



California Crop Progress & Condition

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture
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WEEK ENDING: March 31, 2024
RELEASED: April 1, 2024

FREQUENCY: Weekly
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WEATHER

Average low temperatures for California ranged from 9 to 39 in the mountains, 26 to 57 in the desert, 37 to 55 along the coast, and 39 to 51 in the Central Valley. Average high temperatures for the state ranged from 30 to 58 in the mountains, 50 to 74 along the coast, 50 to 84 in the desert, and 53 to 76 in the Central Valley. From the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), snowpack water content in the Northern Sierra was 33.9 inches compared to 56.3 inches this date last year; Central Sierra was 27.5 inches compared to 62.3 inches this date last year; Southern Sierra was 20.5 inches compared to 61.8 inches this date last year.

FIELD CROPS

Across the state, ground preparations and planting were temporarily halted due to wet soil conditions. When conditions allowed, **cotton** fields and equipment were prepared for planting in the San Joaquin Valley. In the Central Valley, winter grain heading progressed well, with some fields nearing maturity. Safflower was planted when conditions allowed. Chickpeas were treated with fungicides to protect from blight. **Alfalfa** grew well with the warmer temperatures and some fields were cut and baled. In San Luis Obispo County lodging was observed in winter grain fields due to excessive rain during the week.

FRUIT CROPS

Persistent rain and low temperatures have impacted fruit crops in various ways. Deciduous crops started to push foliage with some blooming present. **Grape** vineyards were cleaned and new growth was observed. **Plum, peach, prune, nectarine, and cherry** orchards were blooming and fungicides were applied. Navel **oranges, pummelos, lemons, and mandarins** continued to be harvested. Citrus trees were treated for pests. **Olive** trees were sprayed for weeds, pruned, and shaped for the upcoming season. **Blueberry** harvest began. Rain caused **strawberry** growers to strip fruit. **Avocado** harvest began in Ventura County.

NUT CROPS

Almond trees continued to bloom and new growth was seen in orchards. Non-pollinated nut drop was observed. Wet weather during the last couple of months resulted in some brown rot and jacket rot. Navel orangeworm traps were placed and fungicides were applied in almond orchards. **Walnuts** were sprayed for weeds and bud swelling occurred. **Pistachio** bloom began in some areas.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Across northern California, cool wet weather delayed both planting and **tomato** growth. In Stanislaus County, **garlic, broccoli, and cabbage** continued to develop, and **watermelon** fields were planted. In Tulare County, **radish** fields neared harvest, and broccoli and cabbage continued to develop. **Lettuce, onions, peas, and garlic** were planted. Broccoli, **cauliflower, celery, kale, and lettuce** were harvested along the Central Coast. Cooler temperatures hampered growth rates and field activities in the Coastal Valley region. **Carrots** were harvested in the Imperial Valley and growers were not affected by recent rains.

LIVESTOCK

Rangeland and non-irrigated pasture were green with new growth of grasses and forbs. Despite the week's cooler than normal temperatures across most of the state, the wet and warm conditions earlier in the year stimulated development. Irrigated pasture was in good to excellent condition. When weather permitted, bees were active in stone fruit orchards and late blooming almond orchards. Some sheep were used for weed control in orchards. Cattle grazed on lower elevation range.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING MARCH 31, 2024

