



# California Crop Weather

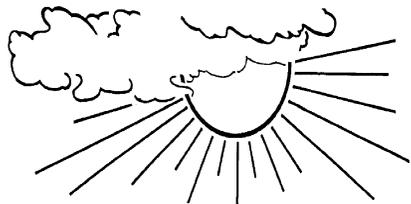
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: March 28, 2010  
RELEASED: March 29, 2010

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## WEATHER



A series of weak storm systems moved through Northern California during the week, and none of these reached Southern California. On Monday, the last remnants of one system were exiting the northern portions of the State. A few showers were reported along the north coast, but the remainder of the State was dry with mild temperatures. Tuesday and Wednesday were dry and seasonably warm all across the State. Late Wednesday night, another cold front approached the north coast. This system held together through Thursday, spreading rain across the Northern half of California, while the South cooled, but remained dry. On Friday, another weak storm system brushed the north coast, bringing a few showers to that region. The rest of the State remained dry. The weekend saw a high pressure ridge build over the State, resulting in warm and dry conditions statewide.

## FIELD CROPS

Spring field work continued at full speed. Weed control continued in **winter wheat, rye, and oat** fields, as well as **alfalfa** fields. Alfalfa was cut for hay and green chopped for silage. Winter wheat was also cut for silage. **Barley** and other winter forage crops continued to progress and head-out. Maintenance continued for **rice** fields with the application of pre-plant herbicides and burning of rice straw. Pre-planting operations continued for **corn, cotton, and dry bean** fields. Cotton beds received herbicide treatments in preparation for planting. Irrigation has started for grain and alfalfa fields. Fields were prepared for **safflower** planting. **Sunflower** field preparation and planting also took place.

## 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 ongoing in Central Valley **grape** vineyards, and warmer temperatures aided budding of wine grape vineyards along the Central Coast. Pruning and row cultivation continued in vineyard grapevines. **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. Pest traps were placed in almond orchards and irrigation started in areas where the winter moisture was less abundant. **Walnut** blight applications began as growers prepare for the upcoming walnut bloom.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

In Monterey County, the harvest of **cauliflower** and **broccoli** continued. The planting of spring vegetables continued. Processing **tomatoes** were being transplanted in Colusa County. Field work was taking place and pre-plant herbicide treatments were being applied in Sutter County. In San Joaquin County, the **asparagus** harvest continued with excellent yields reported. In Tulare County, harvesting of field **spinach** began. **Squash** was planted under plastic hot caps and fields were being prepared for summer vegetables. In Fresno County, processing tomatoes were being planted. Drip tape was being hooked up. **Onions** were fertilized and herbicides were applied through sprinkler systems. In Merced County, the **radicchio** harvest was completed. Asparagus continued to be harvested. **Watermelon** and processing tomato continued to be planted. **Potatoes, carrots** and leaf **lettuce** were being harvested in Kern County. Melons and tomatoes were planted.

## LIVESTOCK

Range conditions continued to improve with the warm weather and recent rains promoting vigorous growth. Supplemental feeding continued to taper down and cattle weight gains were improving. Dairy and feedlots were drying out with the continued fair and mild weather. Sheepoff was on the decline as additional alfalfa fields neared first cutting. Bees were working through cherry and other stone fruits as the bloom season progressed.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 3/28/10**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 3/28/10	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 3/28/10	January 1 - 3/28	Week Ending 3/28/10	July 1 - 3/28/10	July 1 - 3/28	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
<b>NORTH COAST</b>										
Eureka	51	1	62	39	0	0	1.08	30.00	32.27	37.53
Ukiah	--	--	--	--	2	0	0.00	23.57	34.72	37.96
Santa Rosa	55	0	76	37	6	0	0.20	23.58	27.63	30.30
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco AP	57	2	71	45	8	0	0.08	17.43	18.21	19.70
San Jose	--	--	--	--	14	0	--	5.08	13.24	14.42
Salinas AP	57	2	76	40	6	0	0.00	13.19	11.24	12.44
Monterey FAA	--	--	--	--	2	0	0.00	13.14	13.12	18.72
King City	58	2	81	38	7	0	0.00	10.63	10.90	11.44
Paso Robles AP	54	0	76	34	0	0	0.00	11.43	12.02	13.95
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	55	-1	76	34	18	0	0.06	24.32	29.24	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	57	1	76	35	10	0	0.01	19.27	20.49	22.29
Chico AFS	56	1	76	35	5	0	0.17	23.42	23.00	26.32
Marysville	57	0	76	36	10	0	0.14	15.14	19.49	21.04
Sacramento AP	57	1	73	38	7	0	0.03	17.06	15.79	17.52
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	56	0	77	40	3	0	0.01	12.31	12.06	13.95
Fresno	59	1	80	41	20	0	0.00	9.83	9.66	10.60
Bakersfield	59	0	83	40	22	0	0.00	5.69	5.55	5.72
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria AP	56	1	77	37	4	0	0.00	12.83	12.47	12.36
Santa Barbara	57	1	76	43	8	0	0.00	18.28	15.76	16.25
Ventura	59	0	82	42	32	0	0.00	8.40	13.80	14.38
Los Angeles	65	3	85	53	212	43	0.00	14.84	13.60	14.77
Riverside	--	--	--	--	83	0	0.00	0.00	9.48	9.58
San Diego AP	63	2	80	53	86	6	0.00	9.20	9.44	9.90
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	49	0	74	23	0	0	0.00	6.83	4.25	5.37
Lancaster	54	0	74	29	0	0	0.00	6.53	7.08	6.92
Daggett AP	--	--	--	--	27	3	0.00	3.75	3.75	3.93
Thermal AP	65	-1	83	39	110	124	0.00	3.75	3.41	3.16
Blythe	--	--	--	--	126	133	0.00	3.81	3.84	3.60
Imperial	67	0	86	45	149	159	0.00	3.97	2.85	2.75
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	40	0	66	15	0	0	0.14	5.37	8.90	12.01
Mt. Shasta	44	1	64	25	0	0	0.35	33.69	33.59	37.02
Blue Canyon	44	4	62	30	0	0	0.74	35.34	56.48	67.04
Yosemite	47	0	67	32	0	0	0.00	16.68	32.70	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.