



# California Crop Progress & Condition

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture  
Pacific Region • 650 Capitol Mall, Suite 6-100 • Sacramento, CA 95814 • (916) 738-6600 • (855) 270-2722 FAX •  
[www.nass.usda.gov/ca](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ca)

**WEEK ENDING: September 24, 2023**  
**RELEASED: September 25, 2023**

**FREQUENCY: Weekly**  
**VOL. 44 NO. 26**

## WEATHER

Average low temperatures for California ranged from 30 to 56 in the mountains, 42 to 66 along the coast, 46 to 76 in the desert, and 51 to 69 in the Central Valley. Average high temperatures for the state ranged from 47 to 84 in the mountains, 59 to 88 along the coast, 73 to 100 in the desert, and 78 to 97 in the Central Valley.

## FIELD CROPS

In the Sacramento Valley, **sunflower**, field **corn**, and **rice** fields were drying down. Rice, sunflower, and **dry bean** harvests continued. In Stanislaus County, **alfalfa** hay, alfalfa silage, and corn silage harvests continued. Harvested silage corn fields were fertilized and disced in preparation for winter crops. In the San Joaquin Valley, **cotton** field defoliation began in some of the earliest planted fields. Bolls continued to crack open. In Tulare County, corn for silage continued to mature and be chopped. Alfalfa was cut, raked, and baled. Dry beans were harvested. Cotton fields continued to develop with bolls opening. In the Imperial Valley, **sudan grass** and alfalfa were baled.

## FRUIT CROPS

Table **grape** and wine grape harvests continued. **Peach** and **pluot** harvests were winding down and **nectarine** harvest completed. **Plum** harvest was ongoing. **Cherry** and **apricot** orchards were pruned and treated for nematodes. **Figs** and **prunes** were harvested. **Pomegranates** and **kiwifruit** continued to develop. **Persimmons** were reaching mature size and starting to show color. **Apple** and **pear** harvests continued. Table **olive** harvest continued. **Strawberries** continued to develop despite poor weather conditions. **Blackberry** and **raspberry** harvests were ongoing. Valencia **oranges** and **grapefruit** were harvested. District 2 **lemon** harvest was winding down. Some orange trees were topped and skirted.

## NUT CROPS

**Almond** harvest continued with orchard floors cleaned and trees shaken. **Pistachio** harvest continued. **Walnuts** and **pecans** continued to mature. Almond and walnut orchards were sprayed for pests and weeds.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

In San Mateo County, **pumpkin**, **brussel sprout**, **tomato**, and **broccoli** harvests continued. Processing tomato, **sweet corn**, and pumpkin harvests continued in the Sacramento Valley. Growers continued to apply fungicides to unharvested tomato fields, as mold was reported in some truck loads arriving at processing plants. In Sutter County, melon and tomato harvests continued. In Stanislaus County, tomato, pumpkin, **sweet potato**, **watermelon**, **cantaloupe**, and **honeydew** harvests continued. Tomato fields were sprayed for armyworm. Fresno County **garlic** harvest was ongoing. In Tulare County, growers continued to sell tomatoes, sweet corn, **squash**, **onions**, **cucumbers**, **peppers**, watermelon, cantaloupe, and honeydew melons at local markets. **Carrot** and garlic harvests continued in Kern County. Broccoli, **celery**, **cauliflower**, squash, **lettuce**, **bell pepper**, and brussel sprout harvests continued along the Central Coast. Brussel sprout and celery harvests continued in Ventura County.

