



California Crop Weather

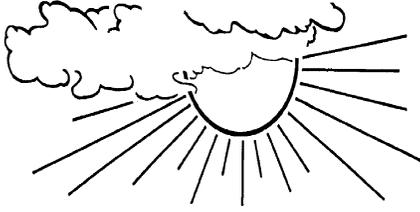
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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

WEEK ENDING: August 16, 2009
RELEASED: August 17, 2009

FREQUENCY: Weekly
VOL. 30 NO. 8

WEATHER



At the start of the week, a high pressure ridge over the Western U.S. brought warm, dry conditions to most of California, except for the extreme northern coast where low clouds and drizzle kept temperatures cool. Elsewhere, above normal temperatures were common. By midweek a low pressure trough pushed through the Pacific Northwest and into the Intermountain Region. This resulted in an increased onshore flow across California which in turn brought cooler air into the State by Thursday. The low pressure system had moved east of the region by Friday and high pressure began to rebuild over the West Coast, resulting in a warming trend for the weekend. Overall above normal temperatures were reported across the State this week, with no significant precipitation.

FIELD CROPS

Corn for silage continued to be harvested and replanted. **Cotton** plants set bolls and continued to be irrigated and receive insect control treatments for lygus. **Alfalfa** continued to be cut and baled. **Wheat** harvest had been completed. **Sunflower** and **safflower** continued to mature and dry down. **Sudan hay** and small grain harvest continued. **Rice** plants began to head out. Growers carried out necessary field operations such as cultivation, irrigation, and chemical treatments. The **cucurbit** seed harvest began.

FRUIT CROPS

Fig, **nectarine**, **peach**, **plum**, and other stone fruit harvests continued normally in the San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys. The **prune** harvest picked up speed in the San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys. The table **grape** harvest was in full swing in the San Joaquin Valley, while raisin grapes and wine grapes continued to mature. North Coast vineyards continued to develop well. **Berry** growers along the Central Coast reported good sugar levels as they finished spraying to control mildew and weeds. Replanting, tilling, and soil fumigation was done for some San Joaquin **strawberry** blocks. The Bartlett **pear** harvest was slowing down along the North Coast and in the Sacramento Valley. The gala **apple** harvest continued in the San Joaquin Valley, and began in the Sacramento Valley. The valencia **orange** harvest slowed down significantly in the San Joaquin Valley. Normal spraying and maintenance continued in orchards and vineyards.

NUT CROPS

Widespread shaking of nonpareil **almonds** was underway in the San Joaquin Valley, while shaking began in the Sacramento Valley. Quality looked good, and no significant pest problems were found. In preparation for the upcoming walnut harvest, ground preparation and spraying continued. Hull-splitting in some southern San Joaquin **pistachio** orchards was observed as the crop continued to develop well.

VEGETABLE CROPS

The **eggplant** harvest continued in Tulare County and planting of late fall **squash** and **tomatoes** was taking place. **Honeydew** continued to be picked and packed and the quality of the crop was excellent. The harvesting of **sweet corn**, tomatoes, **watermelon**, **cantaloupe**, and other melon varieties for farmers' markets continued in Sutter County. Lygus and stinkbug treatments on tomatoes continued and melons were treated for weeds and worms. In Fresno County, the processing tomato harvest was ninety percent complete and despite some sunburn damage, yields were mostly good. **Garlic** also had some quality issues from sunburn, but the extent of the damage is yet to be seen. The **carrot** harvest was fifty percent finished with mostly good crop quality. The fresh market **onion** harvest was completed with some quality issues caused by hail in the early season. Dehydrator onions were awaiting harvest. Merced County's fresh market tomato planting was winding down and worm sprays were applied to fields. The **basil** harvest began and harvests continued for **bell peppers**, fresh market and processing tomatoes, fresh market red and white onions, honeydew, cantaloupe, **tomatillos** and watermelon. Melons, tomatoes, and sweet corn were harvested in Stanislaus County. Various organic vegetables were being harvested in Kern County.

