



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



California Crop Weather

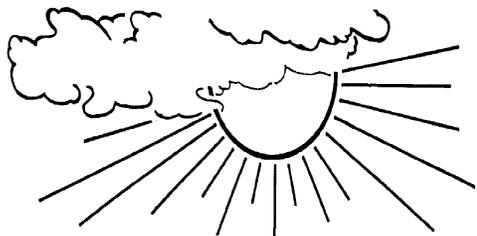
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: April 4, 2010
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WEATHER



At the start of the week, a weak high pressure ridge brought dry and mild conditions to Southern California, while a cold front brushed Northern California, resulting in scattered light precipitation for the northern half of the State. A low pressure area formed off the coast during the week and drifted south along the coast. This feature sent several weak frontal systems through Northern California during the week, bringing widespread precipitation to the north, along with periods of gusty winds. Eventually, this low pressure system moved far enough south to bring some light showers to Southern California as well. By the end of the week,

the low pressure system had moved south and east, out of the State, and dry and mild conditions returned to Southern California. But another low pressure trough had developed off the coast of the Pacific Northwest, and this system sent a strong cold front into Northern California, bringing wet and windy conditions to the north for Sunday.

FIELD CROPS

Barley, oat and **wheat** fields continued to mature. Weed control continued in winter wheat, **rye**, oats and **alfalfa** fields. Warm conditions in southern California required the irrigation schedule for wheat to shorten. Wheat and oats continued to head out. Some wheat was harvested for silage. **Rice** fields were plowed and pre-plant herbicides were applied. Alfalfa continued to be harvested. Some hay was rained on while down. **Corn** and **cotton** were planted before the weekend moisture. **Sunflower** field preparation and planting also took place.

FRUIT CROPS

The bloom for **plum, prune, peach**, and **cherry** was completed in most of the Central Valley. Picking of **tangerines**, navel **orange**, and **lemons** continued normally, as the **grapefruit** harvest neared completion and harvesting of early Valencia orange varieties continued to increase. There was healthy budding in wine **grape** vineyards along the Central Coast, as grape vineyards showed healthy development in the Central Valley as well. Pruning and row cultivation neared completion in vineyard grapevines. The **strawberry** harvest began in some parts of the San Joaquin Valley, as many fields continued to set fruit. Some strawberry fruit showed irregular shapes due to cold weather. **Blueberries** continued to bloom and develop well in some fields in the San Joaquin Valley.

NUT CROPS

The **almond** bloom ended throughout the Central Valley with reports of a healthy set. Pest traps continued to be placed in almond orchards and irrigation was ongoing in areas where winter moisture was less abundant. Recent cooler temperatures have lessened the concern of disease infection in almond orchards this spring. **Walnut** blight applications continued as growers prepare for the upcoming walnut bloom. **Pistachio** orchards showed good development while growers prepared to apply fungicide sprays.

VEGETABLE CROPS

The harvest of leaf **lettuce** began in Monterey County. **Cauliflower, broccoli, spinach** and **artichokes** continued to be harvested. Field work, preplant herbicide treatments and ground preparation continued in Sutter County. Wet conditions in San Joaquin County lowered the quantity and quality of the **asparagus** crop. Asparagus was also being harvested in Merced County, where **tomato, bell pepper** and **watermelon** fields continued to be planted. In Tulare County, fields were being prepared for warm weather vegetables. **Squash**, tomatoes and peppers continued to be planted. **Sweet corn** was being planted. In Kern County, **carrots** and lettuce were being harvested, while many more vegetables were being planted. The asparagus and spring broccoli harvests were ongoing in Fresno County and the harvest of spring lettuce was starting up. Leafy vegetables, such as collard and mustard **greens, bok choy, chard, kale, gailon, beets, cauliflower, cabbage, turnips, daikon**, green **onions, herbs** and snow, sugar and snap **peas** were also being harvested. Spring crops of onions, **garlic** and broccoli continued to grow well and were treated to control weeds. Tomatoes and carrots that were planted from seed were also growing nicely and the transplanting of processing tomatoes continued. Early seeded sweet corn was progressing as new fields continued to be seeded. Growers continued to prepare subsequent fields for planting or transplanting. Hot caps were placed on some tomatoes. Beds were being prepared to plant melons and watermelon planting began.

