



# California Crop Weather

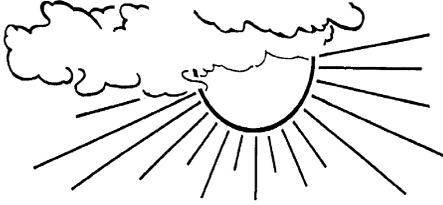
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: July 20, 2008  
RELEASED: July 21, 2008

FREQUENCY: Weekly  
VOL. 29 NO. 4

## WEATHER



A typical summer time pattern of upper level high pressure settled over the southwestern United States this week, resulting in seasonably warm and dry conditions. Minor fluctuations in the high pressure, and a strengthening marine layer off the coast led to an increasing onshore flow along the immediate coast and into the Sacramento River Delta. Subtropical moisture began to make its way northward along the western side of the Four Corners' high pressure center towards the weekend, resulting in increasing thunderstorm activity along the southern Sierra

Crest and the deserts of the southeast interior. Some of these thunderstorms brought brief torrential rains, some of which resulted in isolated flash flooding. These showers produced the only significant rainfall in the state this week.

## FIELD CROPS

**Wheat** harvest was winding down. **Alfalfa** growers continued to cut, windrow, rake, and bale for production of alfalfa hay. The fourth cutting of alfalfa was almost complete. Harvest of **corn** continued for silage and grain. **Barley** fields continued to be windrowed and baled as straw. **Cotton** fields continued to grow well and were being cultivated and side-dressed with pesticides to control insects. **Rice** fields continued to grow nicely. **Safflower** was being dried down before harvest. **Blackeye bean** plantings were growing well and bloom was starting. Garbanzo bean fields were drying down prior to harvest. Fall **sugar beets** were being irrigated and treated with insecticides.

## FRUIT CROPS

**Grape** harvest was increasing with Black Emerald, Perlettes, Summer Royals, and Flame seedless varieties being picked. There was concern in some areas that smoke from California wild fires might affect grape quality. Zante **currants** were also harvested. The following stone fruit varieties were harvested: Brittany Lane, Diamond Princess, Early Saturn, Elegant Lady, Glacier White, Ivory Princess, Jasper Gem, Jasper Treasure, July Flame, Late Saturn, Magenta Queen, Pink Giant, Rich Lady, Snow Angel, Snow Blaze, Spring Flame, Spring Snow, Spring Treat, Strawberry Heirloom, Summer Flame, Summer Lady, Summer Sweet, Sweet Dream, Sweet Kay, Sweet Sun, Vista Gem and Zee Lady **peaches**; Black Amber, Black Beaut, Black Splendor, Catalina, Cherry Bomb, Crimson Gold, Owen T, Red Beaut, Red Crimson, Ruby Red, Ruby Rosa, Sugar Drop and Yummy Beaut **plums**; Apple Fire, Dapple Fire, Dapple Supreme, Dinosaur Egg, Emerald Sweet and Flavor Queen **pluots**; Arctic Belle, Candy Pearl, Diamond Bright, Diamond Pearl, Fire Sweet, Grand Pearl, Honey Fire, July Pearl, July Red, June Pearl, Red Diamond, Red Jewel, Red Lion, Red Pearl, Red Roy, Ruby Bright, Ruby Diamond, Ruby Pearl, Summer Bright and Sunny Gun **nectarines**. **Apricots** were still being harvested in some areas. **Figs** and Asian **pears** were also being harvested. Summer harvests of **boysenberries** and **blueberries** were slow. Picking of Valencia **oranges** was light. **Olives** were forming fruit. The olive crop was reported to be irregular in some areas with some groves too light to harvest.

## NUT CROPS

Hull split began in early **almond** varieties. The heavy crop required propping branches in many groves. The **pistachio** crop was also expected to be large. Codling moth, husk fly and mite sprays were being applied in **walnuts**. White wash was being applied to protect walnuts from sunburn.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

