



California Crop Weather

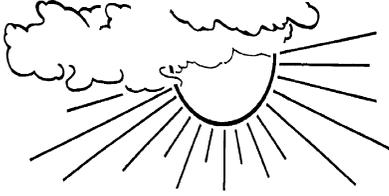
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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

WEEK ENDING: October 4, 2009
RELEASED: October 5, 2009

FREQUENCY: Weekly
VOL. 30 NO. 15

WEATHER



A trough of low pressure with rather limited moisture moved from the Gulf of Alaska to the Northwest US coast, bringing variable cloudiness, a few light showers, and unseasonably cooler temperatures to the northern parts of the State. The associated cold front brought windy and gusty conditions to the Northern California region, especially throughout the Sierra passes and canyons. This scenario increased the fire weather potential to several locations across the northern and central parts of the State until the later part of the week. A cold pool of air was left in the area throughout the weekend with light showers lingering in the Sierra Nevada. Consequently, the dry and gusty air moved to Southern California through the weekend, where several wild fires were sparked. As the trough of low pressure slowly moved toward the northern plains, the weather remained cool with a few high clouds painting the sky.

FIELD CROPS

Alfalfa continued to be harvested for green chop and for hay. **Corn** continued to be harvested for grain and silage. Harvested corn fields were being prepared for winter wheat planting. **Cotton** harvest has started on early planted fields. Bolls matured and were opening. Other cotton fields continued to be defoliated. **Rice** harvest moved full speed ahead, which caused trailer shortages and limited dryer space in some areas. Rice straw was being baled, chopped, or burned. **Bean** fields were being cut and dried for harvest. **Sunflower** harvest continued. Fall field work continued in preparation for planting winter forage.

FRUIT CROPS

The raisin **grape**, table grape, wine grape, and **apple** harvests continued primarily in the San Joaquin Valley. The **fig** harvest was completed, while the **kiwi** harvest began. Light picking of **peach**, **plum**, and **nectarine** trees continued as the harvests neared completion. The **pomegranate** harvest was in full swing, with Foothill and Wonderful varieties being picked. The Valencia **orange** harvest continued to wind down in the San Joaquin Valley. Navel oranges for the upcoming season continued to develop in size, as growers applied growth regulator treatments. **Mandarins** were developing well, and harvest was expected to begin soon. The **lemon** harvest neared completion along the coastal region, and harvesting continued in the desert region. Concerns about some Kern County citrus orchards arose after citrus leafminer pests were detected. Normal spraying and maintenance continued in orchards and vineyards, which included ongoing applications of fall fertilizer for fruit trees.

NUT CROPS

The **almond** harvest neared completion in the Central Valley, as hulling and stockpile fumigations continued. As part of post-harvest maintenance, some almond orchards were pruned. The **walnut** and **pistachio** harvests accelerated in the Central Valley. Reported quality and yields have been good thus far.

VEGETABLE CROPS

The harvest of various summer vegetables was still ongoing in Tulare County, but activities were beginning to slow down. Assorted **peppers**, **okra**, **sweet corn**, **squash**, **eggplant** and **tomatoes** were among the vegetables being harvested. San Joaquin County's fall harvest continued for tomatoes and **pumpkins**. Tomatoes and melons were also being harvested in Stanislaus County, with approximately one month left in the tomato season and ten days left in the melon season. The planting of winter vegetables such as **spinach** and **broccoli** began. In Imperial County, the first **cauliflower** transplants were in the ground and a few fields of sweet corn were progressing. Stands were offering seedling broccoli and **carrots**. In Merced County, harvests continued for **basil**, fresh market and processing tomatoes, bell peppers, **honeydew**, **cantaloupe** and **watermelon**. The fresh market red and white **onion** harvest was completed and winter broccoli and **radicchio** were being planted. Worm sprays were applied to tomato fields. Fresno County farmers were drying basil seeds in preparation for harvest. The processing tomato harvest was completed and winter **lettuce** planting took place. **Asparagus** was being harvested in Kern County.