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 50 °F BASE		RAIN DAYS ¹	PRECIPITATION ²			
	Average for Week Ending Mar 31, 2024	Departure from Normal ³	High	Low	This Year	Normal Year ³	This Season	This Week	This Season	Normal Season ³	Normal Year ³
					Jan 1 - Mar 31, 2024	Jan 1 - Mar 31, 2024	Oct 1 - Mar 31, 2024	Week Ending Mar 31, 2024	Oct 1 - Mar 31, 2024	Oct 1 - Mar 31	Oct 1 - Sept 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Days --	-- Inches of Precipitation --			
North Coast											
Eureka WFO	50	0	60	39	166	0	97	1.05	41.93	33.57	40.61
Ukiah	52	-1	68	39	253	118	78	1.40	36.10	30.76	35.07
Santa Rosa	52	-2	66	39	255	147	70	1.52	35.78	30.13	34.00
Napa State Hospital	52	-2	64	37	260	134	61	0.91	18.28	17.98	20.36
Central Coast											
San Francisco	55	-1	64	48	465	351	62	0.96	18.42	17.68	19.77
San Jose	56	-1	68	45	581	350	59	0.80	15.60	11.82	13.58
Salinas	53	-3	63	43	438	349	53	1.13	13.00	11.17	12.66
Monterey	53	-1	60	43	330	365	63	0.99	15.14	14.58	16.36
Paso Robles	51	-4	67	37	227	144	44	1.29	16.32	11.14	12.24
Sacramento Valley											
Redding	54	-2	70	41	379	185	67	1.50	28.34	28.08	33.70
Red Bluff	53	-3	67	41	291	202	59	1.22	19.49	19.71	23.25
Orland	54	-2	67	41	327	211	54	0.07	19.11	18.30	21.52
Oroville	55	-2	68	44	418	248	55	0.58	18.13	22.43	25.84
Marysville	54	-2	67	42	420	206	57	1.04	16.80	17.44	20.21
Sacramento	55	0	68	42	443	183	60	0.45	14.96	15.87	18.10
San Joaquin Valley											
Stockton	55	-3	67	41	418	288	52	0.36	11.76	11.66	13.53
Modesto	54	-4	66	41	321	295	56	0.76	15.18	10.47	12.34
Merced	53	-3	68	40	373	215	51	0.45	13.07	10.03	11.87
Madera	56	-1	70	40	398	269	48	0.30	8.32	9.30	10.86
Fresno	57	-2	71	46	516	326	43	0.66	8.29	9.27	11.05
Lemoore	56	-2	74	39	393	248	32	0.69	5.92	6.27	7.23
Visalia	56	-2	72	42	487	263	43	0.74	8.58	8.84	10.37
Bakersfield	56	-4	76	43	512	417	37	0.24	5.95	5.45	6.40
Cascade Sierra											
Alturas	40	-1	52	28	2	0	63	0.61	8.09	7.38	11.72
Mount Shasta	42	-2	58	29	11	0	75	1.35	35.96	30.78	37.86
Blue Canyon	35	-7	45	30	29	0	75	2.81	53.44	51.61	62.80
Yosemite Valley	32	-15	45	26	9	0	67	1.97	29.91	32.81	40.65
South Coast											
Santa Maria	52	-4	65	39	367	405	47	0.86	14.53	11.96	13.42
Santa Barbara	55	-2	65	43	603	417	38	2.42	24.19	15.84	17.38
Oxnard	55	-3	63	45	596	649	36	1.04	20.59	11.85	13.05
Riverside	55	-6	72	40	549	688	35	1.15	12.20	8.41	9.48
Los Angeles	56	-4	64	48	675	783	35	2.15	19.10	11.22	12.33
San Diego	58	-4	67	50	756	894	40	1.63	12.19	8.68	9.87
Southeast Interior											
Bishop	47	-5	69	26	50	20	17	0.08	4.44	3.93	4.87
Daggett	56	-6	78	38	448	398	19	0.31	3.98	2.85	3.80
Lancaster	51	-4	71	36	135	127	28	1.11	7.80	6.05	6.86
Thermal	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	916	NA	NA	NA	2.31	2.98
Blythe	64	-4	83	49	886	974	13	0.03	2.53	2.45	3.58
Imperial	64	-4	84	46	954	982	4	0.00	0.33	1.80	2.39

