



# California Crop Weather

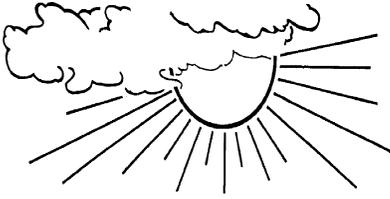
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: February 27, 2011  
RELEASED: February 28, 2011

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## WEATHER



The week began with weak low pressure off the California Coast from Monday through Wednesday. This brought isolated showers to the mountains and the far northern coast near Eureka. Highs in the valley were in the 50s and the lower 60s under partly cloudy skies the first part of the week. On Thursday night, rain entered California. This was created from a very cold and strong low from the Gulf of Alaska and Canada. By Friday, the cold low pressure system created a variety of weather elements. An inch of rain fell in most valley locations. Snow levels were down to 1,000 feet in the mountains. Two feet of new snow fell in some foothill areas, especially near Grass Valley, California. Three to four feet of new snow fell at the highest elevations throughout the mountains. Funnel clouds and one F0 tornado were spotted in the Sacramento Valley. Isolated snowflakes fell in the valley and along the coast of California from Burbank to San Francisco. No snow accumulated on the valley floor or along the coast. On Saturday, the main energy of the storm covered Southern California with heavy rain and mountain snow similar to Northern California. Saturday night into Sunday morning the skies had cleared in the State, but freeze warning was posted in many valley cities with lows in the 20s, due to cold air behind the front.

## FIELD CROPS

Dryland grain crops continued to benefit from rain showers which moved through the State. Cooler temperatures slowed plant growth. Aerial herbicide applications continued on small grain fields. **Alfalfa** fields continued to come out of dormancy. Fields in drier areas received irrigation. **Cotton** beds were formed. **Sugarbeet** development continued in Fresno County. Early season herbicide applications were near completion in the San Joaquin Valley. Preparation for spring planting continued as conditions allowed with plowing, disking, planting, and spraying in fields.

## FRUIT CROPS

The navel **orange**, **mandarin** and **lemon** harvests continued in the San Joaquin Valley, along with early varieties of Valencia oranges being picked for export markets. Lemons and **grapefruit** were also picked in the desert region, with lemons being picked in the coastal regions as well. The navel orange harvest continued at a quickened pace to limit fruit losses due to rind breakdown. Budding in stone fruit trees was ongoing as blooming continued in early-variety fruit trees and began in later varieties. Early **grape** varieties showed bud break and **strawberry** plants showed good growth in the San Joaquin Valley. Beehives continued to be placed in orchards.

## NUT CROPS

Irrigation was applied to **almond** orchards across the Central Valley to limit the effects of freezing temperatures on almond buds. Full bloom was reached in most early varieties as blooming continued in all varieties. Bloom sprays were also ongoing in blooming almond orchards. Pruning and spraying in **pistachio** and **walnut** orchards continued as field conditions allowed.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

**Carrots**, **onions** and **cabbage** were growing and being harvested in Kern County. Tulare County reported early summer vegetables being germinated in greenhouses. In Fresno County, good conditions with warmer days early in the week resulted in a steady harvest of **broccoli** and **lettuce**, while fresh market onions were planted and carrot fields were fumigated. Merced County reported the completion of the **radicchio** harvest.

## LIVESTOCK

Rainfall has been sufficient causing above normal growth to grazing land, and dairies have been drying; however, cows suffered cold conditions during the wet stretch. Supplemental feeding of livestock has been cut back. Cattle and sheep grazed on idle farmland, rangeland and semi-dormant alfalfa fields. Lambing continued in the San Joaquin Valley. Beehives continued to be placed in orchards, though placement in almond orchards for pollination was complete in Merced County.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 2/27/11**

