

---

# The California Weather Connection

---



October 19, 2010

Volume 285

---

## Rain, Rain Go Away!

Plants need water to grow. Rain and snow, melted from the mountains, give plants the water they need. Sometimes too much rain or snow falls.

This happened in California's Great Central Valley. The valley is called the "nation's salad bowl." Farmers grow many kinds of fruits and vegetables there.

In 1994, rain and melted snow filled the farm fields. The water covered many plants. Lettuce and other crops were ruined.

Too much rain can hurt the fruit in trees, too. Bing cherries break open if there is too much rain. Growers can lose their crop if it rains for too many days.



Too much water from rains or floods can hurt crops

## Rain, Rain Come Today!

Too little rain can also hurt crops. An area may not get as much rain or snow as it needs. Months and



Too little rain can hurt crops. If there is not enough water, the plants cannot grow.

years go by without the needed rain. People call this a drought.

California has had many long droughts. Without rain or snow, the ground dries and cracks. There is not enough water to help the plants grow. Many crops are lost.

Farmers are working to find ways to grow crops with less water. Some are trying new kinds of seeds and plants. Others are trying to use less water to irrigate the land.



# Save the Earth!

Please don't waste water—turn it off.

Sponsored by your  
local Utility District



## Brrr! It's Cold Outside!

Other weather can also hurt crops. California grows more fruit than any other state. Sometimes the air is too cold for the oranges and lemons. Freezing temperatures can ruin the crop and hurt the trees. In 1990, this happened in the San



If the air is too cold, it can freeze crops and hurt fruit trees.

Joaquin Valley. The cold air stayed for days. Growers lost their whole citrus crop.

Cold air brought more trouble in 2007. Growers worked hard to keep their trees warm. They used fans to keep air by the trees warm. They picked as much of their fruit as they could. They knew the cold could turn the inside of the oranges to mush. The cold air lasted for too many days. The growers lost much of their citrus crop. Many of the trees were hurt.



# Wind!

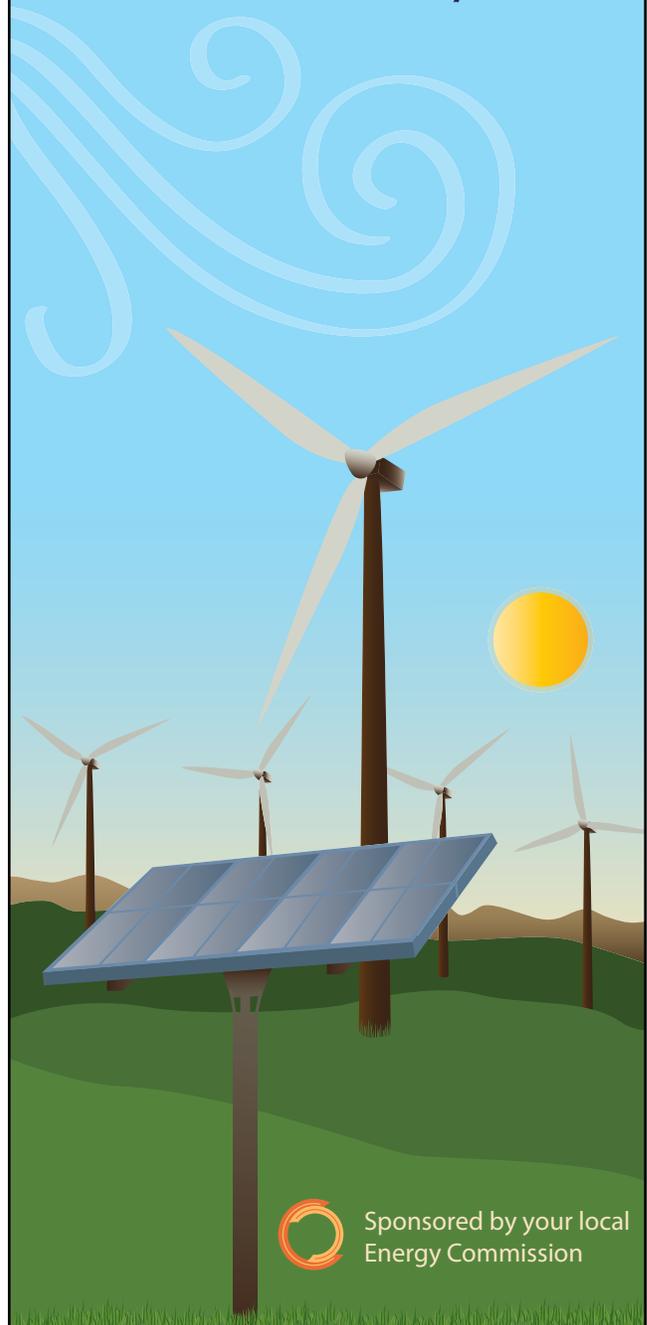
Wind has also hurt California crops. Strong winds blew into the San Joaquin Valley in 1977. Without plants to hold the soil, the winds lifted the topsoil. Topsoil is the top layer of soil. It is full of the nutrients that plants need to help them grow. Not all soils have these nutrients.

The winds turned the topsoil into dust. The wind carried the dust away. The fields no longer had the rich topsoil plants need. Sandy soil took the place of the topsoil. It was many years before farmers could plant in some areas.



Too much wind blows away topsoil.  
Topsoil feeds. Without topsoil, plants starve.

**Windy days  
and sunshine help  
make electricity.**



Sponsored by your local  
Energy Commission

