



# California Crop Weather

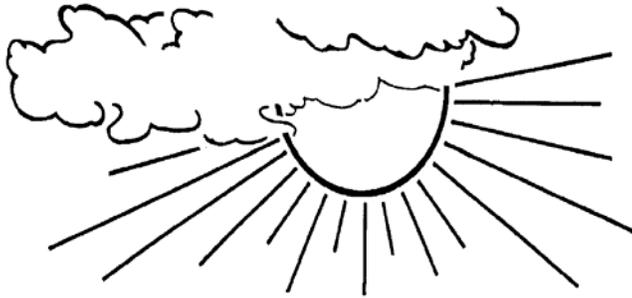
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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## WEATHER



A series of Pacific frontal systems made their way through California during the week, bringing widespread showers and colder air to the state. The first system began to bring rain to the central and northern coasts on Monday, with some precipitation making its way into the far northern section of the Sacramento Valley and into the Sierra Nevada. More widespread and heavier precipitation moved in on Tuesday, with heavy rains falling along the north coast, and significant snowfall beginning to pile up in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Rain spread well into southern California by the middle of the week, with heavier rains in the Central Valley and more snow for the Sierra. In the wake

of these frontal bands of showers, much colder air was beginning to shift into northern California, with overnight minimum temperatures in the Central Valley falling to the freezing point. By Friday, daytime highs in the Central Valley were only ranging in the upper 40s to mid 50s. However, the cold northerly winds in the north became gusty and mild Santa Ana type winds in southern California. By the weekend, the air had dried considerably in southern California and temperatures had warmed to the 70s, while highs in the Central Valley had only warmed to the mid and upper 50s.

## FIELD CROPS

Planting of **oats**, winter **wheat**, and winter **forage** and new **alfalfa** was complete in most areas with herbicides applied to the new alfalfa. Small grain fields continued to receive herbicides and herbicide application had started for dormant alfalfa fields. In Fresno County spring alfalfa was emerging with a few fields being irrigated and treated to control weeds. **Cotton** plow down is complete with 100 percent compliance for the December 20 deadline for control of the Pink Bollworm. In Tulare County cotton fields have been picked and plow down is virtually complete. **Sugar beet** fields are in various stages of development with some being fertilized, irrigated, cultivated and treated to control insects, weeds and diseases. More rain is needed for deeper soil moisture and to benefit the winter grain crops already planted.

## FRUIT CROPS

**Grape** growers were pruning, tying vines, and treating for weeds, diseases and insects. Pruning and insect and weed treatments were also taking place in stone fruit and **pomegranate** orchards. **Persimmons** were still being harvested. New **blueberry** bushes were being planted in Fresno County. Recent rains affected **strawberry** fruit quality in some regions and harvest was delayed. Harvests of **mandarins**, **lemons**, **pummelos** and Navel **oranges** were ongoing. Navel fruit maturity and sugar content were holding steady. Some citrus growers were topping trees and applying foliar nutrients. **Olive** trees were pruned.

## NUT CROPS

With harvests at end, pruning and shredding took place in nut groves as weather permitted.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Ground preparation for spring **carrot** and **lettuce** planting continued while processing **tomato** beds continued to be shaped and mulched for 2008. Herbicides and insecticides continued to be applied and sweet **potato** hot bed fumigations are underway. Early planted **beets**, **broccoli**, **cabbage**, carrot, **cauliflower**, **garlic**, lettuce and **onion** crops were growing well. Fields of garlic were being irrigated while broccoli fields were being cultivated. In Fresno county **asparagus** growers continued to cut ferns in preparation of harvest. Harvest of **amaranth**, **basil**, bittersweet **melons**, **bok choy**, **cassava**, **cilantro**, **choy sum**, collard **greens**, **dill**, **daikon**, **eggplant**, Indian **beans**, kale, leaf lettuce, **lemon grass**, **lobok**, long beans, **mint**, **moqua**, mustard greens, **okra**, **tatsoi**, **tong ho**, winter **radicchio**, **yu choy** continued. In Tulare County work for winter vegetable crops slowed in the past week due to the rain, but broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and **turnips** should be ready for harvest in the next few weeks. Early spring **spinach** crops were progressing quite well.

