



California Crop Weather

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEATHER



Memorial Day started with high pressure over California. This was a typical weather pattern for late May in the Golden State. Daytime highs in the Central Valley were in the 80s, along the coast highs were in the 60s, and the desert temperatures were in the 90s to around 113 in Death Valley on Wednesday. The weather pattern of significance for the week was mountain thunderstorms. Monsoonal moisture from the Gulf of California and an approaching low pressure system created perfect conditions for isolated mountain thunderstorms. Most of the thunderstorm activity was along the Sierra Crest and eastward. The highest precipitation amounts fell in Yosemite Park in central California with nearly a half inch of rain. Other mountain locations in California had minimal amounts of precipitation fall in the rain buckets.

FIELD CROPS

Rice planting was still underway. The last fields of rice were being flooded in Yuba County; herbicide applications were applied. **Barley** continued to mature. **Wheat** was winding down with harvest. Winter forage and other small grains were being cut for silage. The third cutting of **alfalfa** hay continued. **Corn** planting and weed spraying in fields continued. Early planted corn fields were emerging. The **cotton** crop continued to square. Thrips were treated in some cotton fields. **Oats** continued to be cut and baled. Wheat was still being harvested. **Safflower** continued to grow well. Sweet **potato** transplanting and hot bed digging continued. The **sugarbeet** harvest was underway.

FRUIT CROPS

Early varieties of wine **grapes** were in full bloom along the north coast with later varieties expected to bloom within a week's time. Mildew on grapes was a pressing concern throughout the state, so fruit thinning continued. Fungicides were applied on grapes in the San Joaquin Valley. **Pear** fruit set was good along the north coast, however, cool weather moderated crop growth. Bing **cherry** harvest continued in the Sacramento Valley. **Strawberry** harvest began to slow in the San Joaquin Valley but picked up in the Sacramento Valley. **Blueberry** and **blackberry** fruit sets were complete in the San Joaquin Valley, and harvests began to increase. **Prune**, **peach**, **nectarine**, and **apricot** orchards were thinned, and harvest began in some areas in the Sacramento Valley. Peaches in the San Joaquin Valley were thinned. Irrigation was widespread for all fruit crops throughout the San Joaquin Valley. **Olives** were irrigated and treated for weed control. **Pomegranates** and **figs** continued to develop. Widely fluctuating temperature conditions impacted the citrus crop in the San Joaquin Valley, causing June fruit drop in some Navel **orange** orchards. Excessive drying due to over maturity in the larger size classes caused some decline as the navel season began to conclude. Valencia orange harvest continued as well as **lemon** and **grapefruit** harvests. **Avocado** fruit set development was almost complete for spring varieties.

NUT CROPS

Nutlets hardened well throughout most of the state. **Almonds**, **pistachio**, **walnut**, and **pecan** orchards were irrigated. Herbicides and Insecticides were applied to walnuts, and pistachios.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Harvests of vegetables for farmers' markets continued in Sutter County. Ground preparation and other maintenance activities were also taking place there. **Onions** were treated for thrips and aphids, while weed treatments were applied to sweet **corn**. Sweet corn planting continued in Stanislaus County, where **squash** was being harvested on the West side. Imperial County's onion and **melon** harvests were both slowing down. Fresno County's **tomatoes** were ripening in the warm weather, with about a month left until harvest. **Carrots** and onions were treated with fungicide and herbicide was applied to **garlic**. **Broccoli** for seed looked good and was being watched closely for bug infestation. The carrot harvest progressed in Kern County and organic vegetables, **lettuce**, and **Swiss chard** were growing in the valley. The harvest of spring **radicchio** was completed in Merced County, where fresh and processing tomato fields continued to be planted.

LIVESTOCK

Pasture and rangeland continued to decline with the warm, dry weather in most areas of the state. Shipment of pastured feeder cattle to auction or feedlots was underway. Pastured cattle in Tulare, Merced, and other central and southern areas continued to receive supplemental protein and other feeds due to the poor condition of available forage, and migration to higher-elevation summer pastures was underway. Livestock was mostly on irrigated pasture in Sutter County. Dairy herd reduction in central areas slowed. Sheep were grazing on harvested alfalfa and grain fields, idle farmland, and rangeland. Shipments to feedlots or slaughter were ongoing. Honeybees were in seed onion fields in Sutter County, and hives were staged in other central areas. Leaf cutter bees were pollinating alfalfa seed fields in Imperial.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 05/31/09

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 05/31/09	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 05/31/09	January 1 - 05/31/09	Week Ending 05/31/09	July 1 - 05/31/09	July 1 - 05/31/09	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	52	-3	60	41	0	0	0.03	28.74	37.43	37.53
Ukiah	70	5	96	47	214	63	0.00	21.65	38.74	37.96
Santa Rosa	64	1	86	44	194	32	0.00	22.39	30.47	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	60	0	70	49	84	1	0.00	14.58	20.08	19.70
San Jose	--	--	--	--	245	115	--	--	14.92	14.42
Salinas AP	58	-2	68	48	106	0	0.01	10.96	12.63	12.44
Monterey FAA	57	-2	67	46	90	0	0.00	10.70	14.50	18.72
King City	64	1	85	48	237	61	0.00	5.98	12.09	11.44
Paso Robles AP	67	1	93	42	282	94	0.00	5.87	13.21	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	80	11	10 1	56	474	220	0.00	22.41	34.36	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	80	8	10 1	56	504	264	0.00	15.82	23.18	22.29
Chico AFS	76	7	99 10	53	412	188	0.00	28.36	25.88	26.32
Marysville	75	4	0 10	48	403	303	0.00	15.74	21.98	21.04
Sacramento AP	71	3	96 10	49	359	179	0.00	15.77	17.64	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	72	3	97 10	47	390	236	0.00	9.21	13.73	13.95
Fresno	79	6	2 10	54	616	350	0.00	7.51	11.11	10.60
Bakersfield	80	6	99 10	58	750	416	0.00	4.89	6.40	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	60	1	70 10	50	74	0	0.00	9.12	14.01	12.36
Santa Barbara	59	-2	67 10	47	140	6	0.00	9.60	17.13	16.25
Ventura	59	0	67 10	49	170	0	0.00	9.45	15.18	14.38
Los Angeles	66	-2	75 10	58	574	379	0.00	8.93	15.08	14.77
Riverside	70	2	88 10	56	634	253	0.00	6.64	10.56	9.58
San Diego AP	63	-3	68 10	59	346	224	0.04	9.12	10.63	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	68	3	89 10	47	286	75	0.05	2.28	4.84	5.37
Lancaster	74	5	95 10	50	511	201	0.02	5.38	7.76	6.92
Daggett AP	81	4	1 10	60	836	605	0.01	3.81	4.10	3.93
Thermal AP	83	2	2 10	59	1,270	1,030	0.00	1.48	3.57	3.16
Blythe	86	3	4 10	67	1,404	1,113	0.00	1.85	4.05	3.60
Imperial	83	3	4 10	60	1,295	1,062	0.00	1.95	2.99	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	63	9	87 10	39	36	0	0.02	8.68	11.44	12.01
Mt. Shasta	67	10	90 10	43	94	0	0.00	33.82	38.66	37.02
Blue Canyon	67	11	77 10	55	133	0	0.00	46.80	64.67	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	81 10	51	159	3	0.00	19.66	37.45	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.