In the Imperial Valley extremely high temperatures matured summer vegetables almost faster than they could be picked. Heat somewhat reduced the quality and size of some of the faster ripening vegetables. Processing **tomatoes** were growing as well as could be expected; producers continued to hope for deliverable water. In southern San Joaquin Valley, harvest of tomatoes, **peppers**, **carrots**, and **melons** continued. Irrigation applications increased due to the hotter weather with growers unsure how far the water will stretch. Yields of tomatoes and **onions** were good. Some **lettuce** growers were concerned about having enough water for their fall lettuce crop. In central San Joaquin Valley, commercial tomato harvest was well underway as well as the harvest of **okra**, long **beans**, **squash**, sweet **corn**, **cilantro**, **cucumbers** and various Oriental vegetables. Harvest of **watermelon**, **cantaloupe** and other melons was in full swing. A few fields of **garlic** were harvested. Second planting of squash and cucumber was ongoing. In northern San Joaquin Valley, planting was completed for fresh market tomatoes, bell peppers, freezer beans, cantaloupe, watermelon, and **honeydew**. Current vegetables harvested were lettuce, carrots and canning tomatoes. Yields on canning tomatoes were disappointing, with poor color due to extreme high temperatures. Harvest of fresh market onion and summer squash continued, with good quality reported in areas farther north into Sacramento Valley. Other crops being harvested were dehydrated onions, carrots, summer squash, sweet corn and **artichokes**. Heat increased the presence of insects and army worms, requiring insecticide applications in many fields. In northern Sacramento Valley the vegetables were coming into the markets with conditions a little warmer than normal.

## LIVESTOCK

The deterioration of rangeland forage grasses and non-irrigated pasture continued, due to the extremely dry conditions. Fire danger remained high in some areas. Cattle were receiving supplements of hay and other nutrients. The seasonal decline in milk production continued. Sheep were grazing on idle farmland, harvested grain fields, and some rangelands in the central part of the state. Honeybees continued to pollinate melon, squash, and cucumber. Hives were moved from sunflower and safflower crops to vineseed crops, and some remained in holding areas. Leafcutter bees were placed in seed alfalfa fields.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 07/20/08**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 07/20/08	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 07/20/08	January 1 - 07/20/08	Week Ending 07/20/08	July 1 - 07/20/08	July 1 - 07/20/08	July 1 - June 30
<b>NORTH COAST</b>	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
Eureka	54	-4	59	48	18	0	0.04	34.91	38.50	37.53
Ukiah	73	-1	99	51	802	653	0.00	27.83	39.44	37.96
Santa Rosa	64	-3	81	46	536	385	0.00	24.30	31.01	30.30
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco AP	61	-3	70	52	273	133	0.00	15.52	20.37	19.70
San Jose	--	--	--	--	749	614	0.00	11.33	15.20	14.42
Salinas AP	62	-1	72	52	258	121	0.00	9.40	12.87	12.44
Monterey FAA	60	0	69	52	190	19	0.00	7.57	14.79	18.72
King City	69	1	86	52	674	452	0.00	9.35	12.25	11.44
Paso Robles AP	74	0	101	51	913	719	0.00	8.31	13.36	13.95
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	83	1	100	63	1,554	1,237	0.01	24.14	35.87	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	82	0	101	63	1,562	1,310	0.00	15.05	23.85	22.29
Chico AFS	79	1	97	61	1,341	1,024	0.00	19.44	26.62	26.32
Marysville	77	-2	99	53	1,244	1,252	0.00	15.68	22.50	21.04
Sacramento AP	73	-3	95	53	1,055	926	0.00	13.71	18.02	17.52
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	75	-2	95	55	1,176	1,094	0.02	10.13	13.98	13.95
Fresno	84	2	102	66	1,692	1,427	0.01	8.42	11.40	10.60
Bakersfield	86	2	100	69	1,789	1,574	0.00	2.38	6.56	5.72
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria AP	63	-1	73	52	244	117	0.00	11.57	14.21	12.36
Santa Barbara	68	2	77	58	456	245	0.00	15.33	17.38	16.25
Ventura	66	0	76	55	270	0	0.00	14.24	15.35	14.38
Los Angeles	74	-1	86	64	1,222	1,085	0.00	13.53	15.27	14.77
Riverside	--	--	--	--	1,255	1,064	0.00	6.87	10.76	9.58
San Diego AP	70	-1	77	65	731	730	0.00	7.25	10.81	9.90
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	79	3	102	56	934	828	0.23	7.91	5.19	5.37
Lancaster	87	6	103	70	1,571	1,183	0.00	7.99	7.94	6.92
Daggett AP	91	1	108	74	2,249	2,067	0.00	3.00	4.54	3.93
Thermal AP	96	5	112	78	2,971	2,626	0.00	3.66	3.74	3.16
Blythe	96	1	112	78	3,022	2,897	0.27	2.68	4.32	3.60
Imperial	95	3	112	80	2,768	2,696	0.00	2.38	3.10	2.75
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	68	3	93	41	364	130	0.00	12.29	12.55	12.01
Mt. Shasta	69	1	88	50	440	206	0.00	29.92	40.41	37.02
Blue Canyon	72	4	82	64	604	234	0.00	37.49	66.41	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	709	472	0.00	15.97	38.91	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.