



California Crop Weather

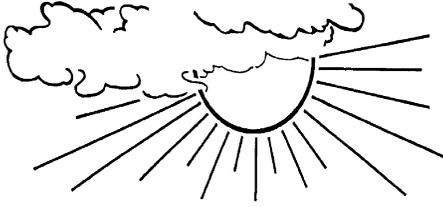
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEATHER



During the first part of the week, a series of cold winter storms spread valley rain and mountain snow all across California. The mountains of the state reported impressive snow accumulations. After Christmas day, high pressure began to reform over California, pushing the storm track to the north, into the Pacific Northwest. As a result, the weekend was dry for much of the state. Only the far northern counties remained under the influence of the storms migrating through Washington and Oregon. These counties remained cloudy, cool, and wet, while the rest of California saw more sunshine and slightly warmer temperatures.

FIELD CROPS

Field work continued with ground preparation, cultivation, irrigation and weed control in **alfalfa, wheat, barley** and **rye** fields. New alfalfa fields continued to be planted. Seed alfalfa fields were dormant. Cotton plow down was virtually complete. Small grain planting was winding down. Grain fields were emerging and progressing well due to ongoing wet conditions. **Rice** growers continued to reshape berms and level paddies. Rice fields were being cultivated, bedded, fertilized and irrigated to prepare for spring planting.

FRUIT CROPS

Grape growers were pruning, irrigating, cultivating, and removing old vineyards. Stone fruit, nut, and pomegranate cultural practices such as irrigation and pruning continued. Pomegranate and jujube harvests ended. New pomegranate orchards were being planted. **Blueberries** were also planted. **Raspberry** and **strawberry** nursery stock harvests continued. Harvest of Navel **oranges, lemons, pummelos, mandarins,** and **tangerines** continued. Citrus growers were treating to control fungus, insects and weeds, as well as irrigating, applying foliar nutrients, and protecting their crops from cold temperatures.

NUT CROPS

Almond and **pistachio** trees were being planted. Pruning was taking place in established orchards.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Although winter vegetables grew well in the cool weather, heavy rain slowed down field work. Luckily, most planting for commercial fields was already completed. Some vegetable crops also experienced freezing temperatures, though any specific damage has yet to be determined. The **cauliflower** harvest began, while the harvests of fall **broccoli, radicchio, cilantro,** and **endive** continued. Farmers' market crops, such as **amaranth, basil, beets, carrots, cilantro, collard greens, daikon, dill, donqua, gailon, garlic, kale, kabocha, leaf lettuce, leeks, lemongrass, mint, mustard greens, onions** (green, red, white and yellow), **ong choy, opo, parsley, chili peppers, peanuts, radishes, saluyot** (okra leaf), **spinach,** winter **squashes,** **swiss chard, tong ho, yam leaf,** and a variety of herbs were harvested more slowly. Lemongrass fields were covered and **asparagus** fields were prepared for spring. Both fresh market and dehydrator onions were planted, as well as bulbs for seed.

LIVESTOCK

Rangeland and pasture growth has improved due to wet conditions. However, overall grazing conditions and nutritive value remained poor. Cattle ranchers continued supplemental feeding programs. Fall beef cow calving neared completion. Sheep and lambs were grazing on alfalfa fields, harvested grainland, and idle farmland. Feeder lambs were grazing on sudan and alfalfa fields in the Imperial Valley. Both in-state and out-of-state honeybees were fed and over-wintered, and movement of bees into the state increased for spring pollination.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 12/28/08

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 12/28/08	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 12/28/08	January 1 - 12/28/08	Week Ending 12/28/08	July 1 - 12/28/08	July 1 - 12/28/08	July 1 - June 30
NORTH COAST	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
Eureka	44	-4	53	30	41	0	3.76	12.39	16.64	37.53
Ukiah	42	-4	52	27	1,674	1,454	1.64	7.54	15.26	37.96
Santa Rosa	45	-2	56	30	1,260	923	1.36	5.86	12.01	30.3
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	48	-1	56	39	713	443	0.77	4.58	7.35	19.7
San Jose	--	--	--	--	1,484	1,334	0	0	5.36	14.42
Salinas AP	47	-3	61	33	648	432	0.77	3.79	4.48	12.44
Monterey FAA	50	-1	61	37	429	145	0.58	2.54	5.87	18.72
King City	46	-2	61	28	1,512	1,043	0.15	1.12	3.96	11.44
Paso Robles AP	43	-3	57	26	1,892	1,552	0.14	1.46	4.08	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	39	-5	50	24	2,934	2,504	2.01	7.44	12.19	33.3
Red Bluff FSS	41	-4	51	29	2,987	2,610	0.88	4.52	9.38	22.29
Chico AFS	44	0	52	30	2,596	2,043	2.18	13.67	9.81	26.32
Marysville	44	-1	56	27	2,420	2,442	1.12	5.72	8.44	21.04
Sacramento AP	44	0	56	27	2,114	1,932	0.73	4.59	6.5	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	45	1	57	30	2,386	2,214	0.6	2.54	5.15	13.95
Fresno	45	0	56	32	3,306	2,792	0.36	2.56	3.66	10.6
Bakersfield	45	-2	59	32	3,498	3,128	0.11	1.69	2.11	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	46	-5	60	31	696	410	0.34	3.1	4.3	12.36
Santa Barbara	50	-2	62	32	1,001	736	0.35	4.01	5.41	16.25
Ventura	48	0	63	33	838	0	0.34	4.61	4.75	14.38
Los Angeles	53	-5	68	39	2,770	2,455	0.46	4.66	4.28	14.77
Riverside	49	-5	72	32	3,117	2,377	0	0.97	3.1	9.58
San Diego AP	53	-4	62	41	1,904	1,798	0.68	6.07	3.48	9.9
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	29	-7	47	10	1,751	1,552	0.47	1.54	1.97	5.37
Lancaster	40	-3	53	24	2,938	2,343	0.14	2.62	2.59	6.92
Daggett AP	43	-4	62	27	4,358	3,937	0	1.8	2.11	3.93
Thermal AP	49	-4	67	29	5,516	4,872	0	0.84	1.78	3.16
Blythe	50	-3	68	34	5,799	5,383	0	1.39	2.5	3.6
Imperial	51	-4	68	32	5,248	5,162	0	1.35	1.77	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	23	-4	44	1	644	296	0.66	3.27	4.99	12.01
Mt. Shasta	30	-4	39	14	913	446	1.02	9.82	15.38	37.02
Blue Canyon	28	-10	42	18	1,343	574	2.76	14.11	26.68	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	35	18	1,546	1,090	1.39	8.4	14.52	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.