

# CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service  
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: September 11, 2005  
RELEASED: September 12, 2005

FREQUENCY: Weekly  
VOL. 25 NO. 11

## WEATHER

A weak ridge of high pressure lay over California at the start of the week, bringing dry and mild conditions to the State. This ridge was very short lived, as a low pressure system quickly approached the State from the eastern Pacific. The low developed into a broad trough of low pressure which dominated California's weather for the rest of the week. Small weather disturbances moving through this trough produced occasional scattered thunderstorm activity in the northern mountains and in the northern portions of the Sacramento Valley during the week. These storms dropped heavy rains but only in isolated areas. The low pressure trough deepened by the weekend, with the coolest temperatures of the week occurring Friday through Sunday.



## FIELD CROPS

The **rice** harvest began on a limited scale for early plantings. Most **cotton** fields continued boll development, and in some fields the bolls on the lower portion of the cotton plants were opening. Most growers were applying the final irrigation in cotton fields, and treatment for worms continued. **Sudan** hay and silage harvest continued. **Sugar beet** harvest was ongoing in the Imperial Valley, while the planting of the new fall crop was beginning. **Corn** harvest for both grain and silage continued. **Sweet potato** harvest continued. Land preparation for the upcoming planting was ongoing in harvested **wheat**, **barley**, and **oat** fields. Previously desiccated seed **alfalfa** fields and **sunflower** fields continued to be harvested, while other fields continued to be desiccated. **Vinseed** harvest continued, with lower than expected yields reported in the Sacramento Valley. Alfalfa hay fields continued to be cut, windrowed, raked, and baled, while other fields were irrigated.

## FRUIT CROPS

Raisin, table, and wine **grape** harvest was in full swing across the State. The raisin grape harvest was progressing well with approximately 33 percent of the crop picked and laid on trays for drying. An estimated 8 percent of the crop has been rolled, and about 3 percent has already been picked up and placed into bins. Other raisin vineyards were being terraced in preparation for harvest. Table grape varieties harvested included Thompson Seedless, Red Globe, and Autumn Royal. Barbera, Carignane, Grenache, and Palomino varieties were being harvested for home winemaking. Stone fruit harvesting remained underway, but was beginning to slow as the end of the season approached. Varieties harvested included October Sun and Angelino **plums**, August Snow and September Snow **peaches**, and Red Jim and Arctic Pride **nectarines**. The **prune** harvest was nearly complete in most areas. Many stone fruit growers continued post-harvest pruning to establish fruit wood for next season. A few stone fruit orchards were removed and stacked for disposal. **Figs**, Pineapple **quince**, and Early Foothill and Early Red **pomegranates** were harvested. **Strawberry** transplants in the San Joaquin Valley were showing good growth. Irrigation of citrus groves continued, and fruit began sizing up. A few Valencia **oranges** continued to be harvested in the San Joaquin Valley. Rind break down and soft fruit increased from normal seasonal decline of the fruit. Most Valencias were going straight from the field to juice. The Navel orange crop appeared smaller in size but heavier in numbers compared to last year. Some fruit were exhibiting signs of sunburn. Olive fruit fly applications continued in **olive** groves.

## NUT CROPS

**Almond** harvest continued in most areas. Trees were shaken, and nuts were swept and picked up from orchard floors and transported to hulling facilities. Early variety **walnut** harvest began. **Pistachio** harvest began in some locations.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Fall **broccoli** and **spinach** were progressing normally. **Pumpkins** were developing. Farmers continued to prepare fields for **lettuce** planting. **Cilantro** was planted. **Tomato** and **watermelon** harvest was coming to a close. Harvest continued for **asparagus**, **bell pepper**, **cantaloup**, **eggplant**, freezer **lima beans**, **garlic**, **green beans**, **honeydew**, mixed **melons**, pickling **cucumber**, summer **squash**, **sweet corn**, **watermelon**, and **zucchini**. Ground preparation for winter vegetable plantings was ongoing.

