



# California Crop Weather

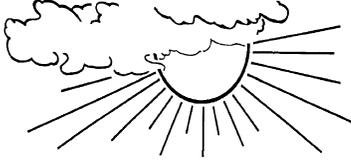
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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## WEATHER



The weather at the start of the week was relatively mild, with a high pressure ridge developing just to the east of the state. This pattern began to change as the first significant storm system of the season developed in the eastern Pacific Ocean. This storm system began to influence the state's weather late Wednesday, as high clouds began to move over the region, and an increasing southwest wind began to blow over the higher terrain. Low clouds, gusty winds and rain finally reached California on Thursday, starting in the northwest coast and quickly

spreading south and east, across the entire state. Measurable rain was reported in every section of the state from this storm. Across the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and over the northern mountain ranges including the Cascades and the Siskiyou, snow fell as low as 6,000 to 7,000 feet. The heaviest rainfall was reported along the northern coastal strip, and on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Scattered showers continued across much of the state through Saturday. By Sunday, weak high pressure began to rebuild, resulting in warmer and drier conditions across the state.

## FIELD CROPS

**Wheat** fields were being cultivated and prepared for fall planting. **Alfalfa** growers were still cutting, windrowing, raking, and baling for the production of alfalfa hay. **Sudan** grass was being harvested for hay and irrigated. **Rice** harvest continued and growers were draining fields. **Cotton** fields continued to set bolls and open. Cotton defoliation continued; growers continued to look for aphid, mite, and lygus. Fall **sugar beet** harvest was winding down. **Safflower** harvest continued. Harvest of **corn** for grain and silage remained underway.

## FRUIT CROPS

**Peaches, pears, plums, pluots** and **nectarines** continued to be harvested, though the season was winding down. Varieties picked included Autumn Flame, Carnival, Fairtime, Full Moon, Last Tango, September Flame, September Sun, September Snow, Snow Magic, and Sweet September peaches; Angeleno, Betty Ann, Kelsey, and September Yummy plums; Apple Fire, Dapple fire, and Flavor Fall pluots; Autumn Flare, Arctic Mist, Arctic Snow, and September Red nectarines were being harvested and packed. Plum harvest had already ended in some areas. Pear harvest was also complete in some areas. Picking of table **grapes** remained steady. Wine grapes were also picked. Raisin grapes continued to dry. Recent rains were expected to have caused minimal damage to those still drying. Early varieties were being picked up. **Pomegranate** harvest was in full swing. **Persimmon** harvest had begun in Yuba County and **kiwi** orchards were being readied for harvest. In other areas growers were waiting for persimmons to show better color. **Figs** were harvested. **Apple** harvest was winding down with Gala, Granny Smith, Golden, and Red Delicious apples still being picked. **Quince** harvest started and **jujube** harvest continued. Valencia **orange** harvest was still slow. Navels continued to size. Growers were applying growth regulator treatments. **Mandarins** were maturing and harvest was expected to begin soon. Picking of **lemons** was increasing in the desert areas. **Olive** harvest was in full swing.

## NUT CROPS

**Walnut** harvest was still active. Recent rains were expected to accelerate hull split in some areas. Some growers still had **almonds** on the ground but the majority of nuts had been picked up. **Pistachio** harvest continued.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

In Tulare County, the commercial **tomato** harvest continued. Summer vegetables, such as assorted **peppers, squash, eggplant,** and tomatoes, were still being harvested, but activities were slowing down. Both **broccoli** and **cauliflower** were planted; **spinach** continued to grow well. Fresh market and processing tomatoes, **watermelon,** bell peppers, and **cantaloupe** harvests continued in Merced County, while the **honeydew** harvest was finished. The harvest of watermelon and seed crops was winding down in Sutter County. Imperial County sprayed and prepared produce fields for pest control, especially worms and white flies. In Fresno County, **garlic** and **onions** were nearing completion, while the harvests of bell peppers, **carrots** and processing tomatoes continued. On Fresno's Westside, fall **broccoli** was planted, fall **lettuce** was thinned, and the fall **asparagus** harvest carried on. Harvest of farmers market crops continued, including **amaranth, basil,** various **bean** varieties, **bittermelon, collard greens, cilantro,** cucumbers, **daikon, dill, dongua,** eggplant, **gailon, kabocha,** leaf lettuce, **leeks, lemongrass, kale, mint, moqua,** mustard greens, **ona choy, opo, parsley,** chili peppers, **radishes, sinqua, spinach,** summer and winter squashes, sweet **corn, swiss chard, tong ho, yam leaf,** as well as many varieties of **herbs.** Fields were weeded, irrigated, fertilized, and treated for insects and mildew. For watermelon, cantaloupe, mixed melon, and honeydew, harvest continued more slowly. **Pumpkin** vines showed good signs of growth and fruit sizing.

