



California Crop Weather

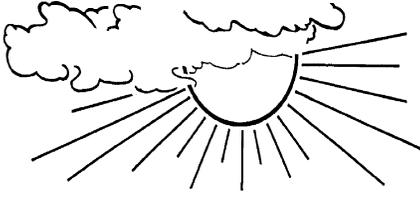
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: May 25, 2008
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WEATHER



The week began with high pressure over the West Coast bringing warm and dry weather to California. This pattern didn't last long however, as an unusually strong late season storm system moved into the region. High winds fanned wildfires during the mid part of the week. The strongest gusts occurred on Wednesday and Thursday, but gusty wind persisted through the rest of the week at many locations. The upper level low passed through into the Great Basin by Thursday, but then did an unusual reversal, moving westward back over California by the weekend. As the low moved back over the state on Saturday, the most widespread showers fell. Measurable rain was reported across the Central Valley and along the coast, and snow fell over the higher elevations of the mountains of Northern California. Rain even fell across the southeastern deserts. Cool and breezy weather continued through the weekend, as the low pressure remained over the Golden State.

FIELD CROPS

Barley, oats, wheat, and winter forage harvest continued. **Alfalfa** third cutting had begun. **Corn** planting and weed spraying continued along with corn being planted for silage. **Rice** planting was winding down but the herbicide application for weeds and insects was still being applied. **Dry lima bean** planting continued and blackeye bean planting was underway in Merced County. **Sugar beet** harvest continued to wind down. Cotton was being cultivated and irrigated in Tulare County. **Safflower** fields remained in various stages of growth.

FRUIT CROPS

Grapes continued to bloom and leaf out. Vineyards were treated with bloom sprays. Growers were also irrigating, thinning leaves, suckering vines, and treating for weeds, diseases, and insects. Irrigation increased in fruit orchards due to the dry conditions. Strong winds during the week were a concern to fruit growers. The extent of wind damage was not yet known. Cherry harvest was complete in some areas. In Fresno County, Rainier and Tulare **cherries** were still being picked. Poppy, Red Velvet, Earlicot, Tasty Rich, Tom Cat, Castlebrite, Robada and Apache **apricots**, Golden Sweet and Honey Gold **apriums**, Super Rich, April Snow, Super Lady, Snow Angel, Spring Flame, Spring Snow, Spring Treat, Island Prince, Earlitreat, May Sweet, Sweet Sun, Queencrest, Early Saturn and May Saturn **peaches**, Red Beaut **plums**, Spring Flavor, Flavorosa and Sugar Rosa **pluots**, Flavorella **plumcots** and Polar Ice, Crimson Baby, May Pearl, Earli Glo, Sunny Gun, Zee Fire, Red Roy, Ruby Fire and Honey May **nectarines** were also being picked. **Pomegranate** trees were blooming. **Blueberry, boysenberry** and **strawberry** harvests remained underway. Valencia **orange** harvest moved forward. Navel harvest was slowing down and a greater percentage of fruit was being juiced. Lemons and late season **grapefruit** were also being picked. **Olives** were still blooming and fruit were setting in many groves.

NUT CROPS

Nut groves were irrigated due to the drying soils and high spring temperatures. Winds affected California **almond** trees, many of which were heavy with fruit. Branches broke and some trees fell in the strong winds. In Yuba County **walnut** trees that survived the April frost had set an extremely heavy crop. Some walnut groves were also negatively affected by recent winds. Codling moth sprays were still being applied to walnuts.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Growers in the Imperial Valley were busy harvesting **onion** and sweet **corn** while a few early fields of **melons** were just starting to be harvested. Virtually all processing tomatoes have been planted and are growing well. **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. **Broccoli** harvest continued while asparagus harvest was almost complete. In the San Joaquin Valley some transplanting continued for bell peppers, melons and tomatoes for the fresh and processing markets. **Garlic**, onions, cucumbers, and summer squash were growing nicely with a few early planted cucumbers and summer squash being harvested. Sweet corn was progressing normally for a mid June harvest. Farmers market oriental crops continued to be harvested. **Eggplant** was developing well. In northern Central Valley areas early planted processing and fresh market tomatoes continued to grow well. Planting continued for sweet potatoes and bell peppers, while soil temperatures have warmed sufficiently to allow cantaloupe, watermelon, and honeydew to undergo planting, as well. Current vegetables harvested were **lettuce** and **carrots**. 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** harvest completed but packing continued.

