



California Crop Weather

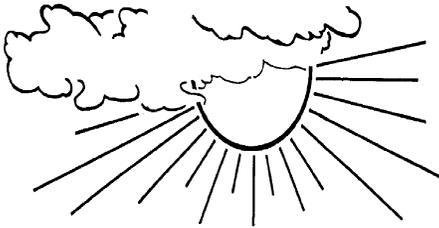
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: March 25, 2012
RELEASED: March 26, 2012

FREQUENCY: Weekly
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WEATHER



A high pressure ridge moved across California at the start of the week, pushing clouds and showers out of the area, and bringing dry and mild conditions to most of the State. A low pressure trough then developed off the West Coast, and a series of weak weather disturbances brushed Northern California in the southwest flow which resulted from the trough's position. These weak storms brought some light to moderate precipitation to the north coast and northern mountains, to the northern Sierra, and to northern interior valley areas as well. A low pressure center developed in the offshore trough later in the week, and this produced a more organized frontal system, which pushed ashore late in the week. The cold front was oriented almost south to north and moved eastward very gradually. It brought the most abundant rainfall of the week, even to Southern California, with some interior locations getting over an inch of rain in a 24 hour period.

FIELD CROPS

Recent late winter storms have helped support the growth of small grains and recharge soil moisture supplies. **Wheat, rye** and **oats** continued to mature and were in fair to excellent condition. Many areas had to halt planting preparations due to the widespread storm events. However, planting was able to resume in some of the drier areas of the State. **Alfalfa** fields continued to green well following pest and weed control applications. Rains hindered some **rice** paddy draining, but ground preparation, fertilization and draining continued as conditions permitted.

FRUIT CROPS

Plums, peaches, apricots, nectarines and **cherries** continued to bloom. Early varieties were beginning to leaf-out. Bees were being moved into cherry orchards. **Prunes** were approaching full bloom. Damage to tree fruit orchards from recent storms was still unknown. Pruning of **grape** and **kiwi** vineyards was finished. Vineyard spraying, irrigating, fertilizing, grafting and repair work continued. More grape varieties were starting to bud. **Pomegranate** orchards were pruned. **Blueberries** were blooming as bees were being used to pollinate. **Strawberry** growers were preparing their fields for spring production. Navel **oranges, tangerines, tangelos,** and **lemons** continued to be harvested. Cara Cara orange harvest was wrapping up. Late harvest of navel and Valencia orange harvests were expected to begin soon. Seedless tangerine groves were netted in preparation of the coming bloom.

NUT CROPS

Almond bloom was coming to an end while leaves were coming out and nuts were beginning to form. Bees were being pulled from almond orchards. **Walnuts** were just beginning to leaf-out. **Pistachios** were breaking bud.

VEGETABLE CROPS

In Tulare County, ground preparation continued in vegetable fields as certified producers were planting **tomatoes** using heat caps and summer vegetables in greenhouses. Italian **squash** and **cucumber** seedlings were being planted and tented under plastic. Fresno County reported processing tomato transplants were being planted at a rapid pace as **carrot** planting continued and **onions** were fertilized. Merced County reported fresh market tomatoes being planted and **asparagus** harvest continued. In Stanislaus County, **broccoli,** asparagus, and **spinach** were being harvested. San Joaquin County reported harvesting of asparagus. In Sutter County, field preparation continued as onions and carrots were flowering.

LIVESTOCK

Non-irrigated rangeland began to gradually improve after the late winter rains. Greening was reported across the State. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued. When weather conditions permitted, bees were working the cherry, plum and other stone fruit bloom and the remaining late almond bloom. Bee colony strength examinations averaged 10.9 frames per hive in Stanislaus County. Temperatures in the southern San Joaquin Valley were favorable for milk production.

