



# California Crop Weather

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: December 14, 2014  
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## WEATHER

Every day this week, various locations in the State received some precipitation. The heaviest precipitation occurred on Thursday, when a strong Pacific storm slammed into the State, battering parts of the Sierras with 100+ MPH winds and deluging parts of the State with over 5 inches of rain. Parts of the Sierras received nearly 3 feet of snow during this event. At the beginning of the week, temperatures were a little warmer than average, but by the end of the week, temperatures were near expected normals for this time of year. Highs were in the 60s and 70s in the beginning of the week. Towards the end of the week highs were in the 50s outside the mountains and lows in the 40s for much of the State. The mountains were much cooler, with highs in the 30s and lows dropping into the teens. The mountain snowpack has become well established, with locations around Tahoe reporting nearly 4 feet of snow depth. The southern part of the State received around half an inch to an inch of precipitation at most locations. The exception was the extreme South and Southeast where very little rainfall occurred.

## FIELD CROPS

**Wheat** was in excellent condition, except in flooded areas where standing water could drown the newly emerged plant. Emergence was considered in excellent shape due to recent rainfall. Ninety percent of wheat was emerged and condition was rated as 80 percent good or excellent. Pasture and rangeland condition was 30 percent good to excellent. The last cutting of **alfalfa** for silage was ongoing. Field preparation and planting of winter wheat for grain and silage continued. Planted winter forage crops continued to grow and received a boost from recent rains. Fields were being prepared for winter crops. Growers were working to comply with the Cotton Plowdown Regulations. All fields must be shredded and disked by December 20, 2014. The last cutting of alfalfa for silage was ongoing.

## FRUIT CROPS

**Grapes** and other fruit were pruned and herbicides were applied. **Olive** and table grape harvests neared completion. Vines were not pruned yet as most still have leaves. Due to heavy rains, most field and orchard work was halted. **Persimmons** were harvested. **Grapefruit, limes, lemons, and oranges** were packed and exported. Color in Navel oranges was improving.

## NUT CROPS

Orchard ground was saturated by the end of the week, but very few trees fell during 50 MPH valley wind gusts and heavy rain. Pruning of **almond** and **walnut** orchards continued earlier in the week before the storm. Field and orchard activity stopped during the rain storm. Days suitable for field work were reported as less than 4. Shelling and processing of stored almonds was ongoing.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

In Monterey County, fields were mostly empty with very few vegetables growing. There was some **brassica** to harvest, but rain made field access difficult. In San Joaquin County, winter vegetables were emerging and getting close to harvest. In Fresno County, organic **broccoli** was harvested with reported excellent yield and quality. **Onions** were up to good stand and beds were put up for **tomatoes**. In Tulare County, spring **spinach** and broccoli were planted.

## LIVESTOCK

Recent precipitation gave grasses a chance to grow but conditions were still dry. Sheep continued to graze on small grains fields, alfalfa fields, or on retired farmlands. Ranchers were supplementing feed with baled hay.

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](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/California/Publications/index.asp)

