

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: October 29, 2006
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WEATHER



A weak ridge of high pressure over the West Coast, combined with a dry offshore flow brought California fairly typical dry and mild fall conditions throughout the week. A series of weak cold fronts passed through the region during the week, but the only effect was a slight cooling of temperatures, with no significant precipitation occurring. Between these fronts daytime temperatures rose well above normal for this time of year. In southern California, a very dry and warm Santa Ana episode brought high temperatures into the 90s in some interior valley locations. The warm, dry and gusty conditions added to the already high fire danger in that part of the State. By Sunday, another cold front had passed through which cooled temperatures across the State, even in the south. A cooler and moister onshore flow brought relief from the very dry conditions there. No significant precipitation was noted anywhere in the State during the week.

FIELD CROPS

Rice harvest was nearly complete in several areas, and rice straw was baled. Harvested fields were shredded and disced. Ground preparation and small grain planting continued. Some early plantings of **wheat** and **oats** had emerged. Growth of **alfalfa** was slowed due to cooler weather and shorter days, causing lower yields for the final cutting. New alfalfa field planting was ongoing. **Milo** was harvested. The harvest of silage **corn** continued in many areas. **Sudan hay** harvest was ongoing in the San Joaquin Valley, as well as more northern areas. **Sugar beets** were harvested in Fresno County, and some growers were fumigating for next year's crop. **Cotton** defoliation and harvest was ongoing. **Sweet potatoes** were harvested in Merced County.

FRUIT CROPS

Cultural operations for stone fruit such as pruning, herbicide applications and the pushing out of orchards for replanting were still underway. Stone fruit harvest was essentially complete. **Grape** vineyard cultural activities continued with irrigation, pruning, and shredding. Table, juice and dried-on-the-vine **raisin** grapes continued to be harvested. Hayward **kiwis** were being harvested. **Fig** growers continued with harvest. Fig harvest was complete in some areas. Foothill and Wonderful **pomegranates** were harvested. Harvest was slowing in a few areas as cooler temperatures were causing some pomegranates to split. Hachiya and Fuyu **persimmons** were showing good color. Picking began for Navel **oranges** in Tulare and Kern Counties. New Navel orchards showed good growth. Some citrus growers were treating to control fungus. **Olive** harvest continued at a fast pace.

NUT CROPS

Almond harvest continued at a slow rate with pruning operations underway. **Walnuts** and **pistachios** were harvested. Ground preparations were still taking place in some walnut orchards.

VEGETABLE CROPS

The harvest of summer vegetables was winding down with **peppers**, **asparagus**, **okra**, **gourds**, fresh market and processing **tomatoes**, **melons**, **string** and **lima beans** still being harvested. The watermelon harvest was complete in some areas. Other vegetables harvested included **amaranth**, **basil**, **cucumbers**, **mustard greens**, **pumpkin**, **squash**, **parsley** and various types of Asian vegetables. Fall **onions** and **garlic** showed vigorous growth. Fall vegetables such as **cabbage**, **broccoli** and **cauliflower** were progressing well. Many winter **broccoli** and **lettuce** fields were at various stages of planting. Growers increased irrigation of winter vegetables due to drier conditions.

LIVESTOCK

More beef cows were moving from higher elevation pastures to foothill pastures with many receiving protein and other supplements. There was abundant dry grass on most foothill ranches. Many beef cows remained on valley irrigated pastures in anticipation of fall rains. Fall calving of beef cows continued. Some stocker operators, particularly in the Central Valley, were turning beef calves onto dry foothill pastures and giving them protein supplements. However, the heavy movement of stocker cattle to foothill pastures was not expected to occur until it rains and new grass growth has started. Sheep were grazing in alfalfa fields and on retired farm land in the Central Valley. Fall lambing began. Many feeder lambs have arrived in the southern desert for the winter pasture season. Cooler temperatures were helping milk production. Farmers were planning turkey shipments to market in the coming weeks in preparation for the holidays. Bees were moving to or being stored at winter staging areas in the central and northern valleys.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 10/29/06

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION				
	Average Week Ending 10/29/06	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal		
					January 1 - 10/29/06	January 1 - 10/29/06	Week Ending 10/29/06	July 1 - 10/29/06	July 1 - 10/29/06	July 1 - June 30	
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --				
NORTH COAST											
Eureka	50	-4	62	37	32	0	0.00	1.14	3.58	37.53	
Ukiah	59	1	86	33	1,760	1,454	0.00	0.31	2.74	37.96	
Santa Rosa	61	1	85	38	922	923	0.00	0.61	2.26	30.30	
CENTRAL COAST											
San Francisco AP	61	1	77	49	570	443	0.00	0.34	1.24	19.70	
San Jose	62	1	80	47	1,444	1,334	0.00	0.34	1.10	14.42	
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	1,632	1,457	0.00	0.00	1.04	14.21	
Salinas AP	62	2	87	40	493	432	0.00	0.05	0.91	12.44	
Monterey FAA	61	3	84	45	283	145	0.00	0.05	2.04	18.72	
King City	62	2	91	35	1,425	1,043	0.00	0.36	0.71	11.44	
Paso Robles AP	60	1	87	33	1,737	1,552	0.00	0.63	0.85	13.95	
SACRAMENTO VALLEY											
Redding	62	1	84	36	2,923	2,504	0.00	0.26	2.79	33.30	
Red Bluff FSS	62	1	84	36	2,866	2,610	0.00	0.12	2.29	22.29	
Chico AFS	63	4	88	38	2,595	2,043	0.00	0.15	1.95	26.32	
Marysville	60	-2	84	38	2,472	2,442	0.00	0.19	1.58	21.04	
Sacramento AP	60	-1	83	39	2,026	1,932	0.00	1.14	1.21	17.52	
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY											
Stockton WSO	60	-1	85	36	2,366	2,214	0.00	0.91	1.10	13.95	
Fresno	64	2	84	45	3,116	2,792	0.00	0.99	0.79	10.60	
Bakersfield	64	0	85	43	3,242	3,122	0.00	0.48	0.52	5.72	
SOUTH COAST											
Santa Maria AP	63	4	87	44	788	410	0.00	0.47	0.78	12.36	
Santa Barbara	60	-1	82	39	798	736	0.01	0.32	1.18	16.25	
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	1,327	925	0.00	0.00	0.78	14.38	
Los Angeles	72	4	94	55	2,602	2,340	0.00	0.34	0.77	14.77	
Riverside	70	5	97	45	3,068	2,354	0.00	0.09	0.70	9.58	
San Diego AP	66	0	81	55	1,962	1,732	0.00	0.85	0.72	9.90	
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR											
Bishop	51	-2	75	26	1,830	1,552	0.00	0.79	0.76	5.37	
Lancaster	58	-1	82	27	2,823	2,343	0.00	0.10	0.74	6.92	
Daggett AP	63	-2	83	42	4,282	3,924	0.00	0.06	1.29	3.93	
Thermal AP	68	-1	93	41	4,968	4,796	0.03	0.03	1.12	3.16	
Blythe	70	0	90	51	5,479	5,296	0.04	4.65	1.71	3.60	
Imperial	72	1	92	48	5,491	5,032	0.00	0.08	1.06	2.75	
CASCADE - SIERRA											
Alturas	42	-1	72	14	616	296	0.00	0.25	2.03	12.01	
Mt. Shasta	49	2	71	27	846	446	0.00	0.11	3.72	37.02	
Blue Canyon	57	7	68	39	1,218	574	0.00	1.01	6.28	67.04	
Yosemite	--	--	74	35	1,375	1,090	0.00	1.08	3.70	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.