



California Crop Weather

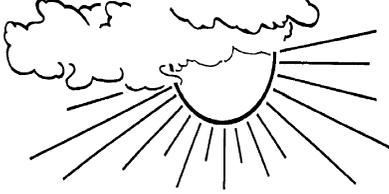
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEATHER



Moisture from the remnants of typhoon Melor caught up in the jet stream, and moved the moisture from areas near Japan, across the Pacific Ocean, and to our region. This scenario produced a strong storm with a significant amount of precipitation, and strong winds for most of California. The air mass embedded within this system was rather warm, and therefore snow levels were fairly high. By Wednesday afternoon, rainfall records were noted across central and northern California. Right after the event, total rainfall amounts varied from 2 to 6 inches in the valley, and 4 to 8 inches in the foothills and higher elevations. Along the coast, rainfall totals were estimated to be 3 to 8 inches. During the event, minor flooding due to heavy rainfall was documented on highways, small streams and creeks. Sustained winds of 25 to 35 mph, with gusts to around 55 mph, were recorded in portions of the Sacramento and Central Valley and along the coast. Gusts over 65 mph were recorded in the higher elevations. Property damage, downed trees and branches were documented during the event. The week ended with cool daytime temperatures and cloudy skies, with a few showers remaining in the Sierra Nevada. On a positive note, this event was a good start to the rainy season.

FIELD CROPS

Rainfall interrupted harvest and field preparation in many areas. The wind and rain caused lodging in some **rice** fields. Rice straw burning and other rice field activities were delayed. Some **dry bean** and **sunflower** fields have yet to be harvested. Rain fell on some stacked **alfalfa**. **Corn** plants were pushed over by the wind and rain, but were still harvestable. Corn harvest was completed in Madera and Tulare Counties. The rain was helpful for **winter grains**, which had been planted and were beginning to emerge. **Cotton** was at various stages of maturity, including bolls opening, plants defoliated, and early planted fields harvested. **Milo** field conditions ranged from green and irrigated to completed harvests in Kern County.

FRUIT CROPS

The **grape** harvests in the Central Valley and North Coast were significantly slowed due to the recent storm. Portions of a few vineyards were covered with plastic to limit damage, but concerns about mildew and mold were high overall. Expected warm weather should aid in returning harvest activities to a normal pace soon. The **kiwi** and **apple** harvests continued primarily in the San Joaquin Valley. Light picking of **peach**, **plum**, and **nectarine** trees also continued as the harvests wound down. Most raisin grape trays were collected before the storm. Wonderful **pomegranates** continued to be picked. The fall **strawberry** season began in the San Joaquin Valley, while the Satsuma **mandarin** harvest continued. The Valencia **orange** harvest continued to near completion in the San Joaquin Valley, and navel oranges continued to develop in size. The **lemon** harvest continued in the desert region. In orchards hit by the storm, some non-staked trees suffered from leaning, and there was significant debris on orchard floors. Normal spraying and maintenance continued in orchards and vineyards, including fall pruning of orchards.

NUT CROPS

The **walnut** harvest was slowed down by the storm in the Sacramento Valley. However, the **almond** and **walnut** harvests continued to near completion in the Central Valley, as hulling and stockpile fumigations continued. The **pistachio** harvest also continued in full swing in the Central Valley. The storm caused some uprooting of almond trees, leaning for young nut trees, broken limbs, and limited broken nut trees.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Melon season came to an end in Stanislaus County. Fresh market **tomatoes** were still being harvested, but recent rains carried concerns for mold and mildew on the crop. Fresno County's processing tomato harvest was almost complete. Irrigation tape was removed from tomato fields and farmers were planting broccoli and onions for seed. Grounds were prepared for winter **lettuce**, and **carrots** were irrigated, fertilized and treated with fungicide. Tulare County's harvests of **sweet corn**, **squash**, **peppers**, melons and tomatoes slowed down. In Kern County, all processing tomatoes were harvested and the fields were plowed and disked. Carrots and **asparagus** were still in harvest. Merced County producers continued to harvest **basil**, fresh market and processing tomatoes, bell peppers and **honeydew**. **Cantaloupe**, **watermelon** and **radicchio** planting were winding down.

