



California Crop Weather

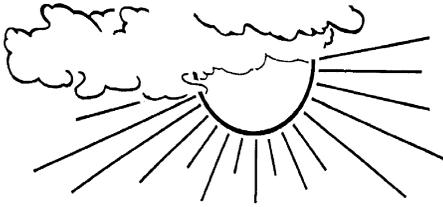
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: February 15, 2009
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WEATHER



A slow moving trough of low pressure located off the coast of northern California brought valley rain and mountain snow throughout the week across the northern part of the state. Temperatures in the valley were cooler during this period due to the cold air mass embedded in this system. In the Sacramento Valley, the temperature stayed in the 40s and 50s throughout the day, with overnight lows in the 30s. The southern

California coast and mountains experienced slightly warmer temperatures due to dryer weather and fewer clouds; temperatures ranged in the upper 50s. A series of frontal systems moved across the region throughout the week, bringing significant rainfall amounts to the northern parts of the state. The higher elevations of the northern Sierra Nevada received good snowfall amounts as well. A tight pressure gradient created sustained winds of up to 35 mph, and gusts up to 60 mph during the weekend.

FIELD CROPS

Field work was in progress with ground preparation, cultivation, irrigation and weed control as weather permitted. Both irrigated and dry land winter **wheat** was progressing well after the recent rains. Lodging problems emerged in early sown wheat fields in Tulare County. Herbicide sprays were applied to **oat** and wheat fields. **Cotton** fields were being bedded. **Rice** growers were reshaping berms, fertilizing, and irrigating in preparation for spring planting. Sweet **potato** hotbeds were being planted.

FRUIT CROPS

Harvest of Navel **oranges** continued. Size and color on Navels were for the most part good. Some Navels showed drying due to over-maturity. **Lemons** were picked. Murcott **mandarins**, Pummelos and Melo Gold **grapefruit** were picked and packed. Wet conditions hampered citrus harvest activities. Picking of Valencia oranges was expected to begin soon in parts of Kern County. Forecasted reductions in water deliveries due to the drought remained a concern for citrus growers. Rains were welcomed. In deciduous orchards weed spraying continued. Dormant orchard spraying was complete in some areas. Pruning and brush shredding remained underway, though recent rains made orchard activities difficult.

NUT CROPS

A few **almond** blossoms appeared. Most blooming was seen in the Sonora variety. Bloom was expected to progress slowly given the wet, cold weather and cloudy conditions. Pruning in nut orchards was ongoing. Pre-plant fumigations were underway for new almond and **walnut** groves. New trees continued to be planted.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Harvest of winter vegetables slowed this week due to wet weather. **Garlic**, green **onions**, **cabbage** and spring **lettuce** plantings grew well. **Broccoli** was harvested for processing. **Carrots** and **radicchio** harvest continued. 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 continued to increase. As weather permitted, field preparations for spring plantings were underway and fertilizer was applied. **Tomato** beds were set up for planting. **Lemongrass** fields were covered and onion bulbs were planted for seed.

LIVESTOCK

Non-irrigated pasture and rangeland improved markedly with recent rains, with visible greening in many areas. However, more precipitation was needed for adequate grazing conditions. Ranchers continued supplemental feeding of hay and nutrients. Dairy herds were reduced in response to market conditions. Spring lambing continued. Sheep, lambs and cattle were grazing on idle land and harvested alfalfa fields. Movement of honeybees into the state slowed, and hives were staged in orchards for upcoming pollination.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 2/15/09

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 2/15/09	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 2/15/09	January 1 - 2/15/09	Week Ending 2/15/09	July 1 - 2/15/09	July 1 - 2/15/09	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	42	-8	57	30	0	0	2.05	17.32	26.01	37.53
Ukiah	41	-9	50	27	0	0	2.88	11.77	27.83	37.96
Santa Rosa	46	-5	57	30	6	0	2.73	9.43	22.11	30.3
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	48	-4	55	39	0	0	1.79	7.58	14.41	19.7
San Jose	--	--	--	--	2	0	0	0	10.33	14.42
Salinas AP	48	-5	56	32	13	0	1.13	7.34	8.61	12.44
Monterey FAA	49	-4	57	38	18	0	0.84	6.12	10.56	18.72
King City	47	-5	59	31	0	0	0.67	3.45	8.09	11.44
Paso Robles AP	44	-6	58	29	0	0	0.68	3.42	8.91	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	41	-8	52	27	9	0	3.07	12.34	23.58	33.3
Red Bluff FSS	43	-7	55	29	9	0	1.95	7.51	16.5	22.29
Chico AFS	44	-5	55	29	0	0	2.37	18.04	18.19	26.32
Marysville	46	-5	56	27	4	0	1.05	8.28	15.47	21.04
Sacramento AP	46	-4	55	29	0	0	1.16	7.71	12.72	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	47	-3	57	32	0	0	0.83	5.95	9.56	13.95
Fresno	46	-5	61	32	0	0	0.98	5.27	7.27	10.6
Bakersfield	49	-4	67	38	22	0	0.46	3.8	4.12	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	47	-6	58	31	4	0	1.2	6.11	9.17	12.36
Santa Barbara	48	-7	62	33	2	0	0.82	7.27	11.56	16.25
Ventura	46	0	58	34	102	0	0.93	6.92	10.27	14.38
Los Angeles	52	-9	61	41	152	2	0.69	7.12	10.18	14.77
Riverside	48	-8	63	33	96	0	0	1.47	7.07	9.58
San Diego AP	54	-5	67	45	76	0	0.42	8.42	7.1	9.9
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	34	-8	51	12	0	0	0.01	1.93	3.52	5.37
Lancaster	41	-7	55	28	0	0	0.49	4.79	5.47	6.92
Daggett AP	44	-9	60	29	2	0	0.28	3.47	3.14	3.93
Thermal AP	50	-8	67	32	44	0	0.02	1.33	2.95	3.16
Blythe	51	-8	65	35	46	0	0.01	1.79	3.39	3.6
Imperial	53	-7	67	35	52	2	0	1.53	2.51	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	29	-4	41	10	0	0	0.15	3.02	7.05	12.01
Mt. Shasta	29	-8	39	14	0	0	3.65	17.39	26.62	37.02
Blue Canyon	26	-13	32	20	2	0	2.89	22.24	45.01	67.04
Yosemite	32	-9	45	19	0	0	1.76	11.84	26.28	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.