

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

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WEATHER



At the start of the week, California remained between a high pressure ridge over the midwest, and a low pressure trough off the west coast. A weather disturbance moving through the trough spread rains to the entire State on Monday, and kept temperatures below normal. By Tuesday, the bulk of this storm system had moved out of the State and drier and warmer conditions were beginning to develop. At midweek, a modest high pressure ridge had developed and brought warm and dry conditions to the State, with temperatures finally approaching normal. On Thursday, the ridge was beginning to erode and temperatures began to fall. By the weekend, an upper level low pressure system moved into the State from the northwest, resulting in very cool temperatures for the season, and showers along the North Coast and thunderstorms across the Sierra Nevada. High pressure began to rebuild by Sunday, and temperatures began to rise, though they remained below normal.

FIELD CROPS

Alfalfa for hay was cut and baled, with most areas beginning the second cutting of the season. **Rice** field flooding and planting continued. Rice plantings were beginning to emerge in Merced County. **Sugar beet** harvest continued, and successive plantings were slowing down in the San Joaquin Valley. Fields were irrigated and treated with sulfur. The harvest of **wheat** for grain continued. Silage **corn** fields were starting to emerge. **Cotton** growers were cultivating their fields and applying fertilizers and herbicides. The dry down of **forage** crops was set back by last week's rain, but the return of warm weather encouraged drying.

FRUIT CROPS

Irrigation practices remained underway in tree fruit orchards and **grape** vineyards, but recent rains interrupted spraying and other field work. Grape growers continued their yearly cycling of cultivation, furrowing, irrigation, and mildew control. Thompson Seedless vines began blooming in the San Joaquin Valley, encouraging applications of bloom sprays. Spray applications for insect control were also underway. Field crews were busy suckering and leaf pulling vines and training canes onto trellises. Perlette and Flame Seedless variety table grapes were harvested in the Coachella Valley. Thinning continued in stone fruit orchards. **Peach** harvest was ongoing with April Snow and May Snow among the varieties picked. Other varieties of stone fruit harvested included Earliglo and Spring Flair **nectarines** and Poppy **plumcots**. **Apricots** were showing good size and beginning to color, with the Castlebrite variety among the first to be harvested. Recent rains damaged some early **cherry** varieties in the San Joaquin valley, which were already very light in yield due to rains during the bloom season. Brooks and Tulare cherry varieties were harvested. **Pomegranates** were in full bloom. Rains hampered **strawberry** harvesting and fruit quality in Monterey County. **Blueberry** and strawberry harvest continued in the San Joaquin Valley, with demand on the rise. Harvesting of Navel and Valencia **oranges** continued, but wet weather conditions slowed picking activities. Growers applied herbicides to orange groves. Puff and crease continued to be a problem for Navels.

NUT CROPS

Irrigation, spray applications for weed and mildew control, and treatment for codling moth, mites, and lygus were underway in **almond**, **pistachio** and **walnut** orchards. Blight sprays continued in walnut orchards.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Weekend rains slowed the harvesting pace for some crops, but were favorable for all outdoor planted vegetables. Picking of **zucchini**, summer and yellow crookneck **squash** continued. **Asparagus** and spring **radicchio** harvest was complete. Planting of fresh and processing **tomato**, **watermelon**, **cucumber**, and **peppers** continued while **cantaloupe** planting began. Some **lettuce** fields continued to be cultivated and prepared for the fall crop while red and green leaf lettuce continued to be harvested. Harvesting of vegetables such as **daikon**, **mustard greens**, **sugar snap peas**, **snow peas** and earlier planted **cucumber** continued.

LIVESTOCK

Cattle continued to move from foothill pastures as grass was dry in many areas. Special feeder cattle auctions were held in central and northern California. Beef cows and stocker cattle were moving to summer pastures. Stocker cattle weight gains for the winter pasture season were reported to be average to as much as 50 to 100 pounds below average. Some rivers continued to run at high levels from mountain snow melt. Cooler temperatures reduced stress on milk cows and improved milk production. Some dairies were still muddy from rain a week ago. In central California, a few ewes with lambs were still grazing in alfalfa fields. Many new crop lambs were shipped to Colorado or California feedlots for further feeding. After lambs were weaned and shipped, their mothers were being turned out in harvested small grain and broccoli fields. Bees were working in melon and cucumber fields in central California and in safflower and seed fields in northern California.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 05/28/06

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 05/28/06	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 05/28/06	January 1 - 05/28/06	Week Ending 05/28/06	July 1 - 05/28/06	July 1 - 05/28/06	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	54	-1	67	43	0	0	1.17	61.93	37.30	37.53
Ukiah	58	-6	71	43	160	48	0.23	51.05	38.65	37.96
Santa Rosa	60	-3	73	44	64	23	0.14	45.69	30.40	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	60	1	73	50	43	0	0.07	26.04	20.06	19.70
San Jose	62	-3	75	48	166	99	0.18	22.43	14.89	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	152	72	0.00	0.00	14.49	14.21
Salinas AP	60	1	74	49	36	0	0.14	15.38	12.61	12.44
Monterey FAA	59	1	71	49	20	0	0.00	13.91	14.50	18.72
King City	62	-1	83	41	142	50	0.18	13.67	12.08	11.44
Paso Robles AP	62	-3	83	40	166	77	0.00	14.37	13.20	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	63	-5	79	46	398	190	0.03	45.31	34.12	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	64	-7	78	45	346	228	0.07	30.17	23.09	22.29
Chico AFS	64	-4	80	46	346	161	0.52	31.59	25.80	26.32
Marysville	64	-7	79	46	278	268	0.15	30.66	21.92	21.04
Sacramento AP	63	-4	78	46	232	154	0.05	23.46	17.60	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	65	-4	80	47	270	206	0.47	16.72	13.70	13.95
Fresno	66	-6	83	48	394	312	0.16	15.13	11.07	10.60
Bakersfield	66	-7	82	46	438	374	0.12	6.90	6.38	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	60	1	75	43	48	0	0.16	17.40	14.00	12.36
Santa Barbara	67	7	92	52	62	3	0.24	17.69	17.11	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	153	29	0.00	0.00	15.46	14.38
Los Angeles	68	0	80	55	336	355	0.85	13.14	15.07	14.77
Riverside	68	0	91	52	419	228	0.41	7.45	10.55	9.58
San Diego AP	65	0	75	58	226	208	0.77	6.13	10.61	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	61	-4	91	33	205	57	0.00	7.75	4.81	5.37
Lancaster	66	-2	89	47	378	171	0.01	6.32	7.75	6.92
Daggett AP	72	-5	97	50	647	551	0.00	1.34	4.09	3.93
Thermal AP	81	1	105	62	960	966	0.00	2.35	3.56	3.16
Blythe	81	-1	104	59	1086	1043	0.00	2.45	4.05	3.60
Imperial	79	-1	105	57	1058	998	0.03	1.90	2.99	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	50	-3	68	34	23	0	0.13	15.66	11.33	12.01
Mt. Shasta	50	-6	66	35	47	0	0.98	59.88	38.48	37.02
Blue Canyon	46	-10	59	30	68	0	0.83	90.90	64.53	67.04
Yosemite	53	-7	74	37	55	1	1.15	46.01	37.32	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.