LIVESTOCK

Range conditions continued to improve with rains promoting growth and nutritional value. Supplemental feeding continued to be tapered down and cattle weight gains were improving. Cattle and sheared sheep grazed on range, alfalfa and idle fields. Dairies and feedlots were drying out. Pollination activity was down where there was precipitation. Bees were moved from late almonds and were still found in blooming blueberry, and stone fruits, including cherry and plums.

This report is available the first workday of the week after 1:00 PDT at
www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/California/Publications/index.asp

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 4/4/10

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION				
	Average Week Ending 4/4/10	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal		
					January 1 - 4/4/10	January 1 - 4/4	Week Ending 4/4/10	July 1 - 4/4/10	July 1 - 4/4	July 1 - June 30	
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --				
NORTH COAST											
Eureka	46	-5	57	35	0	0	2.75	32.76	33.24	37.53	
Ukiah	--	--	--	--	2	0	0.00	23.58	35.57	37.96	
Santa Rosa	50	-5	64	36	6	0	1.59	25.80	28.27	30.30	
CENTRAL COAST											
San Francisco AP	53	-2	62	45	8	0	0.88	18.31	18.67	19.70	
San Jose	--	--	--	--	16	0	0.00	5.08	13.59	14.42	
Salinas AP	52	-3	69	39	6	0	0.25	13.45	11.60	12.44	
Monterey FAA	--	--	--	--	3	0	0.00	13.14	13.55	18.72	
King City	53	-4	74	35	7	0	0.22	12.34	11.22	11.44	
Paso Robles AP	52	-3	73	32	0	0	0.03	11.46	12.34	13.95	
SACRAMENTO VALLEY											
Redding	49	-8	65	34	18	0	0.96	25.28	29.89	33.30	
Red Bluff FSS	49	-7	68	33	12	0	0.40	19.67	20.92	22.29	
Chico AFS	52	-4	73	33	10	0	0.36	23.78	23.56	26.32	
Marysville	51	-7	66	35	10	0	0.39	15.53	19.98	21.04	
Sacramento AP	51	-5	64	37	7	0	0.54	17.60	16.17	17.52	
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY											
Stockton WSO	52	-6	71	39	3	0	0.61	12.92	12.41	13.95	
Fresno	54	-5	77	39	22	0	0.13	9.96	9.96	10.60	
Bakersfield	55	-4	76	38	24	1	0.01	5.70	5.75	5.72	
SOUTH COAST											
Santa Maria AP	52	-2	66	34	4	0	0.09	12.92	12.89	12.36	
Santa Barbara	57	0	74	42	10	0	0.07	18.35	16.19	16.25	
Ventura	54	0	72	41	26	0	0.04	8.48	14.21	14.38	
Los Angeles	62	-1	81	50	228	62	0.00	14.84	13.97	14.77	
Riverside	--	--	--	--	89	0	--	--	9.74	9.58	
San Diego AP	59	-2	75	48	93	15	0.56	9.76	9.75	9.90	
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR											
Bishop	46	-4	69	18	0	0	0.04	6.87	4.34	5.37	
Lancaster	53	-2	79	33	0	0	0.06	6.59	7.28	6.92	
Daggett AP	--	--	--	--	42	17	0.00	3.75	3.83	3.93	
Thermal AP	64	-4	86	43	136	176	0.00	3.75	3.45	3.16	
Blythe	--	--	--	--	170	187	0.00	3.81	3.90	3.60	
Imperial	65	-2	91	46	183	213	0.07	4.06	2.89	2.75	
CASCADE - SIERRA											
Alturas	36	-5	58	21	0	0	0.65	6.02	9.16	12.01	
Mt. Shasta	36	-8	49	20	0	0	2.57	36.26	34.48	37.02	
Blue Canyon	32	-10	43	25	0	0	2.75	38.09	58.04	67.04	
Yosemite	--	--	67	27	0	0	1.00	17.68	33.54	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.