

2012 GROWING SEASON WEATHER SUMMARY

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Quick Glance of the 2012 growing season

	Max Temperatures	Precipitation	Degree Days
March	Below Normal	Above Average	90-120 below normal
April	Normal	Normal	20-40 below normal
May	Normal	Below Average	Normal
June	Below Normal	Below Average	60-100 below normal
July	Below Normal	None	60-100 below normal
August	Normal	None	20-90 below normal
September	Above normal	None	70-120 below normal
October	Normal	Normal	Normal

Monthly Summaries for 2012

March: Cooler and wetter than normal conditions prevailed for the month. Precipitation fell on 11 to 16 days, from South to North, compared to the normal of 8 to 9 days. Precipitation amounts were 2.5 to 3 times the long term averages with over 10 inches in the northern areas. Frost occurred on 8 mornings, (3rd, 4th, 5th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 19th, and 23rd) with minimums mostly in the lower to mid 30's. After some light rain on the 1st, the weather was dry through the 10th with high pressure over the region. There were two major wet periods during the month, from the 11th to 17th and again from the 22nd through the 31st. There were two significant rainfall events, (13th and 27th) when precipitation totals exceeded 3 inches in some areas.

April: Temperatures and precipitation amounts were pretty close to normal for the month. Most precipitation fell during two periods, from the 9th to 13th, and again from the 23^d to 26th. Some spotty light rainfall amounts were also observed on the 3rd. Frost occurred on only 3 mornings, (5th, 6th, and 7th) with minimums mostly in the lower to mid 30's. The season's first heat spike occurred on the 20th and 21st when temperatures reached the upper 80's to lower 90's in most locations. There were no outstanding rainfall events, although rainfall amounts over an inch were recorded on the 12th.

May: Temperatures were pretty close to average for the month but rain only fell on one day. On the 3rd less than a tenth of an inch fell over most of the region from a weak front. Normal rainfall amounts for the month are in the 1.5 to 3 inch range, usually falling on 5 to 6 days. No frost was observed with the normal temperature fluctuations from 70's to lower 90's prevailing. There were not any unusual heat spikes or periods of cool weather observed during the month.

June: Temperatures were a little cooler than average for the month, generally by only 2 or 3 degrees which accounted for most of the degree day deficit. There were a couple of weak precipitation events, mainly produced from a strong on shore flow of marine air on the 4th and on the 22nd. Temperatures did spike up over 100 degrees in most locations on the 16th with readings as high as 109 degrees. Otherwise temperatures were in the normal range of 70's to 90's through the month.

July: Temperatures were just a little below average for the month with no precipitation reported. There were no significant heat events although temperatures pushed up to or a little above 100 degrees in the northern areas on a few afternoons. Otherwise daytime highs were mostly in the 80's and 90's. A strong push of marine air dropped temperatures into the mid 60's to mid 70's on the 15th and 16th with limited afternoon clearing.

August: Temperatures were near normal for the month with no precipitation observed. There was a period of hot weather from the 8th through the 11th with temperatures pushing over 100 degrees in the northern areas. Temperatures peaked on the 8th and 9th with when maximums reached 105 degrees in the Cloverdale area. A couple of locations also reached 100 degrees on the 13th. Otherwise temperatures were mostly in the 80's and 90's in the valleys with 70's and 80's prevailing in areas near the Bay and in Southern Sonoma County. Nighttime temperatures were cooler than average which was reflected in the degree day deficits of up to 90 degrees.

September: Dry weather continued for the entire month with warmer than average maximum temperatures and cooler than average minimums. Temperatures in the usually cooler spots dropped below 40 degrees on several mornings despite the warm afternoons in the 80's and 90's. There were no significant heat spikes during the month or periods of cool weather as the weather pattern remained remarkably stable for the entire month. Degree day totals were below average despite the warmer than average daytime temperatures. This was due to much cooler than average minimum temperatures.

October: The month started out hot with temperatures reaching or exceeding 100 degrees in most locations on the 1st and 2nd. The highest readings were around 105 degrees both days near Cloverdale and in the northern Napa Valley. Overall, temperatures for the month were close to normal with a strong marine push dropping temperatures into the upper 50's and 60's in most areas on the 11th and 12th. Otherwise temperatures were in the normal range of 70's and 80's for most of the month. The first rainfall of the season occurred on the 22nd producing moderate rainfall amounts. The weather remained cooler and unsettled through the 24th before high pressure started rebuilding over the region. Another weather system moved inland on the evening of the 31st producing moderate rainfall amounts. It was enough to push totals for the month up to the long term averages.

Summary: Overall it was another cooler than average growing season, but to a lesser extent than the previous two seasons. The sea surface temperatures this season were neutral, as opposed to the La Nina pattern of the last two seasons when ocean temperatures were cooler than average along the West Coast.

A review of the previous 3 growing seasons

2011 Growing season – La Nina pattern

	Max Temperatures	Precipitation	Degree Days
March	Below Normal	Above Average	40-100 below normal
April	Below Normal	Below Average	40-80 below normal
May	Below Normal	Above Average	120-170 below normal
June	Below Normal	Above Average	80-140 below normal
July	Below Normal	None	40-80 below normal
August	Near Normal	None	50-100 below normal
September	Above Average	None	0-40 above normal
October	Near Normal	Near Average	20-60 below normal

2010 Growing season – La Nina pattern

	Max Temperatures	Precipitation	Degree Days
March	Normal	Below Average	30-70 below normal
April	Below normal	Above Average	60-160 below normal
May	Below normal	Above Average	130-190 below normal
June	Normal	Below Average	0-50 below normal
July	Below normal	None	60-100 below normal
August	Below normal	None	60-130 below normal
September	Above normal	Below Average	Near Normal
October	Below normal	Above Average	40-80 below normal

2009 Growing season – Neutral pattern

	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

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