



# California Crop Weather

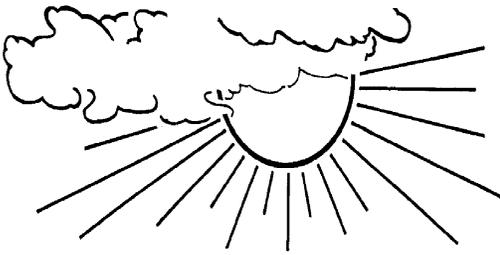
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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

WEEK ENDING: March 20, 2011  
RELEASED: March 21, 2011

FREQUENCY: Weekly  
VOL. 31 NO. 39

## WEATHER



Rains continued across Northern California as a series of relatively warm and moist Pacific storms pushed through that portion of the State at the beginning of the week. These storms brought widespread rain to the north, but Southern California received only occasional gusty northerly winds from these storms, while temperatures in the south ran well above normal. This pattern persisted until Thursday, when the north saw a break in the weather. But this respite was short-lived as another, stronger

series of storms moved in late Friday night and Saturday morning, followed by another storm on Sunday. With the ground already saturated in the north, and creek and river levels already high, the heavy precipitation from these later storms caused some localized flooding. Fortunately, these storms were cold enough that a lot of the precipitation in the mountains fell as snow and didn't contribute to the storm runoff. Meanwhile in Southern California, where very heavy rains finally arrived during the weekend, flooding began to develop as drainages were overwhelmed by the heavy runoff.

## FIELD CROPS

Field work was postponed in areas that received heavy rainfall. Winter forage development continued, along with **wheat**, **barley**, and **oat** crops. Irrigation took place in areas not affected by rain. Dryland crops continued to do well in areas with sufficient soil moisture. Herbicide applications resumed on small grain fields as weather permitted. **Alfalfa** fields continued to break dormancy and were treated for broadleaf and grass control. Drainage work continued in **rice** fields to remove excess water from rain. Preparation in **cotton** and **dry bean** fields continued. **Corn** seed arrived in preparation for spring planting. Spring field work continued with tillage and weed control where conditions allowed.

## FRUIT CROPS

The navel **orange**, Valencia orange, **grapefruit**, **mandarin**, and **lemon** harvests continued in the San Joaquin Valley. Lemons and grapefruit were also picked in the desert region, with lemons being picked in the coastal regions as well. Citrus plants were being shipped across the country from Tulare County nurseries. Pre-emergent herbicides were applied in Napa County **grape** vineyards along with ongoing pruning. Blooming continued in stone fruit and **cherry** trees as bloom spray applications began. **Strawberry** plants continued to show good development.

## NUT CROPS

The **almond** bloom continued in the San Joaquin Valley while blooming finished in the Sacramento Valley. Bees continued to be placed in blooming almond orchards and fungicide applications were ongoing as weather allowed. Bloom sprays and fields were prepared for the upcoming **walnut** bloom.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Processing **tomatoes** were being planted while **carrots**, **cabbage** and some organic vegetables were being harvested in Kern County. Early **squash** were under hot caps and bloom was expected soon in Tulare County. **Broccoli** and other winter vegetables harvest, though hampered by wet conditions, continued in Fresno County. **Asparagus** harvest was underway in the San Joaquin Valley.

## LIVESTOCK

Heavy spring rains continued to bolster range conditions. Central Valley and foothill rangeland and pasture were reported to be in very good to excellent condition. Cattle weight gains continued to improve as due to the flourishing vegetation. Supplemental feeding of livestock declined. Sheep and cattle continue to graze retired farmland. Milk production was tempered by unseasonably cool and wet conditions in the principle dairy region.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 3/20/11**

