



California Crop Weather

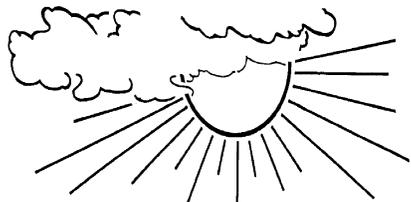
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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

WEEK ENDING: March 21, 2010
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WEATHER



A high pressure ridge brought an early taste of spring to California at the start of the week, with warm and dry conditions reported all across the State. A weak Pacific cold front skirted the northern tier of the State Tuesday, but this system only spread a few light showers to the far northern coast, while most of the rest of the State remained dry and mild. Wednesday was the warmest day of the week, with highs reaching the 80s in some portions of the North, and the 90s in Southern California. Another weak cold front brushed Northern California on Wednesday night, but this system had very little effect on the weather, with most of the State seeing dry and very mild conditions through the middle part of the week. The first day of spring, Saturday, was dry across the State, with above normal temperatures. One last cold front spread some rain over the northern coast on Sunday, with some showers extending into the northern mountain ranges. The rest of the State was dry and warm.

FIELD CROPS

Weed control continued in **winter wheat**, **rye**, and **oat** fields, as well as **alfalfa** fields. Cutting of alfalfa continued. Winter forage crops are in good condition. **Rice** fields were drained and pre-plant herbicides were applied. Rice straw was being burned when conditions allowed. Pre-planting operations continued for **corn**, **cotton**, and **dry bean** fields. Cotton beds received herbicide treatments in preparation for planting. Irrigation districts began to turn on their water, which allowed field irrigation to start.

FRUIT CROPS

Widespread bloom continued for **plum**, **prune**, **peach**, **cherry** and other early varieties of stone fruit across the Central Valley. Fungicide sprays were ongoing for blooming stone fruit trees. Picking of **tangerines**, navel **oranges**, **grapefruit**, and **lemons** continued, as well as harvesting of early Valencia orange varieties. Herbicide sprays were applied in Central Valley **grape** vineyards, and warmer temperatures aided budding of wine grape vineyards along the Central Coast. **Strawberry** fields were setting fruit in the San Joaquin Valley.

NUT CROPS

The **almond** bloom neared its conclusion throughout the Central Valley as heavy petal fall continued. Almond development has appeared healthy throughout the bloom. Some brown rot has been observed in almond orchards, which occurred due to wet weather earlier in the season. **Walnut** blight applications began as growers prepare for the upcoming walnut bloom.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Field work was taking place and preplant herbicide treatments were being applied in Sutter County. Imperial County's winter produce was almost all harvested except for salad products and a few fields of organic spring mix and **spinach**. The **carrot** harvest was also coming to an end. In San Joaquin County, the **asparagus** harvest was progressing well with excellent yields. The **radicchio** and **asparagus** harvests continued in Merced County and farmers began to plant **watermelon** fields. In Tulare County, harvesting of field **spinach** began. **Squash** was planted under plastic hot caps and fields were being prepared for summer vegetables. **Tomato** planting was more than halfway complete in Fresno County. The carrots were nearly all planted and irrigated for germination. **Onions** were fertilized and herbicides were applied through sprinkler systems. Most vegetables harvested in Kern County were **lettuces** and spinach, but some carrots were also being harvested.

LIVESTOCK

Range conditions continued to flourish with recent rains and warming weather. Pools of rain water were shrinking. Irrigated pasture was in good condition. Supplemental feeding continued to decline and cattle weight gains were reported to be improving. Most sheep had been moved out of Imperial County. Pollination activity improved with the fair weather. Bees were working the last almond orchards and were moving to cherry and other stone fruits as well as alfalfa.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 3/21/10

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION				
	Average Week Ending 3/21/10	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal		
					January 1 - 3/21/10	January 1 - 3/21	Week Ending 3/21/10	July 1 - 3/21/10	July 1 - 3/21	July 1 - June 30	
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --				
NORTH COAST											
Eureka	51	1	71	38	0	0	0.28	28.47	31.15	37.53	
Ukiah	--	--	--	--	2	0	0.00	21.28	33.67	37.96	
Santa Rosa	58	4	84	37	6	0	0.00	23.38	26.80	30.30	
CENTRAL COAST											
San Francisco AP	59	5	78	44	8	0	0.00	17.20	17.64	19.70	
San Jose	--	--	--	--	13	0	0.00	5.08	12.80	14.42	
Salinas AP	59	5	81	40	4	0	0.00	13.21	10.80	12.44	
Monterey FAA	--	--	--	--	2	0	0.00	13.11	12.75	18.72	
King City	60	5	83	37	6	0	0.00	10.55	10.50	11.44	
Paso Robles AP	57	4	79	35	0	0	0.00	11.43	11.63	13.95	
SACRAMENTO VALLEY											
Redding	59	5	81	36	13	0	0.00	23.99	28.42	33.30	
Red Bluff FSS	58	3	80	37	7	0	0.00	18.86	19.94	22.29	
Chico AFS	58	4	79	38	3	0	0.00	23.25	22.30	26.32	
Marysville	59	2	78	37	7	0	0.00	15.00	18.89	21.04	
Sacramento AP	59	5	78	39	6	0	0.00	16.93	15.34	17.52	
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY											
Stockton WSO	58	3	77	39	3	0	0.00	12.31	11.64	13.95	
Fresno	62	5	79	39	14	0	0.00	9.83	9.28	10.60	
Bakersfield	62	4	82	39	14	0	0.00	5.69	5.30	5.72	
SOUTH COAST											
Santa Maria AP	58	4	81	37	4	0	0.00	12.83	11.98	12.36	
Santa Barbara	60	4	82	41	7	0	0.00	18.31	15.21	16.25	
Ventura	61	0	83	42	24	0	0.00	8.40	13.33	14.38	
Los Angeles	68	7	88	49	176	29	0.00	14.84	13.14	14.77	
Riverside	--	--	--	--	65	0	0.00	0.00	9.15	9.58	
San Diego AP	64	4	82	50	64	1	0.00	9.22	9.06	9.90	
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR											
Bishop	49	1	74	23	0	0	0.01	6.83	4.16	5.37	
Lancaster	55	3	78	28	0	0	0.00	6.53	6.85	6.92	
Daggett AP	--	--	--	--	24	0	0.00	3.75	3.67	3.93	
Thermal AP	66	1	88	42	76	82	0.00	3.75	3.36	3.16	
Blythe	--	--	--	--	84	89	0.00	3.81	3.78	3.60	
Imperial	67	2	87	46	104	115	0.00	3.97	2.80	2.75	
CASCADE - SIERRA											
Alturas	43	5	69	16	0	0	0.00	4.87	8.62	12.01	
Mt. Shasta	47	6	69	26	0	0	0.01	32.69	32.57	37.02	
Blue Canyon	51	12	63	41	0	0	0.00	34.60	54.73	67.04	
Yosemite	50	5	70	28	0	0	0.00	16.68	31.75	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.