



California Crop Weather

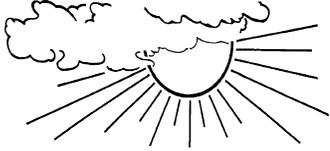
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEATHER



At the start of the week, high pressure aloft was beginning to rebuild over California in the wake of frontal system which had brought precipitation to the northern portions of the state. Residual showers persisted across the north, while Southern California was dry and mild. High pressure began to rebuild over the state, and a strong offshore flow developed over Southern California, resulting in ideal wildfire conditions along the Santa Barbara region. The hot and dry conditions in that region persisted through Friday. Northern California enjoyed a fairly benign weather pattern, another weak frontal system passed through the area and resulted in mild temperatures but little, if any precipitation. By the weekend, the dry conditions in Southern California began to improve, as an onshore flow developed and brought higher humidity to the Southland. Across the Central Valley, weekend temperatures warmed to above normal levels as high pressure aloft strengthened over that region.

FIELD CROPS

In the Sacramento Valley, recent rains stopped ground work for a few days, but preparations had resumed. Weather permitting; **rice** preparation and planting were in full swing. Herbicide treatments were applied. Geese have been a problem in some early planted fields with a few fields reseeded as a result. Winds were affecting rice stands and water placement. **Alfalfa** was being cut. **Sunflower** and dry **bean** planting continued with **corn**, sunflower and **safflower** emerging. Some sugar beet armyworms were observed in San Joaquin Valley **cotton** fields. Overall the cotton crop was off to a good start. Warm weather prompted fast emergence of planted fields. Few mite or thrip insect problems have been reported. **Oats** were being cut and baled. **Wheat** and other small grains were being cut for silage. Non-irrigated grain fields were affected by lack of moisture early in the year with stunted growth and poor seed head development reported in some areas. Poorly developed fields were chopped, cut for hay or grazed by livestock. **Lima** and freezer bean planting preparations were underway. Some rain damage to alfalfa that was cut and lying in fields occurred. Seed alfalfa fields were mowed or treated to produce a more compact plant for uniform seed production. Temperatures in the low hundreds were reported in the Imperial Valley. Growers tended to their alfalfa and **sudan** fields. Water availability remained a concern. The **sugar beet** harvest was underway and expected to continue for the next 90 days.

FRUIT CROPS

Significant rainfall made irrigation unnecessary in vineyards along the north coast. In addition, shoot growth progressed favorably setting up good conditions for **grape** bloom in the region. Vineyards were treated with sulfur. Hand crews in the San Joaquin Valley worked to make sure developing grapes received good sunlight penetration and airflow. Weed control, fertilizing, and fruit thinning continued in **prune**, **peach**, **plum**, and **apricot** orchards throughout the state. **Strawberry** and early Brooks **cherry** harvests continued. **Blackberry** vines continued to develop. **Olive** trees in the San Joaquin Valley continued to bloom. **Figs** were sizing well. **Pomegranate** fruit began to set. **Kiwi** bloom began in the Sacramento Valley. Navel **orange** harvest was wrapping up. Valencia orange harvest increased. Murcott **tangerine** and Minneola **tangelo** harvests finished. **Lemon** and **grapefruit** harvests continued.

NUT CROPS

Blight treatments, weed flaming and irrigation continued in **walnut** orchards. **Almond** and **pistachio** nuts set on trees. Fertilization continued in nut orchards.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Processing **tomatoes** were being planted throughout the state. Maintenance activities and ground preparation progressed in Sutter County, and the harvests of vegetables for farmers' markets continued. Treatments for thrips and aphids were also applied to **onions**. In Fresno County, organic **garlic** was irrigated and sprayed for garlic rust. Onions were sprayed with a second application for downy mildew. **Carrots** looked good and were fertilized, cultivated, and sprayed with herbicide. The spring **lettuce** harvest in Fresno was wrapping up, while harvests continued for **asparagus**, **bok choy**, **broccoli**, collard and mustard **greens**, **gailon**, garlic, **herbs**, leaf lettuce, red onions, snap and snow **peas**, **yu choy**, and **zucchini**. The planting of summer vegetables such as carrots, **eggplant**, **green beans**, fresh market tomatoes, and **squash** was ongoing. Sweet **corn**, both white and yellow, continued to be planted. Early-planted vegetables were doing well due to excellent weather. Some fields of **cantaloupe** and **honeydew** had emerging plants; growers were busy preparing fields intended for future planting and continuous harvest later in the season. **Watermelon** beds were prepared and fumigated for transplants. Carrots were being harvested and planted on a year-round basis in Kern County; lettuce crops were also harvested. Harvests progressed for asparagus and spring **radicchio** in Merced County. Squash quality remained good; **cucumbers** continued to grow well in Tulare County where **peppers** were also being planted.

