



California Crop Weather

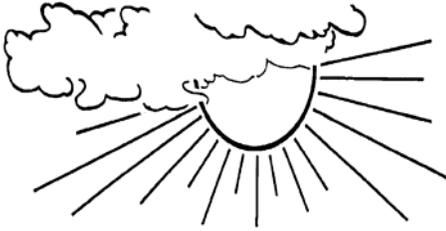
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

California Field Office • P.O. Box 1258 • Sacramento, CA 95812 • (916) 498-5161 • (916) 498-5186 FAX • www.nass.usda.gov/ca

WEEK ENDING: February 24, 2008
RELEASED: February 25, 2008

FREQUENCY: Weekly
VOL. 28 NO. 35

WEATHER



The week began with sunny and dry weather over most of California, as a high pressure system protected the state from any storm systems. The pattern began to shift late Tuesday, as Pacific storm systems began to ride over the northern fringes of the high pressure, spreading showers across the northern coastal counties and some of the northern mountains. By Wednesday, the high pressure was gone and the "storm door" was open for a series of frontal systems coming in from the Pacific Ocean. The first storm spread rain across the entire state on Wednesday and early Thursday.

Another storm brought showers on Friday. The strongest storm of the series hit late Saturday night and Sunday, packing occasionally heavy rain and strong gusty winds. Significant snowfall occurred across the mountains of the state, particularly across the Sierra Nevada range, boosting an already healthy snowpack. Precipitation fell across every section of the state this week.

FIELD CROPS

Herbicides continued to be applied to small grain fields. In Fresno County, dry land grain was growing nicely and was being aerially fertilized. Some **winter forage** fields were being out for silage. **Alfalfa** fields were gradually growing due to cool weather while other fields were being treated to control weeds. In Tulare and Fresno Counties, cotton growers were pre-irrigating for upcoming planting. Spring **sugar beet** fields were growing well and were being fertilized, irrigated, cultivated and treated to control weeds.

FRUIT CROPS

Vineyard pruning was still underway, but mostly complete. Vineyards were expecting bud break and the possibility of frost remained a concern. **Cherry** blocks were expecting bud break to begin soon. Dormant sprays and pre-emergent herbicides were applied to some stone fruit orchards as weather permitted. Pesticides were also applied. Brush was still being windrowed and shredded. Spring **strawberries** were growing well and new **blueberry** bushes were still being planted. The harvests of **mandarins, minneolas, lemons, pummelos, grapefruit,** and Navel **oranges** continued. Warm weather continued to increase rind puff and fruit drop in Navel groves.

NUT CROPS

Almond buds were still swelling and bloom had begun in some orchards. Because of the rains conditions were not ideal for almond pollination. New almond trees were still being planted. **Walnuts** were pruned. Dormant spraying was still underway as were treatments for weeds.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Harvest advanced for farmers market crops such as **amaranth, basil, bok choy, beets, broccoli,** head and napa **cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celeriac, cilantro, choy sum, daikon, dandelion, dill,** leaf **lettuce, lemon grass, mint,** mustard and collard **greens, kale, parsley,** green **onions, radishes, spinach, rutabagas, tatsoi, tong ho, yam leaf, yams, yu choy,** and Asian **pumpkins.** In Fresno County, vegetable fields were being weeded, irrigated, fertilized, and treated to control weeds, insects, and mildew. Early planted beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, **garlic,** onion, and lettuce crops were growing well with ongoing irrigation. In Tulare County certified producer growers were gearing up for the spring planting of outdoor vegetables. Greenhouse **tomatoes, chillies,** and **squash** were progressing well. Winter vegetables, including **asparagus,** were harvested in Imperial and Riverside counties.

LIVESTOCK

Grassland continued to improve from ample moisture and warmer temperatures. Supplemental feeding of cattle was on the decline. Milk production continued at a high level. Remaining beef cattle calving and goat kidding were nearing completion. Sheep and lambs continued to graze in alfalfa fields. Movement of bee hives into almond and stone fruit orchards continued.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 02/24/08

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 02/24/08	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 02/24/08	January 1 - 02/24/08	Week Ending 02/24/08	July 1 - 02/24/08	July 1 - 02/24/08	July 1 - June 30
NORTH COAST	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
Eureka	45	-5	54	31	0	0	0.74	21.88	21.17	37.53
Ukiah	47	-4	60	31	0	0	2.75	18.66	21.44	37.96
Santa Rosa	48	-4	62	32	0	0	1.91	16.91	16.79	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	52	-1	59	42	0	0	1.66	10.33	10.76	19.70
San Jose	52	-3	60	39	0	0	1.65	7.20	7.70	14.42
Salinas AP	51	-2	60	40	0	0	1.25	6.23	6.45	12.44
Monterey FAA	54	1	65	43	0	0	1.42	3.94	7.96	18.72
King City	51	-2	62	36	0	0	0.28	3.70	5.86	11.44
Paso Robles AP	49	-2	59	35	0	0	1.00	4.63	6.48	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	48	-2	68	35	0	0	2.17	16.04	17.58	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	49	-3	67	37	0	0	1.82	7.86	12.97	22.29
Chico AFS	50	0	69	36	0	0	2.75	14.15	13.86	26.32
Marysville	49	-4	65	35	0	0	2.01	11.31	11.88	21.04
Sacramento AP	50	-3	65	37	0	0	1.53	9.84	9.46	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	50	-3	63	37	0	0	0.71	6.41	7.23	13.95
Fresno	52	-1	70	40	0	0	1.98	5.88	5.39	10.60
Bakersfield	54	-1	70	43	0	0	0.37	1.51	3.03	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	53	-1	61	42	0	0	0.79	5.38	6.59	12.36
Santa Barbara	52	-3	62	37	0	0	1.62	6.98	8.62	16.25
Ventura	52	0	60	38	15	0	0.89	6.97	7.25	14.38
Los Angeles	55	-5	64	44	8	3	1.23	7.18	7.12	14.77
Riverside	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	0.00	5.11	9.58
San Diego AP	56	-4	62	48	1	0	0.75	4.51	5.25	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	40	-4	63	22	0	0	1.02	6.46	2.72	5.37
Lancaster	49	0	69	34	0	0	0.05	2.23	4.01	6.92
Daggett AP	54	-1	69	38	0	0	0.02	2.21	2.67	3.93
Thermal AP	60	0	77	41	6	2	0.04	2.24	2.37	3.16
Blythe	58	-2	79	39	8	3	0.02	1.41	2.90	3.60
Imperial	62	0	80	43	18	11	0.00	1.97	2.15	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	31	-3	50	10	0	0	0.17	6.68	6.10	12.01
Mt. Shasta	37	-2	58	24	0	0	2.52	21.58	21.17	37.02
Blue Canyon	35	-4	51	25	0	0	2.84	24.53	35.98	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	60	30	0	0	4.33	10.84	20.22	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.