



California Crop Weather

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: March 8, 2015
RELEASED: March 9, 2015

FREQUENCY: Weekly
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WEATHER

There was precipitation on Monday before broad ridging built over the State and returned dry conditions for the rest of the week. Most coastal locations received light rain. The Los Angeles basin saw the most rain, with amounts reaching up to a third of an inch. Light snowfall of 1-3 inches was reported in most of the Sierras on Monday. The agricultural portions of the valley missed out on the rain. The southern deserts and northern mountains also remained dry. After Monday, no measurable precipitation was recorded anywhere in the State for the remainder of the week. Although mountain snowpack had recovered slightly going into this week, the meager snowpack continued to rapidly erode. The building ridge also resulted in temperatures warming gradually throughout the week. Highs in the valley were mainly in the 60s to 70s, with coastal locations reporting mostly 50s and 60s. The exception was from the Los Angeles basin southward, which received highs in the 80s and even hit 90 a couple of times. Highs in the mountains reached into the 40s early in the week, but hit 60s in a few locations by the weekend. Lows were in the 40s across the valley and coast, except for the southern coast, which saw 50s and 60s. While the southern deserts saw 50s, the mountains dropped into the single digits below zero early in the week. Late in the week most mountain locations experienced lows in the 20s.

FIELD CROPS

Wheat, oats, and other winter forage crops continued to grow well, especially with the recent rain. **Alfalfa** fields were cultivated and planted. Ground was prepared for planting and beds were shaped in some fields, while others remained fallow awaiting warmer weather for planting. Alfalfa fields were irrigated and treated for pests. Alfalfa seed fields regrew after a short dormancy period. Established alfalfa was making good progress. Field preparations were underway for the spring planting of **corn** and **cotton**. Ginning and regrowth monitoring was ongoing. Growers prepared ground for the upcoming cotton season by tilling soil, making furrows, and repairing drip tape. Alfalfa seed was exported to Argentina and Australia. The wheat crop was rated as 80 percent good to excellent. Pasture and rangeland condition was 55 percent fair to good.

FRUIT CROPS

The pruning of stone fruit orchards was almost complete. Later varieties of stone fruit were beginning to bloom. Fungicide was applied to protect the blooms and prevent brown rot and shot hole fungus. Mechanical and chemical weed control continued in fruit tree orchards and vineyards. Grapevines were pruned and tied. Most vineyard operators finished shredding, cutting, and tying canes. Vines located in warmer areas began to show some leafing out; bud swell was seen in some areas of the State. Cultivation, pruning, and brush shredding was underway in some **pomegranate** orchards. **Apricot, cherry, nectarine, peach**, and **plum** trees were in bloom. **Kiwifruit** held in storage were shipped to domestic and foreign markets. Valencia **oranges** were packed. Some early citrus varieties were beginning to bloom. Overall Navel orange quality has been very good this season. Orange trees were topped in advance of the bloom. Seedless **Mandarins** and **Murcotts** were covered with netting to prevent cross pollination. **Olive** trees were pruned.

NUT CROPS

Soil fumigations were ongoing for new orchard plantings of **almonds** and **pistachios**. Pistachio buds were starting to push. Almond bloom continued; trees were leafing out. Spider mites continued to be reported on almond trees in the lower San Joaquin Valley.

VEGETABLE CROPS

In Sutter County, weed control and field preparation for summer vegetables continued. In San Joaquin County, **asparagus** was harvested and lack of rain required irrigation in row crops. In Monterey County, the harvesting of **broccoli** and **cauliflower** increased as more fields matured. In Fresno County, growers planted **processing tomato** beds and prepared the ground for later tomato plantings. Planting of **carrots** continued. Dehydrator **onions** and **garlic** were irrigated and fertilized. Mazuma **mustard** was in full bloom. In Tulare County, **eggplant** and **squash** were planted in the fields under hot caps. The **spinach** and broccoli fields were progressing well. Onions continued to grow well with the recent rains.

