

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: July 30, 2006
RELEASED: July 31, 2006

FREQUENCY: Weekly
VOL. 26 NO. 5

WEATHER



Strong high pressure aloft, responsible for last week's record breaking heat, persisted through the first half of this week. This resulted in more oppressive heat across the entire State, particularly through the Central Valley and the southeastern deserts. The only areas that were not seeing excessive heat were along the immediate coast, where marine air was able to keep temperatures cool. This cool air did not penetrate inland. There was isolated thunderstorm activity over the mountains during the afternoon and evening hours. The heat wave finally began to abate during the latter half of the week, as a low pressure trough approached the Pacific Northwest and the resulting onshore flow finally brought relief to the State. The only significant rainfall was from the isolated thunderstorms in the mountains.

FIELD CROPS

Growers continued their practice of frequent irrigation due to the high temperatures. **Rice** was growing well with the heat. Weed treatments on many fields continued. **Alfalfa** continued to be cut and baled, and a fifth cutting began in some areas. **Garbanzo** harvest continued. Lygus and leafhopper treatment was underway in some fields. **Blackeye bean** fields were also treated to control insects. Some blackeye fields were near the start of a second flush of blooms. **Cotton** growers were cultivating and weeding their fields, as well as applying fertilizers. The heat caused some cotton fields to shed blooms and small bolls, though not as severely as last year. This year's **sugar beet** crop was irrigated, cultivated and side-dressed. Some fields were replanted. **Safflower** fields were drying out, and some fields were harvested. Silage **corn** was also harvested.

FRUIT CROPS

Cultural practices of thinning, pruning, and spray applications continued in orchards and vineyards. Irrigation cycles were also increased due to the high temperatures. Cling **peach** harvest was underway in the Sacramento Valley districts. Recent heat and humidity have decreased maturity and caused some brown rotting. Stone fruit varieties picked and packed included Sweet Blaze, Summer Lady, Summer Zee and Snow King peaches; Early Red Jim, Kay Sweet, Glacier White, and Arctic Joy **nectarines**; Dapple Fire and Necticotom **pluots**; and Friar, Golden, Yummy and OwenT **plums**. **Pomegranate** fruits continued to size and early varieties were showing color. **Fig** harvest continued. Flame Seedless, Black Emerald, Zante Current, and Thompson Seedless table **grapes** were being harvested in San Joaquin Valley districts. Grape sugar maturity tests have been high, and an increase in large berry sizes has occurred due to a light berry set. Giant **prune** harvest began and French prunes were showing color. Harvest has started for **pears** and smaller fruit size was expected. The Valencia **orange** harvest continued with limited picking and packing. Fruit drop in citrus orchards occurred due to the hot weather. New Navel orange orchards were still being established. **Lemon** packing continued.

NUT CROPS

Almond orchards were sprayed for worms and mites. **Walnuts** continued to be sprayed for codling moths. Almond and **pistachio** nuts continued to size. Some almond nuts were showing hull splitting. Orchard mowing, cultivating, and irrigating were still in progress.

VEGETABLE CROPS

The excess heat has caused some **garlic** and **onion** fields to have sun scald and weight loss. The cultivation and harvest of **cantaloupe**, **honeydew**, **watermelon** and processing **tomatoes** continued while other fields were fertilized, irrigated and treated to control insects. New fields were prepared for **sweet corn** while existing fields continued to be weeded, fertilized, and treated with insecticides. Freezer **lima bean** planting was complete and fresh market tomato planting was winding down. **Basil**, **beans**, **carrots**, **cilantro**, **cucumbers**, **eggplant**, onion, **peppers**, tomatoes and **zucchini** squash continued to be harvested. Various Asian vegetables continued to be harvested as well as **amaranth**, **beets**, **dandelion**, **daikon**, **green beans**, and **mustard greens**.

LIVESTOCK

Cooler temperatures late in the period were welcome relief. Livestock and poultry death loss the past three weeks was significantly above normal. Dairies were hit hard due to milk cow deaths from heat stress and a significant drop in milk production. Dairy calf raisers saw a sharp increase in death loss in calves under a month old, particularly on calves born during the extreme heat. It appeared that beef cows on dry foothill pastures or valley irrigated pastures made it through the heat wave without heavy death loss. While temperatures were above normal in summer mountain pasture areas, there were no reports of above normal death loss on beef cattle. Extreme fire danger existed in dry foothill areas. Stock ewes were grazing in small grain hay fields, retired farmland and alfalfa fields. Bees pollinated melon and seed alfalfa fields in the central area and seed crops in the northern area.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 07/30/06

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 07/30/06	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 07/30/06	January 1 - 07/30/06	Week Ending 07/30/06	July 1 - 07/30/06	July 1 - 07/30/06	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	60	2	101	45	24	0	0.00	0.10	0.19	37.53
Ukiah	80	5	110	54	1,056	704	0.00	0.00	0.08	37.96
Santa Rosa	70	2	98	54	553	410	0.01	0.01	0.07	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	69	6	87	58	340	147	0.00	0.00	0.04	19.70
San Jose	76	5	97	60	853	649	0.00	0.00	0.05	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	995	691	0.00	0.00	0.03	14.21
Salinas AP	67	3	85	57	274	133	0.01	0.01	0.05	12.44
Monterey FAA	64	2	75	57	158	36	0.01	0.01	0.07	18.72
King City	76	7	105	57	865	481	0.00	0.00	0.01	11.44
Paso Robles AP	80	6	113	58	1,152	767	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	84	2	113	44	1,773	1,306	0.00	0.00	0.14	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	86	3	113	61	1,703	1,381	0.00	0.00	0.13	22.29
Chico AFS	85	7	112	60	1,551	1,080	0.00	0.00	0.09	26.32
Marysville	83	4	110	59	1,677	1,314	0.00	0.00	0.07	21.04
Sacramento AP	79	3	108	58	1,254	978	0.85	0.85	0.05	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	83	5	113	61	1,440	1,152	0.08	0.10	0.04	13.95
Fresno	87	5	113	68	1,866	1,500	0.91	0.91	0.02	10.60
Bakersfield	90	5	112	73	1,934	1,654	0.17	0.17	0.01	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	73	9	87	60	386	132	0.06	0.06	0.03	12.36
Santa Barbara	73	6	82	64	484	268	0.00	0.02	0.04	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	716	354	0.00	0.00	0.02	14.38
Los Angeles	82	7	98	71	1,381	1,134	0.00	0.00	0.01	14.77
Riverside	85	6	105	69	1,718	1,125	0.00	0.01	0.04	9.58
San Diego AP	78	6	86	69	1,058	770	0.06	0.08	0.03	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	83	6	105	60	1,225	881	0.00	0.27	0.17	5.37
Lancaster	87	5	110	68	1,798	1,253	0.00	0.01	0.09	6.92
Daggett AP	91	2	112	73	2,505	2,159	0.04	0.09	0.37	3.93
Thermal AP	94	3	114	82	2,970	2,720	0.00	0.00	0.16	3.16
Blythe	94	-1	116	72	3,254	3,002	0.00	0.29	0.31	3.60
Imperial	94	1	116	55	3,256	2,793	0.00	0.00	0.10	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	72	5	99	46	457	159	0.01	0.03	0.31	12.01
Mt. Shasta	73	4	96	46	538	239	0.00	0.00	0.44	37.02
Blue Canyon	77	7	89	61	728	273	0.00	0.00	0.46	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	98	59	799	521	0.00	0.38	0.55	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.