

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: August 21, 2005
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WEATHER

The week began with an unusual summertime pattern of an upper level low pressure system moving over southern California. This system brought scattered shower activity across much of the State, along with unseasonably cool temperatures. The low moved northeastward on Tuesday, keeping an onshore flow directed across California and resulted in below normal temperatures Statewide and isolated thunderstorm activity in the mountainous regions. Although the low pressure center moved east of the State by midweek, the upper level pattern allowed a continued onshore flow across California, keeping temperatures mild. By Friday, high pressure aloft began to rebuild over the West, which resulted in a warming trend that continued into the weekend.



FIELD CROPS

Rice growers began draining fields to allow for drying for the upcoming harvest. Cultivation and land preparation was ongoing in harvested **wheat**, **barley**, and **oat** fields. Field **corn** was being harvested for green chop and stored for silage production. Mature **sugar beets** continued to be harvested with good yields reported. Bee and ditch removal was ongoing around **seed alfalfa** fields in preparation for desiccation; some fields were being treated for lygus and mites. Alfalfa **hay** fields continued to be cut, windrowed, raked, and baled while other fields were irrigated. **Safflower** crops were blooming. **Cotton** fields continued to bloom and set bolls.

FRUIT CROPS

Harvesting of table **grapes** continued. Flame Seedless, Thompson Seedless, Summer Royal, Red Globe, Princess, Fantasy Seedless, and Crimson Seedless were among the varieties harvested. In some raisin vineyards, Zante Currant and other early varieties were being placed on trays for drying. In other vineyards, growers prepared beds to lay down fruit. Growers with dried-on-the-vine raisins were cane cutting, while Thompson raisin growers were cane cutting and preparing the ground for terracing. Many grape growers began picking for wine and bulk juice production. Field crews continued harvesting stone fruit. Harvested varieties included Prima 20 and Snow Giant **peaches**; Betty Anne, and Angelina **plums**; Flavor Grenade **pluots**; and Flamekist and Regal Red **nectarines**. A few stone fruit orchards were removed following harvest, and the trees were stacked for disposal. Granny Smith **apples** were tested and released for harvest. Gala apples were being harvested in many locations. Good yields continued to be reported by growers harvesting Black Mission and Brown Turkey **figs**. **Pomegranates** continued to mature and fill trees with fruit. Harvesting of Pineapple **quince** began. **Prune** harvest continued. Citrus groves continued to show steady growth, and some growers were dusting to protect trees and fruit from sunburn. Valencia **orange** harvest was slow due to weak demand and problems with fruit quality. Fruit was being field-juiced in some orchards. The Navel orange crop continued to develop and size fairly well. Treatment continued in many orange groves to control scale, other pests, and weeds. Harvesting of **lemons** began on a limited basis in the Desert region. Insecticide applications to control olive fruit fly continued in **olive** orchards.

NUT CROPS

Almond hull split continued in almond orchards where growers were preparing for harvest, and herbicides were applied to orchards to clear weeds. In some areas, almond harvesting was commencing, with trees being shaken. Other nut orchards were cultivated and irrigated. Some **walnut** orchards were in their final irrigation. Ground work in some blocks began for the upcoming harvest.

VEGETABLE CROPS

The recent cooling trend and scattered cloud cover was a relief to heat stressed vegetable crops. **Spinach** and **broccoli** fields were planted. The harvest of **carrots** and summer **potatoes** began to slow down. Harvest continued for **basil**, bell **peppers**, **cantaloupe**, **eggplant**, **garlic**, green **beans**, **honeydew**, **parsley**, pickling **cucumber**, summer **squash**, sweet **corn**, **tomatoes**, **watermelon**, and **zucchini**.

LIVESTOCK

Foothill pastures remained dry with high fire danger. A few cattle, mainly beef cows, were grazing on these pastures and were receiving protein supplements. Irrigated pastures were in moderate to good condition with lower temperatures helping to ease stress on pastures. Fall calving was underway on beef cows. Milk production improved in a few areas due to a drop in temperatures. However, higher temperatures late in the period again had a negative effect on milk production. In the central area, sheep continued to graze in old grain fields, on fallow land, and in harvested melon fields. Bees were active in blooming vineseed fields in the Sacramento Valley. A few bees still remain in late planted melon fields in the Central Valley, but most hives have been moved to the mountains for the summer.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 08/21/05

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 08/21/05	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 08/21/05	January 1 - 08/21/05	Week Ending 08/21/05	July 1 - 08/21/05	July 1 - 08/21/05	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	56	-3	64	51	6	0	0.06	0.24	0.39	37.53
Ukiah	71	-2	94	52	1,055	1,004	0.00	0.00	0.16	37.96
Santa Rosa	64	-3	83	52	526	572	0.04	0.04	0.13	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	62	-2	72	55	335	231	0.00	0.05	0.08	19.70
San Jose	67	-3	80	57	842	874	0.00	0.01	0.09	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	1,116	961	0.00	0.00	0.08	14.21
Salinas AP	62	-2	68	56	276	213	0.00	0.04	0.08	12.44
Monterey FAA	60	-1	68	54	93	72	0.00	0.01	0.24	18.72
King City	68	-1	84	54	898	668	0.00	0.00	0.04	11.44
Paso Robles AP	70	-3	98	51	1,194	1,068	0.08	0.08	0.04	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	79	0	99	58	1,898	1,754	0.00	0.00	0.32	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	78	-1	98	60	1,800	1,829	0.01	0.01	0.21	22.29
Chico AFS	76	1	95	56	1,685	1,443	0.00	0.00	0.17	26.32
Marysville	75	-2	97	54	1,616	1,714	0.00	0.00	0.12	21.04
Sacramento AP	72	-2	92	54	1,396	1,312	0.00	0.00	0.09	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	75	-1	97	55	1,658	1,529	0.04	0.24	0.08	13.95
Fresno	80	0	99	63	2,126	1,970	0.00	0.00	0.02	10.60
Bakersfield	81	-1	99	65	2,176	2,164	0.01	0.02	0.07	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	64	0	74	53	261	223	0.00	0.00	0.07	12.36
Santa Barbara	64	-3	76	53	380	420	0.01	0.06	0.13	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	609	521	0.00	0.00	0.07	14.38
Los Angeles	70	-5	81	61	1,308	1,472	0.00	0.00	0.10	14.77
Riverside	75	-3	99	56	1,613	1,522	0.00	0.00	0.15	9.58
San Diego AP	70	-3	75	64	1,046	1,040	0.00	0.01	0.10	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	70	-4	94	49	1,386	1,217	0.36	0.43	0.27	5.37
Lancaster	75	-4	101	50	1,836	1,695	0.01	0.01	0.22	6.92
Daggett AP	84	-3	105	66	2,780	2,779	0.28	0.37	0.72	3.93
Thermal AP	89	-1	113	68	3,488	3,384	0.00	0.00	0.46	3.16
Blythe	93	0	110	74	3,714	3,743	0.00	1.35	0.80	3.60
Imperial	90	-1	112	69	3,628	3,489	0.00	0.68	0.35	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	66	3	94	40	518	275	0.00	0.00	0.55	12.01
Mt. Shasta	66	0	87	44	556	389	0.00	0.00	0.71	37.02
Blue Canyon	67	1	77	57	684	450	0.00	0.00	0.77	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	88	57	982	800	0.00	0.00	0.73	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.