



# California Crop Weather

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: March 22, 2015  
RELEASED: March 23, 2015

FREQUENCY: Weekly  
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## WEATHER

There was rainfall on Monday and then again on Sunday for the northern parts of the State. For the week, most locations in the north received up to a third of an inch of rain and a couple of locations received closer to half an inch. Elsewhere, no measurable precipitation fell. No new snowfall was reported, and snow packs continued to dwindle. Temperatures were fairly constant, despite wide differences based on location. Highs in the valley typically reached the 70s and 80s every day, with lows in the upper 40s to lower 50s. Along the coast, temperatures typically ranged from 50s to 80s as one went from north to south, with lows in the 50s and 60s from north to south. In the deserts, highs typically reached the 80s or 90s, and Death Valley hit 99 degrees one day. Lows were typically in the 50s or 60s. In the mountains, highs reached the 40s and 50s most days, and lows were typically in the 20s and 30s. During the second half of the week, lows at the coldest locations were dropping into the single digits or teens.

## FIELD CROPS

Irrigation in field crops continued due to the lack of rain. Growers were reporting the need to pre-irrigate fields to maintain moisture levels so that there will be sufficient levels when they do plant. Planting schedules were a couple of weeks ahead of average. Field preparations were underway for the spring planting of **corn** and **cotton**. Forage and grain crops continued to grow well but slowly, with **wheat** beginning to head out. Most weed spraying in forage crops came to an end and insect spraying began, particularly for alfalfa weevil in **alfalfa**. First cuttings of alfalfa were underway and some fields were baled. The wheat crop was rated as 85 percent good to excellent. Pasture and rangeland condition was 60 percent fair to good.

## FRUIT CROPS

New orchards were planted. Mechanical and chemical weed control continued in fruit tree orchards. **Peaches** and **nectarines** were in bloom. **Grapes** were leafing and budding out. Some vineyards had shoot growth of 1-2 inches, which will require a fungicide treatment. **Persimmon** and **Pomegranate** trees were leafing out. **Prunes** were beginning to flower and receive treatments for brown rot. Bloom sprays were being applied to stone fruit orchards. Citrus groves continued to be hedge rowed and skirted prior to bloom.

## NUT CROPS

New orchards were planted. Orchards were irrigated, fertilized, and underwent spot weed control. Pruning was winding down as **almonds** began to leaf out. Almonds have set their fruit. **Walnuts** were irrigated and **pistachios** were pruned. Tree fruit bloom was mostly over. Walnuts were shipped to foreign and domestic markets.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

In Colusa County, row crop growers reported that they had pre-irrigated fields prior to planting to counteract the topsoil dryness brought on by the warmer temperatures. Planting schedules were reported as a couple weeks ahead of average. In Sutter County, weed control and field preparation for summer vegetables continued. In Sacramento County, fields were bedded for **tomatoes**, **carrots**, and **corn**. In San Joaquin County, **asparagus** was harvested. In Monterey County, asparagus, **broccoli**, **cauliflower** and other leafy greens were in demand and harvested daily. Harvest began for Romaine **lettuce**. In San Mateo County, fields were tilled in preparation for planting of summer and fall vegetables. In Fresno County, growers continued planting processing tomato beds with irrigation before and after. Fresh **onions** were fertilized and irrigated and dehydrator onions were treated for downy mildew. Mazuma **mustard** and **kale** were in full bloom. In Tulare County, **Bell peppers**, **cucumbers**, and summer **squash** seedlings were planted. Planting of **eggplant** should begin soon. Onions continued to grow.

