



California Crop Weather

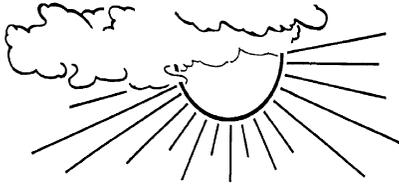
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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

WEEK ENDING: February 8, 2009
RELEASED: February 9, 2009

FREQUENCY: Weekly
VOL. 29 NO. 33

WEATHER



Unseasonably warm and dry conditions prevailed across most of California at the start of the week, with a high pressure ridge aloft centered over the West Coast, and surface high pressure settled over the Great Basin region of Northeastern Nevada. This pattern brought a dry offshore flow to California, with very low humidity and warm daytime temperatures and cool nighttime temperatures. This pattern persisted until Thursday, when the first of two Pacific storm systems reached coastal California. The first system brought widespread rainfall and cooler temperatures to most of the state. The heaviest rains were reported across Southern California. A brief respite came late Friday and Saturday, before the second low pressure system came ashore along the south-central coast Saturday night. Again the focus of the heaviest rains was in the south, while the northern counties saw light precipitation.

FIELD CROPS

Field work was still in progress with ground preparation, cultivation, irrigation and weed control in **alfalfa**, **barley**, **oat**, **rye** and **wheat** fields. Rain this week greatly improved conditions. Irrigation was shut off in some areas due to the rain. **Cotton** fields were being prepared in Fresno County. **Rice** growers were reshaping berms, fertilizing, and irrigating in preparation for spring planting. Sweet **potato** hotbeds were being planted.

FRUIT CROPS

Dormant spraying was almost complete in orchards. Citrus harvest continued for **lemons**, Murcott **tangerines**, Minneola **tangelos**, Navel and Cara Cara **oranges**, and Pummelo and Melo Gold **grapefruits**. Drought began to threaten orchards in the San Joaquin Valley. **Kiwi** harvest continued. **Raspberry** and **strawberry** nursery stock digging was completed. Cultural practices continued for **pomegranate**, **nectarine**, and **apricot** trees.

NUT CROPS

Pruning, tree planting, and disking continued in **almond**, **walnut**, and **pistachio** orchards in preparation for bloom. Dormant spraying was almost complete. Drought began to threaten orchards in the San Joaquin Valley.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Rains last week encouraged the growth of winter vegetables. **Garlic**, **cabbage** and spring **lettuce** plantings also grew well. The **cilantro** harvest was completed, while the harvests of **radicchios** and other leafy vegetables progressed. The harvest continued more slowly for farmers' market crops such as **basil**, **beets**, **carrots**, **collard greens**, **daikon**, **dill**, **gailon**, **kale**, **leeks**, **lemongrass**, **mustard greens**, **green onions**, **potatoes**, **radishes**, **saluyot** (okra leaf), **spinach**, winter **squashes**, **swiss chard**, and many varieties of herbs. Greenhouse vegetable shipments to retail and wholesale markets increased. As weather permitted, field preparations for spring plantings were underway and fertilizer was applied. Lemongrass fields were covered, **onion** bulbs were planted for seed and **tomato** beds were added with irrigation systems.

LIVESTOCK

Non-irrigated rangeland remained in poor condition. Recent rains helped increase rangeland growth, but more precipitation was needed. Supplemental feeding of hay and nutrients continued. Spring Lambs were being born. Sheep, lambs and cattle were grazing on idle land and harvested alfalfa fields. Some beef cow calving was reported. Honeybees were being fed and stored in winter locations with out of state bees coming into the Golden State for spring crop pollination. In Sutter County, bees were placed in almond orchards prior to bud break.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 02/08/09

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION				
	Average Week Ending 02/08/09	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal		
					January 1 - 02/08/09	January 1 - 02/08/09	Week Ending 02/08/09	July 1 - 02/08/09	July 1 - 02/08/09	July 1 - June 30	
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --				
NORTH COAST											
Eureka	42	-7	62	4	0	0	0.65	15.27	24.65	37.53	
Ukiah	49	0	73	30	0	0	0.5	8.98	26.1	37.96	
Santa Rosa	53	2	73	35	6	0	0.19	6.69	20.71	30.3	
CENTRAL COAST											
San Francisco AP	49	-2	67	13	0	0	0.53	5.79	13.43	19.7	
San Jose	--	--	--	--	2	0	0	0	9.64	14.42	
Salinas AP	51	-1	76	23	13	0	1.06	6.21	8.02	12.44	
Monterey FAA	54	2	70	38	21	0	1.24	5.28	10.04	18.72	
King City	55	4	82	33	0	0	0.84	2.78	7.44	11.44	
Paso Robles AP	46	-4	77	8	0	0	0.62	2.74	8.23	13.95	
SACRAMENTO VALLEY											
Redding	44	-4	71	1	9	0	0.89	9.27	22.28	33.3	
Red Bluff FSS	46	-4	71	3	9	0	0.1	5.56	15.6	22.29	
Chico AFS	53	5	71	36	0	0	0.24	15.67	17.1	26.32	
Marysville	52	2	70	33	4	0	0.26	7.25	14.55	21.04	
Sacramento AP	49	-1	69	23	0	0	0.39	6.55	11.89	17.52	
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY											
Stockton WSO	48	-2	70	11	0	0	0.48	5.12	8.99	13.95	
Fresno	51	1	74	26	0	0	0.57	4.29	6.78	10.6	
Bakersfield	56	4	85	29	32	0	1.26	3.34	3.83	5.72	
SOUTH COAST											
Santa Maria AP	49	-4	81	9	4	0	1.65	4.91	8.37	12.36	
Santa Barbara	50	-3	78	19	2	0	1.77	6.45	10.66	16.25	
Ventura	59	0	80	44	110	0	1.19	5.97	9.31	14.38	
Los Angeles	64	4	83	50	180	0	1.31	6.43	9.21	14.77	
Riverside	59	4	88	43	112	0	0.36	1.47	6.45	9.58	
San Diego AP	56	-2	82	27	82	0	1.85	8	6.56	9.9	
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR											
Bishop	44	3	68	19	0	0	0.33	1.89	3.28	5.37	
Lancaster	47	1	70	24	0	0	1.22	4.2	5.02	6.92	
Daggett AP	47	-5	74	3	2	0	0.34	3.19	2.98	3.93	
Thermal AP	53	-5	84	28	44	0	0.47	1.31	2.79	3.16	
Blythe	52	-6	80	0	49	0	0.37	1.78	3.26	3.6	
Imperial	52	-7	80	-1	58	0	0.16	1.53	2.41	2.75	
CASCADE - SIERRA											
Alturas	41	10	60	20	0	0	0	2.87	6.72	12.01	
Mt. Shasta	38	1	64	10	0	0	2.04	13.74	25.16	37.02	
Blue Canyon	45	6	62	27	2	0	0.81	19.77	42.05	67.04	
Yosemite	--	--	61	31	0	0	0.84	10.08	24.57	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.