

# CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS SERVICE

WEEK ENDING: May 1 2005  
RELEASED: May 2, 2005

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## WEATHER



An upper level low pressure system off the West Coast at the start of the week brought increasing clouds to California. However, temperatures remained mild due to the higher pressure being squeezed northward in front of the low. By Wednesday, the upper low began to move ashore, bringing cooler temperatures and showers to most of the State, with the focus over Southern California where occasionally heavy rains fell. Lighter rainfall amounts occurred over the rest of the State, with mountain snow at higher elevations. The low pressure system moved out California by the weekend, and weak high pressure filled in behind it, bringing warmer and drier conditions to the State.

## FIELD CROPS

The fields were a flurry of activity this week. **Cotton**, field **corn**, **safflower**, and **sunflower seed** planting continued. Weed treatments on **rice** fields, as well as flooding of rice fields occurred this week. Grass and **alfalfa** were baled or green chopped. **Barley**, **oats**, **triticale**, **wheat**, and winter forage were all growing well. Some lodging of grain and hay fields was reported due to the wind and rain. **Sugar beets** showed good growth, and mature fields continued to be harvested with good yields reported. Nutrients and herbicides were applied to silage corn in the San Joaquin Valley; the corn was reported to be six to eight inches tall. **Sweet potato** field fumigations continued to wind down.

## FRUIT CROPS

**Grapes** continued to mature with vines developing small fruit clusters. The grape leaf harvest continued. Applications of fungicides was ongoing for fungus and mildew control in grapes. Tree fruit thinning and weed control continued in most orchards. Wet weather has slowed the maturity of early variety **apricots** and **nectarines**. Mid-summer tree fruit varieties were thinned and fertilized as weather permitted. Early variety **cherries** were harvested, although some cherry growers expressed concern about inclement weather and its effect on the cherry crop. There were some reports of rain damage to the cherry crop in Tulare and San Joaquin Counties. The **blueberry** harvest began in Fresno County. The **strawberry** harvest continued, while growers reported some damage to their crop from wet weather. The Navel and Valencia **orange**, **tangelo**, and **lemon** harvest continued with good yields and quality reported. **Pummelo**, and MeloGold and OroBlanco variety **grapefruit** harvest continued. Rio Red variety grapefruit harvest was active in the Coachella Valley. Citrus groves were still blooming.

## NUT CROPS

Growers continued their seasonal cycle of irrigation and cultivation. **Pistachio** pollination was complete in many areas. Blight sprays were applied to **walnut** orchards. **Almond** orchards were sprayed with herbicides and growers mowed the center strips.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Cooler weather slowed vegetable development and harvest. A severe storm in eastern Imperial County damaged some **melon** fields. Where conditions permitted, fields were prepared for planting melons and summer vegetables. Pre-planting herbicides were applied to **tomato** fields. Copper was applied to some tomato fields to control fungus brought on by the wet weather. Planting of fresh market and processing tomatoes, **bell peppers**, and melons continued. **Mustard greens**, and many Asian vegetables, including **bok choy**, **gai choy**, **gailon**, **kankon**, and **ong choy** were also planted. Harvesting of **asparagus**, **broccoli**, **lettuce**, **parsley**, and **spinach** continued. **Daikon**, **fava beans**, and **zucchini** were also harvested. **Radicchio** harvest resumed after a brief pause for the rain.

## LIVESTOCK

Foothill pastures continued in good to excellent condition, however pastures were drying in some areas. Some cattle were shipping to summer irrigated pastures or to market. Due to timely spring rains, many cattle will not ship from foothill pastures until after mid-May. Sheep and cattle were in very good condition. Spring lambs were shipping from foothill and other pastures in the central and northern areas, with many going out-of-State for further feeding. Mild and dry weather has boosted milk production. Bees were working in citrus groves in Central California and in safflower and seed crop fields in the Northern Valley. Movement of out-of-State bees to other states was nearly complete.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 05/01/05**

