



# California Crop Weather

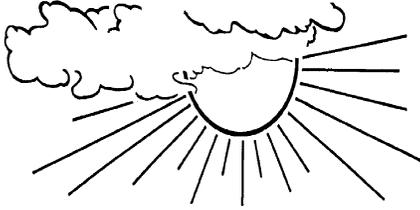
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: August 23, 2009  
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## WEATHER



At the start of the week, seasonably warm and dry conditions existed across California, as high pressure built over the West Coast. The warm and dry conditions continued through midweek. On Wednesday, an upper level low pressure trough approached California from the northwest. This brought an onshore wind pattern, which brought cooler temperatures to the coastal regions and to adjacent inland valleys. The interior deserts and mountains remained warm for most of the week. By the weekend, another upper level trough, a little stronger than the previous system, brought breezy onshore winds, cooler temperatures and subtropical moisture to the State. By Sunday, the subtropical moisture triggered scattered thunderstorm activity across the State's mountain ranges. These thunderstorms contained enough moisture to produce measurable rain at several mountain stations across the Sierra Nevada Range. The only other measurable rainfall was along the immediate coastline, where a few stations reported drizzle and light rain.

## FIELD CROPS

**Cotton** continued to mature and be treated for mites and lygus. Irrigation of cotton fields was nearly complete in most areas. Some areas had already used up their water allocation. **Corn** for silage continued to be harvested and replanted. Early planted corn for grain was being harvested in Tulare County. **Alfalfa** continued to be cut, baled, and sprayed. Some alfalfa fields in Kern County were being cut off from water due to large supplies of hay with no buyers. **Rice** plants were mostly headed. Ground preparation was taking place on some fallow fields.

## FRUIT CROPS

**Fig, nectarine, peach, plum,** and gala **apple** harvests continued in the San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys. The **prune** harvest was in full swing and progressed well. The table **grape** harvest continued in the San Joaquin Valley, though the harvest had begun slowing down. The raisin grape harvest began in the San Joaquin Valley, while wine grapes continued to mature normally across the state. Replanting, tilling, and soil fumigation continued for some San Joaquin **strawberry** blocks. Aphid treatments on **pomegranate** orchards were applied. The Bartlett **pear** harvest continued to slow down along the North Coast and in the Sacramento Valley. The valencia **orange** harvest continued at a slower pace in the San Joaquin Valley. Normal spraying and maintenance continued in orchards and vineyards.

## NUT CROPS

The nonpareil **almonds harvest** was in full swing in both the San Joaquin Valley and Sacramento Valley. Shaking, sweeping, gathering, and delivering activities were all underway. Quality looked good overall, though efforts to control navel orangeworm (NOW) and other pests were undertaken. Ground preparation and spraying continued in preparation for the upcoming **walnut** harvest. **Pistachio** orchards continued to develop well.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Processing **tomatoes** were being harvested in Fresno County. The planting of fresh market tomato fields was finished in Merced County, but **radicchio** planting had just begun. **Basil,** fresh market and processing tomatoes, **bell peppers,** fresh market red and white **onions, honeydew, cantaloupe, watermelon** and **tomatillos** continued to be harvested. Worm sprays were applied to tomato fields. Sutter County's harvests of **sweet corn,** tomatoes, watermelon, cantaloupe and other melon varieties for farmers' markets continued. Harvests also continued for field pack watermelon, processing tomatoes, **carrots,** onions and lettuce seed crops. Weed and worm treatments were applied to melons. The harvesting of **eggplant** continued in Tulare County, while the tomato harvest slowed down and onion harvest was completed. The replanting of late fall **squash** and tomatoes were taking place. Honeydew melons continued to be picked and packed with excellent quality reported. A few organic fields of **spinach, chard,** and specialty **lettuce** were being harvested in Kern County.

