

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: August 14, 2005
RELEASED: August 15, 2005

FREQUENCY: Weekly
VOL. 25 NO. 07

WEATHER

The week began with a strong high pressure ridge centered over the Desert Southwest continuing to dominate the weather over California. This pattern resulted in above normal temperatures across the inland portions of the State. Monsoonal moisture moving up the east side of the Sierra Nevada from Arizona and Nevada combined with the intense heating to form isolated afternoon thunderstorms along the Eastern Sierra Nevada. This warm pattern persisted until Friday, when the high pressure began to weaken and to shift southeastward. A low pressure system approached from the Gulf of Alaska, and brought an onshore flow which began to cool down Southern California and the Sacramento Delta region by the weekend. Interior valleys situated further away from the Sacramento Delta, as well as the southeastern deserts, remained very warm, as they did not receive the benefit of the onshore flow. Except for isolated showers from the mountain thunderstorms, and a little coastal drizzle, no precipitation was reported in the State this week.



FIELD CROPS

Rice was progressing well as hot temperatures continued. Late planted rice fields were treated for weeds. **Wild rice** harvest continued. **Sunflower** harvest was getting into full swing. **Safflower** weed treatments were reported in Sutter County. Irrigation and treatment for insect pests continued in most **corn** and **cotton** fields. Field corn that was planted early in the season was being harvested for green chop and stored for silage production. Cotton fields continued to bloom and set bolls, though some fields were reported to be losing some squares. Mature **sugar beets** continued to be harvested while younger fields were irrigated. **Sudan grass** cutting began. **Alfalfa hay** fields continued to be cut, windrowed, raked, and baled, while other fields were irrigated. Worm spraying in alfalfa continued. **Blackeye bean** bloom and set was affected by the high temperatures. **Vinseed** harvest continued. Ground preparation for planting dry-land **oats** and **wheat** continued.

FRUIT CROPS

Grape clusters continued to mature in most vineyards, and harvesting remained underway. Varieties harvested included Flame Seedless, Thompson Seedless, Summer Royal, Black Emerald, Red Globe, Muscat, Princess, Fantasy Seedless, Kyoho, and Crimson Seedless. In a few vineyards, Zante Currant grapes were placed on trays to begin drying, and in other vineyards, growers were preparing beds to lay down fruit. A few vineyards continued to be irrigated, treated for pests, and disced for weed control. Field crews continued to harvest stone fruit. Prima 23 and Snow King **peaches**, Friar and Howard Sun **plums**, Flavor Grenade **pluots**, and August Fire and August Red **nectarines** were among the varieties harvested. **Dried plum** harvesting was underway in many locations. Harvested stone fruit orchards were being pruned, and most growers were treating for spider mites. A few harvested orchards were removed, and trees were stacked for disposal. Shinsui Asian **pears** were being picked. Black Mission and Brown Turkey **figs** were harvested, and good yields were reported. **Pomegranate** fruit continued to gain good sizing. Fruit set on **persimmon** and pomegranate orchards was noted to be lighter than last year. Fruit set for **kiwifruit**, however, appeared to be heavy. Many San Joaquin Valley **strawberry** growers were fumigating and preparing soil for the fall crop. **Blueberry** fields were being mulched, pruned, and thinned. Harvesting of **Valencia** oranges remained sluggish. The season's **Navel** orange crop was developing and sizing fairly, but some had notable sunburn damage due to the hot weather. Some growers were dusting to protect citrus trees and fruit from sunburn, and treatment continued in many orange groves to control scale and other pests. **Olives** continued to be sprayed for Olive Fruit Fly control.

NUT CROPS

Trees were shook in a few **almond** orchards marking the beginning of this year's harvest. Almond hull split continued in most orchards, and some almond orchards were treated with herbicides to clear weeds prior to harvest. Other nut orchards were cultivated and irrigated. Husk fly and codling moth treatment continued on **walnut** orchards. Some walnuts were exhibiting signs of sun burn.

VEGETABLE CROPS

The slight drop in temperature favored the growth and development of various summer vegetables although there was some heat related quality problems reported by **broccoli** growers. **Processing tomatoes**, **carrots**, and **potatoes** continued to be harvested, along with pickling **cucumbers**, **summer squash**, **zucchini**, **peppers**, **eggplant**, **sweet corn**, string and bush **beans**, **okra**, **gourds**, mixed **melons** and **green beans**. The cantaloupe and honeydew harvest was in full swing in the San Joaquin Valley.

