

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: May 7, 2006
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WEATHER

High pressure was building over the west coast at the start of the week. This, coupled with gusty offshore winds across interior northern California, brought warm and dry conditions to most of the State. The exception was in southern California, where an onshore flow developed and brought cool and moist air to the coastal valleys, resulting in extensive low cloudiness and cooler temperatures. An upper level low pressure system moved across the State on Wednesday and Thursday resulting in slightly cooler temperatures, and triggered scattered thunderstorms across the central Sierra. This low also strengthened the onshore flow in the south, bringing cooler than normal temperatures. By the weekend the low pressure system had moved into eastern Nevada, and high pressure was building again over California, resulting in drier and warmer conditions all across the State.



FIELD CROPS

Rice fields were being flooded in the Sacramento Valley, and weed treatment began on already flooded fields. The recent warm weather was benefitting the small grain crops, which were growing rapidly. Most winter wheat fields were completely headed. **Cotton** growers continued planting, and some earlier planted fields in Fresno County were starting to emerge. Recently planted field **corn** was also germinating quickly due to warm weather. The first **alfalfa** cutting continued. **Sugar beet** fields were showing good growth, and good yields were reported from harvested fields.

FRUIT CROPS

Tree fruit thinning and weed control continued in most orchards. Continuing warm weather enhanced size and maturity of tree fruit. Early varieties of April Snow and Early Treat **peaches** were harvested. **Grape** canopies continued to grow well with the onset of sunny days. Several vineyards were treated for nematodes and sulphur to combat mildew. Vineyards were irrigated. Suckering activities on table grapes gained momentum. **Kiwifruit** bloom was ongoing throughout Fresno County. **Pomegranate** trees continued to leaf out. **Strawberries** were harvested in the San Joaquin Valley for sale at roadside stands. **Olive** trees started to develop bloom buds. General field activities continued in **citrus** orchards with irrigation, herbicide and insecticide applications. Several citrus growers treated young citrus trees for aphids. The **Navel** and **Valencia** orange harvest continued. Navel quality continued to diminish with the warmer temperatures, while the Valencia harvest was progressing well with pack outs peaking at smaller sizes. Citrus groves continued to be topped and hedged for preparation of the new crop. **Lemons** and **grapefruit** were also harvested.

NUT CROPS

Growers continued their seasonal cycle of irrigation and cultivation in nut orchards. Nut formation in **almond** orchards continued, while **pistachio** and **walnut** trees continued to leaf out. Almond growers sprayed to control weeds. Walnut orchards were sprayed for blight.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Warm weather conditions have contributed to good development of Crookneck and Zucchini **squash**. Transplant **tomatoes**, **cucumber**, **eggplant**, **peppers**, and **melons** were showing good growth as well. Fields of **garlic**, **onions**, and tomatoes matured. Cultivating and irrigating of tomatoes and paprika peppers began. **Lettuce** and **broccoli** harvest ended in Fresno County. In other areas, harvest of **asparagus**, spring lettuce, broccoli and **spinach** continued. Asian vegetables such as **kankon**, **basil**, **Asian celery**, **curly mustard greens**, **sugar** and **snow pea leaf**, and **yu choy** continued to be harvested. Packing and shipping of **radicchio** continued.

LIVESTOCK

Foothill pastures were beginning to turn brown in many areas. Cattle weight gains were still at an optimum because much green grass remained in pastures. Some mid-May special feeder cattle auctions have been re-scheduled for late May through early June. Some low lying pastures and farm land have still not dried out from the rains in March and April and run-off from mountain snow melt. Milk production improved due to warmer temperatures and drier conditions at dairies. In central California, new crop lambs continued to ship from foothill pastures. Bees were in vacant fields feeding on weed blossoms.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 05/07/06

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 05/07/06	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 05/07/06	January 1 - 05/07/06	Week Ending 05/07/06	July 1 - 05/07/06	July 1 - 05/07/06	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	49	-3	56	37	0	0	0.00	61.76	36.28	37.53
Ukiah	63	4	86	42	57	0	0.00	50.65	37.90	37.96
Santa Rosa	58	-1	78	43	12	0	0.00	43.58	29.87	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	58	0	71	48	4	0	0.00	25.88	19.81	19.70
San Jose	63	1	81	50	44	19	0.00	21.18	14.60	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	32	5	0.00	0.00	14.22	14.21
Salinas AP	58	0	69	49	12	0	0.00	14.70	12.45	12.44
Monterey FAA	55	0	63	48	10	0	0.00	13.44	14.42	18.72
King City	62	1	82	42	36	3	0.00	12.94	11.93	11.44
Paso Robles AP	62	1	89	45	33	4	0.00	13.48	13.07	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	70	6	89	50	155	44	0.00	45.11	32.40	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	68	4	89	50	124	49	0.00	29.85	22.43	22.29
Chico AFS	68	5	90	49	117	29	0.00	30.83	25.19	26.32
Marysville	65	-1	86	49	85	82	0.00	29.99	21.45	21.04
Sacramento AP	64	1	85	50	62	30	0.00	23.46	17.26	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	65	0	87	45	70	53	0.01	16.11	13.40	13.95
Fresno	68	2	87	51	117	104	0.00	14.84	10.80	10.60
Bakersfield	70	3	89	51	148	141	0.00	6.73	6.23	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	57	0	69	43	9	0	0.00	16.53	13.82	12.36
Santa Barbara	57	-2	64	47	2	0	0.04	17.99	16.97	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	77	3	0.00	0.00	15.32	14.38
Los Angeles	64	-2	72	56	180	212	0.00	12.15	14.87	14.77
Riverside	66	2	85	53	208	90	0.00	7.04	10.38	9.58
San Diego AP	64	0	70	59	132	110	0.00	5.37	10.49	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	65	6	86	39	67	0	0.00	7.67	4.63	5.37
Lancaster	68	5	92	49	96	30	0.00	6.59	7.67	6.92
Daggett AP	75	4	96	54	240	247	0.00	1.33	4.03	3.93
Thermal AP	79	3	99	63	522	576	0.00	2.35	3.52	3.16
Blythe	79	3	101	58	572	618	0.00	2.52	4.03	3.60
Imperial	77	2	99	56	588	613	0.00	1.87	2.97	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	51	4	69	27	0	0	0.00	14.85	10.49	12.01
Mt. Shasta	56	6	74	36	6	0	0.00	58.49	37.26	37.02
Blue Canyon	56	7	66	45	6	0	0.15	88.44	63.10	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	77	42	6	0	0.00	44.82	36.30	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.