



# California Crop Weather

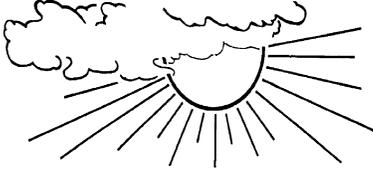
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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

WEEK ENDING: April 12, 2009  
RELEASED: April 13, 2009

FREQUENCY: Weekly  
VOL. 29 NO. 42

## WEATHER



A high pressure ridge brought clear skies and mild temperatures to California at the start of the week. Temperatures were above seasonal normals across the state. The weather pattern began to shift on Tuesday, as a low pressure system off the Pacific Northwest approached and pushed a cold front onto the far northern coast. Moderate precipitation, gusty winds, and cooler temperatures then spread all across the state from the northwest during the middle of the week, as this cold front moved across the region. The heaviest rainfall was focused across the central portion of the state, from the coast to the Sierra Nevada Mountains. But rain fell over almost every section of the state. The most organized areas of precipitation had moved out of the state by Saturday, and most of California enjoyed a sunny and dry Easter weekend.

## FIELD CROPS

Dryland grain fields in Fresno County were showing poor development due to lack of rainfall. **Oat** fields have started to be cut and dried for hay in Tulare County. **Wheat** fields were headed out and continued to grow well as the plants progressed in stages. **Rice** fields were being tilled for planting. Some rice growers were burning rice straw. **Alfalfa** fields were being cut for the production of hay. Seed alfalfa fields were mowed to produce a more compact plant for seed production. **Corn** fields were still being planted. **Cotton** planting was still underway. **Potatoes** continued to be harvested. Sweet potato transplanting and hot bed digging was in progress in Merced County. Irrigation for field crops will be needed if no rainfall is in the forecast.

## FRUIT CROPS

Dry weather during the month of March has forced some tree fruit growers to irrigate their orchards. Thinning of early variety stone fruit began. Most **grape** varieties were past bud-break and were starting shoot elongation. Growers applied copper and sulfur to vineyards prior to forecasted rainfall early in the week to prevent mildew. **Cherries** started to show color in Tulare County. **Prune, apricot,** and cherry bloom was complete in Merced County. New **blueberry** bush plantings continued. The harvests of **oranges, lemons, mandarins, minneolas** and **pummelos** were ongoing. Valencia harvest continued.

## NUT CROPS

**Walnut** blight treatment continued. Mites were present on **almonds** throughout the state, however, little damage due to mites was reported. Almond growers were assessing how water stress will impact their mite management programs. Freeze damage in almond orchards was confirmed.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

**Asparagus** was harvested throughout the Central Valley. Ground preparation and the planting of **tomato** seed and transplants occurred throughout the state. **Onions** began to be harvested in the Imperial Valley. **Carrots** and other salad vegetables were harvested in Kern County. Spring **lettuce** and spring **broccoli** were harvested in Fresno County, along with **collard greens, mustard greens, bok choy, yu choy, pea shoots,** hot house **herbs** and hot house **zucchini.** **Garlic** and broccoli grew well in the warmer weather. Garlic was irrigated, cultivated, and treated for pests. Bees were brought in to pollinate broccoli for seed. Hot caps were removed at a faster pace on early planted zucchini in Tulare County, which continued to bloom and set fruit. Good progress was made planting, staking, and first stringing pole **cucumbers.** The planting of mixed summer vegetables, both indoor and outdoor, was in full swing, including **peppers, string beans, bitter melons,** assorted **eggplants,** and **shinqua.**

## LIVESTOCK

Central and southern rangeland and pasture were reportedly in fair to good condition, with no recent improvements despite late precipitation in some areas. Beef cattle continued to receive supplemental feed and nutrients in Merced County, and rainfall there was reportedly too late to improve the already matured rangeland grasses. Strong winds in Tulare continued to dry out rangeland and pasture soil and grasses, however the warm and dry conditions benefited livestock health and production. Similarly, east-facing slopes in Fresno County began to dry out with the lack of rain and warming temperatures. Cattle and sheep continued to graze Sutter Buttes rangeland. Calving continued in some areas. Dairy herds were downsized due to the low milk price. Sheep were sheared and were grazing on idle farmland and harvested alfalfa in Fresno. Only a few bands of sheep remained in the Imperial Valley. Honeybees pollinating almonds and stone fruit in Fresno and other central areas were increasingly removed to holding areas.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 04/12/09**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 04/12/09	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 04/12/09	January 1 - 04/12/09	Week Ending 04/12/09	July 1 - 04/12/09	July 1 - 04/12/09	July 1 - June 30
<b>NORTH COAST</b>	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
Eureka	48	-3	76	34	0	0	0.53	27.12	34.21	37.53
Ukiah	52	-3	79	36	1	0	0.34	19.19	36.35	37.96
Santa Rosa	57	0	81	41	26	0	0.49	18.48	28.83	30.30
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco AP	56	0	75	47	4	0	0.27	14.23	19.08	19.70
San Jose	--	--	--	--	22	0	--	--	13.89	14.42
Salinas AP	56	0	82	42	20	0	0.22	10.85	11.91	12.44
Monterey FAA	54	1	70	45	21	0	0.34	10.45	13.96	18.72
King City	56	-2	86	35	16	0	0.14	5.75	11.47	11.44
Paso Robles AP	52	-3	81	31	2	0	0.08	6.27	12.60	13.95
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	55	-3	80	38	28	0	0.62	19.02	30.53	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	57	-2	81	39	30	0	0.43	15.24	21.32	22.29
Chico AFS	56	-1	82	38	17	0	0.34	26.48	24.07	26.32
Marysville	57	-3	82	38	18	0	0.30	14.21	20.45	21.04
Sacramento AP	57	0	83	41	18	0	1.39	14.85	16.52	17.52
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	57	-1	83	39	12	0	0.37	9.06	12.72	13.95
Fresno	60	0	84	44	44	1	0.72	7.15	10.23	10.60
Bakersfield	62	1	89	45	124	10	0.41	4.51	5.92	5.72
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria AP	54	-1	74	38	18	0	0.10	9.06	13.24	12.36
Santa Barbara	55	-3	70	40	10	0	0.54	9.60	16.50	16.25
Ventura	55	55	76	42	115	0	0.08	9.26	14.56	14.38
Los Angeles	61	-2	83	52	248	88	0.03	8.93	14.29	14.77
Riverside	60	-1	89	45	174	5	0.00	4.09	9.96	9.58
San Diego AP	61	0	79	53	150	30	0.14	9.08	10.02	9.90
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	50	-2	75	24	0	0	0.02	2.16	4.43	5.37
Lancaster	54	-2	79	28	11	0	0.00	5.36	7.44	6.92
Daggett AP	60	-4	85	40	76	45	0.00	3.80	3.90	3.93
Thermal AP	67	-2	90	42	308	247	0.00	1.47	3.48	3.16
Blythe	67	-3	92	48	338	262	0.00	1.82	3.95	3.60
Imperial	66	-4	91	46	324	286	0.00	1.86	2.93	2.75
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	42	0	69	17	0	0	1.10	7.36	9.46	12.01
Mt. Shasta	45	0	71	28	0	0	0.23	31.71	35.37	37.02
Blue Canyon	40	-3	62	30	2	0	1.92	38.88	59.67	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	16.84	34.38	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.