## LIVESTOCK

High to extreme fire danger remained on most grasslands, as relatively high temperatures continued to blanket critically dry rangeland and non-irrigated pasture. 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 in some dairy herds, with the increased heat stress following the warmer temperatures. Dairy herd reduction, in response to unfavorable milk market conditions, continued. 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. New crop lambs were sold and shipped. Honeybees were in sunflower, vineseed, and some vegetable plantings. Honeybees and leaf cutter bees were in seed alfalfa fields.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 08/23/09**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION				
	Average Week Ending 08/23/09	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal		
					January 1 - 08/23/09	January 1 - 08/23/09	Week Ending 08/23/09	July 1 - 08/23/09	July 1 - 08/23/09	July 1 - June 30	
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --				
<b>NORTH COAST</b>											
Eureka	56	-3	65	49	6	0	0.03	0.29	0.42	37.53	
Ukiah	76	3	104	51	1,184	1,028	0.00	0.00	0.17	37.96	
Santa Rosa	65	-2	93	49	734	586	0.00	0.00	0.14	30.30	
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>											
San Francisco AP	64	0	79	55	371	239	0.00	0.00	0.09	19.70	
San Jose	--	--	--	--	971	893	0.00	0.00	0.09	14.42	
Salinas AP	62	-2	76	54	316	221	0.03	0.29	0.09	12.44	
Monterey FAA	60	-1	70	53	181	76	0.00	0.15	0.27	18.72	
King City	68	0	94	50	952	684	0.00	0.00	0.05	11.44	
Paso Robles AP	72	-1	104	49	1,228	1,093	0.00	0.00	0.04	13.95	
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>											
Redding	83	5	108	61	2,134	1,790	0.00	0.00	0.35	33.30	
Red Bluff FSS	84	5	109	64	2,156	1,866	0.00	0.00	0.22	22.29	
Chico AFS	80	5	98	63	1,788	1,473	0.00	0.00	0.18	26.32	
Marysville	78	1	101	58	1,747	1,747	0.00	0.00	0.12	21.04	
Sacramento AP	75	0	100	56	1,516	1,340	0.00	0.00	0.10	17.52	
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>											
Stockton WSO	76	0	98	56	1,598	1,561	0.02	0.12	0.08	13.95	
Fresno	84	4	102	66	2,351	2,009	0.00	0.00	0.03	10.60	
Bakersfield	85	3	100	67	2,590	2,207	0.00	0.00	0.08	5.72	
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>											
Santa Maria AP	63	-2	75	52	252	232	0.01	0.01	0.08	12.36	
Santa Barbara	63	-4	75	52	424	434	0.00	0.01	0.14	16.25	
Ventura	64	0	79	54	382	0	0.00	0.00	0.05	14.38	
Los Angeles	71	-4	85	60	1,516	1,503	0.00	0.00	0.11	14.77	
Riverside	77	-1	98	57	2,004	1,557	0.00	0.00	0.16	9.58	
San Diego AP	71	-2	79	65	1,111	1,065	0.00	0.00	0.11	9.90	
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>											
Bishop	75	2	103	48	1,443	1,243	0.12	0.24	0.28	5.37	
Lancaster	81	2	106	52	2,088	1,732	0.00	0.00	0.23	6.92	
Daggett AP	88	1	108	67	3,029	2,831	0.00	0.05	0.75	3.93	
Thermal AP	89	0	109	66	3,752	3,442	0.00	0.00	0.49	3.16	
Blythe	93	0	112	72	4,112	3,807	0.02	0.09	0.84	3.60	
Imperial	93	2	111	71	3,938	3,550	0.00	0.00	0.37	2.75	
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>											
Alturas	69	5	99	40	490	281	0.00	0.35	0.58	12.01	
Mt. Shasta	72	7	98	49	672	398	0.00	0.44	0.74	37.02	
Blue Canyon	76	9	87	60	888	462	0.00	0.14	0.82	67.04	
Yosemite	--	--	96	54	1,065	822	0.00	0.00	0.75	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.