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 12/14/14**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		RAIN DAYS	PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 12/14/14	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Year	Normal Year	This Season	This Week	This Season	Normal Season	Normal Year
					January 1 - 12/14/14	January 1 - 12/14/14	July 1 - 12/14/14	Week Ending 12/14/14	July 1 - 12/14/14	July 1 - 12/14/14	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Days /1--	-- Inches of Precipitation --			
<b>North Coast</b>											
Eureka WFO	56	+9	67	38	137	73	36	2.10	14.74	12.48	38.10
Ukiah	54	+9	67	35	2,161	1,479	30	4.85	14.86	10.90	38.90
Santa Rosa AP	55	+7	63	42	1,344	1,143	23	6.52	12.11	8.75	31.01
Napa State Hosp	55	+7	65	41	1,737	1,222	27	4.40	11.93	7.42	26.46
<b>Central Coast</b>											
San Francisco A	59	+9	68	48	1,392	567	18	2.25	8.76	5.03	20.11
San Jose AP	56	+7	71	43	1,636	1,613	17	1.70	6.81	3.80	15.08
Salinas AP	58	+8	71	47	1,058	629	18	3.43	6.60	3.14	12.91
Monterey AP	57	+6	69	45	716	327	25	4.21	9.01	5.09	20.35
King City Ag	54	+5	67	41	1,724	1,312	15	2.61	4.39	2.79	12.30
Paso Robles AP	53	+7	67	38	2,314	1,692	9	2.32	4.72	2.74	13.08
<b>Sacramento Valley</b>											
Redding	52	+7	59	38	3,168	2,524	35	3.68	15.69	8.92	33.52
Red Bluff	53	+7	60	40	3,295	2,759	34	3.90	15.40	6.63	24.07
Willow s 6W	53	+8	61	42	2,929	2,157	26	3.37	11.97	5.02	19.03
Oroville AP	52	+7	63	43	3,082	2,239	25	4.41	11.49	7.84	28.75
Marysville	53	+7	63	37	2,762	2,589	22	2.19	8.64	6.00	22.07
Sacramento AP	53	+8	63	38	2,596	2,096	19	1.18	6.57	4.55	17.93
<b>San Joaquin Valley</b>											
Stockton	53	+8	66	38	2,684	2,347	19	1.06	4.78	3.79	13.84
Modesto AP	53	+6	66	40	2,920	2,487	16	0.67	3.79	3.31	13.12
Merced Macready	53	+8	67	42	3,184	2,459	13	1.86	4.13	3.08	12.50
Madera AP	52	+8	67	39	3,084	2,579	9	1.54	2.91	2.81	11.94
Fresno AP	53	+8	68	43	4,100	2,809	7	1.38	2.71	2.59	11.23
Lemoore NAS	52	+8	68	42	3,394	2,522	6	1.14	2.50	1.75	7.89
Visalia AP	51	+7	66	41	3,172	2,570	5	1.75	3.19	2.71	11.03
Bakersfield AP	55	+9	72	39	4,162	3,196	5	1.12	2.22	1.40	6.49
<b>Cascade Sierra</b>											
Alturas AP	40	+10	55	21	840	451	36	0.23	4.54	4.09	12.13
Mount Shasta AP	44	+10	53	29	1,146	510	37	6.31	19.22	11.31	39.16
Blue Canyon	45	+6	61	30	1,308	692	31	1.28	21.60	18.96	66.36
Yosemite Valley	44	+7	61	31	2,193	1,278	17	0.13	4.62	10.67	37.73
<b>South Coast</b>											
Santa Maria AP	58	+7	70	42	1,629	633	9	0.05	2.12	2.84	14.01
Santa Barbara A	58	+5	72	42	1,513	1,210	7	0.01	3.75	3.29	16.93
Oxnard NWS	60	+4	76	44	1,837	1,124	9	0.03	2.38	3.02	15.62
Riverside AP	59	+5	80	41	3,718	2,867	12	1.07	2.22	1.91	10.22
Los Angeles AP	60	+3	75	48	2,485	1,828	9	0.02	2.20	2.62	13.15
San Diego AP	62	+5	75	50	2,955	2,129	9	0.00	2.98	2.38	10.77
<b>Southeast Interior</b>											
Bishop AP	43	+5	68	21	2,218	1,770	5	0.07	0.59	1.50	5.02
Daggett AP	54	+7	70	36	4,669	3,890	6	0.10	0.54	1.66	4.17
Lancaster ATC	48	+6	66	30	3,022	2,510	8	1.19	2.75	1.63	7.40
Thermal	59	+6	84	37	5,752	5,183	7	0.04	0.50	1.44	3.53
Blythe AP	60	+7	78	39	6,180	5,399	12	0.03	0.78	2.06	4.02
Imperial CA	61	+7	81	42	6,057	5,230	8	0.00	1.81	1.40	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.

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