



California Crop Weather

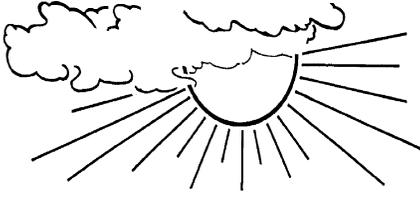
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: March 8, 2009
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WEATHER



At the start of the week, a broad low pressure trough was located along the West Coast, with a high pressure ridge settled over Arizona and New Mexico. A series of weather disturbances circulating through the West Coast trough brought some significant precipitation to the state, especially to the northern sections of the state. This pattern persisted until Thursday, when the low pressure trough shifted east and high pressure moved into the state from the west. This resulted in drying and warming across the state through most of the weekend. By Sunday evening, another low pressure system began to move across northern California, resulting in scattered shower activity across the northern portion of the state.

FIELD CROPS

Wheat and **barley** conditions were reported excellent in Kern County. Weed spraying in **grain** fields was underway. Dryland grain fields were showing good surfacing with recent rains. **Rice** growers were reshaping the berms, fertilizing and irrigating to prepare for spring planting. Winter **silage** was growing well. Newly planted **alfalfa** fields were being irrigated and established fields were treated with herbicides to remove weeds. Sod growers were preparing the ground for seeding. Field preparation continues for **cotton**, **corn**, and **bean** planting. Inventories of summery **hay** were being depleted. **Potatoes** were being harvested.

FRUIT CROPS

Grape buds began to swell while vineyard tying and spraying wrapped up. Vineyards were also busy discing weeds and checking drip lines for the coming season. Tree fruit and pruning was mostly complete and bud break was beginning in most of the state. Fungicide treatments were applied to protect blooms during moist conditions in the central and northern parts of the state. Weed control continued in **peach** and **prune** orchards. Peaches were past bloom and began to leaf out. **Strawberries** were growing well. Valencia **orange** harvest was picking up. **Pummelo**, Oro Blancos and Melo Gold **grapefruit**, as well as Navel oranges, and **lemon** harvests moved forward. **Mandarin** harvest was beginning to wrap up.

NUT CROPS

Pre-plant fumigation continued in new **almond** and **walnut** orchards. New orchards continued to be planted, along with bloom spraying of fungicides. Almond trees dropped blossoms and began to leaf out. Walnut orchards were fertilized, irrigated and treated for blight.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Fields were prepared for commercial planting of **cantaloupe** and **tomatoes**. Outdoor **squash** germinated under hot caps. **Carrots** were planted and **onions**, and **garlic** emerged nicely from the ground. Spring **lettuce** plantings grew well and were almost ready for harvest. The harvest of **spinach**, **radicchio**, **asparagus**, carrots, and **cabbage** progressed. However, harvests continued more slowly for farmers' market vegetables, such as **basil**, **beets**, carrots, **cilantro**, **collard greens**, leaf lettuce, **leeks**, **lemongrass**, **kale**, **mustard greens**, **green onions**, **radishes**, **saluyot** (okra leaf), spinach, winter squashes, **swiss chard**, and many varieties of herbs.

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. Sheep, lambs and cattle were grazing on idle land and harvested alfalfa fields. Placement of hives in orchards continued as more arrived from out of state. Honeybees were readied for pollination.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 03/08/09

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION				
	Average Week Ending 03/08/09	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal		
					January 1 - 03/08/09	January 1 - 03/08/09	Week Ending 03/08/09	July 1 - 03/08/09	July 1 - 03/08/09	July 1 - June 30	
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --				
NORTH COAST											
Eureka	46	-4	62	32	0	0	1.81	20.15	30.15	37.53	
Ukiah	47	-5	65	32	0	0	2.25	17.95	32.64	37.96	
Santa Rosa	53	0	68	37	6	0	1.90	17.52	25.99	30.30	
CENTRAL COAST											
San Francisco AP	52	-1	60	43	0	0	1.74	13.54	17.07	19.70	
San Jose	--	--	--	--	4	0	0.00	0.00	12.33	14.42	
Salinas AP	52	-2	65	38	18	0	1.58	10.32	10.33	12.44	
Monterey FAA	--	--	59	44	21	0	0.77	9.62	12.77	18.72	
King City	52	-3	65	35	6	0	0.62	5.46	10.04	11.44	
Paso Robles AP	51	-2	64	32	0	0	1.20	5.99	11.16	13.95	
SACRAMENTO VALLEY											
Redding	48	-4	65	32	9	0	0.34	18.31	27.48	33.30	
Red Bluff FSS	50	-3	66	35	8	0	0.21	14.40	19.30	22.29	
Chico AFS	49	-3	65	34	0	0	1.20	25.99	21.54	26.32	
Marysville	51	-4	63	36	4	0	0.97	13.81	18.29	21.04	
Sacramento AP	50	-3	62	37	0	0	1.59	13.46	14.90	17.52	
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY											
Stockton WSO	51	-2	68	34	4	0	0.83	8.23	11.21	13.95	
Fresno	54	-1	69	37	7	0	0.22	6.37	8.86	10.60	
Bakersfield	57	0	74	38	42	0	0.17	4.25	5.01	5.72	
SOUTH COAST											
Santa Maria AP	52	-2	66	33	6	0	0.32	8.63	11.46	12.36	
Santa Barbara	53	-2	68	36	8	0	0.31	8.70	14.53	16.25	
Ventura	53	0	65	39	110	0	0.43	9.10	12.81	14.38	
Los Angeles	58	-3	71	45	200	20	0.25	8.65	12.65	14.77	
Riverside	56	-1	80	38	124	0	0.00	4.06	8.82	9.58	
San Diego AP	60	0	85	50	126	0	0.04	8.81	8.66	9.90	
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR											
Bishop	43	-3	63	14	0	0	0.01	2.11	4.09	5.37	
Lancaster	48	-3	67	27	0	0	0.08	5.32	6.62	6.92	
Daggett AP	--	--	75	36	8	0	0.00	3.79	3.58	3.93	
Thermal AP	63	0	89	36	130	45	0.00	1.47	3.29	3.16	
Blythe	64	1	87	43	158	50	0.00	1.82	3.70	3.60	
Imperial	65	1	91	42	176	76	0.00	1.86	2.74	2.75	
CASCADE - SIERRA											
Alturas	33	-4	48	12	0	0	0.44	4.17	8.36	12.01	
Mt. Shasta	35	-5	52	17	0	0	5.07	30.37	31.58	37.02	
Blue Canyon	32	-7	46	23	2	0	4.33	32.87	53.16	67.04	
Yosemite	--	--	55	41	0	0	1.22	16.63	30.80	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.