



# California Crop Weather

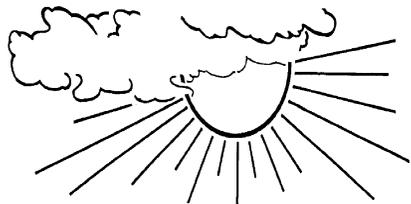
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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

WEEK ENDING: March 7, 2010  
RELEASED: March 8, 2010

FREQUENCY: Weekly  
VOL. 30 NO. 37

## WEATHER



Another series of storm systems brought widespread showers to California this week. The start of the week was dry, with a ridge of high pressure allowing mostly sunny, dry, and mild conditions to prevail across much of the State. By Tuesday, a low pressure system had moved to just off the coast of the Pacific Northwest, bringing a cold front to Northern California, with rains and mountain snow across the northern half of the State, while Southern California was dry.

The low shifted south, resulting in showers spreading into the south by Thursday. With the low now positioned near Southern California, Northern California saw dry, but cool conditions at the end of the week, while showers fell in the south during the weekend. On Sunday, the low pressure system, which had been off the Southern Californian coast, shifted inland and quickly moved into Arizona by late Sunday night.

## FIELD CROPS

**Winter wheat, oat, rye, and barley** fields have emerged. Early fields have started to head out. Dryland crops have continued to benefit from recent rainfall. As conditions allowed, field preparation for spring planting was carried out. Herbicides were put on through aerial and ground applications. **Cotton** beds were maintained through cultivation and herbicide application. **Corn** and **bean** fields were also prepared for planting. **Garbanzo beans** have started to grow. **Rice** fields continued to be drained. **Potatoes** were growing and leafing out. **Alfalfa** fields were sprayed for grass and broadleaf.

## FRUIT CROPS

Full bloom continued for plum, prune, peach, cherry and other early varieties of stone fruit across the Central Valley. Fungicide sprays were applied to blooming stone fruit trees. Pruning of orchards and vineyards was approaching completion, while citrus trees were being topped. Picking of **tangerines**, navel **oranges**, **grapefruit**, and **lemons** was ongoing. **Strawberry** and **blueberry** plantings began blooming, and out-of-state **raspberry** bushes arrived for planting.

## NUT CROPS

Widespread bloom continued in **almond** orchards, in addition to considerable petal fall occurring. As a result of recent moisture and anticipated warmer weather, brown rot remained a concern. Most growers applied their second and third protective sprays to limit the impact of spring diseases.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

**Spinach** fields continued to mature and greenhouse vegetables were being harvested in Tulare County. Wet ground in Colusa County slowed preparation for processing **tomato** planting. Fieldwork, pre-plant herbicide treatments and ground preparation continued in Sutter County. Most of the winter **carrots**, **lettuce**, **broccoli** and **cauliflower** in Imperial County had been harvested. Organic lettuce and other vegetables were being harvested in Kern County. In San Joaquin County, **asparagus** continued to be harvested, when weather and ground conditions permitted. The winter vegetable harvest in Fresno County progressed, but was winding down as some spring vegetables started to emerge. **Beets**, **cabbage**, **cauliflower**, green **onions**, **herbs** and **turnips** continued to be harvested. Spring broccoli plants were growing well. Asparagus spears were emerging in some fields, while harvest was beginning in others. Fall planted **garlic** and onion crops continued to grow well and were treated for weeds. Tomatoes and carrots planted from seed were growing nicely. Spring lettuce was maturing well and fields were weeded, thinned and treated for pests. Early planted sweet **corn** had also emerged. Bed preparation continued for **melons**, when soil conditions were suitable. Seeded processing tomatoes were beginning to germinate and emerge, and growers continued to prepare subsequent fields for planting or transplanting.

## LIVESTOCK

The recent rainfall continued to bolster range conditions. The central valley and foothill rangeland showed marked improvement. Supplemental feeding was on the decline and cattle weight gains were reported to be improving, given the flush of green grasses. Cattle and sheep grazed retired farmland and semi-dormant alfalfa hay, where field conditions permitted. Cool wet weather continued to hinder pollination activity. Bee hives were being moved between almond, blueberry, plum and cherry orchards as the bloom season progressed.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 3/7/10**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 3/7/10	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 3/7/10	January 1 - 3/7	Week Ending 3/7/10	July 1 - 3/7/10	July 1 - 3/7	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
<b>NORTH COAST</b>										
Eureka	50	0	57	37	0	0	1.29	25.78	28.65	37.53
Ukiah	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	21.24	30.97	37.96
Santa Rosa	52	-1	69	33	0	0	1.98	22.99	24.62	30.30
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco AP	53	0	64	41	0	0	1.37	16.50	16.13	19.70
San Jose	--	--	--	--	0	0	--	--	11.61	14.42
Salinas AP	52	-2	65	38	0	0	1.45	12.41	9.70	12.44
Monterey FAA	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	13.08	11.77	18.72
King City	52	-3	66	34	0	0	0.47	9.63	9.34	11.44
Paso Robles AP	50	-2	63	33	0	0	0.18	11.42	10.37	13.95
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	50	-2	69	30	0	0	1.15	23.80	26.05	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	51	-2	70	33	1	0	0.65	18.87	18.31	22.29
Chico AFS	52	-1	68	33	0	0	0.79	22.47	20.34	26.32
Marysville	51	-3	67	34	0	0	1.11	14.54	17.28	21.04
Sacramento AP	52	-1	66	37	0	0	2.22	16.53	14.15	17.52
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	51	-3	65	35	0	0	0.83	11.72	10.62	13.95
Fresno	52	-3	67	38	0	0	0.62	9.62	8.29	10.60
Bakersfield	53	-3	69	35	0	0	0.09	5.54	4.68	5.72
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria AP	51	-2	64	34	0	0	0.48	12.76	10.64	12.36
Santa Barbara	54	-1	68	40	0	0	0.63	18.28	13.49	16.25
Ventura	54	0	66	41	26	0	0.36	14.33	11.94	14.38
Los Angeles	59	-2	71	49	116	12	0.48	14.84	11.80	14.77
Riverside	--	--	--	--	31	0	0.00	0.00	8.20	9.58
San Diego AP	56	-3	65	46	34	0	0.68	9.50	8.08	9.90
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	42	-3	59	21	0	0	0.06	6.77	3.91	5.37
Lancaster	49	-2	66	26	0	0	0.18	6.49	6.22	6.92
Daggett AP	--	--	--	--	6	0	0.00	3.72	3.43	3.93
Thermal AP	59	-3	75	44	30	24	0.23	3.89	3.18	3.16
Blythe	--	--	--	--	35	27	0.00	3.32	3.59	3.60
Imperial	60	-3	77	42	47	48	0.64	3.61	2.66	2.75
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	38	1	58	20	0	0	0.25	4.69	7.90	12.01
Mt. Shasta	40	0	59	30	0	0	2.29	31.50	29.82	37.02
Blue Canyon	36	-3	48	24	0	0	1.80	32.86	50.46	67.04
Yosemite	41	-3	59	27	0	0	0.94	14.65	29.27	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.