

# CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service  
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: October 16, 2005  
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## WEATHER



California had relatively mild weather conditions for the middle of October. On Monday and Tuesday, light rain fell in the far northwest parts of the State, with less than 0.10 inch recorded. Monday through Friday night conditions were dry for the remainder of the State. Indian Summer conditions dominated the Central Valley, with daytime high temperatures ten degrees above normal for this time of year. Daytime high temperatures were in the 80s, with isolated highs in the lower 90s near Redding. On Friday night, a cold front entered the State. Rain fell from Eureka to Stockton, ranging from 1.50 inches of rain along the North Coast to 0.05 inches near Stockton. The rain continued south, and by Sunday morning rain started falling in Southern California, with up to 0.75 inches of rain reported. Gusty north winds developed in the Sacramento Valley on Saturday, after the cold front passage.

## FIELD CROPS

**Cotton** harvest was progressing quickly with defoliation underway. In the San Joaquin Valley, cotton yield was looking lighter than usual. **Rice** harvest slowed due to some rainfall and was about eighty percent complete. The last cutting of alfalfa hay was winding down, and many fields were being seeded for the new crop. **Corn** for silage harvest was nearing completion in many areas. **Sugar beet** harvesting continued at Mendota, and planting in the Imperial Valley was ongoing. Field preparations for fall plantings of **barley**, **oats**, and **wheat** continued. The **vineseed** harvest continued, as did the **blackeye** bean and **potato** harvest.

## FRUIT CROPS

The raisin **grape** harvest in Fresno County progressed smoothly, with an estimated ninety-nine percent of the vineyards harvested. Dried on the vine raisins continued to dry in the vineyards, and some harvesting began. Fresh market grape harvest continued which included Thompson Seedless, Red Globe, Crimson Seedless, and Autumn Royal varieties. Wine and juice grape harvest was also ongoing with Carignane, French Colombard, Barbera, Rubired, and Carnelian varieties harvested. Stone fruit harvest remained underway in the San Joaquin Valley but was slowing down. Crops harvested included Angelino and Flavor Fall **plums**, Autumn Flame and Halloween **peaches**, and September Red and Arctic Mist **nectarines**. Post harvest irrigation and weeding began in tree crops and vineyards. **Fig** and **kiwifruit** harvesting continued with good yields reported. Harvesting of Granny Smith, Fuji, and Gala **apples** continued across the State. Field crews were harvesting Hachiya **persimmons**, Hosui and Olympic Asian **pears**, and Wonderful **pomegranates**. Growers continued to prune following harvest to establish fruit wood for next year. Some permanent crops were removed and stacked for disposal. **Strawberry** plants in the San Joaquin Valley were showing good growth with some strawberries being sold at roadside stands. A few late variety Valencia **oranges** continued to be harvested. Navel orange harvest prospects appeared good but maturity and color were not ready. Picking of some early **Satsuma** tangerines began. Harvest of Pummelo and Oroblanco variety **grapefruit** was delayed due to poor maturity in some areas of the San Joaquin Valley. The **olive** harvest continued with harvest activity increasing.

## NUT CROPS

**Almond**, **pistachio**, and **walnut** orchards continued to be harvested, with trees being shaken and nuts being swept and picked up from orchard floors and transported to hulling facilities.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Warmer weather allowed further blooming of **green beans**, and some fields were being harvested. A few fields of processing **tomatoes** were still being harvested as were fresh market tomatoes. **Garlic** harvest is nearly complete. Many garlic and tomato fields were being cultivated for the next growing season. **Broccoli** harvest has begun for both processing and fresh market. Weeding, irrigation and spraying for insect pests were ongoing in **lettuce** and broccoli fields. Harvests of **carrots**, **lettuce**, **asparagus**, sweet **corn** and **bell peppers** were still active, while harvests of **watermelon**, **cantaloupe**, and mixed melons have ended or have slowed down considerably. Planting of winter vegetables continued.