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 3/25/12

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION					
	Average Week Ending 3/25/12.	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	Rain Days 1/	This Season		Normal		
					January 1 - 3/25/12	January 1 - 3/25	July 1 - 3/25/12	Week Ending 3/25/12	July 1 - 3/25/12	July 1 - 3/25	July 1 - June 30	
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Days --		-- Inches --			
North Coast												
Eureka_WFO	48	-2	61	32	0	0	78	1.31	27.40	32.17	38.10	
Ukiah	47	-6	62	33	0	0	54	0.97	18.35	34.52	38.90	
Santa_Rosa_AG	52	-4	68	35	4	0	37	1.21	18.21	27.78	31.01	
Napa_State_Hosp	51	-4	70	34	1	0	42	1.22	16.76	23.60	26.46	
Central Coast												
San_Francisco_A	52	-3	67	42	0	0	38	1.29	9.35	18.06	20.11	
San_Jose_AP	54	-4	73	39	8	12	36	0.71	4.55	13.19	15.08	
Salinas_AP	54	0	75	38	11	0	38	0.47	7.87	11.36	12.91	
Monterey_AP	52	-3	71	40	1	0	41	1.10	8.35	17.72	20.35	
King_City_Ag	55	-2	78	37	4	0	26	0.30	4.09	10.96	12.30	
Paso_Robles_AP	53	-2	77	34	0	0	21	0.32	6.04	11.84	13.08	
Sacramento Valley												
Redding	47	-7	57	33	5	0	50	1.64	18.37	28.11	33.52	
Red_Bluff	49	-6	65	32	6	0	39	1.35	15.86	20.70	24.07	
Willows_6W	51	-4	65	33	2	0	41	0.78	15.05	16.64	19.03	
Oroville	52	-4	63	35	0	0	45	0.65	13.79	25.04	28.75	
Marysville	53	-5	69	35	2	11	36	0.40	11.15	19.19	22.07	
Sacramento_AP	53	-4	70	34	2	0	28	0.51	8.36	15.85	17.93	
San Joaquin Valley												
Stockton	53	-4	72	34	0	0	32	0.40	5.20	12.00	13.84	
Modesto_AP	54	-5	71	34	2	24	29	0.35	5.97	11.24	13.12	
Merced_Macready	55	-2	73	36	11	0	28	0.25	5.13	10.79	12.50	
Madera_AP	54	-4	71	36	8	4	20	0.11	5.76	10.10	11.94	
Fresno_AP	55	-2	73	38	16	6	18	0.23	5.70	9.58	11.23	
Lemoore_NAS	53	-4	74	33	9	6	24	0.07	3.41	6.75	7.89	
Visalia_AP	54	-4	72	36	5	11	15	0.30	4.22	9.45	11.03	
Bakersfield	57	-2	79	37	44	29	20	0.20	3.09	5.51	6.49	
Cascade Sierra												
Alturas_AP	39	-2	58	12	0	0	45	0.11	4.08	8.66	12.13	
Mount_Shasta_AP	37	-6	49	19	0	0	61	1.03	16.72	32.92	39.16	
Blue_Canyon	38	-2	49	21	0	0	54	0.57	35.30	56.24	66.36	
Yosemite_Valley	44	-3	67	21	0	0	26	0.65	18.40	32.08	37.73	
South Coast												
Santa_Maria_AP	53	-2	73	37	10	0	24	0.61	6.90	12.39	14.01	
Santa_Barbara_A	53	-5	67	39	14	15	19	0.83	7.45	15.66	16.93	
Oxnard_NWS	54	-4	70	40	112	23	18	1.31	7.25	14.32	15.62	
Riverside_AP	58	-2	80	41	153	72	24	0.05	4.40	9.10	10.22	
Los_Angeles_AP	56	-4	68	46	108	115	21	0.77	5.58	11.94	13.15	
San_Diego_AP	57	-4	68	47	62	152	32	0.15	6.81	9.45	10.77	
Southeast Interior												
Bishop_AP	50	2	78	18	1	0	12	0.01	2.64	4.26	5.02	
Daggett_AP	60	1	88	35	64	43	13	0.00	1.00	3.75	4.17	
Lancaster_ATC	54	2	78	31	0	0	20	0.18	2.49	6.76	7.40	
Thermal	62	-4	87	38	146	227	14	0.00	1.32	3.34	3.53	
Blythe_AP	64	-2	87	40	194	200	15	0.00	2.84	3.79	4.02	
Imperial_CA	64	-2	87	40	172	229	12	0.00	0.75	2.82	2.96	

1/ 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.

For more weather information visit www.awis.com or call 1-888-798-9955.

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