LIVESTOCK

Many areas were again under high to extreme fire danger, with the critically dry conditions of pasture and rangeland combined with high temperatures. Feed costs were a challenge to producers, as increased supplemental feeding of cattle on dry pasture continued to be a necessity. Irrigated pasture remained in mostly good condition, with some increases in irrigation frequency. Some early fall beef cow calving was underway. Milk production was down, with the increased heat stress following the warmer temperatures. Dairy herd reductions, in response to unfavorable milk market conditions, continued at a somewhat increased pace. Some sheep and goats were grazing on dry-land grain fields, retired farmland, and some rangeland, with some sheepling-off of harvested tomato fields in Merced. Honeybees were in sunflower, vineseed, and some vegetable plantings. Honeybees and leaf cutter bees were in seed alfalfa fields.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 08/16/09

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 08/16/09	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 08/16/09	January 1 - 08/16/09	Week Ending 08/16/09	July 1 - 08/16/09	July 1 - 08/16/09	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	58	0	69	46	6	0	0.01	0.25	0.31	37.53
Ukiah	75	1	103	52	1,074	942	0.00	0.00	0.14	37.96
Santa Rosa	71	4	96	50	697	535	0.00	0.00	0.11	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	67	3	87	55	346	211	0.00	0.00	0.07	19.70
San Jose	--	--	--	--	898	825	0.00	0.00	0.07	14.42
Salinas AP	64	0	75	54	302	194	0.00	0.26	0.07	12.44
Monterey FAA	64	2	77	54	175	66	0.00	0.15	0.16	18.72
King City	69	0	92	50	895	627	0.00	0.00	0.03	11.44
Paso Robles AP	74	1	104	48	1,146	1,003	0.00	0.00	0.03	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	81	1	105	60	1,970	1,659	0.00	0.00	0.25	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	82	2	106	60	1,991	1,734	0.00	0.00	0.18	22.29
Chico AFS	79	3	101	58	1,648	1,365	0.00	0.00	0.14	26.32
Marysville	79	1	105	56	1,622	1,628	0.00	0.00	0.10	21.04
Sacramento AP	78	3	103	56	1,412	1,239	0.00	0.00	0.08	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	77	0	101	53	1,485	1,447	0.01	0.10	0.07	13.95
Fresno	82	1	102	59	2,186	1,869	0.00	0.00	0.02	10.60
Bakersfield	83	0	102	63	2,413	2,055	0.00	0.00	0.05	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	63	-1	77	51	234	203	0.00	0.00	0.06	12.36
Santa Barbara	62	-6	69	52	406	385	0.00	0.01	0.10	16.25
Ventura	63	0	71	53	354	0	0.00	0.00	0.03	14.38
Los Angeles	71	-4	80	61	1,438	1,395	0.00	0.00	0.07	14.77
Riverside	77	-1	95	59	1,886	1,434	0.00	0.00	0.12	9.58
San Diego AP	69	-3	75	64	1,037	978	0.00	0.00	0.09	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	74	-1	98	50	1,337	1,148	0.00	0.12	0.24	5.37
Lancaster	80	1	101	49	1,940	1,601	0.00	0.00	0.19	6.92
Daggett AP	89	1	106	71	2,837	2,644	0.00	0.05	0.65	3.93
Thermal AP	87	-3	109	62	3,550	3,237	0.00	0.00	0.39	3.16
Blythe	94	1	111	73	3,882	3,579	0.00	0.07	0.69	3.60
Imperial	92	1	110	66	3,710	3,333	0.00	0.00	0.29	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	63	-2	91	34	430	257	0.00	0.35	0.49	12.01
Mt. Shasta	67	0	90	44	587	363	0.00	0.44	0.64	37.02
Blue Canyon	70	2	83	55	779	416	0.00	0.14	0.67	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	89	53	959	742	0.00	0.00	0.69	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.