



California Crop Weather

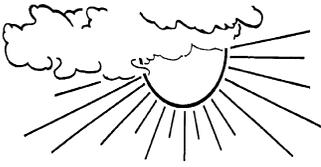
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: May 8, 2011
RELEASED: May 9, 2011

FREQUENCY: Weekly
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WEATHER



Most of the week was a wonderful spring experience. Sunny skies were prevalent, with near to slightly above normal temperatures, as a ridge dominated through Thursday. Late in the week a low pressure system off the Pacific Northwest coastline brought a drop in temperatures, and cloudy skies to the far north end of the State. A weak low pressure system moved across Northern California on Saturday and Sunday. Temperatures dropped to as much as 10 degrees below normal.

Precipitation was confined mostly to the foothills and northern Sierra, with some scattered showers in the Sacramento Valley and the Central Sierra on Sunday. Mountain precipitation amounts were generally less than a quarter inch. Late on Sunday night a small area of instability moved into the north valley and tracked down the Sierras from Chico to south of Interstate 50. This area was accompanied by thunderstorms that dropped up to an inch in some locations.

FIELD CROPS

Favorable weather conditions quickened the pace of field work. Spring planting moved forward throughout the State. Fertilizing, rolling, flooding, and sowing activities were done in Sacramento Valley **rice** fields. The first cutting of **alfalfa** was at various stages of being cut and baled as some San Joaquin Valley fields had progressed to the second cutting. **Sunflower** seed crop planting continued. **Winter wheat** and **oat** fields were harvested and cut hay was left to dry in fields. **Cotton** continued to be planted as previously planted cotton fields began leaf development. **Corn** and **sorghum** seed continued to be shipped in for planting. **Dry bean** planting was ongoing as well. Spring field work continued with weed control in small grain and alfalfa fields, pre-plant herbicide applications, and spring tillage to prepare seedbeds.

FRUIT CROPS

The Valencia **orange** and **lemon** harvests continued normally in the San Joaquin Valley. The navel orange and **mandarin** harvests continued to wind down as the **grapefruit** harvest was completed. Early **cherries** were being packed in Southern California while growers prepared for the harvest of early varieties in the Central Valley. The **kiwi** bloom was expected shortly in the Sacramento Valley. The **blueberry** and **strawberry** harvests were ongoing in the San Joaquin Valley along with new plantings. **Grapes** were at various stages of growth from shoot growth to flowering. Thinning continued in fruit orchards and vineyards, as well as weed and pest control.

NUT CROPS

Normal nut drop occurred in **almond** orchards with larger nut drop being observed among Butte varieties. Monitoring of the pests peach twig borer (PTB), navel orangeworm (NOW), and mites was ongoing. Blight spray was ongoing in **walnut** orchards as the bloom was completed. High numbers of NOW were found in **pistachio** orchards in Kern County, causing affected growers to add an insecticide to planned nutrient sprays.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Tulare County reported **spinach** harvest, and **tomatoes**, **peppers**, **squash** and **eggplant** were being planted. Fresno County reported tomato blooms looked good, **garlic** and **onions** were sizing nicely, and processing tomatoes have been planted. In Merced County, **bell pepper**, **cantaloupe**, **honeydew**, and tomato planting continued, as **asparagus** harvest continued. Monterey County reported the **lettuce** harvest in full swing. San Joaquin County reported that asparagus production was in full swing, processing and fresh market tomatoes were being transplanted, and **carrots** were being planted. Field work, pre-plant herbicide treatments and ground preparation continued in Sutter County. Tomatoes were being transplanted and sprayed for fungus in Colusa County.

LIVESTOCK

Non-irrigated pasture and rangeland were reported to be in good to excellent condition. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued to diminish as more livestock are moved onto open range. Late snowmelt was still keeping cattle out of upper elevation range. The warm weather stimulated growth and nutrient accumulation in grasses and forbs. Low elevation range was beginning to dry. Bee hives continued to be moved among stone fruit and citrus orchards. Some bees were moved to onion fields while others were moved out of the State. Dairies were using more oats in rations as a result of the shortage of alfalfa.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 5/8/11