| STATIONS                  | TEMPERATURE                  |                       |      |     | GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE |                      | PRECIPITATION        |                   |                   |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------|-----|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
|                           | Average Week Ending 05/01/05 | Departure from Normal | High | Low | This Season                      | Normal               | This Season          |                   | Normal            |                  |
|                           |                              |                       |      |     | January 1 - 05/01/05             | January 1 - 05/01/05 | Week Ending 05/01/05 | July 1 - 05/01/05 | July 1 - 05/01/05 | July 1 - June 30 |
|                           | -- Degrees Fahrenheit --     |                       |      |     | -- Number --                     |                      | -- Inches --         |                   |                   |                  |
| <b>NORTH COAST</b>        |                              |                       |      |     |                                  |                      |                      |                   |                   |                  |
| Eureka                    | 52                           | 0                     | 59   | 44  | 0                                | 0                    | 0.18                 | 41.48             | 35.89             | 37.53            |
| Ukiah                     | 57                           | -1                    | 74   | 41  | 16                               | 0                    | 0.00                 | 35.24             | 37.62             | 37.96            |
| Santa Rosa                | 56                           | -2                    | 72   | 42  | 20                               | 0                    | 0.05                 | 31.43             | 29.69             | 30.30            |
| <b>CENTRAL COAST</b>      |                              |                       |      |     |                                  |                      |                      |                   |                   |                  |
| San Francisco AP          | 59                           | 2                     | 71   | 49  | 19                               | 0                    | 0.83                 | 26.70             | 19.69             | 19.70            |
| San Jose                  | 60                           | -1                    | 73   | 47  | 48                               | 8                    | 0.93                 | 22.80             | 14.47             | 14.42            |
| Livermore Tele            | --                           | --                    | --   | --  | 14                               | 0                    | 0.00                 | 0.00              | 14.09             | 14.21            |
| Salinas AP                | 57                           | 0                     | 71   | 44  | 22                               | 0                    | 0.41                 | 18.92             | 12.37             | 12.44            |
| Monterey FAA              | 56                           | 1                     | 67   | 45  | 10                               | 0                    | 0.13                 | 14.89             | 14.38             | 18.72            |
| King City                 | 59                           | -1                    | 81   | 41  | 33                               | 0                    | 0.59                 | 18.28             | 11.85             | 11.44            |
| Paso Robles AP            | 57                           | -3                    | 76   | 39  | 6                                | 0                    | 0.72                 | 22.11             | 12.99             | 13.95            |
| <b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>  |                              |                       |      |     |                                  |                      |                      |                   |                   |                  |
| Redding                   | 63                           | 0                     | 75   | 48  | 68                               | 22                   | 0.25                 | 33.81             | 31.98             | 33.30            |
| Red Bluff FSS             | 62                           | -1                    | 75   | 48  | 46                               | 23                   | 0.01                 | 22.49             | 22.19             | 22.29            |
| Chico AFS                 | 62                           | 1                     | 78   | 47  | 76                               | 12                   | 0.11                 | 25.41             | 24.97             | 26.32            |
| Marysville                | 61                           | -3                    | 78   | 41  | 36                               | 49                   | 0.00                 | 20.99             | 21.27             | 21.04            |
| Sacramento AP             | 60                           | -2                    | 76   | 42  | 24                               | 12                   | 0.10                 | 20.37             | 17.12             | 17.52            |
| <b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b> |                              |                       |      |     |                                  |                      |                      |                   |                   |                  |
| Stockton WSO              | 62                           | -1                    | 78   | 44  | 40                               | 28                   | 0.25                 | 18.22             | 13.27             | 13.95            |
| Fresno                    | 62                           | -3                    | 78   | 47  | 75                               | 65                   | 0.37                 | 15.19             | 10.69             | 10.60            |
| Bakersfield               | 63                           | -3                    | 77   | 47  | 92                               | 95                   | 0.28                 | 9.57              | 6.17              | 5.72             |
| <b>SOUTH COAST</b>        |                              |                       |      |     |                                  |                      |                      |                   |                   |                  |
| Santa Maria AP            | 56                           | -1                    | 70   | 40  | 8                                | 0                    | 0.31                 | 18.91             | 13.74             | 12.36            |
| Santa Barbara             | 57                           | -2                    | 69   | 45  | 4                                | 0                    | 0.88                 | 32.10             | 16.90             | 16.25            |
| Oxnard                    | --                           | --                    | --   | --  | 66                               | 0                    | 0.00                 | 0.00              | 15.26             | 14.38            |
| Los Angeles               | 62                           | -3                    | 73   | 53  | 213                              | 177                  | 1.02                 | 36.86             | 14.77             | 14.77            |
| Riverside                 | --                           | --                    | 69   | 46  | 106                              | 61                   | 0.51                 | 20.59             | 10.31             | 9.58             |
| San Diego AP              | 62                           | -1                    | 68   | 56  | 163                              | 87                   | 0.53                 | 23.11             | 10.42             | 9.90             |
| <b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b> |                              |                       |      |     |                                  |                      |                      |                   |                   |                  |
| Bishop                    | 54                           | -3                    | 74   | 34  | 4                                | 0                    | 0.00                 | 9.35              | 4.59              | 5.37             |
| Lancaster                 | 59                           | -2                    | 77   | 39  | 9                                | 11                   | 0.33                 | 16.62             | 7.64              | 6.92             |
| Daggett AP                | 65                           | -4                    | 84   | 49  | 142                              | 183                  | 0.12                 | 8.80              | 4.00              | 3.93             |
| Thermal AP                | 72                           | -2                    | 91   | 56  | 489                              | 483                  | 0.00                 | 7.96              | 3.51              | 3.16             |
| Blythe                    | 71                           | -4                    | 89   | 50  | 464                              | 517                  | 0.00                 | 7.01              | 4.02              | 3.60             |
| Imperial                  | 71                           | -3                    | 92   | 54  | 494                              | 521                  | 0.00                 | 5.12              | 2.96              | 2.75             |
| <b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>   |                              |                       |      |     |                                  |                      |                      |                   |                   |                  |
| Alturas                   | 48                           | 2                     | 68   | 28  | 0                                | 0                    | 0.63                 | 12.15             | 10.22             | 12.01            |
| Mt. Shasta                | 51                           | 3                     | 71   | 33  | 0                                | 0                    | 0.25                 | 39.32             | 36.92             | 37.02            |
| Blue Canyon               | 44                           | -3                    | 55   | 34  | 0                                | 0                    | 0.72                 | 49.59             | 62.46             | 67.04            |
| Yosemite                  | --                           | --                    | --   | --  | 0                                | 0                    | 0.00                 | 23.92             | 35.91             | 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.