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# California

## Despite El Nino promises, October to be dry

By TIM HEARDEN  
Capital Press

SACRAMENTO — El Nino may be bringing a wet winter, but October is gearing up to be mostly dry throughout California's Central Valley.

Long-range forecasts from AccuWeather envision mostly sunny days with afternoon highs in the 70s and 80s through Halloween, with a few cloudy days and perhaps a stray drizzle sprinkled in.

"Right now we're in a

transition period, so it's really tough to say if it's a trend," said Nathan Owen, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Sacramento. "We're kind of on a roller coaster."

The outlook comes as California began a new water year on Oct. 1, closing the books on a fourth straight year of drought and hoping to not suffer through a fifth. Most areas finished the 2014-2015 water year with much less precipitation than normal and averaging warmer-than-normal temperatures,

notes the state Department of Water Resources.

For instance, Redding finished the water year with 23.63 inches of rainfall — well below the 34.56 inches it normally receives, according to the National Weather Service. Fresno measured a meager 6.97 inches of precipitation for the year, far below its normal 11.48 inches.

The low rainfall totals and nearly nonexistent snowpack caused California's major reservoirs to start the fall with well-below-normal stor-

age. Those include Shasta Lake (59 percent of normal for this time of year), Lake Oroville (49 percent), Trinity Lake (33 percent), Folsom Lake (32 percent) and New Melones Reservoir (20 percent), the DWR notes.

Federal forecasters said recently they are now confident that a strong El Nino will boost rainfall in parts of California this winter — perhaps as far north as Sacramento. They said there's a 95 percent chance that El Nino conditions will persist until

next spring.

However, the federal Climate Prediction Center's most recent three-month outlook foresees higher-than-average precipitation in Southern California only, with equal chances of above- or below-average precipitation for the middle of the state. Far Northern California and the Pacific Northwest figure to be drier than normal, according to the outlook.

The big question for scientists is whether the developing El Nino will be strong

enough to displace "the blob," another mass of warm water in the northern Pacific that set up the stubborn high-pressure ridge that has diverted storms away from California and caused the four-year drought.

A relatively dry October would help growers finish their harvests, which are ongoing for rice and other field crops as well as olives and wine grapes and just starting for walnuts and persimmons, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

## Bumper crop produces record olive oil yields in California



Tim Hearden/Capital Press

Dylan Stein, left, of Pasture 42 in Guinda, Calif., helps a customer at an olive oil-tasting booth at a recent farmers' market in Davis, Calif. Growers of olives for oil are seeing a bumper crop this year.

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DAVIS, Calif. — With their harvest underway, growers of olives for oil are finding a bumper crop as the trees rebound in an "on" year for the alternate-bearing fruit.

The California Olive Oil Council is predicting a record yield of 4 million gallons this year, a huge jump from the 2.4 million gallons produced in 2014.

"Olives for oil are a very drought-tolerant crop, so we didn't really have any doubts (because of) the drought," said Lisa Pollack, the Berkeley-based council's marketing director. "Last year we had some inclement weather conditions. ... This year has just gone really well for production."

Freezes, a wet spring and wind pressure hampered the crop last year, spoiling oil producers' hopes of matching the 3.5 million gallons achieved in 2013. But the low yields enabled trees to rest and come roaring back this year.

At Pasture 42, a farm in

Guinda, Calif., yields this year are up, said Dylan Stein, who was operating a tasting booth for the farm at a recent farmers' market in Davis.

"Last year was a little slow for us," he said. "It's usually one year off and one on, and this is an 'on' year."

Gary Pepe, who grows a small plot of olives for oil in Happy Valley, Calif., said this year's crop is "OK." But he, too, expects the season to go better than it did in 2014.

"Most of my crop was lost last year," Pepe said. "My machine broke down, so a lot of it just fell to the ground."

Another factor in this year's expectation of record yields is that acreage of olives for oil is still on the rise, although not as briskly as it was several years ago, Pollack said. About 3,500 new acres are planted each year, she said. As of January, there were more than 35,000 acres total in California, she said.

The bumper crop comes as table olive growers are expecting a 62 percent boost in yields from last year. This year's table olive crop is ex-

pected to weigh in at 60,000 tons, up significantly from last year's 37,120 tons, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

California only produces about 4 percent of the olive oil on the world market, but it's a lucrative crop for growers as the Golden State is becoming known for having top-quality extra-virgin oil.