STATIONS <sup>1</sup>	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION				
	Average Week Ending 2/27/11.	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	Rain Days <sup>2</sup>	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 2/27/11	January 1 - 2/27	July 1 - 2/27/11	Week Ending 2/27/11	July 1 - 2/27/11	July 1 - 2/27	July 1 - June 30
<b>North Coast</b>	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Days --		-- Inches --		
Eureka_WFO	43	-7	58	28	0	0	84	0.95	23.94	27.17	38.10
Ukiah	41	-10	57	27	0	0	52	0.76	23.32	29.08	38.90
Santa_Rosa_AG	43	-11	61	24	3	0	55	1.36	24.16	23.41	31.01
Napa_AP	45	-9	60	28	9	0	56	1.18	20.92	19.81	26.46
<b>Central Coast</b>											
San_Francisco_A	46	-7	56	35	6	0	45	0.96	14.98	15.05	20.11
San_Jose_AP	46	-10	59	32	7	0	37	0.67	8.64	10.73	15.08
Salinas_AP	46	-8	60	31	9	0	46	0.43	10.47	9.22	12.91
Monterey_AP	48	-6	58	37	6	0	56	0.91	13.15	14.51	20.35
King_City_Ag	45	-10	60	28	5	0	40	0.18	6.80	8.66	12.30
Paso_Robles_AP	44	-8	58	28	0	0	28	0.60	8.53	9.39	13.08
<b>Sacramento Valley</b>											
Redding	43	-8	57	28	15	0	57	1.08	21.54	23.43	33.52
Red_Bluff	43	-10	56	30	10	0	48	0.33	12.39	17.35	24.07
Willows_6W	43	-9	56	28	1	0	55	1.17	18.05	13.91	19.03
Oroville	43	-9	56	29	0	0	50	1.61	17.51	20.73	28.75
Marysville	45	-9	59	30	3	0	39	1.94	15.03	15.96	22.07
Sacramento_AP	45	-9	59	29	4	0	41	1.33	14.45	13.26	17.93
<b>San Joaquin Valley</b>											
Stockton	45	-9	58	28	0	0	47	0.71	11.24	9.93	13.84
Modesto_AP	45	-10	58	29	0	0	51	0.56	9.98	9.15	13.12
Merced_Macready	45	-8	59	27	0	0	45	0.41	10.32	8.76	12.50
Madera_AP	44	-9	58	28	0	0	37	0.32	9.79	8.03	11.94
Fresno_AP	46	-8	59	30	0	0	40	0.58	11.48	7.57	11.23
Lemoore_NAS	45	-9	59	26	0	0	38	0.31	8.02	5.26	7.89
Visalia_AP	46	-8	61	30	0	0	33	0.42	12.03	7.50	11.03
Bakersfield	47	-8	61	32	0	0	29	0.34	8.14	4.22	6.49
<b>Cascade Sierra</b>											
Alturas_AP	23	-13	39	-10	0	0	52	0.36	7.94	7.31	12.13
Mount_Shasta_AP	30	-10	44	11	0	0	59	0.11	25.21	27.62	39.16
Blue_Canyon	27	-12	37	13	0	0	60	1.21	48.24	46.67	66.36
Yosemite_Valley	34	-10	47	20	0	0	50	1.38	34.95	26.76	37.73
<b>South Coast</b>											
Santa_Maria_AP	46	-9	61	29	12	0	42	0.47	16.15	9.67	14.01
Santa_Barbara_A	49	-8	61	36	12	0	35	1.25	17.85	12.36	16.93
Oxnard_NWS	49	-9	59	33	66	5	37	0.72	15.66	11.47	15.62
Riverside_AP	49	-10	60	31	59	24	30	0.95	8.05	7.15	10.22
Los_Angeles_AP	52	-6	60	44	63	65	34	0.60	12.90	9.70	13.15
San_Diego_AP	56	-4	63	44	71	84	36	0.88	10.55	7.39	10.77
<b>Southeast Interior</b>											
Bishop_AP	36	-9	57	20	0	0	27	0.23	6.44	3.66	5.02
Daggett_AP	47	-7	65	32	6	0	21	0.01	1.85	3.23	4.17
Lancaster_ATC	43	-6	56	27	0	0	28	0.59	7.36	5.42	7.40
Thermal	52	-9	68	35	32	70	12	0.00	2.60	2.94	3.53
Blythe_AP	54	-8	67	40	39	58	16	0.21	2.04	3.37	4.02
Imperial_CA	55	-7	70	40	49	83	14	0.00	2.68	2.55	2.96

1 Weather stations added as of July 6, 2010.

2 New addition as of July 6, 2010. Total number of days with precipitation events this season.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) is in inches.

Air Temperatures are in Degrees Fahrenheit.

Normal periods 1970-2000 used in Departure From Normal calculations.

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