LIVESTOCK

Rangeland conditions remained poor, while some irrigated pastures benefited from the warm temperatures of last week. Much of the summer migration to irrigated pasture started early this year, and movement of cattle off of rangeland continued this week. Supplemental feeding of hay and other nutrients was underway. Shipment of feeder cattle to auction or feedlots continued. Milk production declined as a result of the recent warm weather. Sheep continued grazing on retired farmland, dryland grain fields, and older alfalfa fields. Bees were active in melon, squash, cucumber, and alfalfa seed fields.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 05/25/08

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 05/25/08	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 05/25/08	January 1 - 05/25/08	Week Ending 05/25/08	July 1 - 05/25/08	July 1 - 05/25/08	July 1 - June 30
NORTH COAST	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
Eureka	53	-1	60	47	18	0	0.03	36.31	37.71	37.53
Ukiah	60	-3	96	43	160	58	0.00	27.83	39.05	37.96
Santa Rosa	60	-2	80	45	144	27	0.03	24.33	30.70	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	57	-2	67	47	86	0	0.00	15.94	20.23	19.70
San Jose	--	--	--	--	201	114	0.00	11.33	15.04	14.42
Salinas AP	58	-2	73	48	87	0	0.00	10.84	12.72	12.44
Monterey FAA	--	--	--	--	76	0	0.00	7.57	14.62	18.72
King City	61	-2	90	42	156	59	0.00	9.34	12.20	11.44
Paso Robles AP	62	-2	102	44	191	91	0.01	8.63	13.33	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	66	-1	99	48	402	217	0.33	25.51	34.68	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	68	-2	98	51	431	263	0.10	14.99	23.35	22.29
Chico AFS	69	2	98	47	420	185	0.10	19.54	26.07	26.32
Marysville	67	-2	95	50	345	304	0.01	15.63	22.15	21.04
Sacramento AP	66	-1	94	48	306	178	0.04	13.75	17.78	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	67	-2	96	53	323	236	0.02	10.13	13.84	13.95
Fresno	70	-1	103	53	495	351	0.17	8.98	11.19	10.60
Bakersfield	69	-3	99	52	538	419	0.08	2.61	6.46	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	56	-2	69	45	62	0	0.01	11.63	14.14	12.36
Santa Barbara	60	0	76	46	137	2	0.10	16.05	17.27	16.25
Ventura	58	0	74	44	142	0	0.07	14.44	15.32	14.38
Los Angeles	65	-2	88	53	503	383	0.11	13.63	15.23	14.77
Riverside	--	--	--	--	396	254	0.00	6.31	10.66	9.58
San Diego AP	63	-2	80	53	259	226	0.21	7.70	10.71	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	--	--	93	45	155	68	0.01	7.27	4.87	5.37
Lancaster	65	-3	102	39	309	198	0.01	7.88	7.82	6.92
Daggett AP	--	--	--	--	678	609	0.00	2.58	4.12	3.93
Thermal AP	77	-2	111	57	1,180	1,042	0.04	3.66	3.58	3.16
Blythe	79	-2	113	54	1,163	1,126	0.19	2.34	4.07	3.60
Imperial	76	-3	112	53	1,090	1,073	0.00	2.37	3.01	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	51	-1	88	35	34	0	0.63	10.59	11.54	12.01
Mt. Shasta	52	-3	89	36	78	0	0.39	29.41	38.95	37.02
Blue Canyon	51	-4	81	34	95	0	1.35	39.03	65.20	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	88	40	97	0	0.03	15.80	37.73	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.