For one thing, the olive oil council's more than 400 members have their oil tested each year and receive the council's seal, and last year a state olive oil commission was established to set a quality standard at the state level, Pollack said.

The industry has been working in recent years to differentiate California extra-virgin oil from imports, some of which are of poor quality, producers say.

"Prices are good," Pollack said. "It's more of trying to level the playing field in the supermarket. Until there are national standards, there's a mix of things on the shelf. ... I think there's more and more consumer knowledge (about quality) every year."

## FALL INTO SAVINGS

0% for 3 years **-OR-** 0.9% for 5 years!

### TRACTORS



- JD 6115R, 753 hrs, Premium Cab, IVT trans, MFWD, Autotractor ready, 2 remotes... ~~\$103,300~~ **\$103,300** Salem, #799261
- Case IH 5185T, 5813 hrs 325hp, 4WD, PS trans, 3pt, 4 remotes, 14.9R-46 duals... **\$96,000** Tekoa, #107500
- Case IH 5185T, 7627 hrs, 450hp, 4WD, PS trans, front & rear weights, 800/70R-38 duals... **\$99,500** Tekoa, #100728
- JD 9560RT, 88 hrs, 36" Tracks, 5 Remotes, 1000 PTO, HID Lights... **\$425,000** Fall River Mills, #902075
- JD 8285R, 4 Axle, PS Trans, 4 Remotes, 800/70-38 Duals... **SOLD** ~~\$218,000~~ McMinnville, #72817
- Case IH JX1095N, 2885 hrs, Narrow Cab, MFWD, 3 pt, 540 PTO, front weight pkg... **\$27,000** McMinnville, #HJC0364490
- JD 4120, 2201 hrs, MFWD, ROPS, Reverser Trans... **\$12,000** Hillsboro, #810273
- Kubota M9960, 150 hrs, Open Station, ROPS, MFWD, LA1353 Loader... **\$45,900** Roseburg, #54397
- JD 9630, 2138 hrs, 4WD, PS trans, Auto Track ready, 800/70R-38 duals, HID lights... **\$199,000** Tekoa, #18545
- JD 9620, 4435 hrs, 4WD, PS trans, 800/70R-38 duals, 4 remotes, fresh engine... **\$180,000** Moscow, #30510
- JD 9320, 5247 hrs, 4WD, PS trans, 800/70R-38 duals, 4 remotes, Bareback... **\$125,000** Colfax, #31662
- JD 9300, 7119 hrs, 4WD, PS Trans, 3pt, 1000 PTO, 620/42 Duals, 5 Remotes... **\$109,900** Salem, #30202
- JD 8630R, 773 hrs, ILS Axle, IVT Trans, 4 Remotes, 620/70R-42 Duals... **\$285,000** Harrisburg, #72619A
- JD 7280R, 256 hrs, Cab, IVT Trans, TLS Front Axle, Set up for loader... **\$230,500** Madras, #13029
- JD 8770, 14,749 hrs, 4WD, 3 remotes, bare back, 24 spd. Power Quad Trans, duals... **\$33,000** Tekoa, #3214
- JD 9200, 7379 hrs, 4WD, 4 Remotes, 20.8-42 Duals, Quad Range Trans... **\$79,900** Tekoa, #30476
- JD 8770, 7675 hrs, 4WD, Quad Range Trans, 20.8-42 Duals, 3 Remotes... **\$50,000** Walla Walla, #4681
- JD 9400, 7644 hrs, 4WD, PS Trans, 1000 PTO, 710-42 Duals, 4 Remotes... **\$105,900** Tangent, #41372
- JD 8630R, 957 hrs, IVT Trans, ILS Axle, 4 Remotes, 620/70R-46 Duals... **\$288,000** ~~\$269,000~~ Donald, #71414
- JD 9560R, 222 hrs, 4WD, Dual 800/70R-38, PS Trans, Auto Track Ready... **\$374,000** Walla Walla, #7998
- JD 9300, 9631 hrs, 4WD, 24 spd Trans, 3 PT, No PTO, 4 Remotes... **\$61,500** McMinnville, #40643

### SEEDING EQUIPMENT



- JD 455, 50' Rahco Hitch 2-Section Folding Drill, Plain Grain, 7.5" Spacing... ~~\$102,500~~ **\$99,500** Colfax, #740162
- Case IH 800, 60' Precision Air Drill w/Liquid Fertilizer... **\$106,000** ~~\$95,000~~ Tekoa, #4012
- Case IH PXT600, 30' Row Between Configuration, 3-Section, 12" Spacing... **\$37,000** Moscow, #J0014812