LIVESTOCK

Rangeland and dry-land pasture forage conditions continued to deteriorate, despite more favorable temperatures in many areas and some rains in northern parts of the State. Supplemental feeding of cattle on range and dry pasture continued, and in some areas herds were downsized further due to the poor feed conditions. Transport of cattle from upper-elevations to lower-elevation winter pastures continued. Irrigated pasture was in mostly good condition. Fall beef cow calving was underway. Dairy herd retirement continued. Sheep were grazing on dry-land grain fields and older alfalfa, other hay, and vegetable fields. Honeybees were moved to winter storage.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 10/04/09

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 10/04/09	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 10/04/09	January 1 - 10/04/09	Week Ending 10/04/09	July 1 - 10/04/09	July 1 - 10/04/09	July 1 - June 30
-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --				
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	51	-5	63	37	12	0	0.03	0.80	1.57	37.53
Ukiah	60	-6	87	39	1,662	1,410	0.00	0.01	1.04	37.96
Santa Rosa	62	-4	85	43	1,142	865	0.00	0.16	0.81	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	61	-2	79	50	613	411	0.00	0.28	0.41	19.70
San Jose	--	--	--	--	1,435	1,253	0.00	0.00	0.42	14.42
Salinas AP	59	-4	85	43	510	394	0.00	0.40	0.36	12.44
Monterey FAA	58	-4	78	45	264	133	0.00	0.37	0.95	18.72
King City	60	-6	88	39	1,383	986	0.00	0.00	0.29	11.44
Paso Robles AP	60	-6	87	34	1,747	1,499	0.00	0.06	0.39	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	66	-5	88	43	2,796	2,397	0.00	0.12	1.34	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	66	-4	88	47	2,851	2,489	0.00	0.08	1.12	22.29
Chico AFS	66	-2	98	42	2,410	1,970	0.00	0.35	0.94	26.32
Marysville	65	-5	91	44	2,360	2,312	0.00	0.26	0.65	21.04
Sacramento AP	64	-5	84	45	2,084	1,830	0.00	0.14	0.53	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	65	-5	86	46	2,183	2,104	0.01	1.42	0.46	13.95
Fresno	68	-4	98	47	3,146	2,657	0.00	0.01	0.35	10.60
Bakersfield	69	-4	98	48	3,435	2,936	0.00	0.01	0.29	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	61	-2	89	42	438	385	0.00	0.02	0.41	12.36
Santa Barbara	64	0	87	46	720	683	0.00	0.01	0.70	16.25
Ventura	65	0	85	48	669	0	0.00	0.00	0.49	14.38
Los Angeles	71	-2	93	59	2,216	2,098	0.00	0.00	0.47	14.77
Riverside	--	--	--	--	2,761	2,171	0.00	0.00	0.48	9.58
San Diego AP	68	-2	84	60	1,636	1,546	0.00	0.00	0.37	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	58	-4	92	30	1,851	1,551	0.00	0.25	0.59	5.37
Lancaster	65	-3	93	36	2,758	2,284	0.00	0.00	0.52	6.92
Daggett AP	71	-4	101	47	3,971	3,703	0.00	0.05	1.16	3.93
Thermal AP	75	-5	104	46	4,800	4,469	0.00	0.10	1.00	3.16
Blythe	80	-1	108	55	5,352	4,937	0.00	0.12	1.50	3.60
Imperial	80	-1	109	55	5,154	4,656	0.00	0.00	0.85	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	--	--	84	32	572	296	0.00	0.35	1.38	12.01
Mt. Shasta	49	-7	81	32	858	446	0.18	0.75	1.93	37.02
Blue Canyon	53	-6	76	31	1,274	574	0.00	0.25	3.00	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	86	41	1,498	1,089	0.00	0.01	1.89	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.