



California Crop Weather

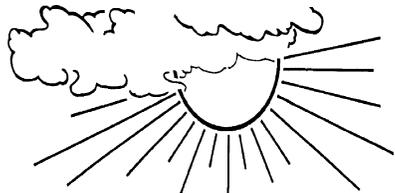
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: October 11, 2009
RELEASED: October 13, 2009

FREQUENCY: Weekly
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WEATHER



The week began with a weak low pressure system, originally from the northern interior of the U.S., hovering semi stationary over northern Nevada. This brought a series of shortwave systems wrapping around the back of the low pressure system into California. These systems brought some clouds but no precipitation. The most significant effect of the systems was the much below normal temperatures that draped the State. Monday and Tuesday saw widespread occurrences of record minimum temperatures, from Lake Arrowhead in Southern California, to Sacramento and Eureka in Northern California. Thursday was the warmest day with temperatures barely in the normal range as a weak high pressure tried to build over the area. That ridge weakened and temperatures dropped slightly for the weekend as pressures dropped with the approaching deep low system. This system contained remnants of Super Typhoon Melor.

FIELD CROPS

Rice harvest continued, with some areas still experiencing a shortage of trailers. Other areas were experiencing delays due to high moisture in the rice. **Milo** was still being irrigated and developing in Fresno County. **Alfalfa** fields continued to be baled for hay. Some areas were approaching completion of corn for silage and corn for grain harvest. **Black-eyed bean** fields were dried and harvested in Tulare County. **Cotton** fields were being defoliated. **Sunflower** harvest continued. Field work continued in preparation of planting **winter wheat, oats**, and other fall forage. **Safflower** harvest was completed in Fresno County.

FRUIT CROPS

The table **grape, kiwi**, and **apple** harvests continued primarily in the San Joaquin Valley. Light picking of **peach, plum**, and **nectarine** trees also continued as the harvests neared completion. Raisin grape trays were being collected. The impending wet weather pushed growers to harvest more grapes along the North Coast. The inclement weather raised concerns about rot and brix levels of wine grapes along the North Coast. The Early Foothill **pomegranate** harvest was completed as Wonderful varieties continued to be picked. Some **strawberries** were picked and the Satsuma **mandarin** harvest began in the San Joaquin Valley. The Valencia **orange** harvest continued to wind down in the San Joaquin Valley, and navel oranges continued to develop in size. The **lemon** harvest continued in the desert region. The fall budding of citrus trees continued. Normal spraying and maintenance continued in orchards and vineyards, which included fall pruning of orchards.

NUT CROPS

The **almond** and **walnut** harvests neared completion in the Central Valley, as hulling and stockpile fumigations continued. The **pistachio** harvest continued in full swing in the Central Valley. Overall reported quality has been good, though there appears to be more insect damage for walnuts this year.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Sweet corn, squash, peppers, melons and **tomatoes** continued to be harvested in Tulare County. In Fresno County, summer vegetables such as squash, **cucumbers, green beans, bittermelon**, tomatoes, **eggplant, radishes**, bell peppers, **carrots** and long beans were growing well. Successive planting for some crops continued. Harvests were ongoing for processing **onions, tomatoes** and **garlic**. The dry onion harvest was completed. **Pumpkin** fields were growing well with good fruit sizing. **Watermelon, cantaloupe, honeydew** and other mixed melons continued to be harvested, but were slowing down. Fall **lettuce** was being thinned and irrigated. Growers were also irrigating, fertilizing and applying spongicide to carrots, which were progressing well. In Sutter County, the fresh market honeydew harvest continued with below-average yields reported. Harvests were slowing down in San Joaquin County for tomatoes, bell peppers, cantaloupe and pumpkins. Stanislaus County producers were still harvesting tomatoes, fall **cauliflower** and sweet corn. Some **broccoli** and cauliflower have already been planted on the Westside of the County. Farmers Statewide continued to perform fieldwork in preparation for fall plantings

LIVESTOCK

Rangeland and dry-land pasture was extremely dry in most areas, despite some moderate rain events in some parts of the State. Fire danger was high. Supplemental feeding of cattle on range and dry pasture continued. Cattle were gathered from upper elevations for transport to lower-elevation winter pastures. Irrigated pasture was in mostly good condition. Fall beef cow calving continued. Dairy herd retirement continued at a slower pace. Sheep were pasturing in dry-land grain fields and older alfalfa and other hay fields. Some fall lambing was underway. Honeybees were in squash and melon crops, and some hives were moved to winter storage.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 10/11/09

