

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: May 14, 2006
RELEASED: May 15, 2006

FREQUENCY: Weekly
VOL. 25 NO. 46

WEATHER



A large high pressure ridge dominated the weather over California during the week. As the center of the ridge passed over the State mid-week, the warmest temperatures developed. The hottest temperatures occurred in northern California on Wednesday and in southern California on Thursday. The center of the ridge shifted east of the State late Thursday and temperatures then fell slightly, especially in southern California, where an onshore flow brought cooler marine air to the coastal valleys. By the weekend, the high pressure was again building in strength and temperatures began to rise. Except for isolated thunderstorms in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, no significant precipitation was reported in the State.

FIELD CROPS

Ground preparation in **rice** fields continued with some planting underway. Previously planted **cotton** was emerging. Thrip treatment on cotton fields was ongoing. Clear, warm weather favored the drying of grain fields. **Wheat** and **triticale** were harvested for green chop and silage. The first cutting of **alfalfa** hay was nearly complete. Growing conditions were excellent for **sugar beets**; Harvest continued in the San Joaquin Valley, as well as planting of successive sugar beet crops. **Safflower** and **sunflower** fields were planted in the Sacramento Valley. Spring **potatoes** were harvested in Kern County. **Sweet potatoes** were planted in Merced County.

FRUIT CROPS

Irrigation was underway in tree fruit orchards and **grape** vineyards. Thinning of **stone fruit** and suckering of table grapes continued. Grapevines also required sulphur applications for mildew control and herbicide applications for weed control. Wine grapes were blooming, and **blueberry** and **cherry** harvest began in the San Joaquin Valley. The **strawberry** harvest continued. The Brooks cherry variety was reported as having a low yield due to the poor growing conditions experienced during bloom. **Peach** harvest was underway with Earlitreat and Super Rich varieties picked and packed. The **nectarine** harvest also began. Nectarine varieties picked and packed included Mayfire and Spring Flair. **Apricots** were sizing well. **Persimmons** were blooming in Sutter County. **Olive** trees were blooming. Topping and hedging continued in citrus groves. Navel **orange** harvesting continued. Valencia harvest increased rapidly due to high export demand. Cara Cara navel orange and Minneola **tangelo** harvests continued but were nearly complete. Grade outs were heavy due to puff, crease, and soft fruit at packing houses. Harvesting of **lemons**, **pummelos**, and hybrid **grapefruit** was nearing the end in the San Joaquin Valley.

NUT CROPS

The seasonal cycle of irrigation and cultivation continued in nut orchards. **Almond** orchards were treated with herbicides and fungicides for weed and fungus control. **Walnut** orchards were treated for codling moth and blight, and **pistachios** were treated for mite and lygus control. Walnuts continued to leaf out and produce catkins.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Watermelon planting began in many areas. Transplanting of processing and fresh market **tomatoes**, **peppers**, **eggplant**, **cucumbers** and summer **squash** continued with earlier fields showing good growth. Fields of earlier planted **garlic**, **onions** and **melon** were maturing rapidly. Cultivating for weed control increased and irrigating of earlier planted tomato fields continued as did fungicide applications in fields of onion and garlic to control rust. In Fresno County, **asparagus** and spring crop **broccoli** harvest was coming to an end and **lettuce** harvest was complete. Packing and shipping of **radicchio** continued. Asian vegetables such as **kankon**, **basil**, **Asian celery**, **curly mustard greens**, **sugar** and **snow pea leaf**, and **yu choy** continued to be harvested.

LIVESTOCK

Foothill pastures were drying rapidly due to hot weather. Heavy movement of feeder cattle has not yet begun. Cattle weight gains have been excellent the past few weeks. Seasonal gains will probably not equal last year's record due to the erratic winter and spring weather and the limited amount of temperatures this spring in the 70's. Low lying pastures and farm land were drying rapidly. Some rivers were at high levels as warmer temperatures were accelerating the runoff of the record winter and spring snow in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Dairies were dry but hot temperatures late in the period caused stress on cows. In central California, new crop lambs continued to ship from foothill pastures with more sales reported. Ewes were grazing in harvested lettuce and broccoli fields. Bees were in vacant fields feeding on weed blossoms.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 05/14/06

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 05/14/06	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 05/14/06	January 1 - 05/14/06	Week Ending 05/14/06	July 1 - 05/14/06	July 1 - 05/14/06	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	48	-5	58	36	0	0	0.02	61.79	36.64	37.53
Ukiah	67	6	96	44	104	6	0.00	50.65	38.16	37.96
Santa Rosa	64	3	91	44	37	2	0.00	43.58	30.05	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	61	3	87	49	19	0	0.00	25.88	19.90	19.70
San Jose	67	4	88	52	94	39	0.00	21.18	14.71	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	84	19	0.00	0.00	14.33	14.21
Salinas AP	60	2	84	45	18	0	0.00	14.70	12.52	12.44
Monterey FAA	56	0	76	46	10	0	0.00	13.44	14.48	18.72
King City	65	4	96	43	74	13	0.00	12.94	12.00	11.44
Paso Robles AP	68	6	94	43	88	19	0.00	13.48	13.13	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	75	10	99	55	262	83	0.00	45.11	32.87	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	73	7	98	55	218	95	0.00	29.85	22.67	22.29
Chico AFS	72	7	94	48	201	62	0.00	30.83	25.39	26.32
Marysville	71	4	96	51	165	133	0.00	29.99	21.62	21.04
Sacramento AP	71	6	95	51	135	61	0.00	23.46	17.39	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	71	5	96	51	149	93	0.00	16.11	13.52	13.95
Fresno	76	7	95	56	226	162	0.00	14.84	10.90	10.60
Bakersfield	76	7	95	57	263	207	0.00	6.73	6.28	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	60	3	84	44	18	0	0.00	16.53	13.90	12.36
Santa Barbara	58	-1	66	48	2	0	0.05	18.04	17.02	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	95	9	0.00	0.00	15.38	14.38
Los Angeles	67	0	77	57	226	256	0.00	12.15	14.96	14.77
Riverside	70	5	92	51	279	129	0.00	7.04	10.46	9.58
San Diego AP	64	-1	69	60	156	139	0.00	5.37	10.55	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	68	8	94	44	126	5	0.00	7.67	4.69	5.37
Lancaster	77	12	98	51	214	64	0.00	6.59	7.70	6.92
Daggett AP	82	9	102	62	392	334	0.00	1.33	4.05	3.93
Thermal AP	79	2	102	56	658	695	0.00	2.35	3.54	3.16
Blythe	85	6	105	65	746	748	0.00	2.52	4.04	3.60
Imperial	83	7	104	59	751	729	0.00	1.87	2.98	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	55	5	83	29	0	0	0.03	14.88	10.78	12.01
Mt. Shasta	59	6	84	37	10	0	0.00	58.49	37.65	37.02
Blue Canyon	62	11	78	49	25	0	0.00	88.44	63.68	67.04
Yosemite	63	6	81	46	24	0	0.00	44.82	36.67	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.