## LIVESTOCK

Late week precipitation reduced fire hazards in some areas but brought only marginal improvement to very poor dry-land pasture and rangeland conditions. Cattle on dry pasture and rangeland continued to receive supplements of hay and other nutrients at all elevations. Cattle at upper elevations were gathered in preparation for movement to winter pastures, and herds at lower elevations continued to be reduced due to the poor feed and water conditions. Irrigated pastures were in good condition. Fall beef cow calving was slowing down, and ideal conditions have reportedly resulted in a mostly excellent calf crop. Cooler weather was again a positive for poultry and milk production. Sheep were grazing on harvested grain and melon fields, abandoned alfalfa fields, and idle farmland. Some honeybees continued to pollinate melons in central areas, and others were moved to post-harvest storage.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 10/05/08**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 10/05/08	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 10/05/08	January 1 - 10/05/08	Week Ending 10/05/08	July 1 - 10/05/08	July 1 - 10/05/08	July 1 - June 30
<b>NORTH COAST</b>	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
Eureka	58	2	71	47	42	0	0.46	1.83	1.88	37.53
Ukiah	63	-2	88	47	1,635	1,456	0.85	2.07	1.29	37.96
Santa Rosa	62	-4	85	40	1,104	907	0.43	0.89	1.03	30.30
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco AP	65	1	74	55	624	437	0.15	0.31	0.55	19.70
San Jose	--	--	--	--	1,429	1,305	0.00	0.00	0.56	14.42
Salinas AP	64	0	83	49	538	423	0.19	0.39	0.47	12.44
Monterey FAA	62	1	72	51	337	146	0.10	0.21	1.43	18.72
King City	66	0	87	47	1,382	1,031	0.00	0.00	0.38	11.44
Paso Robles AP	69	3	97	48	1,843	1,548	0.04	0.08	0.50	13.95
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	70	0	93	54	2,875	2,478	0.71	1.45	1.56	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	71	0	93	55	2,902	2,573	1.04	2.08	1.37	22.29
Chico AFS	73	5	100	55	2,555	2,032	2.13	4.46	1.13	26.32
Marysville	70	0	95	51	2,380	2,390	0.54	1.08	0.82	21.04
Sacramento AP	69	0	93	52	2,072	1,898	0.25	0.50	0.66	17.52
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	71	1	96	52	2,331	2,178	0.11	0.32	0.58	13.95
Fresno	75	4	97	53	3,202	2,744	0.08	0.17	0.44	10.60
Bakersfield	75	2	96	53	3,370	3,038	0.00	0.00	0.35	5.72
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria AP	64	1	84	50	544	408	0.08	0.16	0.49	12.36
Santa Barbara	67	2	90	51	940	719	0.00	0.02	0.85	16.25
Ventura	65	0	85	51	802	0	0.12	0.31	0.61	14.38
Los Angeles	75	3	100	58	2,308	2,198	0.00	0.00	0.55	14.77
Riverside	78	7	107	58	2,661	2,261	0.00	0.00	0.54	9.58
San Diego AP	72	2	89	63	1,609	1,625	1.36	2.72	0.44	9.90
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	65	3	89	39	1,836	1,562	0.08	0.37	0.65	5.37
Lancaster	72	4	96	53	2,952	2,344	0.02	0.04	0.57	6.92
Daggett AP	80	5	99	63	4,203	3,822	0.00	0.15	1.21	3.93
Thermal AP	84	5	106	64	5,136	4,622	0.00	0.28	1.06	3.16
Blythe	85	4	105	60	5,358	5,105	0.00	0.59	1.61	3.60
Imperial	85	4	105	63	4,885	4,825	0.00	0.33	0.95	2.75
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	57	5	88	42	658	296	0.36	0.93	1.55	12.01
Mt. Shasta	58	3	88	38	914	446	0.97	2.15	2.18	37.02
Blue Canyon	59	0	78	41	1,314	574	2.07	4.15	3.68	67.04
Yosemite	64	2	88	42	1,575	1,100	0.13	0.26	2.18	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.