LIVESTOCK

Cool weather late in the period helped to reduce stress on livestock. Hot weather for several weeks has reduced milk production and created extreme fire danger in the foothill areas. Some beef cows continued to graze on dry foothill pastures. Irrigated pastures were reported to be in moderate to good condition. Early calving of beef cows was reported with most fall calving to occur in September and October. In the central area, sheep were grazing in old grain fields, fallow land, and in harvested melon fields. Bees were active in blooming vinseed fields in the Sacramento Valley. A few bees still remain in late planted melon fields in the central valley, but most hives have been moved to the mountains for the summer.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 08/14/05

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 08/14/05	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 08/14/05	January 1 - 08/14/05	Week Ending 08/14/05	July 1 - 08/14/05	July 1 - 08/14/05	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	55	-4	61	47	6	0	0.02	0.18	0.29	37.53
Ukiah	76	2	103	52	978	916	0.00	0.00	0.13	37.96
Santa Rosa	64	-3	89	50	499	521	0.00	0.00	0.10	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	63	-1	74	54	320	203	0.00	0.05	0.06	19.70
San Jose	70	0	87	57	790	805	0.00	0.01	0.07	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	1,042	879	0.00	0.00	0.06	14.21
Salinas AP	63	-1	73	54	262	186	0.00	0.04	0.07	12.44
Monterey FAA	60	-1	68	53	90	64	0.00	0.01	0.13	18.72
King City	70	2	94	51	844	610	0.00	0.00	0.03	11.44
Paso Robles AP	73	0	103	49	1,125	976	0.00	0.00	0.02	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	85	4	105	62	1,764	1,620	0.00	0.00	0.23	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	83	3	106	62	1,674	1,695	0.00	0.00	0.17	22.29
Chico AFS	83	6	104	63	1,571	1,333	0.00	0.00	0.13	26.32
Marysville	79	1	102	57	1,510	1,593	0.00	0.00	0.10	21.04
Sacramento AP	76	1	99	55	1,311	1,210	0.00	0.00	0.08	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	79	2	102	56	1,552	1,414	0.06	0.20	0.07	13.95
Fresno	85	4	106	63	1,982	1,828	0.00	0.00	0.02	10.60
Bakersfield	85	2	104	65	2,026	2,010	0.00	0.00	0.05	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	64	0	75	52	234	194	0.00	0.00	0.05	12.36
Santa Barbara	65	-2	73	56	350	370	0.02	0.05	0.09	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	558	468	0.00	0.00	0.05	14.38
Los Angeles	72	-3	83	63	1,237	1,364	0.00	0.00	0.06	14.77
Riverside	79	1	99	62	1,507	1,398	0.00	0.00	0.11	9.58
San Diego AP	71	-2	79	65	977	953	0.00	0.01	0.08	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	78	3	99	53	1,316	1,119	0.07	0.07	0.24	5.37
Lancaster	83	2	101	59	1,730	1,562	0.00	0.00	0.17	6.92
Daggett AP	89	1	107	70	2,614	2,589	0.08	0.09	0.63	3.93
Thermal AP	90	0	103	75	3,288	3,177	0.00	0.00	0.36	3.16
Blythe	89	-5	103	76	3,486	3,513	0.41	0.79	0.64	3.60
Imperial	90	-2	105	75	3,418	3,271	0.39	0.68	0.27	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	67	2	93	39	473	248	0.00	0.00	0.47	12.01
Mt. Shasta	70	3	91	49	516	351	0.00	0.00	0.61	37.02
Blue Canyon	72	4	81	64	632	402	0.00	0.00	0.63	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	96	59	894	718	0.00	0.00	0.67	37.05

Normal is defined as average over the 30-year period 1961 through 1990. Dashes (-) in Average Week Ending and Departure from Normal columns mean less than five days reporting, while in High and Low columns mean no days reporting.

Weekly summary provided by the Western Regional Climate Center with data reported by the National Weather Service. When data are quality controlled by the National Climatic Data Center, the accumulated growing degree day and precipitation values are updated.