

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: August 3, 2008 FREQUENCY: Weekly RELEASED: August 4, 2008 VOL. 29 NO. 6

WEATHER



A very quiet weather pattern persisted this week, as a high pressure ridge remained over the Desert Southwest and occasional weather disturbances passed well to the north of the state, through the Pacific Northwest. As a result, the weather across California was seasonably warm and dry. Daytime temperatures were near or slightly above normal. No significant precipitation was recorded across any portion of the state. An onshore flow brought some cooler air to the coastal strip and to the adjacent interior valleys. Further inland, where the

coastal influence did not reach, warm and dry conditions prevailed.

FIELD CROPS

Wheat fields were being harvested for feed and grain. Alfalfa was still being cut and baled, but quality was down due to hot weather. Harvest of **corn** was still in progress for silage and grain. Barley fields continued to be windrowed and baled as straw. Cotton fields were blooming with bolls developing on the lower portion of the stalk. Growers continued to look for aphid, mite, and lygus in cotton. Rice fields continued to grow nicely. Safflower was being dried down before harvest. Blackeye bean plantings continued to mature. Some earlier planted blackeye bean fields were receiving final irrigations before harvest.

FRUIT CROPS

Grape harvest continued. Flame and Thompson Seedless, Diamond Muscat, Black Emerald, Red Globe and Summer Royal varieties were harvested. Picking of the Perlette variety was nearly complete in Tulare County. Zante currants were being harvested. Autumn Snow, Brittany Lane, Diamond Princess, Early Saturn, Elegant Lady, Honey Giant, Ivory Princess, Jasper Gem, Jasper Treasure, July Flame, Late Saturn, Magenta Queen, O'Henry, O'Henry II, Pink Giant, Prima 20, Rich Lady, Snow Angel, Snow Blaze, Snow Giant, Snow King, Spring Flame, Spring Snow, Spring Treat, Strawberry Heirloom, Summer Flame 29, Summer Sweet, Summer Zee, Sweet Dreams, Sweet Kay, Sweet Sun and Vista Gem peaches; Black Beaut, Black Splendor, Catalina, Cherry Bomb, Crimson Gold, Fortune, Friar, Grand Rosa, Kelsey, Lone Star, Red Beaut, Red Crimson, Royal Diamond, Ruby Rosa, Simka and Yummy Beaut plums; Apple Fire, Dinosaur Egg, Emerald Sweet, Flavor Grenade, Flavor Heart and Flavor Queen pluots; Arctic Belle, Arctic Queen, August Bright, August Pearl, Candy Pearl, Diamond Bright, Diamond Pearl, Fire Pearl, June Pearl, Red Lion, Red Roy, Ruby Bright, Summer Bright, Summer Fire, Sunny Gun and Zee Fire nectarines; figs and Asian pears were being harvested. Boysenberries and Blackberries were harvested in Tulare County. Field fumigations were underway for strawberries in Stanislaus County. Valencia orange harvest remained slow due to decreased demand. Some growers were holding fruit for late summer and fall when demand was expected to increase. Lemons were picked. Olives with fair to good fruit set were sizing well. Other groves appeared too light to harvest. Grove maintenance continued in citrus and olive groves. Irrigation was necessary in many areas due to hot weather.

NUT CROPS

Almond harvest continued. Hull-split was still occurring in many groves and some trees were still being sprayed for mites. **Walnuts** were still being propped in groves with heavy sets. Treatments for codling moth and husk fly continued. Yields were looking low in groves damaged by frost earlier in the season. **Pistachios** looked good.

VEGETABLE CROPS

In Imperial Valley ground continued to be prepared for fall vegetables. High temperatures continued to mature summer vegetables faster than normal. Quality and size of some of the vegetables have been hindered because of the heat. Processing tomatoes were growing well as long as water was deliverable. In southern San Joaquin Valley, harvest of tomatoes, peppers, and melons continued. Carrot harvest slowed. In central San Joaquin Valley, commercial tomato harvest was slowed by recent hot weather, affecting fruit volume on plants. Harvest of okra, long beans, squash, sweet corn, cilantro, cucumbers, watermelon, garlic, cantaloupe and various Oriental vegetables continued. Strawberry harvest was complete. In northern San Joaquin Valley carrots were being harvested with excellent yields. Garlic yields were good. Current vegetables harvested were lettuce, carrots and canning tomatoes. Yields on canning tomatoes continued to be disappointing with poor color due to extreme high temperatures. Harvests of fresh market onion, summer squash, bell pepper, and melon crops continued. In southern and central Sacramento Valley fresh market and processing tomatoes were being harvested. Heat increased the presence of insects and army worms with insecticide application ongoing in many fields.

