



California Crop Weather

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

Pacific Region • P.O. Box 1258 • Sacramento, CA 95812 • (916) 498-5161 • (855) 270-2722 FAX • www.nass.usda.gov/ca

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WEATHER

The week started off with high pressure dominating the southwestern United States, which led to dry conditions and slightly above-average temperatures for the State. Highs were seasonable for this time of year, with 60s and 70s for the valley, 60s for the coasts, and cooler in the mountains. Lows were comparable, with lower 40s common in the valley and along the coasts, and cooler in the mountains. By midweek, the major weather pattern began to change, as large-scale ridging began to transition to broad troughing. This change in pattern led to slightly warmer temperatures on Wednesday before an onshore surge of Pacific moisture cooled temperatures. This moisture brought rainfall to areas that needed it the most. On Friday, the coasts missed out on the rain, but the mountains received heavy snow that exceeded a foot in places. On Saturday, the coasts received most of the rain, while on Sunday, the far southern reaches of the State saw the most rainfall. Most locations outside the mountains saw at least a third of an inch of rainfall, with the highest amounts falling in the Los Angeles basin and just inland from San Diego. The central Sierras received nearly 2 feet of snow, helping to rebuild what is still a meager snowpack for this time of year. The northern and southern Sierras received up to a foot of snow.

FIELD CROPS

Wheat, oats, and other winter forage crops continued to grow well, especially with the recent rain. **Alfalfa** fields were cultivated and planted. Field preparations were underway for the spring planting of **corn** and **cotton**. Winter wheat continued to progress. Fields in Yolo and Solano Counties showed excellent color and growth due to nitrogen intake and adequate moisture levels and warm sunny weather. The wheat crop was rated as 80 percent good to excellent. Pasture and rangeland condition was 60 percent fair to good.

FRUIT CROPS

Pruning and herbicide applications continued in tree fruit orchards and vineyards. Growers prepared to plant young fruit trees. Mechanical and chemical weed control continued in fruit tree orchards and vineyards. **Grapes** were developing a couple of weeks earlier this year. **Pears** were irrigated due to dry weather. **Cherries** were about ten days from budding. **Peaches** were beginning to bud and early varieties were beginning to flower. **Grape** bud break occurred, some up to one inch. Orange trees were being topped in advance of the bloom. Seedless Mandarins and **Murcotts** were being covered with netting to prohibit cross pollination. **Kiwifruits**, Navel oranges, Cara Caras, Moro Blood oranges, **Mandarins**, Minneola Tangelos, **lemons**, and **grapefruits** continued to be packed and shipped.

NUT CROPS

Pruning and shredding continued in nut orchards throughout the central portion of the State. In San Joaquin County, the **almond** bloom was almost complete with petal drop increasing. In Tulare County, early almond varieties were showing full bloom in some areas. In Fresno County, the almond bloom was mostly over for the nonpareil variety. **Pistachios**, almonds, and **walnuts** continued to be exported.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Fields were prepared for spring and summer planting. Early varieties of summer vegetables (**tomatoes**, **cucumbers**, **squash**, and **eggplant**) were germinated in greenhouses. Summer squash was planted in the fields under hot caps. **Spinach** and **broccoli** were progressing well. **Onions** continued to grow well with the recent rains. **Strawberries** were progressing well with the recent spring-like weather conditions. **Blueberries** were blooming, and some early varieties were developing fruit. Growers harvested their first rotation of **cauliflower** and broccoli. Strawberries were flowering but not in production. Spring planting of vegetables started early due to warm temperatures.

