



California Crop Weather

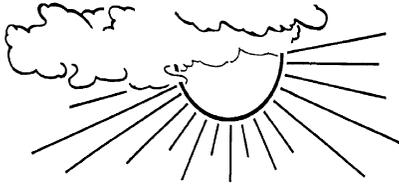
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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

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WEATHER



Much of California lay in between low pressure systems at the start of the week, one moving through the Great Basin and one over extreme Southern California and Baja California. Upper level high pressure then moved over the northern half of the state, resulting in a stagnant pattern which brought widespread fog and cool temperatures to much of the Central Valley. The foggy weather persisted through Thursday for Northern California, but Southern California saw a vigorous off shore flow begin to develop by midweek, resulting in dry and warm temperatures in that region. By Friday, a cold low pressure system approached. This system spread clouds and much needed showers across Northern California through the weekend. These showers eventually made their way to Southern California by Sunday.

FIELD CROPS

Alfalfa weed control continued with herbicide applications. Green chop of alfalfa was in progress. **Cotton** harvest activities were winding down. Cotton plow down was nearly complete. Small grain planting continued. Grain fields were emerging with supplemental irrigation; stands were looking good. **Rice** growers continued to reshape berms and level paddies. Rice fields were being cultivated, bedded, fertilized and irrigated for spring planting.

FRUIT CROPS

Just a few table **grapes** were harvested; some table grapes were being picked for wine. Varieties picked included Crimson Seedless, Christmas Rose, Kyoho and Autumn Royal. **Kiwifruit** harvest ended in Tulare County. **Pomegranate** and **jujube** harvests ended in Fresno County. New pomegranate orchards and **blueberry** bushes were planted. Tree fruit orchards were being pruned and herbicides applied. Some old orchards were being pushed out. **Raspberry** nursery stock harvest continued. Navel **orange**, Satsuma and Clementine **mandarin**, **pummelo** and **grapefruit** harvests were gaining speed. Cooler temperatures were helping advance citrus color; gassing time was reduced. **Olives** were still being harvested.

NUT CROPS

Pruning was taking place in nut orchards. Pre-plant fumigations were still underway. Some **almond** trees were given a winter shake.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Broccoli, **cabbage**, **carrots**, **cauliflower** and **spinach** were growing well; harvest started in some areas. **Onions** and **garlic** were emerging. Beds for spring planting were being prepared; some fumigation of plots was taking place. **Tomato** beds were being drip irrigated. **Radicchio** harvest continued. **Asparagus** fields were being prepared for spring harvest. In Fresno County, the harvest of farmers market crops such as **amaranth**, **basil**, **beans** (green, and long), **beets**, **bittermelon**, **carrots**, **cilantro**, **collard greens**, **cucumbers**, **daikon**, **dill**, **donqua**, **eggplant**, **gailon**, **garlic**, **kale**, **kabocha**, **leaf lettuce**, **leeks**, **lemongrass**, **mint**, **moqua**, **mustard greens**, **green onions**, **onions** (red, white and yellow), **okra**, **ong choy**, **opo**, **parsley**, **chili peppers**, **peanuts**, **potatoes**, **radishes**, **saluyot** (okra leaf), **sinqua** (ribbed and smooth), **spinach**, **winter squashes**, **swiss chard**, **tong ho**, **yam leaf**, and many different kinds of herbs continued more slowly; fields were also being weeded, irrigated, fertilized, and treated to control weeds, insects, and mildew. Lemongrass fields were being covered; winter vegetables were growing well in the cooler weather.

LIVESTOCK

Rangeland and pasture improved somewhat with late week precipitation in some areas, however overall grazing conditions remained poor. Cattle ranchers continued supplemental feeding programs. Fall beef cow calving neared completion. Milk and poultry production continued to benefit from the mild weather. Sheep and lambs were grazing on alfalfa fields, harvested grain land, and idle farmland in central areas. Feeder lambs were grazing on sudan and alfalfa fields in the Imperial Valley. Fall lambing was nearing completion. Both in-state and out-of-state honeybees were being over-wintered, and movement of bees into the state increased in anticipation of spring pollination.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 12/14/08

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 12/14/08	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 12/14/08	January 1 - 12/14/08	Week Ending 12/14/08	July 1 - 12/14/08	July 1 - 12/14	July 1 - June 30
NORTH COAST	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
Eureka	43	-6	52	34	41	0	1.24	7.17	14.34	37.53
Ukiah	44	-2	67	28	1674	1454	0.05	4.53	12.47	37.96
Santa Rosa	47	-1	66	30	1258	923	0.12	3.5	9.81	30.3
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	50	-1	60	40	713	443	0.23	2.4	5.68	19.7
San Jose	--	--	--	--	1454	1334	0	0	4.26	14.42
Salinas AP	51	0	71	35	648	432	0.17	1.68	3.5	12.44
Monterey FAA	51	1	68	37	429	145	0.01	0.63	4.66	18.72
King City	48	-1	73	29	1518	1043	0.01	0.67	3.12	11.44
Paso Robles AP	45	-2	69	24	1892	1552	0.01	0.56	3.07	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	46	0	68	29	2934	2504	0.08	4.22	10.03	33.3
Red Bluff FSS	47	0	68	32	2987	2610	0.09	3.16	7.69	22.29
Chico AFS	45	-1	64	29	2596	2043	0	11.12	7.91	26.32
Marysville	44	-4	63	31	2420	2442	0.16	3.65	6.8	21.04
Sacramento AP	44	-3	60	30	2114	1932	0.17	3.23	5.2	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	43	-3	61	28	2386	2214	0.02	1.38	4.23	13.95
Fresno	45	-1	58	32	3306	2792	0.04	1.51	2.89	10.6
Bakersfield	45	-4	59	33	3498	3128	0.1	1.16	1.69	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	52	0	69	36	696	410	0.05	2.55	3.29	12.36
Santa Barbara	53	0	71	36	1001	736	0	1.9	3.94	16.25
Ventura	54	0	71	35	704	0	0	2.44	3.67	14.38
Los Angeles	60	1	80	44	2780	2455	0	1.87	3.05	14.77
Riverside	57	2	85	34	3122	2377	0.01	0.97	2.24	9.58
San Diego AP	60	2	75	49	1908	1798	0.01	2.68	2.67	9.9
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	38	-1	65	7	1751	1552	0	0.93	1.65	5.37
Lancaster	46	2	69	25	2938	2343	0	1.58	1.93	6.92
Daggett AP	51	2	66	32	4358	3937	0	0.22	1.8	3.93
Thermal AP	56	1	74	33	5517	4872	0	0.77	1.55	3.16
Blythe	55	1	71	36	5799	5383	0	0.73	2.28	3.6
Imperial	57	1	73	39	5250	5162	0	0.37	1.55	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	30	0	54	9	669	296	0.07	1.91	4.43	12.01
Mt. Shasta	35	0	52	21	911	446	0.12	8.19	12.99	37.02
Blue Canyon	42	2	64	22	1343	574	0.33	9.22	22	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	59	20	1551	1090	0	5.69	12.05	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.