



California Crop Weather

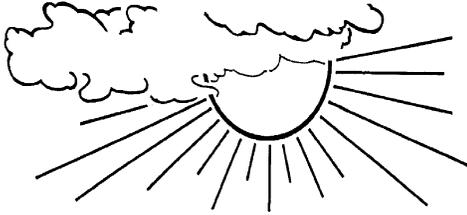
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: May 18, 2008
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WEATHER



The early part of the week started out with near normal temperatures across nearly all of the Golden State. Continued dry conditions were noted statewide though the entire week. The weather pattern began to change significantly by Tuesday and Wednesday as a very strong Pacific high pressure ridge began to strengthen, first over northern California and then began to build south and influence the entire state toward the later part of the period. This ridge was quite unusual in that a thermal trough developed

much farther westward than normal with scorching high temperatures experienced even near the beaches. Many high temperature records were broken statewide during the middle and later part of the period. The early season heat wave was most pronounced over the northern and central portions of the state.

FIELD CROPS

Barley, oats, wheat, and winter forage harvest continued. **Alfalfa** second cutting was almost complete; the third cutting began. **Corn** planting and weed spraying continued. **Rice** fields continued to be planted and sprayed for weeds and insects. Dry **lima bean** planting continued. **Sugar beet** harvest was winding down. Cotton was growing well and was on its second cultivation. **Safflower** fields remained in various stages of growth.

FRUIT CROPS

Grapes continued to bloom and were treated with bloom sprays. Leaves were thinned to increase sunlight and airflow to vines. Yields were expected to be substantially lower in some vineyards due to the April frost. Yields in some stone fruit orchards also damaged by frost were expected to be diminished. **Peaches** were thinned in some orchards. **Cherry, apricot**, peach and **nectarine** harvests continued. More citrus trees were setting fruit. Navel **orange** season was winding down and more fruit not suitable for the fresh market was being juiced. Valencia harvest was gaining speed. **Minneola** harvest was complete in Tulare County. **Blueberry** bloom had finished and more fruit was being harvested. Growers were covering their crop with netting to prevent loss to birds. **Strawberries** were also being harvested. **Olives** continued to bloom. Many olive trees were forming fruit.

NUT CROPS

Codling moth spraying continued in **walnuts**. Weed spraying and irrigation remained underway in nut orchards. **Almonds** were setting and in some areas branches were sagging due to the heavy weight of the crop.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Imperial Valley **onion** and sweet **corn** harvests actively continued, while early **melon** harvest was about a week from starting. In other southern California areas, processing tomatoes were nearly all planted and were growing well. In the Central Valley, transplanting of bell **peppers, tomatoes** for fresh and processing markets, and melons was winding down. **Peas**, peppers, sweet corn, onions (red, white and yellow), **beans** (green, fava and long), **cucumbers** and summer **squash** were reported to be in good condition and growing nicely; **asparagus** and **broccoli** harvests continued. **Spinach** harvest for the processing market was slowing. Farmer's market crops such as **amaranth, basil, bok choy, beets, leeks, kale, greens, radishes** and **yams** were being harvested. Harvest continued for early squash and peppers. In northern Central Valley areas processing tomatoes were growing well and melon growers were waiting for consistent soil temperatures before planting. Current vegetables harvested were **lettuce** and **carrots**. Peppers, watermelons, and other melons were growing well. Fresh market onion harvest was going well with good quality reported in areas farther north. Other crops being harvested were dehydrated onions, carrots, sweet corn and **artichokes**. **Radicchio** packing continued.

LIVESTOCK

High temperatures contributed to the further deterioration of pasture and rangelands already in mostly poor condition. Movement of cattle to irrigated pasture and higher elevation pasture continued, as did supplemental feeding. The unseasonably warm weather was expected to result in a decline in milk production. Sheep continued grazing on retired farmland and alfalfa hay fields. Bees were active in kiwi orchards, onion and alfalfa seed fields. Some hives were readied for safflower and vineseed bloom.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 05/18/08

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 05/18/08	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 05/18/08	January 1 - 05/18/08	Week Ending 05/18/08	July 1 - 05/18/08	July 1 - 05/18/08	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	59	5	84	40	37	0	0.01	36.26	37.41	37.53
Ukiah	72	11	102	42	210	25	0.00	27.83	38.82	37.96
Santa Rosa	72	11	100	47	202	10	0.00	24.27	30.54	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	67	8	96	47	143	0	0.00	15.94	20.17	19.70
San Jose	--	--	--	--	260	77	0.00	11.33	14.97	14.42
Salinas AP	67	8	98	45	140	0	0.00	10.84	12.68	12.44
Monterey FAA	66	9	95	43	126	0	0.00	7.57	14.67	18.72
King City	71	10	105	39	206	34	0.00	9.34	12.18	11.44
Paso Robles AP	72	9	103	38	218	51	0.00	8.61	13.31	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	80	14	106	53	442	153	0.00	24.85	33.95	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	80	13	104	48	453	181	0.00	14.79	23.16	22.29
Chico AFS	77	12	104	47	403	124	0.00	19.34	25.88	26.32
Marysville	77	9	102	46	356	224	0.00	15.61	22.02	21.04
Sacramento AP	77	12	102	52	339	121	0.00	13.67	17.69	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	77	11	104	53	346	167	0.00	10.09	13.77	13.95
Fresno	79	10	103	52	488	263	0.00	8.64	11.11	10.60
Bakersfield	80	9	103	56	537	322	0.00	2.45	6.41	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	64	6	87	42	94	0	0.00	11.61	14.11	12.36
Santa Barbara	64	5	84	44	146	0	0.01	15.86	17.23	16.25
Ventura	64	0	84	45	160	0	0.02	13.28	15.29	14.38
Los Angeles	72	6	96	55	509	329	0.00	13.41	15.19	14.77
Riverside	--	--	--	--	400	197	0.00	6.31	10.63	9.58
San Diego AP	68	3	87	57	268	188	0.00	7.28	10.69	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	67	5	97	36	164	27	0.00	7.25	4.82	5.37
Lancaster	72	6	103	40	282	131	0.00	7.86	7.80	6.92
Daggett AP	77	3	101	57	641	485	0.00	2.58	4.10	3.93
Thermal AP	81	3	109	51	1,086	895	0.00	3.58	3.58	3.16
Blythe	80	1	103	58	1,035	964	0.00	1.96	4.06	3.60
Imperial	80	3	110	54	1,006	927	0.00	2.37	3.00	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	60	10	92	25	49	0	0.00	8.98	11.30	12.01
Mt. Shasta	66	12	95	33	113	0	0.00	28.31	38.54	37.02
Blue Canyon	66	14	83	44	114	0	0.00	36.33	64.93	67.04
Yosemite	65	8	88	41	87	0	0.00	15.74	37.45	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.