## LIVESTOCK

Spring calving continued. Rangeland was beginning to decline with continuing lack of rain. Sheep grazed on dormant alfalfa and stubble fields. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued and foothills were beginning to brown due to lack of rainfall. Bees were very active due to warm weather. Beehives remained in almond, cherry, and other stone fruit orchards and vegetable crops. Some beehives were moved into citrus groves.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 3/22/2015**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		RAIN DAYS	PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 3/22/2015	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Year	Normal Year	This Season	This Week	This Season	Normal Season	Normal Year
					January 1 - 3/22/2015	January 1 - 3/22/2015	July 1 - 3/22/2015	Week Ending 3/22/2015	July 1 - 3/22/2015	July 1 - 3/22/2015	July 1 - June 30
					-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Days /1--
<b>North Coast</b>											
Eureka WFO	53	+5	63	40	6	0	67	0.92	27.33	31.52	38.10
Ukiah	59	+8	82	39	22	0	46	0.25	23.67	33.87	38.90
Santa Rosa AP	59	+5	78	40	11	0	40	0.01	22.29	27.28	31.01
Napa State Hosp	60	+7	79	43	33	0	43	0.00	18.68	23.16	26.46
<b>Central Coast</b>											
San Francisco A	62	+8	74	50	55	0	31	0.00	13.95	17.70	20.11
San Jose AP	62	+5	80	47	60	8	33	0.00	10.45	12.89	15.08
Salinas AP	62	+8	80	47	134	0	30	0.00	8.72	11.09	12.91
Monterey AP	58	+5	73	45	58	0	39	0.00	13.62	17.32	20.35
King City Ag	61	+6	83	37	57	0	27	0.00	6.62	10.68	12.30
Paso Robles AP	61	+8	83	38	45	0	24	0.00	7.70	11.55	13.08
<b>Sacramento Valley</b>											
Redding	63	+11	84	47	58	0	55	0.26	24.04	27.52	33.52
Red Bluff	62	+8	84	44	48	0	55	0.65	22.75	20.29	24.07
Willow s 6W	61	+8	79	39	39	0	39	0.11	19.15	16.32	19.03
Oroville AP	62	+8	80	44	42	0	39	0.00	16.33	24.51	28.75
Marysville	61	+5	82	43	31	3	36	0.01	13.43	18.79	22.07
Sacramento AP	62	+8	81	46	48	0	32	0.00	12.21	15.55	17.93
<b>San Joaquin Valley</b>											
Stockton	64	+10	81	46	66	0	33	0.00	8.66	11.74	13.84
Modesto AP	65	+8	81	46	85	16	28	0.00	7.37	10.97	13.12
Merced Macready	62	+7	81	41	51	0	27	0.00	6.01	10.54	12.50
Madera AP	63	+8	80	42	83	0	21	0.00	4.57	9.83	11.94
Fresno AP	65	+10	81	49	110	0	18	0.00	4.58	9.33	11.23
Lemoore NAS	64	+9	82	44	79	0	20	0.00	3.74	6.56	7.89
Visalia AP	64	+9	86	46	96	3	13	0.00	5.35	9.21	11.03
Bakersfield AP	66	+9	85	51	144	21	15	0.00	4.58	5.35	6.49
<b>Cascade Sierra</b>											
Alturas AP	47	+8	69	17	0	0	61	0.09	6.49	8.46	12.13
Mount Shasta AP	50	+9	69	30	0	0	62	0.90	33.86	32.26	39.16
Blue Canyon	52	+13	67	42	4	0	50	0.01	27.74	55.05	66.36
Yosemite Valley	57	+12	78	39	4	0	29	0.00	9.28	31.45	37.73
<b>South Coast</b>											
Santa Maria AP	62	+9	81	43	132	0	21	0.00	3.64	12.07	14.01
Santa Barbara A	63	+7	81	51	95	9	20	0.00	6.67	15.31	16.93
Oxnard NWS	65	+8	87	50	249	17	21	0.00	6.29	14.01	15.62
Riverside AP	69	+11	92	52	301	62	25	0.00	4.25	8.87	10.22
Los Angeles AP	66	+9	87	57	247	107	23	0.00	5.42	11.70	13.15
San Diego AP	68	+9	87	60	317	140	22	0.00	5.54	9.18	10.77
<b>Southeast Interior</b>											
Bishop AP	59	+12	80	30	9	0	8	0.00	0.78	4.20	5.02
Daggett AP	70	+13	87	47	170	30	13	0.00	1.96	3.69	4.17
Lancaster ATC	63	+11	82	38	29	0	16	0.00	4.35	6.60	7.40
Thermal	70	+6	94	48	318	196	17	0.00	1.22	3.30	3.53
Blythe AP	73	+10	93	56	384	172	21	0.03	2.69	3.75	4.02
Imperial CA	72	+8	92	54	385	201	17	0.00	2.70	2.78	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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