- JD 455, 35' 3-Sections Folding, 7.5" Spacing 2x13 Press Wheels... ~~\$39,000~~ **\$29,900** Tekoa, #1519
- GP 1018ST, 35' 3-Section Folding, 10" Spacing, Hoe Openers, 21' Press Wheel... ~~\$7,800~~ **\$6,000** Pomeroy, #GP1036H

### TILLAGE



- Kuhn HRB-302D Packer Roller, 9'10" working width... ~~\$14,000~~ **\$13,000** Madras, #H3329
- Kuhn HR4504 Maxi Pack Roller, 15' working width... **\$20,900** Madras, #AO259
- JD 2210, 32' Flex Field Cultivator, 9" Sweeps, 3-Bar Con. Harrow, Never Used... **\$61,900** Hillsboro, #760005
- JD 510, 17' 10" rigid frame disk ripper, 7-shank, spring trip standards... **\$17,000** Tekoa, #OX003232
- Wilrich V957DD Disk Ripper, 14' Wilrich disk ripper, 9 shanks... **\$26,500** Merrill, #457580
- Frontier TM5124 Disk, 24' Frontier Tandem folding disk... **\$53,000** McMinnville, #101
- JD 2625 Disk, 31' JD Tandem folding disk... **\$64,500** Colfax, #750111

### COMBINES

- JD 9860 3046 hrs, Hillco Leveler, Duals, 4WD... ~~\$215,500~~ **\$200,000** Moscow, #710792
- Case IH 7010, 1120 hrs, Level Land, 2016 BPU platform... **\$140,000** Tangent, #202887
- JD 9650STS, 3343 hrs, Small Grain, 914P BPU Platform, straw chopper... **\$87,000** Tangent, #685747
- Case IH 2588, 1809 hrs, small grain, hillside, 30' cutting platform... ~~\$210,000~~ **\$199,999** Walla Walla, #303583
- JD 9650STS, 2246 hrs, Small Grain, 914P BPU Platform, straw chopper... **\$92,500** McMinnville, #685945
- JD 9650STS, 3456 hrs, Small Grain, 914P BPU Platform, straw chopper... **\$80,000** Tangent, #686102
- JD 9650STS, 3557 hrs, Small Grain, straw chopper... **\$99,950** Harrisburg, #686910
- JD 9680, 881 hrs, 35% Rahco Leveler, 635F Platform, Stoess Cart... **\$436,300** Four Lakes, #755668
- JD 9680, 1246 hrs, Rahco Leveler, 4WD, 635F Platform & Cart... **\$486,525** Tekoa, #746303
- JD 9690, 824 hrs, 35% Rahco Leveler, 635F Platform, Stoess Cart... **\$578,000** Colfax, #745738
- JD 9750STS, 2500 hrs, Hillco Leveler, Small Grain, Button Tread Duals... **\$131,000** Colfax, #686502
- JD 9750STS, 3230 hrs, Rahco Leveler, 4WD, 930R Platform and Cart... **\$130,000** Colfax, #691057
- JD 9770STS, 1462 hrs, Rahco 35% Leveler, 4WD, Small Grain... **\$295,000** Colfax, #730456
- JD 9860STS, 2727 hrs, Rahco 35% Leveler, 30' 630R Platform, Stoess Cart... **\$249,000** Colfax, #710739

### UTILITY VEHICLES

- JD 855D, 1011 hrs, Diesel, 4x4, Front Bumper, Hyd. Bed Lift, Canopy, Bed Liner... **\$10,625** Tangent, #BM040482
- JD 850D, 688 hrs, Diesel, 4x4, Winch, Hyd. Dump, Front Bumper, All Terrain Tires... **\$9,800** Four Lakes, #32453
- JD 850D, 337 hrs, Diesel, 4x4, Hyd. Dump, Knobby Tires, Olive & Black... **\$9,400** McMinnville, #DT020061
- JD HPX, Diesel, 4x4, Canopy, All Terrain Tires, Front Bumper... **\$9,800** Salem, #DM110816
- Kubota RTV900, 330 hrs, Diesel, 4x4, Canopy, All Terrain Tires, Grill Guard, Hyd. Dump... **\$7,999** Moscow, #70627



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