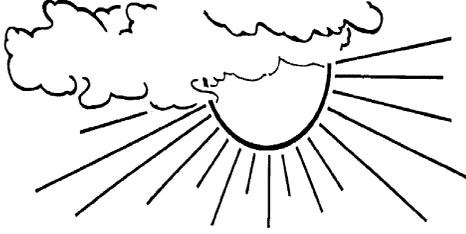
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: August 30, 2009
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WEATHER



The start of the week saw a low pressure system pass to the north of California. This produced an onshore flow across Northern California, with cooler temperatures across the north. High pressure over Southern California kept temperatures warm in that part of the State. As the week progressed, the high pressure over the South grew stronger and brought hotter temperatures to the entire State. The hottest day of the week for most of California was Thursday, with triple digit temperatures common statewide. Late on Thursday, the remnants of tropical storm Ignacio spread cloud cover and cooled down temperatures a bit.

Isolated mountain showers also resulted from this system. High pressure rebuilt by Saturday for another warm day across the State, with very dry weather creating critical fire weather conditions, especially for Southern California. By Sunday, a low pressure system approaching the Pacific Northwest brought a cooler onshore flow to Northern California; however, strong pressure over the south resulted in continued hot and dry conditions in Southern California.

FIELD CROPS

Some **cotton** fields received whitefly and aphid treatments as more bolls opened. Most cotton fields have received their last watering. The warm weather has aided in the development of cotton plants. **Alfalfa** continued to be cut and baled. The low price of hay has caused some farmers to dry down portions of the crop. The hot weather and lack of humidity has caused some spontaneous haystack fires. **Rice** fields were being drained in Colusa. **Sunflower** harvest moved forward. **Corn** for silage continued to be harvested, as well as corn for grain. Growers started to harvest **black-eyed pea** fields. **Onion** and **carrot** seed harvest was completed in the Sacramento Valley. **Cucumbers** and **squash** were being harvested for seed in the San Joaquin Valley.

FRUIT CROPS

Peach and **prune** harvests continued throughout the Central Valley, while **fig**, **nectarine**, **plum**, raisin **grape**, table grape, Gala **apple**, and Granny Smith apple harvests continued primarily in the San Joaquin Valley. The harvests for juicing grapes and wine grapes also began in the San Joaquin Valley, as normal vineyard development continued across the State. New **strawberry** plantings began in the San Joaquin Valley. **Pomegranates** developed in size and color, along with minor harvesting beginning of foothill varieties. The Valencia **orange** harvest continued to slow down in the San Joaquin Valley. Normal spraying and maintenance continued in orchards and vineyards.

NUT CROPS

The nonpareil **almond** harvest continued in full swing in both the San Joaquin Valley and Sacramento Valley. Shaking, sweeping, gathering, and delivering activities continued. Quality continued to look good, and efforts to control navel orangeworm (NOW) and other pests have appeared successful overall. Ground preparation and spraying was continued to prepare for the upcoming **walnut** harvest. NOW sprays began on **pistachio** orchards, which continued to develop, though at a slower pace than last year. Blanks have been reported in some pistachio orchards.

VEGETABLE CROPS

The processing **tomato** harvest was wrapping up in some areas of the State and harvest crews continued to play catch-up. Tulare County's **string beans**, assorted **peppers**, cherry tomatoes, **melon**, **squash**, **eggplant**, **okra** and **sweet corn** all continued to be harvested. Planting began for **cauliflower** and **broccoli**. In Sutter County, the harvests of farmers' market vegetables such as sweet corn, tomatoes, **watermelon**, **cantaloupe** and other melon varieties continued. Treatments for stinkbugs, mites, mold and mildew were applied to processing tomatoes and melons were treated for weeds and worms. The tomato harvest in San Joaquin County continued with early varieties and green tomatoes. The harvests of bell peppers, watermelons, cantaloupe and **pumpkins** had begun. Some forty-inch beds were prepared for produce in Imperial County. Fresno County producers finished up their **carrot** harvest with average yield and low quality. The harvest of dehydrator onions was also finished, with above average yields and good quality. Excellent yields were reported for processing tomatoes, whose harvest was nearing completion. However, quality decreased because the canning company was behind schedule. The cantaloupe crop was in various stages; from bloom set to harvest preparation, depending on the time of planting. **Basil**, fresh market and processing tomatoes, bell peppers, fresh market red and white **onions**, honeydew, cantaloupe, watermelon and **tomatillo** continued to be harvested in Merced County. **Radicchio** was planted and worm sprays were applied to tomato fields.