LIVESTOCK

Rangeland and pasture forage improved with the late spring rains in some northern and central areas, however overall grazing conditions statewide remained only fair to poor. Continued decline was reported in many central and southern areas. Early shipment of cattle from the Colusa County foothills continued. Further drying of lower-elevation forages coupled with rapid drying of water ponds was reported in Tulare County. Some ranchers continued supplemental feeding of livestock there, and some began herding cattle to summer pastures. Beef cattle continued to receive supplemental feed and nutrients in Merced County as well. Dairy herds were downsized in Kern County and throughout the state. Sheep were grazing on alfalfa and grain fields, idle farmland, and rangeland in Fresno and other central areas. Honeybees were stored in Sutter County and other areas as hives were repaired and otherwise maintained in preparation for field crop pollination. Hives were placed in or near citrus in Fresno for honey production.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 05/10/09

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 05/10/09	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 05/10/09	January 1 - 05/10/09	Week Ending 05/10/09	July 1 - 05/10/09	July 1 - 05/10/09	July 1 - June 30
NORTH COAST	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
Eureka	53	0	63	45	0	0	0.97	29.17	36.43	37.53
Ukiah	60	0	81	44	56	1	1.23	21.49	38.02	37.96
Santa Rosa	63	3	82	48	98	0	1.09	22.37	29.95	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	61	3	73	50	54	0	0.12	14.59	19.85	19.70
San Jose	--	--	--	--	121	27	--	--	14.65	14.42
Salinas AP	62	4	77	47	90	0	0.02	11.15	12.48	12.44
Monterey FAA	61	5	74	47	81	0	0.02	10.70	14.45	18.72
King City	67	6	87	45	136	7	0.01	5.91	11.96	11.44
Paso Robles AP	69	8	93	41	128	9	0.00	6.30	13.10	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	67	2	88	48	152	59	0.63	21.32	32.59	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	68	3	90	51	170	67	0.04	15.69	22.53	22.29
Chico AFS	65	1	87	48	136	42	0.18	28.36	25.27	26.32
Marysville	67	1	89	48	140	102	0.15	15.74	21.52	21.04
Sacramento AP	67	4	90	50	138	42	0.07	15.93	17.32	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	68	4	90	50	146	69	0.00	9.43	13.45	13.95
Fresno	72	5	90	55	254	127	0.00	7.55	10.84	10.60
Bakersfield	73	4	89	58	358	168	0.00	4.86	6.25	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	62	4	83 10	44	72	0	0.02	9.14	13.86	12.36
Santa Barbara	70	11	1	53	128	0	0.00	9.61	16.99	16.25
Ventura	63	0	81	49	172	0	0.00	9.29	15.08	14.38
Los Angeles	70	4	89	58	424	231	0.00	8.93	14.91	14.77
Riverside	72	7	96	53	394	106	0.00	4.09	10.42	9.58
San Diego AP	65	1	75	57	272	122	0.00	9.08	10.52	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	67	7	92	36	82	1	0.00	2.16	4.66	5.37
Lancaster	74	11	95 10	55	195	43	0.00	5.36	7.69	6.92
Daggett AP	80	8	1 10	61	387	282	0.00	3.80	4.04	3.93
Thermal AP	84	8	4 10	59	778	626	0.00	1.48	3.53	3.16
Blythe	87	9	5 10	69	830	672	0.00	1.82	4.03	3.60
Imperial	84	8	5	65	770	662	0.00	1.86	2.97	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	50	1	75	27	0	0	0.02	8.19	10.61	12.01
Mt. Shasta	52	0	76	36	12	0	1.15	34.54	37.42	37.02
Blue Canyon	53	3	70	42	28	0	2.40	47.07	63.36	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	35	0	0.00	19.66	36.46	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.