



California Crop Weather

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: May 24, 2009
RELEASED: May 26, 2009

FREQUENCY: Weekly
VOL. 29 NO. 48

WEATHER



At the start of the week, a high pressure system over California brought hot and dry conditions to most of the state. The high pressure ridge shifted east as the week progressed, resulting in temperatures cooling slightly, but for the most part remaining above normal through midweek. A low pressure system approached the state on Thursday, bringing increased onshore flow and cooler temperatures to most of the state. Temperatures actually cooled to below normal levels across the Central Valley by the weekend. Isolated thunderstorm activity developed across the Sierra Nevada during the week, producing the only significant precipitation for California this week.

FIELD CROPS

Rice planting was still underway and herbicide treatments were applied. **Barley** continued to mature. **Wheat** harvest was winding down. Winter forage and other small grains were cut for silage. **Alfalfa** was on the third cutting of hay. Seed alfalfa fields were mowed or treated to produce a more compact plant for uniform seed production. **Corn** continued to be planted; weed spraying in fields was underway. Early planted corn fields continued to emerge. Squaring started in the March planted **cotton** crop. Thrips were treated in some cotton fields. Spider mites were found in Kings County. **Oats** continued to be cut and baled. **Lima** and freezer **bean** planting continued. **Safflower** continued to grow well. Sweet **potato** transplanting and hot bed digging continued. The **sugar beet** harvest was underway.

FRUIT CROPS

Grapevines continued to be sprayed with fungicides and were thinned and trained for maximum airflow and good sunlight penetration. Pruning, fertilization and insect and weed control operations were present in orchards throughout the state. Early harvest of Red Beaut **plums**, Zee Fire, Polar Light and Red Roy **nectarines**, Spring Snow, Spring Flame, Crimson Lady and Sugar Time **peaches**, **apricots** and **cherries** continued in the San Joaquin Valley. **Prune** growers continued thinning fruit in blocks with excessive set. **Strawberry** harvest continued. Asian and Bartlett **pears** continued developing in the Sacramento Valley. Olives were starting to flower, with some trees forming fruit. Navel and Valencia **orange**, **grapefruit** and **lemon** harvests continued. **Fig** and **pomegranate** fruit set development continued in the San Joaquin Valley.

NUT CROPS

Almond growers monitored for spider mites and applied preventative miticides where necessary. **Walnuts** were treated for blight. Bloom was complete in walnut, **pecan** and **pistachio** orchards in the Southern San Joaquin Valley.

VEGETABLE CROPS

The **melon** crop in Imperial County was rapidly maturing, showing signs of possible high yields this season. **Sweet corn** continued to grow well and both fresh market and processing **onions** were being harvested. The **carrot** harvest was ongoing in Kern County. It appeared that planted acreage of **peppers** slightly increased this year. In Merced County, the planting of both fresh market and processing **tomato** fields progressed and the spring harvest of **radicchio** continued. In Tulare County, **broccoli** and **cauliflower** were maturing, early-planted melons were growing well and **cucumbers**, **garlic**, and onions were being harvested. Tomatoes, peppers, and **squash** were being planted, and growers continued to prepare for future plantings of summer vegetables. Most **spinach** on the Westside of Stanislaus County has been harvested, and sweet corn was sprayed for weeds. Sweet corn was also treated for weeds in Sutter County, and onions were treated for thrips and aphids. Processing tomatoes were planted. Ground preparation and other maintenance activities continued, as did the harvest of vegetable crops for Farmers' Markets.

LIVESTOCK

Pasture and rangeland continued to deteriorate, particularly in central and southern areas, with further drying of forage grasses and water sources. Shipment of pastured feeder cattle to auction or feedlots was ongoing. Beef cattle in Tulare and Merced continued to receive supplemental protein and other feeds, while some herds were headed for higher-elevation summer pastures. Herds were increasingly moved to irrigated pasture in Sutter County and more northern areas as well. Dairy herd reduction in central areas slowed, and milk production declined with the warming temperatures. Sheep were grazing on harvested alfalfa and grain fields, idle farmland and rangeland, and shipments to feedlots or slaughter was ongoing. Honeybees were in seed onion and carrot fields in Sutter County, and hives were staged in other central areas.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 05/24/09

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION				
	Average Week Ending 05/24/09	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal		
					January 1 - 05/24/09	January 1 - 05/24/09	Week Ending 05/24/09	July 1 - 05/24/09	July 1 - 05/24/09	July 1 - June 30	
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --				
NORTH COAST											
Eureka	51	-3	58	40	0	0	0.03	28.71	37.13	37.53	
Ukiah	67	4	94	45	145	32	0.00	21.65	38.52	37.96	
Santa Rosa	61	0	76	45	170	14	0.00	22.39	30.31	30.30	
CENTRAL COAST											
San Francisco AP	56	-3	67	46	80	0	0.00	14.58	20.02	19.70	
San Jose	--	--	--	--	208	79	--	--	14.85	14.42	
Salinas AP	55	-4	63	49	106	0	0.00	10.95	12.59	12.44	
Monterey FAA	54	-3	63	48	90	0	0.00	10.70	14.50	18.72	
King City	61	-1	79	44	206	37	0.00	5.98	12.07	11.44	
Paso Robles AP	64	0	89	41	235	56	0.00	5.87	13.19	13.95	
SACRAMENTO VALLEY											
Redding	73	5	96	50	330	155	0.98	22.41	33.75	33.30	
Red Bluff FSS	73	4	98	50	368	184	0.00	15.82	22.98	22.29	
Chico AFS	73	6	101	51	304	128	0.00	28.36	25.68	26.32	
Marysville	71	1	100	49	300	225	0.00	15.74	21.85	21.04	
Sacramento AP	68	1	91	50	280	123	0.00	15.77	17.55	17.52	
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY											
Stockton WSO	70	2	96	50	305	169	0.00	9.21	13.66	13.95	
Fresno	77	7	97	54	485	264	0.00	7.51	11.02	10.60	
Bakersfield	80	8	102	60	611	321	0.00	4.89	6.36	5.72	
SOUTH COAST											
Santa Maria AP	58	0	72	45	72	0	0.00	9.12	13.98	12.36	
Santa Barbara	59	-1	67	50	138	1	0.01	9.60	17.09	16.25	
Ventura	60	0	69	49	168	0	0.00	9.45	15.16	14.38	
Los Angeles	68	1	80	59	535	325	0.00	8.93	15.05	14.77	
Riverside	73	6	98	55	564	197	0.00	6.64	10.53	9.58	
San Diego AP	64	-1	72	60	326	187	0.00	9.08	10.60	9.90	
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR											
Bishop	70	7	96	43	229	36	0.07	2.23	4.78	5.37	
Lancaster	75	7	98	56	410	135	0.00	5.36	7.74	6.92	
Daggett AP	83	7	99	63	684	483	0.00	3.80	4.08	3.93	
Thermal AP	86	7	109	59	1,111	884	0.00	1.48	3.55	3.16	
Blythe	89	8	110	71	1,224	953	0.03	1.85	4.05	3.60	
Imperial	87	8	110	63	1,132	916	0.00	1.95	2.99	2.75	
CASCADE - SIERRA											
Alturas	60	8	88	32	14	0	0.00	8.66	11.18	12.01	
Mt. Shasta	62	7	88	40	46	0	0.00	33.82	38.25	37.02	
Blue Canyon	64	10	80	52	86	0	0.00	46.80	64.33	67.04	
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	109	0	0.00	19.66	37.15	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.