LIVESTOCK

Fire danger was again high to extreme on many grasslands, a result of warm, dry conditions combined with critically dry rangeland and non-irrigated pasture. Increased supplemental feeding of cattle on dry pasture continued to be a necessity. Vegetation in some central areas showed signs of depletion with normal grazing, as the summer grazing season came to a close. Irrigated pasture remained in mostly good condition, with some increases in irrigation frequency. Some early fall beef cow calving was underway. Milk production was down in some dairy herds, with the warmer temperatures. Dairy herd reduction, in response to unfavorable milk market conditions, continued. Some sheep and goats were grazing on dry-land grain fields, retired farmland, and some rangeland, with some sheepling-off of harvested tomato fields in Merced. Movement of honeybee hives to off-season locations was underway.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 08/30/09

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION				
	Average Week Ending 08/30/09	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal		
					January 1 - 08/30/09	January 1 - 08/30/09	Week Ending 08/30/09	July 1 - 08/30/09	July 1 - 08/30/09	July 1 - June 30	
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --				
NORTH COAST											
Eureka	54	-4	66	42	6	0	0.03	0.32	0.54	37.53	
Ukiah	74	2	100	48	1,282	1,109	0.00	0.00	0.23	37.96	
Santa Rosa	70	3	100	49	805	638	0.00	0.00	0.18	30.30	
CENTRAL COAST											
San Francisco AP	67	3	95	53	421	269	0.00	0.00	0.11	19.70	
San Jose	--	--	--	--	1,069	961	0.00	0.00	0.12	14.42	
Salinas AP	67	3	97	51	368	250	0.00	0.29	0.10	12.44	
Monterey FAA	64	2	92	46	210	86	0.00	0.15	0.30	18.72	
King City	72	4	104	47	1,040	740	0.00	0.00	0.06	11.44	
Paso Robles AP	76	4	107	42	1,340	1,179	0.00	0.00	0.07	13.95	
SACRAMENTO VALLEY											
Redding	79	1	104	56	2,267	1,913	0.00	0.00	0.45	33.30	
Red Bluff FSS	80	2	104	55	2,293	1,992	0.00	0.00	0.28	22.29	
Chico AFS	77	2	102	53	1,903	1,575	0.00	0.00	0.25	26.32	
Marysville	77	1	106	49	1,864	1,860	0.00	0.00	0.15	21.04	
Sacramento AP	76	2	104	52	1,628	1,438	0.00	0.00	0.12	17.52	
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY											
Stockton WSO	77	2	104	51	1,718	1,669	0.01	0.13	0.10	13.95	
Fresno	83	4	105	61	2,512	2,141	0.00	0.00	0.06	10.60	
Bakersfield	84	3	105	63	2,755	2,352	0.00	0.00	0.11	5.72	
SOUTH COAST											
Santa Maria AP	68	4	104	49	308	260	0.00	0.01	0.12	12.36	
Santa Barbara	68	1	89	49	482	482	0.00	0.01	0.20	16.25	
Ventura	68	0	88	50	436	0	0.00	0.00	0.08	14.38	
Los Angeles	81	5	101	63	1,660	1,611	0.00	0.00	0.16	14.77	
Riverside	--	--	104	60	2,168	1,678	0.00	0.00	0.22	9.58	
San Diego AP	77	5	91	65	1,230	1,152	0.00	0.00	0.14	9.90	
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR											
Bishop	73	1	100	47	1,533	1,328	0.00	0.24	0.32	5.37	
Lancaster	80	2	103	56	2,225	1,854	0.00	0.00	0.29	6.92	
Daggett AP	88	2	110	68	3,226	3,009	0.00	0.05	0.85	3.93	
Thermal AP	92	3	118	68	3,974	3,641	0.00	0.00	0.61	3.16	
Blythe	96	4	117	78	4,360	4,028	0.00	0.09	0.97	3.60	
Imperial	95	4	117	73	4,180	3,762	0.00	0.00	0.46	2.75	
CASCADE - SIERRA											
Alturas	63	2	92	34	514	293	0.00	0.35	0.68	12.01	
Mt. Shasta	66	2	88	41	712	424	0.00	0.44	0.88	37.02	
Blue Canyon	72	6	82	58	970	500	0.00	0.14	1.04	67.04	
Yosemite	--	--	88	53	1,160	892	0.00	0.00	0.87	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.