



California Crop Weather

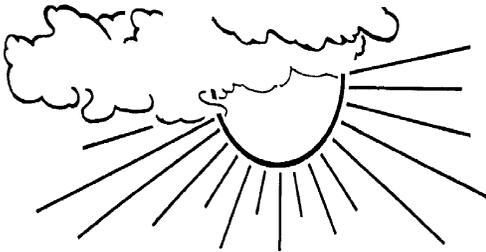
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: February 26, 2012
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WEATHER



The low pressure system, which brought light showers the previous weekend, dropped south into Baja California on Monday. A high pressure ridge developed over California on the heels of that system, resulting in warmer and drier conditions for the Golden State for most of the week. A surface pressure gradient developed from north to south, resulting in gusty offshore winds across much of the State as well. The strongest winds developed across Southern California. These gusty northerly winds brought fairly dry conditions to much of the State. This pattern persisted through Friday. By Friday night, a cold front and its associated low pressure system moved across Northern California, resulting in a few light showers across the north, especially along the coast, and cooler temperatures. The cooling trend continued on Sunday, but no precipitation fell in the State.

FIELD CROPS

Dry-land grains showed good growth and steady development in some parts of the State, with more precipitation needed to sustain crop development. Lack of moisture in other areas could prove tragic for crop growth. Some replanting of **wheat** in poor fields was required. Other fields were destroyed so that other crops may be planted pending forecasted rain. Overall wheat progress was delayed. Some small grain fields were being irrigated. Broadleaf weed control in **hay**, wheat, **rye**, and **oat** fields continued as wheat and other small grains were still stunted with minimal amounts heading out. Ground preparation and fertilization also continued. **Rice** fields continued to be drained as some fields were dry enough for tractor cultivation. Field corn planting had begun. **Alfalfa** fields showed decent growth in areas benefiting from recent rains. Field preparation for spring **cotton** planting continued with bed formation, pre-irrigation and weed control.

FRUIT CROPS

Pruning of orchards wrapped up; herbicide spraying continued. Lack of water remained a concern for growers as they began to plan for the coming year. Early **plums** and **apricots** were blooming. Early **cherries** began to bloom. The unseasonably warm weather was causing some **peaches** and **nectarines** to start blooming. Bloom sprays were applied in stone fruit orchards. Pruning of **grape** and **kiwi** vineyards was nearly finished. Kiwifruit, **persimmons** and Asian **pears** continued to be exported. Navel **oranges**, Murcott **tangerines**, and Mineola **tangelos** continued to be harvested and exported. Frost damage was limited. The export of **pummelos**, **grapefruit**, **Cara Caras** and **lemons** was ongoing.

NUT CROPS

A few growers were still irrigating, planting, and pruning in **walnut** and **pistachio** orchards. Walnuts and pistachios continued to be exported. **Almonds** were nearing full bloom in all parts of the State. Fungicide applications commenced.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Kern County reported harvests of **carrots** and **potatoes**. Harvest of winter vegetables was almost complete in Fresno County. In Stanislaus County, **broccoli** continued to be harvested and **asparagus** and **spinach** were growing very well. Certified producers were preparing growing grounds for upcoming spring vegetable crops in Tulare County.

LIVESTOCK

Non-irrigated rangeland was still in relatively poor condition for most of the State. There were reports of some greening in the northern regions that had received some precipitation earlier this month. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued. Sheep and cattle grazed on retired farmland and alfalfa fields. Bees continued to be placed in stone fruit and almond orchards. Due to the warm and dry weather, bees were actively working the almond and early fruit bloom.