LIVESTOCK

In Colusa County, livestock continued to feed on abundant grass provided by earlier rains. While in other areas of the State, ranchers continued to graze sheep and cattle on rangelands and alfalfa fields. Beehives were delivered for orchard pollination in stone fruit and almond orchards.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 3/1/2015

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		RAIN DAYS	PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 3/1/2015	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Year	Normal Year	This Season	This Week	This Season	Normal Season	Normal Year
					January 1 - 3/1/2015	January 1 - 3/1/2015	July 1 - 3/1/2015	Week Ending 3/1/2015	July 1 - 3/1/2015	July 1 - 3/1/2015	July 1 - June 30
					-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Days /1--
North Coast											
Eureka WFO	49	+1	64	34	6	0	63	0.47	25.77	27.57	38.10
Ukiah	50	-1	72	29	0	0	45	0.00	23.42	29.54	38.90
Santa Rosa AP	53	-1	73	30	3	0	38	0.00	22.26	23.81	31.01
Napa State Hosp	54	+2	74	37	8	0	42	0.00	18.65	20.15	26.46
Central Coast											
San Francisco A	57	+5	67	44	18	0	30	0.00	13.93	15.31	20.11
San Jose AP	54	-2	69	35	11	0	31	0.04	10.30	10.93	15.08
Salinas AP	56	+3	71	37	71	0	28	0.08	8.58	9.39	12.91
Monterey AP	54	+2	66	40	40	0	36	0.43	13.32	14.77	20.35
King City Ag	53	-2	74	32	17	0	23	0.05	5.86	8.86	12.30
Paso Robles AP	51	-2	69	33	6	0	23	0.25	7.68	9.59	13.08
Sacramento Valley											
Redding	56	+6	76	33	22	0	51	0.00	23.35	23.81	33.52
Red Bluff	56	+4	76	35	13	0	51	0.00	21.97	17.63	24.07
Willow s 6W	55	+5	73	38	6	0	36	0.00	18.96	14.15	19.03
Oroville AP	53	+2	73	38	4	0	38	0.03	16.24	21.09	28.75
Marysville	52	-2	73	34	4	0	34	0.00	13.34	16.22	22.07
Sacramento AP	54	+2	73	32	4	0	30	0.00	11.99	13.49	17.93
San Joaquin Valley											
Stockton	53	0	74	33	5	0	31	0.01	8.52	10.10	13.84
Modesto AP	54	-2	72	36	13	0	27	0.00	7.18	9.32	13.12
Merced Macready	50	-3	68	32	9	0	25	0.00	5.82	8.93	12.50
Madera AP	51	-2	67	33	15	0	20	0.01	4.56	8.19	11.94
Fresno AP	53	0	67	38	19	0	15	0.49	4.47	7.73	11.23
Lemoore NAS	51	-3	70	32	8	0	19	0.11	3.72	5.38	7.89
Visalia AP	52	-2	66	37	17	0	12	0.49	5.18	7.64	11.03
Bakersfield AP	55	-1	68	41	41	0	14	0.83	4.31	4.32	6.49
Cascade Sierra											
Alturas AP	37	+2	60	12	0	0	59	0.16	6.39	7.41	12.13
Mount Shasta AP	43	+5	60	24	0	0	58	0.06	32.86	28.06	39.16
Blue Canyon	42	+4	59	27	4	0	46	0.93	27.28	47.47	66.36
Yosemite Valley	43	+2	62	28	0	0	28	0.13	9.22	27.22	37.73
South Coast											
Santa Maria AP	55	+2	72	37	71	0	20	0.17	3.38	9.91	14.01
Santa Barbara A	55	-2	73	39	36	0	18	0.47	6.57	12.66	16.93
Oxnard NWS	56	-1	71	42	146	5	20	0.41	5.97	11.73	15.62
Riverside AP	56	-2	73	40	142	26	24	0.70	4.06	7.31	10.22
Los Angeles AP	57	-1	72	45	127	68	21	0.20	4.98	9.90	13.15
San Diego AP	60	+2	69	51	169	88	20	0.93	5.26	7.55	10.77
Southeast Interior											
Bishop AP	45	+1	75	23	0	0	8	0.00	0.78	3.72	5.02
Daggett AP	54	-1	72	39	50	0	13	0.55	1.96	3.27	4.17
Lancaster ATC	50	+1	70	28	0	0	16	0.44	4.35	5.53	7.40
Thermal	61	-1	82	35	142	78	16	0.25	1.12	2.98	3.53
Blythe AP	61	0	79	41	176	65	19	0.18	1.81	3.41	4.02
Imperial CA	62	+2	81	43	185	91	16	0.41	2.55	2.57	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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