STATIONS <sup>1</sup>	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION				
	Average Week Ending 3/20/11.	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	Rain Days <sup>2</sup>	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 3/20/11	January 1 - 3/20	July 1 - 3/20/11	Week Ending 3/20/11	July 1 - 3/20/11	July 1 - 3/20	July 1 - June 30
<b>North Coast</b>	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Days --		-- Inches --		
Eureka_WFO	49	0	59	38	0	0	101	3.13	30.61	31.18	38.10
Ukiah	48	-5	60	34	0	0	68	4.91	29.72	33.52	38.90
Santa_Rosa_AG	49	-6	65	33	3	0	69	4.95	31.03	27.01	31.01
Napa_AP	53	-1	64	35	9	0	69	4.49	26.65	22.92	26.46
<b>Central Coast</b>											
San_Francisco_A	53	-1	61	42	6	0	56	2.39	18.05	17.51	20.11
San_Jose_AP	55	-2	70	41	13	6	45	1.90	10.68	12.73	15.08
Salinas_AP	55	2	71	39	15	0	55	2.25	12.82	10.95	12.91
Monterey_AP	54	-1	67	39	15	0	63	2.56	15.80	17.10	20.35
King_City_Ag	55	-1	76	36	10	0	47	1.74	8.64	10.53	12.30
Paso_Robles_AP	54	0	77	32	5	0	33	2.97	11.58	11.39	13.08
<b>Sacramento Valley</b>											
Redding	49	-4	60	36	15	0	71	3.71	26.47	27.20	33.52
Red_Bluff	50	-5	62	34	10	0	59	3.24	16.54	20.07	24.07
Willows_6W	51	-3	62	36	1	0	67	4.00	23.63	16.15	19.03
Oroville	51	-4	61	39	0	0	62	3.69	23.05	24.23	28.75
Marysville	52	-5	63	39	3	1	49	3.73	19.90	18.57	22.07
Sacramento_AP	53	-2	66	39	5	0	50	4.12	19.52	15.39	17.93
<b>San Joaquin Valley</b>											
Stockton	55	-1	71	42	4	0	57	1.02	12.63	11.60	13.84
Modesto_AP	55	-3	74	41	6	12	61	1.08	11.32	10.83	13.12
Merced_Macready	54	-1	74	38	6	0	53	1.78	12.28	10.40	12.50
Madera_AP	54	-3	75	34	3	0	42	1.20	11.21	9.69	11.94
Fresno_AP	56	0	75	40	9	0	46	1.46	13.05	9.19	11.23
Lemoore_NAS	54	-3	77	31	2	0	43	1.25	9.30	6.46	7.89
Visalia_AP	54	-2	72	39	1	0	39	0.91	13.01	9.07	11.03
Bakersfield	57	-1	76	37	5	17	35	0.29	8.49	5.27	6.49
<b>Cascade Sierra</b>											
Alturas_AP	38	-3	51	23	0	0	62	0.52	9.29	8.36	12.13
Mount_Shasta_AP	37	-5	50	25	0	0	76	6.51	33.98	31.91	39.16
Blue_Canyon	32	-8	42	24	0	0	72	8.86	61.77	54.42	66.36
Yosemite_Valley	43	-3	63	31	0	0	59	4.06	41.56	31.11	37.73
<b>South Coast</b>											
Santa_Maria_AP	55	2	68	34	13	0	48	4.29	20.60	11.89	14.01
Santa_Barbara_A	59	3	80	40	32	7	40	5.58	23.73	15.11	16.93
Oxnard_NWS	57	1	74	41	79	15	41	4.54	20.41	13.84	15.62
Riverside_AP	60	2	82	44	88	58	33	0.01	8.09	8.75	10.22
Los_Angeles_AP	58	-1	69	49	80	103	37	1.70	14.79	11.56	13.15
San_Diego_AP	61	2	71	53	107	134	37	0.00	10.69	9.04	10.77
<b>Southeast Interior</b>											
Bishop_AP	49	2	76	21	0	0	29	0.25	6.70	4.16	5.02
Daggett_AP	61	5	83	39	47	24	21	0.00	1.85	3.65	4.17
Lancaster_ATC	55	3	80	25	13	0	29	0.42	7.78	6.52	7.40
Thermal	68	4	92	48	157	182	12	0.00	2.60	3.28	3.53
Blythe_AP	70	7	91	52	192	158	16	0.00	2.04	3.73	4.02
Imperial_CA	70	7	93	51	198	188	14	0.00	2.68	2.76	2.96

1 Weather stations added as of July 6, 2010.

2 New addition as of July 6, 2010. Total number of days with precipitation events this season.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) is in inches.

Air Temperatures are in Degrees Fahrenheit.

Normal periods 1970-2000 used in Departure From Normal calculations.

For more weather information visit [www.awis.com](http://www.awis.com) or call 1-888-798-9955.

Copyright 2011: Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc.

All rights reserved.