



California Crop Weather

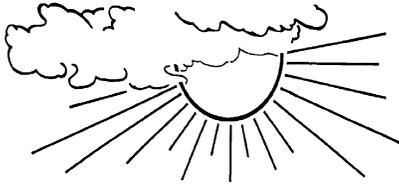
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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

WEEK ENDING: March 1, 2009
RELEASED: March 2, 2009

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WEATHER



A series of Pacific storms moved through northern California during the week, bringing significant precipitation to the northern two-thirds of the state. While the brunt of these systems fell across the Pacific Northwest, they were strong enough to spread good rainfall amounts across the coastal areas and to the Sacramento Valley and its adjacent mountains. A break in the weather reached northern California by Thursday, and relatively dry conditions remained there until Sunday, when another significant Pacific Storm came ashore. Southern California remained dry through most of the period, with most of the week's rainfall staying north. Temperatures across the state were very mild, due to the subtropical nature of the storms. In southern California, an offshore flow set up towards the end of the week, resulting in very warm temperatures for that part of the state.

FIELD CROPS

Rains were beneficial to dryland field crops such as **wheat** and **barley**; wheat fields looked very good. Winter silage was growing well. **Alfalfa** was growing slowly. Wet conditions hampered some field activities. As weather permitted, growers were preparing fields for spring planting. Some fields were being treated with herbicides. Irrigation of alfalfa was underway in areas where rains were lacking.

FRUIT CROPS

Early variety **nectarines** and **apricots** continued to bloom. Other stone fruit varieties were pushing buds. Pollination was hampered where wet conditions prevailed. Herbicide, fungicide and bloom spraying continued as weather permitted. Field preparations in vineyards for the new season were mostly complete. Spring **strawberries** were growing well. Navel **oranges**, Moro oranges, Cara Cara Navel oranges, Melo Gold **grapefruit**, Chandler **pummelos**, Minneola **tangelos**, honey **mandarins**, and **lemons** were picked as field conditions allowed. Continued rain throughout the northern two-thirds of the state did not significantly reduce forecasted drought conditions for later in the year.

NUT CROPS

Almonds were in full bloom, but wet weather hampered pollination. Pre-plant fumigation continued in new almond and **walnut** orchards. Nut groves were being fertilized in the San Joaquin Valley. Continued rain throughout the northern two-thirds of the state did not significantly reduce forecasted drought conditions for later in the year.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Field preparations for spring planting and harvesting of winter vegetables continued but were slowed by wet ground. Weather permitting, farmers were preparing ground for planting processing tomatoes. Harvests of **broccoli**, **lettuce**, and **cauliflower** continued. Among the greenhouse vegetables being harvested were **squash**, **eggplants** and bitter **melons**. **Radicchio** harvest continued. **Asparagus** harvest was underway. **Carrots** were being planted in some locations. Hot capping of newly planted squash was being done. Herbicides were applied to **onion** fields. **Garlic** was fertilized.

LIVESTOCK

Non-irrigated pasture and rangeland continued to improve with additional rainfall this week, though grass growth was reportedly still somewhat limited in areas. More precipitation was needed, as conditions remained dry overall. Ranchers continued supplemental feeding of hay and nutrients. Irrigated pasture was in good condition. Some calving continued. Dairy herds were reduced in response to market conditions. Spring lambing continued, as well as some kidding. Sheep, lambs and cattle were grazing on idle land and harvested alfalfa fields. Pasturing of sheep and lambs in Imperial continued. Placement of hives in orchards was complete, and honeybees were readied for pollination.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 03/01/09

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 03/01/09	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 03/01/09	January 1 - 03/01/09	Week Ending 03/01/09	July 1 - 03/01/09	July 1 - 03/01/09	July 1 - June 30
NORTH COAST	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
Eureka	51	1	68	39	1	0	1.03	18.5	28.95	37.53
Ukiah	52	1	65	42	0	0	1.86	15.7	31.49	37.96
Santa Rosa	55	2	67	37	6	0	1.57	15.62	25.01	30.3
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	55	1	61	47	0	0	0.65	11.8	16.38	19.7
San Jose	--	--	--	--	4	0	0	0	11.78	14.42
Salinas AP	57	3	71	42	20	0	0.21	8.74	9.81	12.44
Monterey FAA	--	--	66	47	24	0	0.41	8.74	11.69	18.72
King City	57	4	74	39	11	0	0.06	4.84	9.47	11.44
Paso Robles AP	55	4	72	39	0	0	0.08	4.79	10.54	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	52	1	62	35	9	0	1.11	18.02	26.38	33.3
Red Bluff FSS	54	1	63	39	8	0	1.1	14.2	18.57	22.29
Chico AFS	55	3	63	42	0	0	2.47	24.79	20.63	26.32
Marysville	55	2	65	39	4	0	1.81	12.84	17.51	21.04
Sacramento AP	55	2	64	37	0	0	1.18	11.87	14.39	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	55	2	67	37	1	0	0.25	7.39	10.77	13.95
Fresno	57	4	70	42	6	0	0	6.15	8.4	10.6
Bakersfield	61	5	86	43	38	0	0.05	4.08	4.72	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	55	2	75	41	4	0	0.26	8.31	10.8	12.36
Santa Barbara	57	2	73	41	5	0	0.06	8.38	13.68	16.25
Ventura	58	58	80	42	116	0	0.02	8.67	12.19	14.38
Los Angeles	63	2	84	49	213	11	0	8.4	12.06	14.77
Riverside	61	4	89	42	132	0	0	4.06	8.33	9.58
San Diego AP	62	2	80	50	119	0	0	8.77	8.17	9.9
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	48	3	72	20	0	0	0	2.1	3.99	5.37
Lancaster	54	4	72	33	0	0	0.04	5.24	6.34	6.92
Daggett AP	--	--	76	43	2	0	0.03	3.79	3.48	3.93
Thermal AP	64	3	86	43	110	18	0	1.47	3.23	3.16
Blythe	66	5	86	48	134	20	0	1.82	3.61	3.6
Imperial	67	4	87	46	146	44	0	1.86	2.68	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	41	5	59	22	0	0	0.52	3.73	7.99	12.01
Mt. Shasta	40	1	56	23	0	0	3.18	25.31	30.15	37.02
Blue Canyon	39	1	52	30	2	0	4.65	28.54	51.47	67.04
Yosemite	42	-1	58	31	0	0	0.98	15.41	29.83	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.