## LIVESTOCK

Foothill rangeland and non-irrigated pasture were mostly in fair condition. Irrigated pasture was in good to excellent condition. Some cattle were grazing on higher elevation range and supplemental feeding was underway in the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys. Sheep grazed retired cropland as well as harvested melon and vegetable fields.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 24, 2023**

| STATIONS                  | TEMPERATURE                          |                                    |      |              | GROWING DEGREE DAYS <sup>1</sup> AT 50 °F BASE <sup>2</sup> |                          | RAIN DAYS <sup>3</sup>        | PRECIPITATION <sup>4</sup> |                      |                            |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------|--------------|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
|                           | Average for Week Ending Sep 24, 2023 | Departure from Normal <sup>5</sup> | High | Low          | This Year   | Normal Year <sup>5</sup> | This Season                   | This Week                  | This Season          | Normal Season <sup>5</sup> | Normal Year <sup>5</sup> |
|                           |                                      |                                    |      |              | Jan 1 - Sep 24, 2023  | Jan 1 - Sep 24, 2023     | Oct 1 - Sep 24, 2023          | Week Ending Sep 24, 2023   | Oct 1 - Sep 24, 2023 | Oct 1 - Sep 24             | Oct 1 - Sept 30          |
| -- Degrees Fahrenheit --  |                                      |                                    |      | -- Number -- |   | -- Days --               | -- Inches of Precipitation -- |                            |                      |                            |                          |
| <b>North Coast</b>        |                                      |                                    |      |              |   |                          |                               |                            |                      |                            |                          |
| Eureka WFO                | 56                                   | -1                                 | 67   | 44           | 1,198   | 1,087                    | 127                           | 0.03                       | 39.74                | 40.19                      | 40.61                    |
| Ukiah                     | 66                                   | -3                                 | 88   | 45           | 3,500   | 3,355                    | 84                            | 0.00                       | 38.74                | 34.77                      | 35.07                    |
| Santa Rosa                | 63                                   | -3                                 | 79   | 47           | 2,734   | 2,728                    | 77                            | 0.00                       | 42.45                | 33.73                      | 34.00                    |
| Napa State Hospital       | 63                                   | -2                                 | 79   | 47           | 2,645   | 2,603                    | 72                            | 0.00                       | 29.56                | 20.20                      | 20.36                    |
| <b>Central Coast</b>      |                                      |                                    |      |              |   |                          |                               |                            |                      |                            |                          |
| San Francisco             | 65                                   | 0                                  | 74   | 56           | 2,581   | 2,605                    | 74                            | 0.00                       | 31.43                | 19.61                      | 19.77                    |
| San Jose                  | 68                                   | 0                                  | 81   | 55           | 3,183   | 3,302                    | 66                            | 0.00                       | 15.32                | 13.45                      | 13.58                    |
| Salinas                   | NA                                   | NA                                 | NA   | NA           | NA  | 2,445                    | NA                            | NA                         | NA                   | 12.56                      | 12.66                    |
| Monterey                  | 61                                   | -1                                 | 72   | 51           | 1,773   | 2,187                    | 67                            | 0.00                       | 23.83                | 16.21                      | 16.36                    |
| Paso Robles               | 64                                   | -5                                 | 86   | 42           | 3,276   | 3,378                    | 66                            | 0.00                       | 20.94                | 12.12                      | 12.24                    |
| <b>Sacramento Valley</b>  |                                      |                                    |      |              |   |                          |                               |                            |                      |                            |                          |
| Redding                   | 72                                   | -2                                 | 90   | 54           | 4,723   | 4,550                    | 79                            | 0.00                       | 40.94                | 33.38                      | 33.70                    |
| Red Bluff                 | 71                                   | -3                                 | 88   | 53           | 4,591   | 4,467                    | 74                            | 0.00                       | 27.15                | 23.04                      | 23.25                    |
| Orland                    | NA                                   | NA                                 | NA   | NA           | NA  | 4,171                    | NA                            | NA                         | NA                   | 21.31                      | 21.52                    |
| Oroville                  | 71                                   | -2                                 | 87   | 55           | 4,482   | 4,388                    | 73                            | 0.00                       | 26.88                | 25.60                      | 25.84                    |
| Marysville                | 69                                   | -3                                 | 85   | 53           | 4,115   | 4,098                    | 59                            | 0.00                       | 22.90                | 20.03                      | 20.21                    |
| Sacramento                | 71                                   | 0                                  | 86   | 56           | 4,142   | 3,847                    | 64                            | 0.00                       | 24.67                | 17.93                      | 18.10                    |
| <b>San Joaquin Valley</b> |                                      |                                    |      |              |   |                          |                               |                            |                      |                            |                          |
| Stockton                  | 69                                   | -4                                 | 86   | 51           | 4,008   | 4,274                    | 60                            | 0.00                       | 23.23                | 13.42                      | 13.53                    |