## LIVESTOCK

Rangeland pastures conditions continued to be dry. Scattered rain late in the week reduced fire danger and may start new grass growth in some areas. Beef cows continued to move from higher elevation summer pastures to winter foothill pastures. Protein supplements were being fed to cattle. Fall calving of beef cows continued. Sheep were grazing on various pastures, including cantaloupe fields and retired farm land, in the central area. Feeder lambs continued to arrive in the Imperial Valley for the winter pasture season and were grazing on sudan grass, bermuda grass, and alfalfa pastures. Cooler temperatures were boosting milk production. Bees were being moved to winter staging areas.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 10/16/05**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 10/16/05	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 10/16/05	January 1 - 10/16/05	Week Ending 10/16/05	July 1 - 10/16/05	July 1 - 10/16/05	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
<b>NORTH COAST</b>										
Eureka	52	-3	63	40	11	0	1.18	2.29	2.27	37.53
Ukiah	63	0	88	41	1,407	1,451	0.05	0.05	1.63	37.96
Santa Rosa	63	0	88	44	758	911	0.07	0.11	1.30	30.30
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco AP	62	0	81	50	491	438	0.06	0.20	0.71	19.70
San Jose	65	1	83	50	1,247	1,312	0.10	0.11	0.69	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	1,554	1,442	0.00	0.00	0.66	14.21
Salinas AP	61	-1	88	45	399	425	0.06	0.10	0.57	12.44
Monterey FAA	57	-4	77	44	118	145	0.04	0.05	1.61	18.72
King City	65	2	94	42	1,207	1,033	0.00	0.03	0.45	11.44
Paso Robles AP	62	-1	90	40	1,598	1,547	0.00	0.10	0.57	13.95
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	67	1	88	47	2,539	2,481	0.21	0.24	1.84	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	67	1	91	49	2,437	2,580	0.28	0.34	1.58	22.29
Chico AFS	67	2	92	43	2,290	2,032	0.14	0.14	1.29	26.32
Marysville	67	0	91	46	2,211	2,402	0.12	0.15	0.97	21.04
Sacramento AP	67	1	88	46	1,914	1,905	0.10	0.10	0.78	17.52
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	68	2	91	47	2,272	2,185	0.05	0.68	0.69	13.95
Fresno	69	2	92	49	2,900	2,755	0.00	0.04	0.52	10.60
Bakersfield	70	0	97	51	2,967	3,058	0.00	0.11	0.39	5.72
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria AP	62	0	90	42	392	407	0.00	0.08	0.54	12.36
Santa Barbara	61	-2	86	45	542	722	0.04	0.38	0.93	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	940	884	0.00	0.00	0.60	14.38
Los Angeles	69	-1	94	55	1,934	2,230	0.05	0.33	0.59	14.77
Riverside	70	2	99	50	2,448	2,282	0.01	0.39	0.58	9.58
San Diego AP	67	-2	86	58	1,550	1,649	0.01	0.24	0.50	9.90
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	58	0	82	32	1,663	1,552	0.01	0.81	0.66	5.37
Lancaster	62	-2	88	39	2,355	2,339	0.00	0.81	0.60	6.92
Daggett AP	70	-1	92	48	3,681	3,844	0.00	0.79	1.23	3.93
Thermal AP	74	-1	100	50	4,772	4,660	0.06	0.06	1.06	3.16
Blythe	76	0	97	52	5,129	5,147	0.01	1.36	1.62	3.60
Imperial	74	-2	99	51	4,936	4,870	1.07	1.79	0.97	2.75
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	49	1	77	22	557	296	0.02	0.68	1.64	12.01
Mt. Shasta	54	2	75	33	666	446	0.49	0.71	2.56	37.02
Blue Canyon	57	2	71	36	877	574	0.55	0.85	4.24	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	1,308	1,090	0.00	0.00	2.54	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.