



California Crop Weather

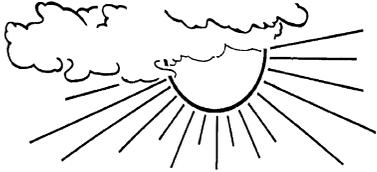
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEATHER



High pressure dominated most of California Monday through Wednesday. Extreme Northern California (north of Redding) was the exception with cold fronts passing north of the high pressure. More than a half of inch of rain fell in Crescent City on Veteran's Day. Cold fronts passed through this region until Wednesday. The rest of the Golden State had partly cloudy to clear skies with daytime highs in 60s and 70s, and few 80s in Southern California. By Thursday, very strong high pressure dominated California. Several record high temperatures were broken in the Central Valley and along the California Coast due to clear skies and warm winds from the mountains. Also, the very strong pressure started the Santa Ana winds in Southern California. Santa Barbara had wind gusts near 50 miles per hour. The winds spread fires in Southern California through the weekend. The entire state was dominated by strong high pressure over the weekend and was under mostly clear skies (except for smoke in extreme Southern California). Daytime highs range from the 60s along the coast to the 90s in the deserts.

FIELD CROPS

Small grain fields continued to be planted. Recent rains were beneficial to seed germination of **barley**, **wheat**, and **oats**. **Alfalfa** was starting the dormant season. Some growers were cutting and baling for the last time. Seed alfalfa fields were going into dormancy. **Cotton** defoliation and harvest activities were nearing completion. Early picked cotton fields continued with stalk plow down and shredding. **Sudan** hay, **sorghum**, and **safflower** harvest continued. Harvest of **corn** for grain and silage was almost complete. Sweet potato harvest slowed down in Merced County.

FRUIT CROPS

Grape growers were pruning, irrigating and cultivating their vineyards. Table grape harvest was slowing with Crimson and Thompson Seedless, Christmas Rose, Rouge, Kyoho, Red Globe, Summer Royal, and Autumn Royal varieties being picked. In Fresno County all types of raisin grapes had been harvested and boxed. Wine and juice grape harvests were also still underway with Alicante Bouchet, Barbera, Canelian, Carignane, French Colombard, Merlot, Muscat, Ruby Cabernet, and Thompson Seedless varieties being picked. Growers continued harvesting late varieties of **pomegranates**. New pomegranate orchards were being planted. Angeleno **plums** and Flavor Fall **pluots** were picked. **Quince**, **kiwifruit**, Fuyu and Hachiya **persimmons**, **apples**, Asian **pears**, and **jujubes** were also picked. New blueberry bushes were planted. **Lemons** were harvested and supplies were plentiful of most sizes. The harvest of Valencia **oranges** continued as demand required. Navel orange harvest continued, with fruit color still lagging and high sugar content. Varieties of Navels picked included Early Becks, Bonanzas, Fukumotos, Washingtons, and T.I.s. **Mandarin** varieties picked and packed included Owari satsumas and Fina clementines. Chandler **pummelos**, and Melo Gold and Cocktail **grapefruit** were also being picked. Citrus harvest had slowed in some areas due to low market prices. **Olives** were harvested.

NUT CROPS

Almond, **pistachio**, and **walnut** harvests were nearing the end. Hullers remained busy. Pruning was underway in some orchards. Pre-plant fumigations were also taking place with some new almond and pistachio orchards already being planted.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Fall vegetables grew normally and looked good this week, prompting some farmers' markets to remain open for the fall season. Tulare County's **broccoli**, **cabbage**, and **lettuce** harvests gained momentum. After a slow start, **cauliflower** also picked up and harvest was expected to be in full swing in the coming weeks. While **tomatoes** were almost completed, **spinach** grew normally and started to be picked in some areas. The **radicchio** harvest moved forward. Head lettuce producers in Imperial County waited for temperatures to drop low enough for the lettuce to pull in and form solid heads. Kern County harvested the last of its iceberg lettuce crop. In preparation for winter planting, stale bedding was well underway. In Fresno County fall vegetables were still being harvested, especially farmers' market crops, such as **amaranth**, **basil**, green and long **beans**, bitter **melon**, **carrots**, **cilantro**, collard **greens**, **cucumbers**, **daikon**, **dill**, **dongqua**, **eggplant**, **gailon**, **kabocha**, leaf lettuce, leeks, **lemongrass**, **kale**, **mint**, **moqua**, mustard greens, **okra**, **ong choy**, **opo**, **parsley**, chili **peppers**, **radishes**, **sinqua**, **spinach**, summer and winter **squashes**, **swiss chard**, **tong ho**, **yam leaf**, as well as many varieties of **herbs**. Harvests continued at a slower pace for **garlic**, bell peppers, and **onions**. The **pumpkin** harvest finished this week, making way for debut of fall broccoli. Garlic and fresh market onions were planted. Fields were weeded, irrigated, fertilized, and treated for pests and mildew.

