



# California Crop Weather

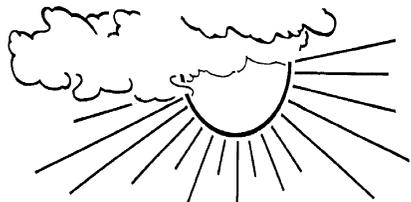
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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## WEATHER



Another active week in the Pacific brought cooler than average temperatures and moderate, but widespread precipitation to all but the southern extremities of California. On Monday, a cold front moved across Northern California bringing cooler temperatures and precipitation to the northwest coast and mountains, while a high pressure ridge built over Southern California. By Tuesday, the low pressure system progressed towards

Central California delivering cooler temperatures and precipitation to the Bay Area, the Central Valley, and the Sierras. A new weak low pressure system entered Northwestern California by Wednesday bringing a bout of cooler temperatures, and the week's heaviest rain to Northern California. A high pressure ridge dominated the state on Thursday bringing drier and warmer conditions. By Friday, Southern California remained mild and dry as the high pressure ridge shifted east, while a new cold front moved into Northwest California from the Pacific bringing precipitation to the coast. Saturday, the cold temperatures and precipitation moved east towards the Central Valley, while the South remained dry with near normal mild temperatures. Sunday saw the strengthening of a new ridge that allowed dry and warming conditions to prevail.

## FIELD CROPS

**Winter wheat, oat, rye, and barley** fields continued to progress. Fields which were planted early have started to head out. Dryland crops continued to benefit from recent rainfall. Weed control continued to be carried out on small grain crops. **Corn, cotton, and bean** fields were prepared for planting as field conditions allowed. **Alfalfa** fields continued to grow well.

## 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. Picking of **tangerines**, navel **oranges**, **grapefruit**, and **lemons** continued, while harvesting of Valencia oranges began in the San Joaquin Valley. Herbicide sprays were applied in Central Valley **grape** vineyards as some buds began to swell.

## NUT CROPS

Widespread bloom continued in **almond** orchards, though petal fall increased significantly. Some growers also watered their orchards to protect almond trees from freezing temperatures.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

**Asparagus** continued to be harvested in San Joaquin County, when weather and ground conditions permitted. In Merced County, the asparagus harvest had just begun, and the **radicchio** harvest was progressing well. **Spinach** fields in Tulare County were nearly ready to harvest. Fields were prepared for summer vegetables and **squash** was being planted under plastic hot caps. In preparation for the upcoming **tomato** season in Stanislaus County, tomato transplants were started in greenhouses. The harvest of winter vegetables in Fresno County continued to wind down. Processing tomato beds were readied for transplanting. **Carrots** and the last of the **onion** crop were planted and herbicides were being applied through sprinkler systems.

## LIVESTOCK

The spring rains continued to bolster range conditions. The central valley and foothill rangeland continued to show marked improvement. Supplemental feeding continued to decline and cattle weight gains were reported to be improving given the flush of green grasses. Sheep grazed retired farmland and semi-dormant alfalfa hay were field conditions permitted. Some sheep were moved to native pasture. Pollination activity improved where the weather was favorable. Bee hives continued to be moved between almond, stone fruit and alfalfa. Wet conditions created muddy areas and standing water pools that were issues for dairies and beef feed lots.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 3/14/10**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 3/14/10	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 3/14/10	January 1 - 3/14	Week Ending 3/14/10	July 1 - 3/14/10	July 1 - 3/14	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
<b>NORTH COAST</b>										
Eureka	46	-4	62	33	0	0	2.12	28.28	29.95	37.53
Ukiah	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	21.25	32.40	37.96
Santa Rosa	48	-6	68	32	0	0	0.80	23.38	25.79	30.30
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco AP	51	-3	63	40	0	0	0.76	17.20	16.94	19.70
San Jose	--	--	--	--	0	0	--	--	12.24	14.42
Salinas AP	50	-4	63	36	0	0	0.80	13.21	10.28	12.44
Monterey FAA	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	13.11	12.37	18.72
King City	49	-5	68	33	0	0	0.16	10.55	9.97	11.44
Paso Robles AP	48	-5	65	30	0	0	0.01	11.43	11.08	13.95
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	47	-5	69	31	0	0	0.46	23.96	27.34	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	48	-6	69	32	1	0	0.21	18.86	19.18	22.29
Chico AFS	47	-6	65	31	0	0	0.78	23.25	21.39	26.32
Marysville	48	-7	66	32	0	0	0.46	15.00	18.15	21.04
Sacramento AP	48	-6	63	33	0	0	0.44	16.93	14.79	17.52
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	48	-7	64	34	0	0	0.59	12.31	11.16	13.95
Fresno	50	-6	64	36	0	0	0.21	9.83	8.82	10.60
Bakersfield	51	-7	72	34	0	0	0.15	5.69	5.00	5.72
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria AP	51	-3	68	35	0	0	0.08	12.83	11.37	12.36
Santa Barbara	54	-2	70	38	0	0	0.00	18.31	14.45	16.25
Ventura	53	0	69	36	6	0	0.00	8.40	12.71	14.38
Los Angeles	59	-3	71	47	116	20	0.00	14.84	12.54	14.77
Riverside	--	--	--	--	31	0	0.00	0.00	8.72	9.58
San Diego AP	57	-3	65	48	34	0	0.00	9.22	8.60	9.90
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	41	-6	64	20	0	0	0.04	6.82	4.05	5.37
Lancaster	46	-6	69	26	0	0	0.04	6.53	6.57	6.92
Daggett AP	--	--	--	--	6	0	0.00	3.75	3.56	3.93
Thermal AP	58	-5	79	35	35	49	0.01	3.75	3.28	3.16
Blythe	--	--	--	--	36	55	0.00	3.80	3.69	3.60
Imperial	59	-6	78	41	55	79	0.02	3.97	2.74	2.75
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	30	-8	50	10	0	0	0.57	4.87	8.29	12.01
Mt. Shasta	36	-4	56	23	0	0	1.15	32.89	31.34	37.02
Blue Canyon	31	-8	43	20	0	0	1.74	34.60	52.72	67.04
Yosemite	38	-7	55	23	0	0	2.02	16.67	30.56	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.