This report is available the first workday of the week after 1:00 PDT at
www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/California/Publications/index.asp

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 2/26/12

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION					
	Average Week Ending 2/26/12.	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	Rain Days 1/	This Season		Normal		
					January 1 - 2/26/12	January 1 - 2/26	July 1 - 2/26/12	Week Ending 2/26/12	July 1 - 2/26/12	July 1 - 2/26	July 1 - June 30	
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Days --		-- Inches --			
North Coast												
Eureka_WFO	46	-3	55	30	0	0	61	0.10	19.97	26.97	38.10	
Ukiah	52	2	76	28	0	0	39	0.00	12.64	28.84	38.90	
Santa_Rosa_AG	55	2	80	29	4	0	26	0.00	11.29	23.21	31.01	
Napa_AP	55	3	78	32	1	0	31	0.00	8.81	19.64	26.46	
Central Coast												
San_Francisco_A	54	2	70	39	0	0	28	0.03	5.51	14.92	20.11	
San_Jose_AP	57	2	77	40	5	0	27	0.02	2.86	10.63	15.08	
Salinas_AP	55	2	77	34	4	0	29	0.02	5.32	9.14	12.91	
Monterey_AP	53	-1	73	36	0	0	32	0.00	5.44	14.38	20.35	
King_City_Ag	55	1	84	30	0	0	20	0.00	2.54	8.56	12.30	
Paso_Robles_AP	53	1	80	26	0	0	18	0.00	4.19	9.29	13.08	
Sacramento Valley												
Redding	55	5	75	40	5	0	37	0.01	13.07	23.24	33.52	
Red_Bluff	56	4	78	38	6	0	29	0.00	11.06	17.21	24.07	
Willows_6W	55	5	73	34	2	0	28	0.00	10.07	13.79	19.03	
Oroville	53	2	73	32	0	0	34	0.00	9.71	20.55	28.75	
Marysville	54	1	73	38	2	0	25	0.00	7.89	15.83	22.07	
Sacramento_AP	54	2	74	37	2	0	20	0.02	5.33	13.14	17.93	
San Joaquin Valley												
Stockton	54	2	74	32	0	0	22	0.00	3.61	9.85	13.84	
Modesto_AP	54	-1	73	38	0	0	20	0.00	3.36	9.07	13.12	
Merced_Macready	53	2	75	34	0	0	21	0.00	3.30	8.68	12.50	
Madera_AP	52	-1	76	33	0	0	14	0.00	2.76	7.95	11.94	
Fresno_AP	54	2	77	36	1	0	12	0.00	3.41	7.49	11.23	
Lemoore_NAS	55	3	76	37	1	0	19	0.00	2.37	5.20	7.89	
Visalia_AP	52	-1	75	34	3	0	10	0.00	2.67	7.43	11.03	
Bakersfield	55	1	81	37	17	0	14	0.00	1.92	4.17	6.49	
Cascade Sierra												
Alturas_AP	34	-2	64	10	0	0	34	0.09	3.05	7.26	12.13	
Mount_Shasta_AP	40	2	67	18	0	0	42	0.00	11.55	27.40	39.16	
Blue_Canyon	45	8	60	28	0	0	38	0.05	18.94	46.27	66.36	
Yosemite_Valley	47	5	69	31	0	0	17	0.00	13.09	26.52	37.73	
South Coast												
Santa_Maria_AP	57	5	83	36	10	0	19	0.00	4.65	9.55	14.01	
Santa_Barbara_A	55	-2	75	37	14	0	16	0.00	5.68	12.21	16.93	
Oxnard_NWS	56	-2	75	39	93	4	15	0.00	5.20	11.34	15.62	
Riverside_AP	62	5	85	41	114	23	20	0.00	3.56	7.07	10.22	
Los_Angeles_AP	58	0	76	46	78	63	18	0.00	4.26	9.59	13.15	
San_Diego_AP	59	-1	75	49	44	82	26	0.00	5.78	7.31	10.77	
Southeast Interior												
Bishop_AP	46	3	70	20	0	0	10	0.00	2.55	3.63	5.02	
Daggett_AP	56	3	80	34	14	0	13	0.00	1.00	3.21	4.17	
Lancaster_ATC	50	2	78	22	0	0	16	0.00	1.71	5.37	7.40	
Thermal	62	2	90	39	50	66	12	0.00	1.29	2.92	3.53	
Blythe_AP	63	3	86	41	66	55	14	0.00	2.65	3.35	4.02	
Imperial_CA	62	2	86	41	55	79	12	0.00	0.75	2.54	2.96	

1/ 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 or call 1-888-798-9955.

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