



California Crop Weather

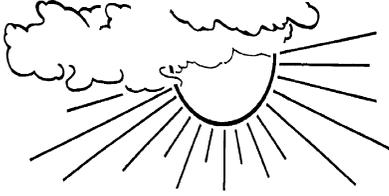
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: September 27, 2009
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WEATHER



Unseasonably hot temperatures started early in the week, as a strong ridge of high pressure, that evolved over the eastern Pacific, slowly moved across our region. Dry weather persisted throughout the week, with clear skies and warm temperatures ranging from the mid 90s to a few degrees above the century mark in the valleys. Gusty and dry conditions provided ideal elements to set off a few wild fires over the Northern Mountains and Southern California region. A few red flag warnings were issued due to the high potential for fires in those regions. Clear skies during the night provided good radiated cooling, and therefore overnight lows remained relatively cool. The low temperatures allowed living organisms to cool down and release the heat stress from the diurnal heating. The coast and higher elevations remained far better places to work on agriculture, as temperatures did not reach as high as those in the valley. The week ended with record to near record high temperatures in the valley. As the new week starts, expect cooler temperatures with slight chances of precipitation over the mountains due to a low pressure system coming from the Gulf of Alaska region.

FIELD CROPS

Rice harvest continued with reported yields higher than last year. Harvest has been slowed for some growers waiting for lower moisture content. **Cotton** fields were being defoliated in preparation for harvest. Bolls were maturing nicely as a result of good growing conditions. **Corn** silage harvest was over half complete in some areas of the San Joaquin Valley, while areas farther north have yet to start. **Winter wheat** was being planted in Fresno County. **Sunflower** seed harvest continued. Some land preparation for winter crops took place. Irrigation started for **sugar beets** planted in the past two weeks. **Sudan hay** and small grain harvest continued. **Alfalfa** continued to be cut and baled.

FRUIT CROPS

Fig, raisin **grape**, table grape, wine grape, Granny Smith, Fuji, and Braeburn **apple** harvests continued primarily in the San Joaquin Valley. Sauvignon Blanc wine grape harvest was completed along the Central and North Coasts, as Pinot Noir and Chardonnay varieties continued to be picked. Recent hot temperatures have accelerated wine grape maturation. The **peach**, **plum**, and **nectarine** harvests were near completion, and the Barlett **pear** harvest was completed. Some **strawberries** were picked in Southern California fields, though extensive Lygus bug infestations were reported. The **pomegranates** harvest continued, with Foothill and Early Wonderful varieties being picked. The Valencia **orange** harvest continued to wind down in the San Joaquin Valley. Navel oranges for the upcoming season continued to develop in size, as growers prepared to apply Gibberellin treatments. Satsuma **mandarins** were developing well, and harvest is expected to begin soon. The **lemon** harvest neared completion along the coastal region, as harvesting began in the desert region. Normal spraying and maintenance continued in orchards and vineyards, which included the initial applications of fall fertilizer for fruit trees.

NUT CROPS

The **almond** harvest continued at a slower pace in the Central Valley. Hulling and stockpile fumigations continued for the almond crop as the late-variety harvest continued to wind down. The **walnut** and **pistachio** harvests picked up in the Central Valley. No issues have been reported with either nut crop thus far.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Sweet corn, **squash**, **peppers**, melons and **tomatoes** continued to be harvested in Tulare County. In Fresno County, the harvest of processing tomatoes was just about complete, and **carrots** were being fertilized, cultivated and irrigated. Melons, tomatoes and sweet corn were being harvested in Stanislaus County. In Merced County, harvests continued for **basil**, fresh market and processing tomatoes, **cantaloupe** and **watermelon**. Worm sprays were applied to tomato fields. **Radicchio** and winter **broccoli** planting continued. **Lettuce**, **cabbage**, **cauliflower**, broccoli, **celery**, **cilantro**, and **spinach** were in various stages of development in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties.

LIVESTOCK

Rangeland and dry-land pasture forage conditions, at all elevations, continued to deteriorate in many areas. Supplemental feeding of cattle on range and dry pasture continued. Cattle were gathered from upper elevations for transport to winter pastures. Irrigated pasture remained in mostly good condition. Fall beef cow calving was underway. Dairy herd reduction, in response to unfavorable milk market conditions, continued. Sheep were grazing on dry-land grain fields and old alfalfa, with some sheeping-off of harvested tomato fields in Merced. Honeybees were in melon and squash fields in central parts of the State, and were moved to off-season locations in other areas.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 09/27/09

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 09/27/09	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 09/27/09	January 1 - 09/27/09	Week Ending 09/27/09	July 1 - 09/27/09	July 1 - 09/27/09	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	58	1	69	48	10	0	0.02	0.76	1.31	37.53
Ukiah	78	11	109	50	1,650	1,368	0.00	0.01	0.82	37.96
Santa Rosa	72	6	103	49	1,102	828	0.00	0.16	0.61	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	66	2	89	54	601	387	0.00	0.28	0.29	19.70
San Jose	--	--	--	--	1,386	1,205	0.00	0.00	0.31	14.42
Salinas AP	64	0	91	48	504	368	0.02	0.40	0.27	12.44
Monterey FAA	58	-4	72	44	259	121	0.03	0.37	0.56	18.72
King City	74	7	105	49	1,360	945	0.00	0.00	0.21	11.44
Paso Robles AP	78	10	107	49	1,734	1,454	0.00	0.06	0.30	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	81	8	111	54	2,756	2,322	0.00	0.12	1.14	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	83	11	108	62	2,806	2,414	0.00	0.08	0.88	22.29
Chico AFS	80	10	103	57	2,364	1,912	0.00	0.35	0.77	26.32
Marysville	79	7	102	56	2,322	2,241	0.00	0.26	0.49	21.04
Sacramento AP	79	9	101	54	2,057	1,769	0.00	0.14	0.42	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	79	8	100	56	2,150	2,037	0.00	1.41	0.35	13.95
Fresno	84	11	103	65	3,092	2,579	0.00	0.01	0.27	10.60
Bakersfield	85	10	104	68	3,370	2,843	0.00	0.01	0.24	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	63	0	79	49	424	365	0.00	0.02	0.34	12.36
Santa Barbara	67	2	88	54	698	651	0.00	0.01	0.57	16.25
Ventura	67	0	87	54	682	0	0.00	0.00	0.39	14.38
Los Angeles	78	4	100	63	2,142	2,011	0.00	0.00	0.40	14.77
Riverside	--	--	106	65	2,694	2,091	0.00	0.00	0.42	9.58
San Diego AP	72	1	85	63	1,580	1,476	0.00	0.00	0.30	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	70	6	96	42	1,839	1,538	0.00	0.25	0.54	5.37
Lancaster	75	5	102	46	2,720	2,228	0.00	0.00	0.48	6.92
Daggett AP	80	3	103	54	3,903	3,595	0.00	0.05	1.13	3.93
Thermal AP	84	2	111	56	4,699	4,333	0.00	0.10	0.93	3.16
Blythe	88	5	109	67	5,212	4,788	0.00	0.12	1.39	3.60
Imperial	86	3	111	64	5,014	4,508	0.00	0.00	0.77	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	62	8	94	27	589	296	0.00	0.35	1.22	12.01
Mt. Shasta	68	11	93	39	861	446	0.00	0.57	1.70	37.02
Blue Canyon	78	17	89	63	1,268	574	0.00	0.25	2.42	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	91	53	1,473	1,076	0.00	0.01	1.63	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.