

# CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service  
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: October 2, 2005  
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## WEATHER



At the start of the week, an upper level low pressure system was moving over the central California coast from the Pacific. Unstable conditions brought a few showers to much of the State. Temperatures were near normal for early fall. As the week progressed, the upper low quickly moved across the State. By midweek, surface high pressure had settled over the Great Basin, and this resulted in the development of a strong offshore flow which became a Santa Ana Wind in Southern California. This offshore flow brought warm and dry conditions to the State, especially the south, where wildfires quickly spread. The ridge axis quickly moved east into Nevada by the weekend. This brought an onshore flow which cooled temperatures and brought moist air to inland areas. By Sunday, another upper level low pressure system approached from the Gulf of Alaska, weakening the high pressure ridge and bringing a cooling trend to California, along with a few showers to the northern sections of the State.

## FIELD CROPS

Growers continued to prepare fields for fall plantings of **wheat**, **barley**, and **oat** crops by leveling land, putting up boarders, and pre-irrigating. **Rice** harvest was on-going with multiple reports of lodging in the rice fields. **Cotton** defoliation was in full swing; Tulare County reported whitefly pressure has increased on cotton. Field **corn** harvest for green chop was ongoing. The **sugar beet** harvest continued with good yields reported. Many **alfalfa** hay fields continued to be cut, windrowed, raked, and baled, while other fields were irrigated. **Sudan grass** was being cut for hay, with some going for silage. **Sunflower** harvest was almost complete. Harvest continued in **blackeye bean** and **vineseed** fields.

## FRUIT CROPS

Raisin **grape** harvest was progressing smoothly in the San Joaquin Valley. In Fresno County, approximately half of the crop had been harvested, while further south in Tulare County, raisin harvest was approximately 90 percent complete. Cooler weather during the week slowed the drying process for raisins. Most growers were able to escape major damage from the recent rains, but some losses were reported. Harvesting of table grapes continued for foreign and domestic markets. Varieties picked included Red Globe, Thompson Seedless, and Autumn Royal. Wine and juice grape harvest also remained underway with Carignane, French Colombard, Barbera, and Merlot among the varieties picked. Stone fruit harvest remained active in many locations. Harvested varieties included Angelino and Autumn Beaut **plums**, Snow Fall and Full Moon **peaches**, and Arctic Mist **nectarines**. Some stone fruit orchards were being pushed out for replanting of new varieties. Red and Golden Delicious and Fuji **apples** were harvested across the State with good yields reported. Pineapple and Smyrna **quince** and Early Foothill and Wonderful **pomegranates** were picked and packed. **Kiwifruit** was harvested in Yuba County and some areas of the San Joaquin Valley. Valencia **orange** harvest slowed down, and growers began preparations for Navel harvest, which should begin in the next few weeks. Navel maturity appeared to be about two weeks behind average, and sizes were small. Harvesting of Chandler **pummelos** and Oroblanco **grapefruit** hybrids was underway. The **olive** harvest continued across the State. A shortage of labor continued to be an issue with all hand-harvested commodities.

## NUT CROPS

**Almond**, **walnut**, and **pistachio** orchards continued to be harvested. In northern counties, small nut sizes and sunburn damage were contributing to lower yields than expected for the walnut crop. In the San Joaquin Valley, damage was noted in the form of shriveling and adhering hulls due to several hot summer days. Some walnut orchards suffered from broken limbs during shaking for harvest.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Cooler temperatures slowed the production of various summer vegetables including assorted **peppers**, bitter **melons**, **eggplant**, and **okra**. Fall crop **spinach** and **broccoli** was making normal progress. Insecticides were applied to some broccoli and lettuce fields. **Pumpkins** were nearly ready for harvest. **Watermelon** harvest has neared completion. **Asparagus**, **cucumber**, bell pepper, **cantaloupe**, **garlic**, **honeydew**, **squash**, sweet **corn**, and **tomato** harvest continued.

## LIVESTOCK

Scattered showers were not enough to stimulate new grass growth on winter pastures. Some beef cows have been moved from higher elevation summer pastures to foothill pastures. This movement has been prompted by abundant dry grass on many foothill pastures. Fire danger remained high. Many cattle were receiving protein supplements. Fall calving of beef cows continued. Cooler temperatures had improved milk production and reduced stress on livestock. Sheep continued to graze in harvested forage fields in the central area.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 10/02/05**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 10/02/05	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 10/02/05	January 1 - 10/02/05	Week Ending 10/02/05	July 1 - 10/02/05	July 1 - 10/02/05	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
<b>NORTH COAST</b>										
Eureka	53	-4	66	44	11	0	0.31	0.79	1.50	37.53
Ukiah	67	1	97	44	1,375	1,399	0.00	0.00	0.98	37.96
Santa Rosa	66	1	97	43	721	855	0.00	0.04	0.75	30.30
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco AP	66	2	84	53	463	404	0.00	0.14	0.37	19.70
San Jose	69	2	88	55	1,188	1,240	0.00	0.01	0.39	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	1,489	1,368	0.00	0.00	0.37	14.21
Salinas AP	65	1	90	49	380	387	0.00	0.04	0.33	12.44
Monterey FAA	59	-2	72	50	116	130	0.00	0.01	0.82	18.72
King City	69	2	101	47	1,169	975	0.01	0.03	0.27	11.44
Paso Robles AP	70	3	99	46	1,564	1,487	0.01	0.10	0.37	13.95
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	69	-2	97	50	2,454	2,377	0.00	0.02	1.29	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	71	-1	98	47	2,354	2,469	0.01	0.04	1.06	22.29
Chico AFS	72	4	98	49	2,216	1,955	0.00	0.00	0.89	26.32
Marysville	71	0	97	49	2,138	2,293	0.03	0.03	0.61	21.04
Sacramento AP	71	2	95	50	1,842	1,814	0.00	0.00	0.50	17.52
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	73	3	96	52	2,181	2,086	0.01	0.62	0.43	13.95
Fresno	75	3	96	56	2,800	2,637	0.01	0.04	0.33	10.60
Bakersfield	74	0	96	52	2,861	2,911	0.07	0.11	0.28	5.72
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria AP	65	2	95	46	356	380	0.04	0.07	0.39	12.36
Santa Barbara	64	-1	98	43	514	675	0.06	0.33	0.66	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	866	813	0.00	0.00	0.42	14.38
Los Angeles	74	1	97	58	1,798	2,074	0.00	0.28	0.45	14.77
Riverside	77	5	103	55	2,300	2,149	0.04	0.38	0.46	9.58
San Diego AP	71	0	88	59	1,444	1,527	0.00	0.23	0.35	9.90
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	63	0	88	39	1,656	1,549	0.16	0.80	0.58	5.37
Lancaster	70	1	93	46	2,318	2,270	0.00	0.81	0.51	6.92
Daggett AP	78	2	97	56	3,548	3,674	0.00	0.79	1.15	3.93
Thermal AP	83	3	106	57	4,550	4,432	0.00	0.00	0.98	3.16
Blythe	85	3	103	63	4,884	4,897	0.00	1.35	1.47	3.60
Imperial	85	3	105	63	4,714	4,616	0.00	0.72	0.83	2.75
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	54	1	85	26	557	296	0.04	0.35	1.33	12.01
Mt. Shasta	57	1	84	28	666	446	0.07	0.17	1.88	37.02
Blue Canyon	60	1	77	43	870	574	0.30	0.30	2.84	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	1,294	1,087	0.00	0.00	1.81	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.