

# CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service  
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: September 25, 2005  
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## WEATHER



Fall began with a series of low pressure systems affecting the west in a pattern that was characteristic of the season. An upper level low pressure area was centered just off the central California coast on Monday, keeping temperatures mild across most of the State. On Tuesday and Wednesday, the low pressure system moved across central California. This resulted in widespread showers and cooler temperatures across the State during the middle of the week. Significant rainfall was reported in both northern and central California with this system, along with widespread thunderstorms. This system moved through the State quickly, and by Thursday, dry and warm temperatures returned. On Saturday, another low pressure system was approaching the California/Oregon coast. This system dropped south by Sunday, but remained off the southern California coast, resulting in a slight cool down across the State for the weekend, but no significant additional rainfall was reported.

## FIELD CROPS

Field **corn** continued to be harvested for green chop and stored for silage production. Previously harvested fields were being disced and prepared for fall plantings. The **sugar beet** harvest continued. Desiccation of seed **alfalfa** fields was finished, and harvest was completed. **Sunflower** harvest neared completion, and some growers reported applying desiccant treatment on fields. The **rice** harvest continued. **Cotton** defoliation had begun in a few early planted fields, but in most cotton acreage, bolls were about 75 percent open. **Blackeye bean** fields were starting to be cut and windrowed in preparation for the final harvest. The **vineseed** harvest was ongoing.

## FRUIT CROPS

An early thunderstorm during the middle of the week soaked raisin **grape** vineyards in the San Joaquin Valley, leaving puddles on the trays of drying grapes and threatening the quality of the fruit. Approximately 57 percent of the crop was picked and laid on trays to dry. An estimated 12 percent of the crop had been rolled and 14 percent had been picked up and placed into bins. Other raisin vineyards were terraced in preparation of harvest for raisin production. Due to a labor shortage for picking and rolling raisins, many growers were harvesting their raisins mechanically. Harvesting of fresh market grapes continued. Varieties harvested included Thompson Seedless, Christmas Rose, Crimson, Red Globe, Crispy, and Autumn Royal. Wine and juice grape harvest continued with Carignane, French Colombard, Barbera, and Merlot among the varieties harvested. Picking and packing of stone fruit remained underway, but the season was approaching its final stages. Harvested varieties included Angelino and October Gem **plums**, Flavor Fall **pluots**, September Red and Snow Magic **peaches**, and Arctic Snow and Arctic Pride **nectarines**. Stone fruit growers continued summer pruning activities following harvest to establish fruit wood for next season. Pineapple **quince** and Early Foothill and Wonderful **pomegranates** continued to be picked and packed. Cooler night and morning temperatures improved the rind color of pomegranate fruit and enhanced the external color on **persimmons**. **Apple** and **fig** harvesting continued in many locations. **Kiwifruit** harvest continued in Yuba County and began in the San Joaquin Valley; good quality was reported. **Olive** harvest was underway in many orchards. A few Valencia **oranges** continued to be picked. Color was fair with two to three days of de-greening required. Overly mature Valencia oranges were sent directly to juice plants which were running at full capacity. Next season's Navel oranges continued to develop and size. Sunburn was showing on some outside fruit. Scale monitoring and treatments continued. The manual labor shortage was a major issue for all citrus commodities.

## NUT CROPS

**Walnut** and **pistachio** harvest increased in many growing areas. Late **almonds** continued to be picked.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Winter vegetable plantings have begun. **Broccoli**, **cauliflower**, and **spinach** showed good growth progress due to ideal weather conditions. **Tomatoes** continued to be sprayed with fungicide. **Asparagus**, **cucumbers**, **bell peppers**, **cantaloup**, **honeydew**, **sweet corn**, and **tomatoes** were harvested. **Pumpkins** continued to mature for harvest in October.

## LIVESTOCK

Rangelands were in poor condition, and fire danger remained high. Controlled burns were set on rangelands in the San Joaquin Valley to help prevent wild fires until the winter rains arrive. Supplemental feeding of cattle continued on dry foothill pastures. Fall calving of beef cows was ongoing. Yearling feeder cattle were shipping from summer pastures to market. Cooler weather continued to reduce stress on milk cows, and milk production was mostly normal.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 09/25/05**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 09/25/05	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 09/25/05	January 1 - 09/25/05	Week Ending 09/25/05	July 1 - 09/25/05	July 1 - 09/25/05	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
<b>NORTH COAST</b>										
Eureka	52	-5	73	40	11	0	0.04	0.48	1.23	37.53
Ukiah	65	-3	95	39	1,321	1,354	0.00	0.00	0.76	37.96
Santa Rosa	64	-2	91	41	677	816	0.00	0.04	0.57	30.30
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco AP	62	-2	82	50	424	379	0.08	0.14	0.26	19.70
San Jose	66	-2	85	51	1,124	1,191	0.00	0.01	0.28	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	1,417	1,315	0.00	0.00	0.27	14.21
Salinas AP	62	-2	83	44	344	360	0.00	0.04	0.24	12.44
Monterey FAA	58	-3	73	45	114	118	0.00	0.01	0.47	18.72
King City	67	0	95	41	1,110	932	0.00	0.02	0.19	11.44
Paso Robles AP	66	-2	95	38	1,496	1,439	0.00	0.08	0.27	13.95
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	71	-2	95	50	2,388	2,299	0.01	0.02	1.07	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	72	-2	94	50	2,279	2,389	0.00	0.03	0.82	22.29
Chico AFS	71	0	94	46	2,129	1,893	0.00	0.00	0.72	26.32
Marysville	70	-2	93	49	2,061	2,218	0.00	0.00	0.45	21.04
Sacramento AP	69	-2	90	47	1,764	1,750	0.00	0.00	0.39	17.52
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	70	-2	93	47	2,092	2,015	0.29	0.61	0.32	13.95
Fresno	74	0	91	54	2,698	2,554	0.03	0.03	0.24	10.60
Bakersfield	74	-2	91	55	2,766	2,814	0.02	0.04	0.23	5.72
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria AP	60	-3	76	47	321	358	0.00	0.00	0.32	12.36
Santa Barbara	61	-5	77	46	482	641	0.00	0.27	0.54	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	812	770	0.00	0.00	0.33	14.38
Los Angeles	69	-5	83	57	1,702	1,985	0.28	0.28	0.38	14.77
Riverside	73	0	95	51	2,181	2,066	0.34	0.34	0.41	9.58
San Diego AP	68	-3	77	59	1,369	1,455	0.22	0.23	0.29	9.90
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	64	-1	87	43	1,632	1,531	0.21	0.64	0.53	5.37
Lancaster	69	-2	93	45	2,248	2,210	0.80	0.81	0.47	6.92
Daggett AP	75	-3	96	53	3,424	3,562	0.29	0.79	1.12	3.93
Thermal AP	83	0	101	58	4,386	4,291	0.00	0.00	0.92	3.16
Blythe	85	1	102	65	4,707	4,743	0.00	1.35	1.35	3.60
Imperial	85	1	102	62	4,539	4,462	0.04	0.72	0.75	2.75
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	51	-4	84	21	556	296	0.16	0.31	1.18	12.01
Mt. Shasta	57	-2	86	30	659	446	0.03	0.10	1.63	37.02
Blue Canyon	61	1	75	44	848	574	0.00	0.00	2.27	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	1,257	1,069	0.00	0.00	1.56	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.