LIVESTOCK

Rangeland forage grasses and non-irrigated pasture, already in very poor condition, continued to deteriorate at all elevations. The drying of some lower-elevation water sources added to producer concerns. Fire danger remained high in some areas. Cattle were receiving supplements of hay and other nutrients. Dairy and poultry production benefited from a break in temperatures in some areas of the central valley, while the seasonal decline in milk production continued in most areas. Sheep were grazing on idle farmland, harvested grain fields, and some rangeland in the central part of the state. Honeybees continued to pollinate melon, squash, and cucumber crops. Pollination continued in sunflower and vineseed crops in the northern valley. Leafcutter bees were placed in alfalfa seed fields, and some hives remained in holding areas.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER - WEEK ENDING 08/03/08

	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION				
STATIONS	Vveek Ending	Departure		Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		No	Normal	
		from Normal	High		January 1 - 08/03/08	January 1 - 08/03/08	Week Ending 08/03/08	July 1 - 08/03/08	July 1 - 08/03/08	July 1 - June 30	
	D	egrees Fahre	nheit		Nun	nber		In	ches		
NORTH COAST											
Eureka	55	-3	65	44	18	0	0.02	0.11	0.24	37.53	
Ukiah	72	-3	93	50	956	867	0.00	0.00	0.10	37.96	
Santa Rosa	67	0	94	50	656	491	0.00	0.00	0.07	30.30	
CENTRAL COAST											
San Francisco AP	62	-2	77	55	296	186	0.00	0.00	0.05	19.70	
San Jose					889	766	0.00	0.00	0.06	14.42	
Salinas AP	61	-2	77	52	270	170	0.00	0.00	0.06	12.44	
Monterey FAA	60	-3	73	53	191	65	0.00	0.00	0.07	18.72	
King City	68	-1	90	48	772	577	0.00	0.00	0.01	11.44	
Paso Robles AP	75	0	103	51	1,105	925	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.95	
SACRAMENTO VALLEY											
Redding	79	-3	98	62	1,788	1,546	0.00	0.06	0.18	33.30	
Red Bluff FSS	79	-3	98	60	1,808	1,621	0.00	0.00	0.14	22.29	
Chico AFS	77	-1	97	56	1,556	1,273	0.00	0.00	0.10	26.32	
Marysville	76	-3	99	56	1,462	1,526	0.00	0.00	0.08	21.04	
Sacramento AP	74	-2	95	55	1,258	1,152	0.00	0.00	0.07	17.52	
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY											
Stockton WSO	76	-2	98	56	1,397	1,350	0.02	0.15	0.05	13.95	
Fresno	82	-1	101	64	1,978	1,749	0.00	0.01	0.02	10.60	
Bakersfield	84	-1	98	67	2,096	1,923	0.00	0.00	0.01	5.72	
SOUTH COAST											
Santa Maria AP	63	-1	75	51	297	177	0.00	0.00	0.04	12.36	
Santa Barbara	67	0	74	56	530	341	0.00	0.00	0.05	16.25	
Ventura	66	0	73	56	358	0	0.00	0.00	0.01	14.38	
Los Angeles	74	-2	87	63	1,398	1,302	0.00	0.00	0.02	14.77	
Riverside					1,484	1,327	0.00	0.00	0.06	9.58	
San Diego AP	70	-2	77	66	866	902	0.00	0.00	0.05	9.90	
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR											
Bishop	78	1	101	50	1,170	1,064	0.00	0.28	0.23	5.37	
Lancaster	83	2	105	60	1,857	1,489	0.00	0.00	0.13	6.92	
Daggett AP	91	1	110	72	2,662	2,483	0.00	0.15	0.58	3.93	
Thermal AP	94	3	114	70	3,412	3,062	0.00	0.04	0.29	3.16	
Blythe	96	2	115	76	3,513	3,385	0.00	0.27	0.54	3.60	
Imperial	94	2	115	76	3,228	3,150	0.00	0.01	0.20	2.75	
CASCADE - SIERRA											
Alturas	66	-1	89	41	421	235	0.00	0.02	0.42	12.01	
Mt. Shasta	66	-2	85	47	510	331	0.00	0.00	0.55	37.02	
Blue Canyon	71	1	80	61	739	376	0.00	0.00	0.52	67.04	
Yosemite					880	671	0.00	0.00	0.68	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.