LIVESTOCK

Rangeland and pasture continued to show slight improvements in many areas due to early fall rains and milder temperatures, however conditions remained mostly poor as more of the much-needed seasonal precipitation had yet to arrive. Some greening of foothill pastures was visible. Cattle on dry pasture and rangeland continued to receive supplements of hay and other nutrients. Movement of cattle to lower elevations for over-wintering continued, and some thinning of herds continued due to the poor feed and water conditions. Irrigated pastures were in good condition. Fall beef cow calving was nearing completion in some areas. Dairy production continued to benefit from the milder temperatures. Sheep were grazing on harvested grain, alfalfa, sudan grass, and tomato fields and idle farmland in central areas, and some movement of herds into the Imperial Valley continued. Fall lambing continued. Both in-state and out-of-state honeybees were moved to foothill and mountain locations in central areas for over-wintering.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 11/16/08

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 11/16/08	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 11/16/08	January 1 - 11/16/08	Week Ending 11/16/08	July 1 - 11/16/08	July 1 - 11/16/08	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	55	3	70	47	40	0	0.97	5.29	7.95	37.53
Ukiah	59	6	81	41	1,679	1,454	0.00	4.36	6.79	37.96
Santa Rosa	62	8	88	43	1,252	923	0.00	3.32	5.53	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	61	6	79	49	730	443	0.00	2.05	3.09	19.70
San Jose	--	--	--	--	1,525	1,334	0.00	0.00	2.44	14.42
Salinas AP	63	7	90	44	674	432	0.02	1.03	2.07	12.44
Monterey FAA	62	6	88	46	448	145	0.00	0.55	4.07	18.72
King City	61	6	91	39	1,489	1,043	0.00	0.10	1.72	11.44
Paso Robles AP	59	6	89	36	1,904	1,552	0.00	0.29	1.78	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	60	8	83	42	2,972	2,504	0.00	4.38	5.47	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	61	8	84	44	3,012	2,610	0.00	3.08	4.59	22.29
Chico AFS	58	5	80	43	2,599	2,043	0.00	11.11	4.39	26.32
Marysville	59	4	79	40	2,424	2,442	0.00	3.38	3.72	21.04
Sacramento AP	58	4	79	41	2,122	1,932	0.00	2.91	2.86	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	59	4	79	41	2,394	2,214	0.01	1.20	2.52	13.95
Fresno	59	5	81	47	3,306	2,792	0.00	0.80	1.73	10.60
Bakersfield	59	3	82	44	3,498	3,128	0.00	0.43	0.99	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	65	9	91	41	736	410	0.00	0.61	1.72	12.36
Santa Barbara	61	4	87	42	1,012	736	0.00	1.02	2.24	16.25
Ventura	66	0	92	43	792	0	0.00	1.11	1.81	14.38
Los Angeles	69	5	93	51	2,723	2,454	0.00	0.31	1.53	14.77
Riverside	66	7	89	44	3,004	2,377	0.00	0.51	1.23	9.58
San Diego AP	67	4	89	54	1,894	1,807	0.00	1.32	1.49	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	54	8	79	26	1,820	1,552	0.00	0.55	1.10	5.37
Lancaster	57	6	81	33	2,953	2,343	0.00	0.44	1.14	6.92
Daggett AP	62	4	82	43	4,367	3,937	0.00	0.22	1.43	3.93
Thermal AP	67	5	93	44	5,484	4,885	0.00	0.28	1.28	3.16
Blythe	68	6	89	46	5,778	5,398	0.00	0.48	1.87	3.60
Imperial	67	3	90	47	5,347	5,178	0.00	0.33	1.22	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	44	8	71	23	755	296	0.26	1.76	3.13	12.01
Mt. Shasta	47	6	66	32	898	446	0.16	9.63	7.63	37.02
Blue Canyon	56	13	76	37	1,374	574	0.00	6.06	13.68	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	73	34	1,552	1,090	0.00	5.42	7.49	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.