| Modesto                   | 70                                   | -3                                 | 84   | 54           | 3,970   | 4,341                    | 67                            | 0.00                       | 20.21                | 12.24                      | 12.34                    |
| Merced Macready           | 71                                   | -1                                 | 86   | 55           | 4,167   | 4,199                    | 56                            | 0.00                       | 19.47                | 11.78                      | 11.87                    |
| Madera                    | 71                                   | -3                                 | 90   | 52           | 4,280   | 4,431                    | 53                            | 0.00                       | 11.20                | 10.78                      | 10.86                    |
| Fresno                    | 73                                   | -3                                 | 89   | 59           | 4,946   | 4,934                    | 51                            | 0.00                       | 16.54                | 10.97                      | 11.05                    |
| Lemoore                   | 71                                   | -2                                 | 89   | 54           | 4,473   | 4,426                    | 41                            | 0.00                       | 8.11                 | 7.17                       | 7.23                     |
| Visalia                   | 72                                   | -1                                 | 87   | 56           | 4,635   | 4,410                    | 55                            | 0.00                       | 15.67                | 10.30                      | 10.37                    |
| Bakersfield               | 74                                   | -3                                 | 89   | 61           | 5,057   | 5,223                    | 52                            | 0.00                       | 10.45                | 6.35                       | 6.40                     |
| <b>Cascade Sierra</b>     |                                      |                                    |      |              |   |                          |                               |                            |                      |                            |                          |
| Alturas                   | 53                                   | -4                                 | 84   | 30           | 1,897   | 1,735                    | 102                           | 0.00                       | 17.20                | 11.59                      | 11.72                    |
| Mount Shasta              | 58                                   | -2                                 | 84   | 36           | 2,474   | 1,978                    | 105                           | 0.00                       | 46.88                | 37.47                      | 37.86                    |
| Blue Canyon               | 57                                   | -7                                 | 69   | 47           | 2,241   | 2,156                    | 106                           | 0.00                       | 91.76                | 62.22                      | 62.80                    |
| Yosemite Valley           | NA                                   | NA                                 | NA   | NA           | NA  | 2,681                    | NA                            | NA                         | NA                   | 40.19                      | 40.65                    |
| <b>South Coast</b>        |                                      |                                    |      |              |   |                          |                               |                            |                      |                            |                          |
| Santa Maria               | 62                                   | -2                                 | 74   | 48           | 2,096   | 2,549                    | 58                            | 0.00                       | 24.09                | 13.30                      | 13.42                    |
| Santa Barbara             | 64                                   | -1                                 | 77   | 53           | 2,892   | 2,786                    | 54                            | 0.00                       | 28.96                | 17.22                      | 17.38                    |
| Oxnard                    | 65                                   | -1                                 | 73   | 56           | 2,737   | 3,184                    | 57                            | 0.00                       | 23.13                | 12.90                      | 13.05                    |
| Riverside                 | 70                                   | -5                                 | 87   | 56           | 4,307   | 4,846                    | 57                            | 0.00                       | 15.69                | 9.36                       | 9.48                     |
| Los Angeles               | 68                                   | -2                                 | 79   | 61           | 3,315   | 3,844                    | 61                            | 0.00                       | 26.47                | 12.20                      | 12.33                    |
| San Diego                 | 69                                   | -2                                 | 75   | 61           | 3,630   | 4,192                    | 61                            | 0.04                       | 15.77                | 9.75                       | 9.87                     |
| <b>Southeast Interior</b> |                                      |                                    |      |              |   |                          |                               |                            |                      |                            |                          |
| Bishop                    | NA                                   | NA                                 | NA   | NA           | NA  | 3,504                    | NA                            | NA                         | NA                   | 4.80                       | 4.87                     |
| Daggett                   | 75                                   | -4                                 | 93   | 58           | 5,619   | 5,896                    | 27                            | 0.00                       | 2.90                 | 3.75                       | 3.80                     |
| Lancaster                 | 68                                   | -4                                 | 87   | 48           | 4,266   | 4,391                    | 33                            | 0.00                       | 10.70                | 6.78                       | 6.86                     |
| Thermal                   | 82                                   | -1                                 | 99   | 65           | 6,866   | 6,982                    | 17                            | 0.00                       | 1.59                 | 2.92                       | 2.98                     |
| Blythe                    | 84                                   | -2                                 | 100  | 64           | 7,285   | 7,548                    | 22                            | 0.00                       | 3.22                 | 3.52                       | 3.58                     |
| Imperial                  | 82                                   | -3                                 | 98   | 62           | 6,959   | 7,272                    | 14                            | 0.00                       | 2.35                 | 2.34                       | 2.39                     |