## LIVESTOCK

Foothill pastures were dry with increased supplemental feeding of cattle in a few areas. Fire danger remained high. Beef cows were being moved from higher elevation pastures to foothill pastures where dry grass is abundant. Fall calving of beef cows continued. Yearling feeder cattle were shipping from summer pastures to market. Cooler weather reduced stress on milk cows and improved milk production. Sheep continued to graze in old grain fields in the central area. Bees were working in late blooming vinseed fields in the Sacramento Valley. Some beekeepers in central California were moving their hives to foothill and mountain locations.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 09/11/05**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 09/11/05	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 09/11/05	January 1 - 09/11/05	Week Ending 09/11/05	July 1 - 09/11/05	July 1 - 09/11/05	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
<b>NORTH COAST</b>										
Eureka	53	-5	63	45	11	0	0.03	0.33	0.81	37.53
Ukiah	65	-5	89	44	1,258	1,235	0.00	0.00	0.41	37.96
Santa Rosa	62	-5	83	46	623	725	0.00	0.04	0.32	30.30
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco AP	62	-2	73	53	404	321	0.00	0.06	0.15	19.70
San Jose	65	-4	79	53	1,012	1,073	0.00	0.01	0.15	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	1,343	1,188	0.00	0.00	0.15	14.21
Salinas AP	61	-3	72	49	324	301	0.00	0.04	0.13	12.44
Monterey FAA	60	-1	70	51	112	101	0.00	0.01	0.30	18.72
King City	65	-3	86	45	1,053	833	0.00	0.00	0.09	11.44
Paso Robles AP	65	-6	94	42	1,422	1,313	0.00	0.08	0.12	13.95
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	71	-4	94	50	2,253	2,104	0.01	0.01	0.73	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	71	-5	92	51	2,147	2,192	0.02	0.03	0.46	22.29
Chico AFS	71	-2	92	52	2,008	1,737	0.00	0.00	0.43	26.32
Marysville	68	-6	90	51	1,876	2,040	0.00	0.00	0.24	21.04
Sacramento AP	68	-5	89	51	1,663	1,594	0.00	0.00	0.21	17.52
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	70	-4	94	53	1,972	1,843	0.04	0.31	0.15	13.95
Fresno	74	-4	99	54	2,536	2,350	0.00	0.00	0.11	10.60
Bakersfield	73	-6	93	53	2,603	2,584	0.00	0.02	0.15	5.72
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria AP	61	-3	74	47	315	307	0.00	0.00	0.19	12.36
Santa Barbara	62	-4	77	48	470	560	0.02	0.10	0.29	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	741	676	0.00	0.00	0.16	14.38
Los Angeles	70	-5	87	59	1,591	1,790	0.00	0.00	0.22	14.77
Riverside	73	-3	99	55	1,967	1,871	0.00	0.00	0.29	9.58
San Diego AP	69	-3	79	59	1,267	1,297	0.00	0.01	0.19	9.90
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	63	-6	91	34	1,592	1,446	0.00	0.43	0.40	5.37
Lancaster	69	-6	94	47	2,167	2,041	0.00	0.01	0.37	6.92
Daggett AP	78	-4	99	58	3,297	3,289	0.00	0.37	0.98	3.93
Thermal AP	84	-2	107	62	4,096	3,964	0.00	0.00	0.73	3.16
Blythe	88	-1	108	63	4,397	4,383	0.00	1.35	1.12	3.60
Imperial	88	0	116	65	4,228	4,108	0.00	0.68	0.58	2.75
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	54	-4	86	26	548	296	0.02	0.02	0.88	12.01
Mt. Shasta	59	-3	81	35	636	445	0.05	0.05	1.21	37.02
Blue Canyon	58	-6	72	41	826	552	0.00	0.00	1.45	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	1,204	994	0.00	0.00	1.13	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.