

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

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WEATHER



The week started with dominant high pressure over California. The valley was very hot with daytime high temperatures over the century mark from Redding to Bakersfield. The high pressure also rotated warm air and moisture from the Gulf of California into the mountains. Several thunderstorms occurred at elevations above 5,000 feet. These storms were relatively dry. The low moisture content combined with lightning strikes caused several fires. By Thursday, high pressure had weakened and moved slightly to the east. This created drier conditions in the mountains due to the high pressure circulation moving over hot and dry land. The valley daytime high temperatures fell to seasonal readings in the 90s under clear skies. This upper level pattern remained over the region for the rest of the week.

FIELD CROPS

The recent heat wave led to increased frequency and quantity of field crop irrigation. The third cutting of **alfalfa** hay continued, and some growers were treating their fields to control worms. Early **safflower** plantings were heading. The winter **wheat** harvest continued. **Oat** and **barley** fields were also harvested. **Cotton** was growing well in the heat and was developing squares in most areas. **Garbanzo** bean fields were drying out in preparation for harvest. **Rice** plantings were emerging from flooded fields. **Potatoes** were harvested in Kern County. The harvest of field **corn** for silage will begin soon. The planting of next year's **sugar beet** crop was nearly complete in Merced County.

FRUIT CROPS

Stone fruit harvest continued in all districts with picking, packing, pruning, weed control and insecticide treatments. Harvested stone fruit varieties included Sweet Scarlett and Zee Diamond **peaches**; Saucer and Snow Flare **nectarines**; Diamond Cot and Poppy **apricots**; Flavorosa **pluots**; and Black Splendor and Santa Rosa **plums**. Stone fruit varieties matured rapidly due to high temperatures. A few growers were concerned with the possibility of internal heat damage and sunburn to certain plum varieties. Black varieties of plums were more at risk. **Pomegranates** continued to bloom. Table **grapes** were being bunch-tipped and thinned. Various cultural practices continued in table, wine, and raisin vineyards; this included irrigation, cultivation, suckering vines, pulling leaves, training canes onto trellises, and fungicide treatments. **Fig** harvest continued. **Strawberry** harvest continued with good demand. **Blueberry**, **blackberry** and **boysenberry** harvest continued with young plants being trained to stakes. Navel **orange** harvest started to slow down. The Valencia harvest approached the half way point and demand remained steady. Harvest continued for **lemons** and hot weather was increasing demand.

NUT CROPS

Almond and **pistachio** nuts continued to size-up. Almond orchards were being irrigated and treated for the leaf-footed bug, aphids and worms. **Walnut** crops continued to do well, although there were some reports of sun-damage.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Some **eggplant** and **peppers** suffered bloom drop because of the heat, but **tomatoes** developed well. **Melons** and tomatoes were cultivated and treated with fertilizer and for cutworm. Cucumber beetle treatment also occurred in melon fields. Fresh market tomato and freezer **lima bean** planting continued in some areas. In Merced County, fresh market tomato and **watermelon** harvest began. Melons harvested in Tulare County were of excellent quality. **Honeydew** planting was complete and **cantaloupe** planting was almost complete. In Fresno County, **onion** and **garlic** were harvested and younger fields were treated for weeds, fungus and insects. The harvest of **amaranth**, **basil**, **cucumbers**, **dandelion**, **daikon**, **peppers**, **green beans**, **mustard greens** and summer **squash** was underway. Asian vegetables such as **bittermelon**, **donqua**, **sinqua**, **moqua**, **moap** and **kabocha** were beginning to flower and produce fruit.

LIVESTOCK

Cattle movement from dry foothill pastures was nearly complete. Many cattle have moved to valley and mountain summer pastures or to market the past 30 days. Some beef cows remained on dry foothill pastures where grass was ample. Mountain summer pastures were in good condition with plenty of water for irrigation. Valley temperatures moderated a little by late in the period but were still hot enough to affect milk production. Sheep, mainly stock ewes, were grazing in small grain hay fields, retired farmland and alfalfa fields. Hot temperatures accelerated the mountain snow melt with water levels high in rivers and lakes. Melon, cucumber, and small grain fields were pollinated by bees in central California.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 07/02/06

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 07/02/06	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 07/02/06	January 1 - 07/02/06	Week Ending 07/02/06	July 1 - 07/02/06	July 1 - 07/02/06	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	55	-2	60	50	2	0	0.04	59.54	38.13	37.53
Ukiah	75	4	99	53	542	327	0.00	51.07	39.12	37.96
Santa Rosa	66	-1	87	50	259	204	0.00	45.67	30.75	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	62	0	72	54	150	55	0.00	26.05	20.20	19.70
San Jose	70	1	85	58	456	363	0.00	22.91	15.06	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	517	353	0.00	0.00	14.64	14.21
Salinas AP	64	2	79	54	134	47	0.00	15.34	12.75	12.44
Monterey FAA	62	1	76	53	72	12	0.00	13.91	14.58	18.72
King City	73	5	97	53	478	249	0.00	15.05	12.16	11.44
Paso Robles AP	77	6	102	50	610	389	0.00	14.48	13.25	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	86	7	113	62	1,064	706	0.00	45.37	35.55	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	84	5	108	59	996	783	0.00	30.30	23.61	22.29
Chico AFS	82	6	100	59	912	600	0.00	31.59	26.38	26.32
Marysville	80	3	103	56	1,007	782	0.00	31.18	22.29	21.04
Sacramento AP	76	3	98	56	710	549	0.00	23.46	17.86	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	79	3	103	54	812	664	0.00	16.67	13.86	13.95
Fresno	86	6	102	63	1,091	887	0.00	14.56	11.31	10.60
Bakersfield	87	6	103	67	1,151	995	0.00	6.85	6.51	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	64	2	85	50	166	34	0.00	17.28	14.09	12.36
Santa Barbara	67	3	94	55	236	103	0.01	17.64	17.22	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	409	166	0.00	0.00	15.53	14.38
Los Angeles	79	6	97	64	819	728	0.00	13.19	15.15	14.77
Riverside	86	11	106	68	1,022	642	0.01	7.38	10.66	9.58
San Diego AP	76	7	96	68	602	465	0.00	6.06	10.71	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	78	4	101	52	669	425	0.04	7.91	5.02	5.37
Lancaster	87	9	105	69	1,068	676	0.00	6.47	7.81	6.92
Daggett AP	92	5	109	76	1,585	1,349	0.00	1.34	4.22	3.93
Thermal AP	93	4	111	75	1,983	1,861	0.00	2.35	3.59	3.16
Blythe	96	4	112	78	2,202	2,040	0.40	2.85	4.07	3.60
Imperial	97	7	112	82	2,190	1,909	0.00	1.89	3.01	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	69	8	98	43	159	12	0.04	16.48	12.22	12.01
Mt. Shasta	71	7	96	50	226	44	0.96	62.08	39.80	37.02
Blue Canyon	73	9	89	63	321	58	0.00	90.45	65.54	67.04
Yosemite	71	2	89	54	321	182	0.00	46.04	38.22	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.