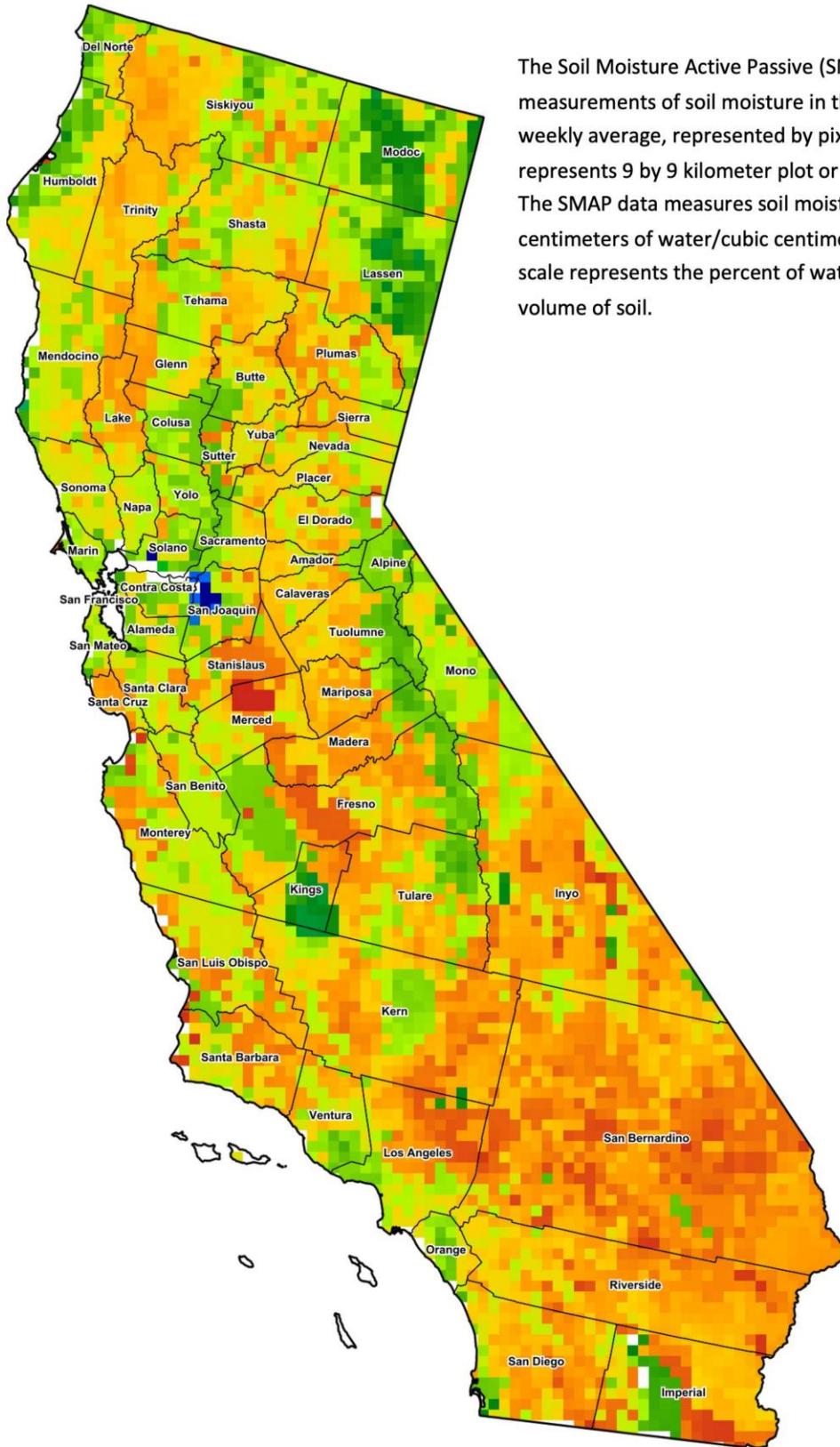
<sup>1</sup> Previously labeled as growing degree hours. The column title was corrected in the Sept 27, 2021 report.  
<sup>2</sup> Previously calculated with 60 degree base. This calculation was changed for the 2022 and later seasons.  
<sup>3</sup> Total number of days with precipitation events this season.  
<sup>4</sup> Rain or melted snow/ice.  
<sup>5</sup> Normal periods 1990-2020 used in departure from normal calculations.