LIVESTOCK

Recent rain events gave a much-needed jump start to forage growth on parched rangeland and dry-land pasture, in many central areas. Anticipation of more rains improved the outlook for the winter pasture season. Supplemental feeding of cattle on lower-elevation range and dry pasture continued. Pasture in northern areas was reportedly in good condition. Some dairy herd reduction continued in central areas. Sheep were grazing on dry-land grain fields, older hay fields, and older vegetable and melon plantings. More bands of sheep were on pasture in Imperial, with some heat stress resulting from the high temperatures there. Some honeybees were in squash and melon crops, and both in-State and out-of-State hives were moved to winter storage.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 10/18/09

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 10/18/09	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 10/18/09	January 1 - 10/18/09	Week Ending 10/18/09	July 1 - 10/18/09	July 1 - 10/18/09	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	59	4	68	50	12	0	1.03	1.85	2.43	37.53
Ukiah	62	0	84	51	1,690	1,453	2.58	2.59	1.77	37.96
Santa Rosa	63	1	83	50	1,176	916	2.92	3.08	1.43	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	65	3	77	56	652	440	1.73	2.01	0.78	19.70
San Jose	--	--	--	--	1,482	1,319	--	--	0.75	14.42
Salinas AP	66	4	86	51	548	428	1.68	2.08	0.61	12.44
Monterey FAA	66	5	82	52	297	145	2.94	3.31	1.69	18.72
King City	66	4	87	45	1,436	1,037	2.45	2.45	0.48	11.44
Paso Robles AP	66	3	88	47	1,790	1,550	1.83	1.89	0.60	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	63	-2	88	47	2,857	2,488	0.61	0.73	1.98	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	64	-2	86	50	2,916	2,589	2.04	2.12	1.68	22.29
Chico AFS	64	1	80	47	2,460	2,037	1.45	1.80	1.38	26.32
Marysville	66	0	83	50	2,413	2,413	1.76	2.02	1.06	21.04
Sacramento AP	66	1	81	50	2,139	1,913	3.07	3.21	0.84	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	66	1	81	46	2,236	2,194	1.46	2.88	0.75	13.95
Fresno	68	2	82	52	3,232	2,765	1.39	1.40	0.56	10.60
Bakersfield	70	1	86	56	3,536	3,072	0.08	0.09	0.40	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	68	6	95	55	492	409	1.55	1.57	0.57	12.36
Santa Barbara	66	4	89	58	765	726	3.64	3.66	0.96	16.25
Ventura	65	0	89	53	642	0	1.69	1.69	0.69	14.38
Los Angeles	71	1	98	57	2,329	2,249	2.07	2.07	0.61	14.77
Riverside	--	--	--	--	2,849	2,296	0.00	0.00	0.60	9.58
San Diego AP	67	-1	81	60	1,714	1,664	0.00	0.00	0.53	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	58	1	82	36	1,863	1,552	1.77	2.02	0.67	5.37
Lancaster	65	2	93	45	2,806	2,342	0.02	0.02	0.62	6.92
Daggett AP	69	-1	92	49	4,078	3,861	0.00	0.05	1.24	3.93
Thermal AP	75	1	103	55	4,986	4,685	0.00	0.10	1.07	3.16
Blythe	77	1	100	58	5,542	5,175	0.00	0.12	1.64	3.60
Imperial	78	2	102	57	5,301	4,899	0.00	0.00	0.99	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	51	4	76	28	572	296	0.39	0.74	1.69	12.01
Mt. Shasta	53	1	76	38	884	446	3.86	4.61	2.71	37.02
Blue Canyon	53	-1	72	39	1,240	574	4.44	4.70	4.50	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	1,508	1,090	0.00	0.01	2.71	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.