

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

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WEATHER



At the start of the week, a large high pressure system dominated the weather over the western U.S. California saw hot and dry conditions through the first half of the week, with interior temperatures climbing above normal. Temperatures reached the 100 degree mark at the hottest locations of the Central Valley, and well over 100 degrees in the southeastern desert. By Wednesday, warm moist air from the south began to move up the Sierra Crest and this led to afternoon and evening thunderstorms over the mountains. On Thursday, the pattern began to shift, as a Pacific low pressure system began to approach the coast, and the high pressure center began to move east. This brought a cooler onshore flow to the

State. By Friday, a storm system associated with the Pacific low moved ashore and brought showers and much cooler air to the northern half of California. As the Pacific low pressure center slowly shifted south to a position off the San Francisco Bay region, areas of showers and cool air continued to move ashore and spread into southern California by Sunday.

FIELD CROPS

Hot and dry conditions early in the week boosted field crop growth and small grain dry down. Rain slowed field work over the weekend. Planting of **rice** fields continued at a hurried pace, with herbicides being applied in early fields. **Safflower**, **sunflower**, and **corn** fields were planted. Earlier planted field corn was progressing well. The **cotton** crop was progressing well despite its late planting. The first cutting of **alfalfa** was nearly complete, and the second cutting began in Merced County. **Sugar beet** harvest and planting continued in the San Joaquin Valley. **Sweet potato** planting continued.

FRUIT CROPS

Irrigation continued in tree fruit orchards and **grape** vineyards, and thinning continued in stone fruit orchards. The stone fruit harvest increased gradually as the warmer weather aided in the enhancement of fruit size and maturity. Among the varieties harvested were April Snow and Super Rich **peaches**, Spring Flare and Mayglo **nectarines**, and Tasty Rich **apriums**. **Apricots** were showing good size and beginning to color. A few Poppycot apricots were harvested in Tulare County. **Cherries** were harvested in the San Joaquin Valley with Brooks and Tulare varieties picked and packed. The cherry crop continued to show a lower than expected yield due to inclement weather experienced earlier this spring. **Pomegranates** were in bloom. **Strawberry** and **blueberry** harvesting continued, and demand remained strong. Grape growers began their yearly cycling of cultivation, furrowing, irrigation, and mildew control. Suckering in grape vineyards also continued. Grapevines were blooming in the San Joaquin Valley, prompting growers to begin bloom spray applications. A few vineyards in Fresno County were still experiencing high water near rivers where rain and runoff caused the water to remain high. Harvesting of Perlette and Flame Seedless variety table grapes was underway in the Coachella Valley. Navel and Valencia **orange** harvesting continued, but picking and packing began to slow down. Some of the smaller Navel packers began to finish up their harvest season. Commercial harvest of **lemons**, **tangelos**, **tangerines**, **pummelos**, and hybrid **grapefruit** was complete in the San Joaquin Valley. Harvesting of lemons and grapefruit, however, remained active in the southern coastal growing region. Grapefruit varieties picked and packed included Marsh White, Marsh Ruby, and Star Ruby. Harvesting of Marsh Ruby variety grapefruit was nearly complete in the Coachella Valley.

NUT CROPS

Irrigation and spray applications for weed and mildew continued in **almond**, **pistachio**, and **walnut** orchards. Nut orchards were also treated for codling moth, mites, and lygus. Blight sprays continued in walnut orchards.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Warm weather stimulated the growth of many vegetables including mixed oriental vegetables. Outdoor planting of **peppers**, **okra**, **eggplant**, **string beans** and assorted oriental **squash** and **tomatoes** continued in Tulare County. Picking of yellow crookneck and zucchini squash was in full swing and early planted pole **cucumbers** were in bloom. In some areas **asparagus** harvest was complete. Peppers emerged in Fresno County and growers began the weeding and thinning process. **Onion** and **garlic** fields continued to receive fungicide applications for rust control. Harvesting of vegetables such as cucumbers, **daikon**, **mustard greens**, summer squash, **sugar snap** and **snow peas** continued.

LIVESTOCK

Cattle were moving from foothill pastures as grass was drying rapidly. Auctions were starting to receive larger numbers of beef feeder cattle. Rain late in the period was not beneficial to rangeland pastures. Beef cows and stocker cattle were beginning to move to summer pastures. Early weight gains on cattle were reported to be average but below the record gains last year. Some rivers continued to run at high levels as warmer temperatures were accelerating the runoff of the record winter and spring snow in the Sierra Nevada. Cooler temperatures late in the period slowed the snow melt and reduced stress on dairy cows and other livestock and poultry. In central California, new crop lambs continued to ship from foothill pastures. Ewes were grazing in harvested lettuce, broccoli, and small grain fields. In northern California, bees were moving from orchards to safflower fields.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 05/21/06

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 05/21/06	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 05/21/06	January 1 - 05/21/06	Week Ending 05/21/06	July 1 - 05/21/06	July 1 - 05/21/06	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	54	0	65	45	0	0	0.20	61.99	36.99	37.53
Ukiah	67	5	95	49	157	22	0.17	50.82	38.42	37.96
Santa Rosa	62	1	86	47	56	9	0.39	43.97	30.23	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	61	2	80	51	34	0	0.34	26.22	19.99	19.70
San Jose	67	4	88	56	146	65	0.27	21.45	14.81	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	144	41	0.00	0.00	14.42	14.21
Salinas AP	61	2	73	50	28	0	0.56	15.26	12.57	12.44
Monterey FAA	59	2	74	50	17	0	0.47	13.91	14.50	18.72
King City	69	6	92	48	126	28	0.00	12.94	12.05	11.44
Paso Robles AP	69	5	98	47	152	43	0.96	14.44	13.18	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	76	9	101	58	374	131	0.64	45.75	33.47	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	75	6	99	57	321	154	0.59	30.44	22.89	22.29
Chico AFS	77	11	99	54	320	105	0.24	31.07	25.60	26.32
Marysville	72	3	96	53	250	195	0.19	30.18	21.79	21.04
Sacramento AP	70	5	93	52	208	102	0.25	23.71	17.51	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	73	5	97	52	238	144	0.46	16.57	13.62	13.95
Fresno	78	8	101	57	354	230	0.20	15.04	10.98	10.60
Bakersfield	79	8	99	59	398	284	0.18	6.91	6.33	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	63	5	76	48	40	0	1.20	17.73	13.97	12.36
Santa Barbara	61	1	68	55	15	0	0.01	18.05	17.08	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	132	17	0.00	0.00	15.43	14.38
Los Angeles	68	2	78	60	284	303	0.00	12.15	15.03	14.77
Riverside	72	6	91	55	366	175	0.00	7.04	10.51	9.58
San Diego AP	65	0	70	60	190	172	0.00	5.37	10.59	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	68	5	93	42	185	24	0.08	7.75	4.76	5.37
Lancaster	76	10	99	57	328	111	0.00	6.59	7.73	6.92
Daggett AP	84	10	103	66	564	435	0.00	1.33	4.07	3.93
Thermal AP	83	4	106	61	815	825	0.00	2.35	3.55	3.16
Blythe	89	8	107	65	946	889	0.00	2.52	4.04	3.60
Imperial	85	7	106	63	926	857	0.00	1.87	2.98	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	62	11	89	41	23	0	0.13	15.01	11.06	12.01
Mt. Shasta	64	10	90	47	47	0	1.71	60.20	38.07	37.02
Blue Canyon	63	10	80	44	68	0	0.88	89.32	64.17	67.04
Yosemite	64	6	83	45	55	0	0.04	44.86	37.01	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.