## LIVESTOCK

Winter pastures were improving with the week's rains, but still lag in central California. Light greening was starting on some pastures in the central and northern San Joaquin Valley. More rain will be needed to stimulate new grass growth in the southern San Joaquin Valley foothills. Supplemental feeding of beef cattle continued, mainly in the central area. Ewes and lambs were grazing on alfalfa pastures in central California. Lambs were grazing on alfalfa pastures in the Imperial Valley. Bees were being over wintered in various locations. Shipments of out-of-state bees continued to move into central California for the upcoming almond pollination.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 12/23/07**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 12/23/07	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 12/23/07	January 1 - 12/23/07	Week Ending 12/23/07	July 1 - 12/23/07	July 1 - 12/23/07	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
<b>NORTH COAST</b>										
Eureka	45	-3	56	30	89	0	3.54	12.33	4.02	37.53
Ukiah	44	-2	58	27	1,495	1,454	2.10	4.39	3.35	37.96
Santa Rosa	47	-1	62	28	878	920	2.53	7.04	2.68	30.30
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco AP	49	0	57	35	544	442	1.85	4.01	1.63	19.70
San Jose	49	0	61	32	1,184	1,326	0.78	2.23	1.33	14.42
Salinas AP	48	-2	65	31	455	431	0.90	2.67	1.23	12.44
Monterey FAA	51	0	64	36	326	145	0.44	1.70	2.03	18.72
King City	48	0	65	26	1,231	1,041	0.24	0.54	0.90	11.44
Paso Robles AP	46	0	58	28	1,708	1,552	1.19	1.54	1.07	13.95
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	45	0	59	30	2,632	2,497	1.29	5.63	3.22	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	46	0	60	31	2,606	2,600	0.99	3.33	2.58	22.29
Chico AFS	45	1	55	27	2,404	2,042	2.68	4.72	2.39	26.32
Marysville	46	0	57	25	2,461	2,425	1.21	3.52	1.96	21.04
Sacramento AP	46	1	57	28	1,902	1,922	0.94	2.66	1.52	17.52
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	46	2	58	29	2,432	2,204	0.77	2.23	1.26	13.95
Fresno	47	1	57	33	3,040	2,777	1.99	2.20	0.95	10.60
Bakersfield	47	0	64	31	3,188	3,231	0.32	0.58	0.62	5.72
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria AP	52	0	76	31	597	410	1.68	2.16	1.05	12.36
Santa Barbara	51	-1	66	31	578	731	1.93	2.47	1.55	16.25
Ventura	53	53	76	36	607	0	2.22	2.63	1.20	14.38
Los Angeles	56	-2	74	39	2,164	2,277	1.31	2.78	1.12	14.77
Riverside	--	--	--	--	2,862	2,316	0.00	0.00	0.93	9.58
San Diego AP	55	-3	66	41	1,467	1,685	0.22	0.68	0.90	9.90
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	35	-2	64	11	2,007	1,552	0.04	0.83	0.83	5.37
Lancaster	44	1	59	19	2,941	2,343	0.05	0.45	0.91	6.92
Daggett AP	47	-1	65	26	4,304	3,883	0.05	0.21	1.37	3.93
Thermal AP	50	-4	70	29	4,906	4,721	0.00	0.20	1.17	3.16
Blythe	51	-2	67	34	5,508	5,213	0.00	0.12	1.78	3.60
Imperial	52	-3	72	32	5,342	4,940	0.00	0.68	1.12	2.75
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	28	0	42	1	493	296	0.35	2.85	2.06	12.01
Mt. Shasta	33	-2	41	17	750	446	3.34	7.44	4.20	37.02
Blue Canyon	35	-4	52	21	1,044	574	2.99	10.03	7.07	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	44	23	1,359	1,230	0.00	0.93	4.10	37.05

Normal is defined as average over the 30-year period 1961 through 1990. Dashes (-) in Average Week Ending and Departure from Normal columns mean less than five days reporting, while in High and Low columns mean no days reporting.

Weekly summary provided by the Western Regional Climate Center with data reported by the National Weather Service. When data are quality controlled by the National Climatic Data Center, the accumulated growing degree day and precipitation values are updated.