



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

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WEATHER



A series of cool and relatively dry storm systems affected California's weather this week. The series of low pressure systems moved through the State from the Gulf of Alaska and swept southward down the Central Valley and into Southern California. The first storm was the strongest, bringing widespread showers to the State from the north. The cold, unstable air mass generated some severe thunderstorms and even spawned several small tornadoes in the Central Valley. Damage from these was minor due to their small size and relative weakness. Rainfall amounts at the lower elevations were fairly limited, usually less than half an inch. The cold nature of the storms meant snow levels were unusually low, down to 2000 feet. Even the Grapevine in Southern California saw some snowfall from the storms. As the week progressed, two more systems passed over the State. Each was weaker than the first, and precipitation was more widely scattered. Daytime temperatures remained below normal for most of the week. Some warming brought daytime temperatures back to normal by the weekend.

FIELD CROPS

Wheat, barley and other winter **forage** crops continued to grow. Fertilizer and herbicide applications were being applied. Beneficial moisture was received across the State; however, dry land crops were in need of additional rainfall to sustain their growth.

FRUIT CROPS

Orchards were being irrigated, due to lack of significant rain. Early stone fruit varieties were starting to bloom; buds continued to develop on later varieties. Pruning was nearly complete in **grape** vineyards. Navel **oranges** and **lemons** continued to be harvested. **Mandarin** harvest continued. **Grapefruit** harvest was slowing. Freeze damage has been minimal in harvested citrus. Valencia orange harvest is expected to begin soon. Pruning in **olives** was ongoing. **Strawberries** and **blueberries** were developing with the warmer temperatures.

NUT CROPS

Bloom began in **almond** orchards. Nut orchards were being irrigated, due to the dry weather.

VEGETABLE CROPS

In Tulare County, winter vegetables were being grown by certified producers for local farmers markets. The first planting of summer vegetables has been delayed this year. **Broccoli, cabbage** and **cauliflower** continued to grow and be harvested. Fresno County reported growers cultivating beds and applying pre-emergent herbicides. Harvest of winter vegetables, including **beets, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, turnips, daikon, herbs, choys, chards** and **kales**, was in full swing. Fall planted **garlic** and **onions** were growing well. Field activities included pre-irrigation, cultivation, planting and weed control. Processing **tomato, carrot, bell pepper, summer squash, cantaloupe, honeydew, and watermelon** bed formation and preparation continued. Spring **lettuce, mustard greens, and broccoli rabe** were emerging and growing nicely. In Stanislaus County, broccoli was being planted and harvested.

LIVESTOCK

Range and pasture conditions were reported to be in fair condition. The midweek showers across most of the State helped mitigate the unseasonably dry soil conditions, but more precipitation is needed to sustain grass growth. Sheep and cattle grazed on idle fields, dry land grain and alfalfa fields. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued. Hives were placed in blueberry, almond, plum and apricot orchards for pollination. Out-of-state hives continued to be brought in to meet the demand for pollinators. Bees were active in the San Joaquin Valley most days of the week.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 2/24/13

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		RAIN DAYS	PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 2/24/13.	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Year	Normal Year	This Season	This Week	This Season	Normal Season	Normal Year
					January 1 - 2/24/13	January 1 - 2/24/13	July 1 - 2/24/13	Week Ending 2/24/13	July 1 - 2/24/13	July 1 - 2/24/13	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Days /1 --	-- Inches of Precipitation --			
North Coast											
Eureka_WFO	43	-7	54	31	0	0	79	0.81	21.08	26.76	38.10
Ukiah	45	-6	65	28	0	0	46	0.39	24.55	28.57	38.90
Santa_Rosa_AG	48	-5	64	30	0	0	37	0.23	19.29	22.97	31.01
Napa_State_Hosp	49	-5	67	29	0	0	40	0.28	16.04	19.44	26.46
Central Coast											
San_Francisco_A	50	-4	60	39	0	0	39	0.42	11.84	14.77	20.11
San_Jose_AP	49	-6	62	37	0	0	40	0.01	7.97	10.51	15.08
Salinas_AP	49	-5	65	34	6	0	34	0.36	8.24	9.04	12.91
Monterey_AP	49	-6	62	35	3	0	46	0.51	9.77	14.22	20.35
King_City_Ag	47	-7	66	30	1	0	31	0.11	3.99	8.41	12.30
Paso_Robles_AP	45	-7	64	27	0	0	31	0.19	4.17	9.16	13.08
Sacramento Valley											
Redding	47	-3	65	29	3	0	41	0.05	20.67	23.03	33.52
Red_Bluff	50	-3	65	30	0	0	40	0.13	14.63	17.06	24.07
Willows_6W	48	-4	66	31	0	0	41	0.12	16.38	13.64	19.03
Oroville_AP	48	-4	63	31	0	0	32	0.43	14.54	20.33	28.75
Marysville	48	-6	64	30	0	0	35	0.22	15.78	15.67	22.07
Sacramento_AP	48	-5	63	30	0	0	30	0.34	11.93	12.99	17.93
San Joaquin Valley											
Stockton	48	-5	63	32	0	0	35	0.20	8.56	9.76	13.84
Modesto_AP	49	-6	63	33	0	0	36	0.30	7.44	8.98	13.12
Merced_Macready	48	-5	62	30	0	0	31	0.33	6.40	8.58	12.50
Madera_AP	47	-6	66	30	0	0	29	0.62	6.61	7.84	11.94
Fresno_AP	49	-4	69	36	0	0	26	0.47	4.85	7.38	11.23
Lemoore_NAS	46	-8	70	27	0	0	30	0.26	2.53	5.12	7.89
Visalia_AP	47	-6	66	32	0	0	24	0.48	3.39	7.34	11.03
Bakersfield	49	-6	70	35	0	0	28	0.52	2.22	4.10	6.49
Cascade Sierra											
Alturas_AP	30	-6	49	12	0	0	46	0.15	4.59	7.19	12.13
Mount_Shasta_AP	36	-3	52	25	0	0	49	0.62	21.00	27.14	39.16
Blue_Canyon	35	-4	52	22	0	0	54	0.45	37.46	45.76	66.36
Yosemite_Valley	38	-4	56	25	0	0	32	0.16	12.03	26.19	37.73
South Coast											
Santa_Maria_AP	48	-6	65	32	1	0	29	0.21	5.35	9.38	14.01
Santa_Barbara_A	52	-4	71	35	0	0	31	0.15	8.23	12.00	16.93
Oxnard_NWS	53	-4	67	38	59	2	26	0.11	4.46	11.15	15.62
Riverside_AP	52	-6	66	37	42	21	26	0.31	3.70	6.96	10.22
Los_Angeles_AP	54	-5	65	43	61	59	28	0.13	5.14	9.45	13.15
San_Diego_AP	55	-5	66	45	41	78	30	0.36	5.02	7.20	10.77
Southeast Interior											
Bishop_AP	38	-7	62	16	0	0	12	0.00	0.87	3.58	5.02
Daggett_AP	49	-5	72	32	2	0	14	0.01	1.19	3.18	4.17
Lancaster_ATC	45	-4	66	22	0	0	10	0.03	0.76	5.30	7.40
Thermal	55	-7	76	30	33	59	12	0.00	2.52	2.89	3.53
Blythe_AP	54	-7	75	35	36	49	18	0.01	4.36	3.32	4.02
Imperial_CA	55	-7	76	36	45	72	12	0.01	2.04	2.54	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.

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