STATIONS ¹	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION					
	Average Week Ending 5/8/11.	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	Rain Days ²	This Season		Normal		
					January 1 - 5/8/11	January 1 - 5/8	July 1 - 5/8/11	Week Ending 5/8/11	July 1 - 5/8/11	July 1 - 5/8	July 1 - June 30	
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Days --		-- Inches --			
North Coast												
Eureka_WFO	50	-3	58	40	0	0	127	0.10	39.12	36.34	38.10	
Ukiah	61	3	91	40	34	29	82	0.00	34.80	37.80	38.90	
Santa_Rosa_AG	60	0	85	38	42	60	82	0.00	35.26	30.23	31.01	
Napa_AP	63	3	88	44	75	63	79	0.00	30.44	25.76	26.46	
Central Coast												
San_Francisco_A	59	2	84	49	43	20	68	0.00	21.03	19.77	20.11	
San_Jose_AP	63	1	89	48	83	120	56	0.00	13.15	14.70	15.08	
Salinas_AP	61	4	87	47	64	29	64	0.00	14.77	12.67	12.91	
Monterey_AP	56	-1	72	44	28	0	73	0.00	18.30	19.83	20.35	
King_City_Ag	63	3	95	40	75	83	59	0.00	9.62	12.07	12.30	
Paso_Robles_AP	65	5	94	38	80	47	43	0.00	13.22	12.91	13.08	
Sacramento Valley												
Redding	67	4	90	44	93	91	85	0.00	30.52	31.65	33.52	
Red_Bluff	66	2	90	45	96	136	75	0.02	20.35	22.83	24.07	
Willows_6W	66	4	89	47	80	101	79	0.00	26.84	18.15	19.03	
Oroville	66	4	88	51	90	112	72	0.00	25.92	27.77	28.75	
Marysville	67	2	91	46	105	193	60	0.00	22.27	21.30	22.07	
Sacramento_AP	66	4	90	49	102	119	57	0.00	21.46	17.36	17.93	
San Joaquin Valley												
Stockton	67	3	93	47	116	150	68	0.00	14.59	13.41	13.84	
Modesto_AP	68	4	94	47	134	210	69	0.00	13.18	12.60	13.12	
Merced_Macready	67	3	95	46	116	150	62	0.00	14.63	12.12	12.50	
Madera_AP	67	2	95	46	96	168	51	0.00	13.68	11.56	11.94	
Fresno_AP	71	6	96	52	188	187	55	0.00	15.26	10.77	11.23	
Lemoore_NAS	68	4	97	42	128	174	51	0.00	10.21	7.59	7.89	
Visalia_AP	69	5	93	48	147	183	48	0.00	15.43	10.66	11.03	
Bakersfield	72	5	97	49	209	248	43	0.00	10.03	6.21	6.49	
Cascade Sierra												
Alturas_AP	50	2	74	26	0	0	85	0.20	12.38	10.34	12.13	
Mount_Shasta_AP	54	5	78	33	3	0	100	0.00	40.09	36.85	39.16	
Blue_Canyon	55	6	70	36	8	0	93	0.01	71.60	63.47	66.36	
Yosemite_Valley	62	7	83	42	21	0	75	0.00	47.34	35.84	37.73	
South Coast												
Santa_Maria_AP	61	5	90	41	69	8	58	0.00	22.06	13.73	14.01	
Santa_Barbara_A	60	0	80	46	95	117	46	0.00	25.23	16.68	16.93	
Oxnard_NWS	64	5	84	52	162	121	48	0.00	22.14	15.44	15.62	
Riverside_AP	70	6	96	49	353	266	38	0.01	9.54	10.00	10.22	
Los_Angeles_AP	67	5	87	58	241	254	42	0.00	16.92	12.91	13.15	
San_Diego_AP	68	5	89	59	325	333	42	0.00	12.27	10.56	10.77	
Southeast Interior												
Bishop_AP	62	3	89	31	37	44	35	0.00	7.19	4.58	5.02	
Daggett_AP	74	5	97	43	366	344	22	0.00	1.90	4.06	4.17	
Lancaster_ATC	66	4	93	35	132	124	36	0.00	9.54	7.23	7.40	
Thermal	75	-2	102	43	691	765	12	0.00	2.60	3.45	3.53	
Blythe_AP	79	4	104	54	796	715	17	0.00	2.10	4.01	4.02	
Imperial_CA	77	4	103	50	746	703	14	0.00	2.68	2.92	2.96	

1 Weather stations added as of July 6, 2010.

2 New addition as of July 6, 2010. Total number of days with precipitation events this season.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) is in inches.

Air Temperatures are in Degrees Fahrenheit.

Normal periods 1970-2000 used in Departure From Normal calculations.

For more weather information visit www.awis.com or call 1-888-798-9955.

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