| STATIONS | TEMPERATURE | | | | GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE | | PRECIPITATION | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------|-----|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| | Average Week Ending 10/11/09 | Departure from Normal | High | Low | This Season | Normal | This Season | | Normal | |
| | | | | | January 1 - 10/11/09 | January 1 - 10/11/09 | Week Ending 10/11/09 | July 1 - 10/11/09 | July 1 - 10/11/09 | July 1 - June 30 |
| | -- Degrees Fahrenheit -- | | | | -- Number -- | | -- Inches -- | | | |
| NORTH COAST | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eureka | 50 | -6 | 69 | 39 | 12 | 0 | 0.02 | 0.82 | 1.92 | 37.53 |
| Ukiah | 57 | -7 | 85 | 36 | 1,666 | 1,440 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 1.32 | 37.96 |
| Santa Rosa | 59 | -6 | 80 | 40 | 1,146 | 896 | 0.00 | 0.16 | 1.04 | 30.30 |
| CENTRAL COAST | | | | | | | | | | |
| San Francisco AP | 59 | -4 | 74 | 47 | 616 | 429 | 0.00 | 0.28 | 0.55 | 19.70 |
| San Jose | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1,442 | 1,291 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.56 | 14.42 |
| Salinas AP | 57 | -6 | 77 | 43 | 510 | 415 | 0.00 | 0.40 | 0.46 | 12.44 |
| Monterey FAA | 55 | -6 | 71 | 44 | 264 | 142 | 0.00 | 0.37 | 1.36 | 18.72 |
| King City | 58 | -6 | 80 | 37 | 1,384 | 1,018 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.38 | 11.44 |
| Paso Robles AP | 57 | -8 | 79 | 33 | 1,747 | 1,532 | 0.00 | 0.06 | 0.50 | 13.95 |
| SACRAMENTO VALLEY | | | | | | | | | | |
| Redding | 65 | -3 | 89 | 43 | 2,830 | 2,453 | 0.00 | 0.12 | 1.57 | 33.30 |
| Red Bluff FSS | 65 | -4 | 88 | 45 | 2,886 | 2,549 | 0.00 | 0.08 | 1.35 | 22.29 |
| Chico AFS | 62 | -4 | 82 | 42 | 2,428 | 2,012 | 0.00 | 0.35 | 1.12 | 26.32 |
| Marysville | 61 | -8 | 82 | 38 | 2,370 | 2,370 | 0.00 | 0.26 | 0.81 | 21.04 |
| Sacramento AP | 61 | -6 | 82 | 41 | 2,097 | 1,879 | 0.00 | 0.14 | 0.65 | 17.52 |
| SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY | | | | | | | | | | |
| Stockton WSO | 60 | -7 | 82 | 40 | 2,192 | 2,157 | 0.00 | 1.42 | 0.57 | 13.95 |
| Fresno | 64 | -5 | 81 | 46 | 3,174 | 2,721 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.43 | 10.60 |
| Bakersfield | 64 | -7 | 81 | 46 | 3,468 | 3,013 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.34 | 5.72 |
| SOUTH COAST | | | | | | | | | | |
| Santa Maria AP | 57 | -5 | 75 | 40 | 439 | 400 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.48 | 12.36 |
| Santa Barbara | 57 | -6 | 70 | 43 | 721 | 709 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.84 | 16.25 |
| Ventura | 59 | 0 | 69 | 47 | 670 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.60 | 14.38 |
| Los Angeles | 65 | -6 | 74 | 56 | 2,253 | 2,179 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.54 | 14.77 |
| Riverside | -- | -- | -- | -- | 2,787 | 2,241 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.54 | 9.58 |
| San Diego AP | 64 | -5 | 70 | 56 | 1,664 | 1,609 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.44 | 9.90 |
| SOUTHEAST INTERIOR | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bishop | 52 | -7 | 81 | 22 | 1,851 | 1,552 | 0.00 | 0.25 | 0.63 | 5.37 |
| Lancaster | 60 | -6 | 82 | 32 | 2,769 | 2,323 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.57 | 6.92 |
| Daggett AP | 65 | -8 | 85 | 43 | 4,009 | 3,793 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 1.20 | 3.93 |
| Thermal AP | 71 | -6 | 88 | 50 | 4,880 | 4,587 | 0.00 | 0.10 | 1.04 | 3.16 |
| Blythe | 70 | -9 | 90 | 49 | 5,420 | 5,067 | 0.00 | 0.12 | 1.58 | 3.60 |
| Imperial | 71 | -8 | 90 | 51 | 5,229 | 4,788 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.93 | 2.75 |
| CASCADE - SIERRA | | | | | | | | | | |
| Alturas | 46 | -4 | 70 | 20 | 572 | 296 | 0.00 | 0.35 | 1.53 | 12.01 |
| Mt. Shasta | 52 | -2 | 73 | 27 | 858 | 446 | 0.00 | 0.75 | 2.23 | 37.02 |
| Blue Canyon | 53 | -4 | 65 | 34 | 1,232 | 574 | 0.00 | 0.26 | 3.65 | 67.04 |
| Yosemite | -- | -- | 70 | 35 | 1,498 | 1,090 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 2.20 | 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.