LIVESTOCK

Local and out-of-state bees were placed around stone fruit and almond orchards for pollination. Sheep were moved into alfalfa fields and grazed on retired farmland areas. Rangeland responded well after recent rains. Mild weather conditions were favorable for dairy production.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 3/8/2015

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		RAIN DAYS	PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 3/8/2015	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Year	Normal Year	This Season	This Week	This Season	Normal Season	Normal Year
					January 1 - 3/8/2015	January 1 - 3/8/2015	July 1 - 3/8/2015	Week Ending 3/8/2015	July 1 - 3/8/2015	July 1 - 3/8/2015	July 1 - June 30
					-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Days /1--
North Coast											
Eureka WFO	49	0	62	37	6	0	63	0.00	25.77	28.96	38.10
Ukiah	54	+4	81	34	0	0	45	0.00	23.42	31.12	38.90
Santa Rosa AP	53	-1	77	35	3	0	38	0.00	22.26	25.11	31.01
Napa State Hosp	55	+2	76	37	8	0	42	0.00	18.65	21.26	26.46
Central Coast											
San Francisco A	57	+4	73	47	19	0	30	0.00	13.93	16.19	20.11
San Jose AP	56	0	76	39	11	0	32	0.05	10.35	11.63	15.08
Salinas AP	58	+5	81	40	79	0	29	0.04	8.62	10.01	12.91
Monterey AP	56	+4	78	41	44	0	38	0.15	13.47	15.68	20.35
King City Ag	56	+1	84	34	13	0	26	0.08	6.59	9.51	12.30
Paso Robles AP	54	+2	80	34	6	0	24	0.02	7.70	10.29	13.08
Sacramento Valley											
Redding	55	+5	83	34	22	0	51	0.00	23.35	25.12	33.52
Red Bluff	54	+2	82	34	13	0	51	0.00	21.97	18.58	24.07
Willows 6W	55	+4	76	37	6	0	36	0.00	18.96	14.95	19.03
Oroville AP	55	+3	74	35	4	0	38	0.00	16.24	22.32	28.75
Marysville	55	+1	78	36	4	0	34	0.00	13.34	17.13	22.07
Sacramento AP	56	+4	76	36	4	0	31	0.02	12.01	14.26	17.93
San Joaquin Valley											
Stockton	55	+2	76	34	5	0	32	0.01	8.53	10.67	13.84
Modesto AP	56	0	77	38	13	0	27	0.00	7.18	9.89	13.12
Merced Macready	53	-1	76	32	9	0	26	0.08	5.90	9.49	12.50
Madera AP	54	+2	77	34	15	0	21	0.01	4.57	8.75	11.94
Fresno AP	57	+4	78	41	21	0	17	0.09	4.56	8.29	11.23
Lemoore NAS	54	0	79	34	8	0	20	0.02	3.74	5.80	7.89
Visalia AP	55	+2	79	37	18	0	13	0.17	5.35	8.19	11.03
Bakersfield AP	58	+2	79	42	46	0	15	0.27	4.58	4.67	6.49
Cascade Sierra											
Alturas AP	39	+3	70	12	0	0	59	0.00	6.39	7.76	12.13
Mount Shasta AP	46	+7	71	22	0	0	58	0.00	32.86	29.57	39.16
Blue Canyon	47	+9	65	32	4	0	47	0.14	27.42	50.19	66.36
Yosemite Valley	49	+6	73	30	0	0	28	0.00	9.22	28.77	37.73
South Coast											
Santa Maria AP	57	+4	86	38	77	0	21	0.26	3.64	10.69	14.01
Santa Barbara A	56	+1	82	39	38	0	19	0.09	6.66	13.66	16.93
Oxnard NWS	60	+4	87	44	162	5	21	0.32	6.29	12.60	15.62
Riverside AP	60	+3	86	40	157	34	25	0.19	4.25	7.87	10.22
Los Angeles AP	60	+3	83	47	141	79	23	0.44	5.42	10.58	13.15
San Diego AP	62	+3	84	50	189	102	22	0.28	5.54	8.11	10.77
Southeast Interior											
Bishop AP	45	-2	77	20	0	0	8	0.00	0.78	3.92	5.02
Daggett AP	56	0	82	37	56	0	13	0.00	1.96	3.41	4.17
Lancaster ATC	48	-3	79	23	0	0	16	0.00	4.35	5.93	7.40
Thermal	61	-3	89	37	161	110	17	0.10	1.22	3.12	3.53
Blythe AP	61	-1	83	43	194	93	20	0.85	2.66	3.55	4.02
Imperial CA	61	-2	88	42	205	121	17	0.15	2.70	2.64	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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