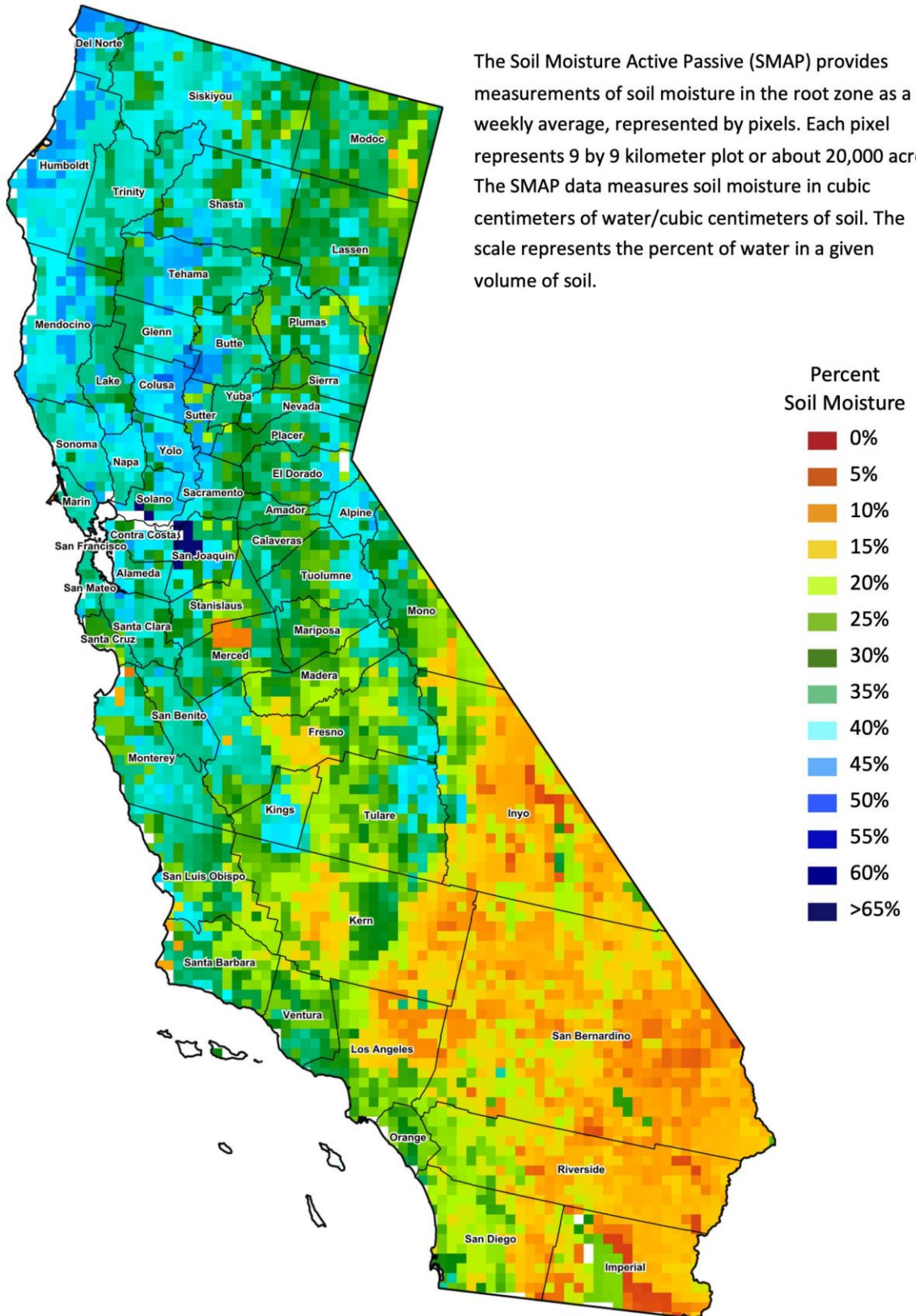
¹ Total number of days with precipitation events this season.
² Rain or melted snow/ice.
³ Normal periods 1990-2020 used in departure from normal calculations.

Data retrieved from NOAA and NWS. Calculated by USDA NASS.
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Reservoir Data from the California Department of Water Resources

Reservoir	Capacity	March 31, 2024			This Date Last Year	
		Storage	Percent of Capacity	Percent of Average	Storage	Percent of Capacity
	<i>Acre Feet</i>	<i>Acre Feet</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Acre Feet</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Shasta Lake	4,547,300	4,194,200	92	116	3,770,868	83
Lake Oroville	3,537,400	3,109,468	88	124	2,908,434	82
Trinity Lake	2,443,800	1,958,212	80	109	910,233	37
New Melones Reservoir	2,413,000	2,007,878	84	135	1,393,412	58
San Luis Reservoir	2,057,200	1,485,252	73	84	1,996,029	98
Don Pedro Reservoir	4,547,300	1,691,416	83	111	1,758,856	87

Source: cdec.water.ca.gov/reportapp/javareports?name=DLYHYDRO



Drought Conditions from the U.S. Drought Monitor as of 3/26/2024

Time	Percent of Land in Drought Rating						Drought Severity (DSCI)
	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4	
Current	95.46	4.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5
Last Week	95.46	4.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5
3 Months Ago	96.65	3.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3
One Year Ago	55.34	16.55	26.17	1.95	0.00	0.00	75

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