



California Crop Weather

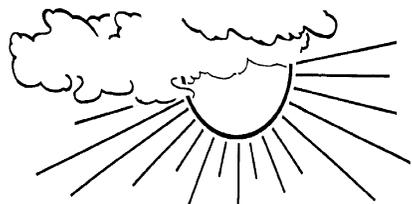
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEATHER



Weather patterns were a bit of a roller coaster ride this week for California, as a series of Pacific storm systems made their way through the West Coast. The first in this series was moving out of California at the start of the week, with scattered light precipitation reported across the State. Southern California enjoyed a brief break in the rains on Tuesday while the next system began to spread showers across the north. Moderate to heavy rain and mountain snows fell across Northern and Central California midweek, while light showers began to reach Southern California. There was another break in the precipitation; on Thursday in the north, and on Friday in the south. Then, another significant storm approached the West Coast. The center of this storm hit Southern California, where heavy rains were reported on Saturday, while light to moderate precipitation fell across the north. Sunday saw a high pressure ridge shift into Northern California, bringing dry and mild weather to that part of the State, while light showers lingered across Southern California.

FIELD CROPS

Operators carried out field operations in preparation for spring planting between showers and as field conditions allowed. Weed control continued in **wheat**, **rye**, and **oat** fields. Early planted grains were beginning to head. **Alfalfa** fields continued to be treated with herbicide. The first cutting of hay is expected to begin soon. Dryland crops, as well as irrigated crops benefitted from continued rainfall. **Rice** fields continued to be drained.

FRUIT CROPS

Plum, **prune**, **peach**, **cherry** and other early varieties of stone fruit were in full boom. Stone fruit grafting continued in the San Joaquin Valley. Pruning of vineyards continued. Picking of **tangerines**, navel **oranges**, **grapefruit**, and **lemons** continued. Olive trees continued to be pruned.

NUT CROPS

Early **almonds** were at full bloom, with late varieties approaching half bloom. Due to recent moisture and anticipated warmer weather, brown rot remained a concern. Most growers have applied their first protective sprays to limit the impact of bloom disease. As weather conditions allow, additional sprays will be applied. Growers were concerned about hampered bee pollination activity due to the weather. Herbicide applications continued for **walnut** trees.

VEGETABLE CROPS

In Kern County, **carrots** were being harvested in some fields and planted in others. Rains delayed the **carrot** planting in Fresno County, but newly-planted **garlic** and **onions** showed good progress. In Tulare County, winter onions were maturing well, along with **spinach** fields, which were only weeks away from harvest. Planting beds were prepared for spring and summer vegetables. **Squash** continued to be planted under plastic tunnels. The **radicchio** harvest continued in Merced County. Field work, pre-plant treatments and ground preparation continued in Sutter County. In San Joaquin County, **asparagus** was being harvested between rains, but some crops had to be mowed down so harvest could be done later.

LIVESTOCK

Recent rains continued to promote greening and range conditions in the central valley, and foothills showed marked improvement. The need for supplemental hay and nutrient feeding of cattle continued to diminish. Northern grazing lands continued to be in good to very good condition. San Joaquin Valley pasture conditions improved dramatically with the recent precipitation. Local and out-of-State bee hives continued to be placed in almond and plum orchards for the pollination season.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 2/28/10

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 2/28/10	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 2/28/10	January 1 - 2/28	Week Ending 2/28/10	July 1 - 2/28/10	July 1 - 2/28	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	51	1	59	37	0	0	2.22	24.49	27.32	37.53
Ukiah	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	21.24	29.45	37.96
Santa Rosa	52	0	67	39	0	0	1.75	21.01	23.39	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	55	1	63	47	0	0	1.70	15.13	15.28	19.70
San Jose	--	--	--	--	0	0	--	--	10.97	14.42
Salinas AP	54	0	66	43	0	0	2.04	10.96	9.15	12.44
Monterey FAA	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	13.08	10.84	18.72
King City	53	0	69	38	0	0	0.63	9.16	8.72	11.44
Paso Robles AP	52	0	64	37	0	0	1.62	11.24	9.68	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	50	-1	69	33	0	0	2.52	22.65	24.76	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	50	-2	67	38	1	0	2.01	18.22	17.42	22.29
Chico AFS	50	-2	64	34	0	0	2.00	21.68	19.28	26.32
Marysville	51	-3	64	36	0	0	1.10	13.43	16.38	21.04
Sacramento AP	52	-1	63	37	0	0	1.26	14.31	13.46	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	52	0	63	39	0	0	1.57	10.89	10.10	13.95
Fresno	51	-2	62	39	0	0	1.78	9.00	7.79	10.60
Bakersfield	56	0	74	37	0	0	0.60	5.45	4.39	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	53	-1	68	31	0	0	1.13	12.28	9.93	12.36
Santa Barbara	55	0	66	40	0	0	2.05	17.65	12.60	16.25
Ventura	55	0	69	40	26	0	1.72	13.97	11.18	14.38
Los Angeles	60	0	75	47	113	6	0.84	14.36	11.05	14.77
Riverside	--	--	--	--	31	0	0.00	0.00	7.66	9.58
San Diego AP	58	-1	69	45	34	0	0.88	8.82	7.58	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	41	-4	60	17	0	0	0.00	6.71	3.74	5.37
Lancaster	50	0	66	25	0	0	0.58	6.31	5.88	6.92
Daggett AP	--	--	--	--	6	0	0.00	3.72	3.30	3.93
Thermal AP	58	-3	79	34	24	7	0.02	3.66	3.08	3.16
Blythe	--	--	--	--	30	9	0.00	3.32	3.48	3.60
Imperial	59	-3	77	39	35	24	0.00	2.97	2.58	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	36	1	57	7	0	0	0.01	4.44	7.50	12.01
Mt. Shasta	38	-1	57	21	0	0	2.73	29.21	28.26	37.02
Blue Canyon	38	-1	52	23	0	0	4.13	31.06	48.00	67.04
Yosemite	37	-6	51	27	0	0	2.62	13.71	27.88	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.