Data retrieved from NOAA and NWS. Calculated by USDA NASS.  
 All rights reserved.

**Reservoir Data from the California Department of Water Resources**

| Reservoir             | Capacity  | September 24, 2023 |                     |                    | This Date Last Year |                     |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                       |           | Storage            | Percent of Capacity | Percent of Average | Storage             | Percent of Capacity |
|                       |           | <i>Acre Feet</i>   | <i>Percent</i>      | <i>Percent</i>     | <i>Acre Feet</i>    | <i>Percent</i>      |
| Shasta Lake           | 4,547,300 | 3,357,891          | 74                  | 130                | 1,521,242           | 33                  |
| Lake Oroville         | 3,537,400 | 2,650,959          | 75                  | 136                | 1,249,461           | 35                  |
| Trinity Lake          | 2,443,800 | 1,287,794          | 53                  | 85                 | 561,088             | 23                  |
| New Melones Reservoir | 2,413,000 | 1,899,022          | 79                  | 141                | 617,503             | 26                  |
| San Luis Reservoir    | 2,057,200 | 1,658,009          | 81                  | 195                | 569,769             | 28                  |
| Don Pedro Reservoir   | 4,547,300 | 1,729,808          | 85                  | 123                | 1,069,933           | 53                  |

Source: [cdec.water.ca.gov/reportapp/javareports?name=DLYHYDRO](https://cdec.water.ca.gov/reportapp/javareports?name=DLYHYDRO)



The Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) provides measurements of soil moisture in the root zone as a weekly average, represented by pixels. Each pixel represents 9 by 9 kilometer plot or about 20,000 acres. The SMAP data measures soil moisture in cubic centimeters of water/cubic centimeters of soil. The scale represents the percent of water in a given volume of soil.



**Drought Conditions from the U.S. Drought Monitor as of 09/19/2023**

| Time         | Percent of Land in Drought Rating |       |      |       |       |       | Drought Severity (DSCI) |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------------------------|
|              | None                              | D0    | D1   | D2    | D3    | D4    |                         |
| Current      | 93.53                             | 6.23  | 0.24 | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 7                       |
| Last Week    | 93.54                             | 6.24  | 0.22 | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 7                       |
| 3 Months Ago | 72.32                             | 23.05 | 4.63 | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 32                      |
| One Year Ago | 0.00                              | 0.24  | 5.70 | 53.15 | 24.34 | 16.57 | 351                     |

The U.S. Drought Monitor is jointly produced by the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. [droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?CA](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?CA)