

2010 GROWING SEASON WEATHER SUMMARY

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Quick Glance of the 2010 growing season

	Max Temperatures	Precipitation	Degree Days
March	Normal	Below Average	50-100 below normal
April	Below normal	Above Average	80-180 below normal
May	Below normal	Above Average	130-160 below normal
June	Normal	Below Average	Near Normal
July	Below normal	None	60-100 below normal
August	Below normal	None	60-100 below normal
September	Above normal	Below Average	Near Normal
October	Below normal	Above Average	30-70 below normal

Monthly Summaries for 2010

March: Temperatures were slightly below average for the month with most areas receiving frost on 9 mornings. On the 9th and 11th widespread frost was reported with most minimums in the upper 20's to lower 30's. On the other 7 morning's (3rd, 4th, 10th, 14th, 15th, 26th, and 27th), minimum temperatures were mainly in the lower to mid 30's. Rain fell on 9 to 11 days, which is about normal for March with amounts generally in the 70 to 90% range of normal. Outside of the 3rd when amounts around an inch were observed precipitation events were on the light side. Degree day totals were below average due mainly to cooler than average nights.

April: Temperatures were below average for the month with maximums running 4 to 6 degrees below average, and minimums 2 to 4 degrees below. Frost only occurred on three mornings, (3rd, 5th, and 6th) with minimums mainly in the lower to mid 30's. Rain fell on 8 to 9 days, which is above the normal of 6 days in April. Rainfall amounts where 200 to 300 percent of normal with over 5 inches in the northern areas. Significant precipitation amounts where observed on the 4th, 10th, and 11th with lighter amounts on the other days. Degree day totals were well below average for the month, under 15 in all reporting locations.

May: Cooler and wetter than average conditions continued in May with maximum temperatures running 5 to 7 degrees below normal. Minimums ran 2 to 4 degrees below average for the month with frost reported only on the 11th, (lower to mid 30's in the valleys). Rain fell on 5 to 7 days, which is a little above the average of 4 days for May. However, rainfall amounts were generally twice the normal for the month. The wettest day was on the 27th when half an inch to a little over an inch of rain fell. Degree days where again well below average for the month, running about 150 below normal in most locations.

June: Temperatures and degree day totals were very close to the long term averages in June as the normal summertime pattern settled in over the region. Outside of a few isolated showers in the foothills early in the month the weather was dry. There were no significant heat spikes with only a couple of days reaching 100 degrees in the northern areas (27th and 28th).

July: Cooler than average weather returned in July as below average sea surface temperatures developed off our coast. Maximum temperatures were 4 to 5 degrees below average in most locations with minimums running pretty close to average for July. Like June temperatures only reached 100 degrees on a couple of afternoons (15th, and 16th) in the northern areas with 90's elsewhere. Degree day totals were well below average by 50 to 100 in most locations due mainly to the cooler than average days. No precipitation was reported anywhere in Napa or Sonoma County.

August: Not much changed as cooler than average maximum temperatures ran 3 to 4 degrees below average with near average minimum temperatures. No precipitation was reported anywhere in the North Bay Area, per the normal for August. Despite a cooler than average month there was one significant heat spike during a three day period (23rd to 25th). On the 23rd temperatures ranged from the mid 90's to a little over 100 degrees with widespread temperatures in the 105 to 111 degree range on the 24th. Temperatures dropped back to the 95 to 105 degree range on the 25th as an afternoon sea breeze returned. The weather on the 24th was unusual for the number of hours over 100 degrees due to little or no breeze in the valleys.

September: For the first month during the entire growing season temperatures were actually above average by 2 to 4 degrees. As was the case all Summer, minimum temperatures were near long term averages. Dry weather continued outside of some light showers on the 19th, affecting mainly Sonoma and northern Napa counties. A minor heat spike hit the area on the 1st and 2nd with temperatures in the mid 90's to a little over 100 degrees in most areas. A more significant heat spike occurred from the 26th to 29th when temperatures pushed into the 95 to 105 degree range. Degree day totals were just a little above normal for the month due to slightly cooler than average nights.

October: The first half of the month was dry and warm with temperatures peaking from the 11th to 15th in the 90's in most locations. However, with cool and unsettled weather during the second half of the month temperatures actually ended up below long term averages. After some light rain on the 17th a stronger upper level trough moved inland on the 21st to 24th bringing the season's first significant precipitation. Rainfall amounts on the 23rd were just under an inch with over 2 inches in most locations on the 24th. Once cooler air settled into the region behind the system some patchy frost developed on the morning of the 27th. Rainfall amounts for the month were well above average due to the strong event on the 23rd-24th and some weaker events as the month came to an end. Precipitation fell on 8 to 9 days compared to the normal of 3 to 4 days. Degree day totals were generally 30 to 70 below average for the month, due mostly to the cool weather during the latter half of the month.

Snapshots of the previous 2 growing seasons

2009 Growing season

	Max Temperatures	Precipitation	Degree Days
March	Normal	Below average	Normal
April	Above normal	Below average	90-130 above normal
May	Normal	Above average	Normal
June	Below normal	Normal	40 to 90 below normal
July	Normal	Normal	Normal
August	Normal	Normal	Normal
September	Above normal	Below average	30-100 above normal
October	Below normal	Above average	50-100 below normal

2008 Growing season

	Max Temperatures	Precipitation	Degree Days
March	Normal	Below average	Normal
April	Normal	Below average	Normal
May	Normal	Below average	Normal
June	Above normal	Below average	Normal
July	Normal	Normal	Normal
August	Normal	Normal	Normal
September	Normal	Below average	Normal
October	Above normal	Normal	Normal

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