



# California Crop Weather

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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**WEEK ENDING: May 17, 2015**  
**RELEASED: May 18, 2015**

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## WEATHER



Maximum temperatures were typically near 75 degrees across the Central Valley for most of the week, and most Central Coast locations reported highs between 50 and 70 degrees. Minimum temperatures in the Central Valley hovered near 40 degrees, with a few locations reporting lows below 40 degrees. Coastal locations saw lows near 50 degrees and deserts reported lows around 60 degrees. Much of the State measured some rain at least one day this week. The most consistent rains fell across the extreme northern tier of the State and across the northern Sierras, which saw modest rain amounts nearly every day. Weekly totals approached nearly two inches in a few areas. As an upper-level low dipped southward, the rains moved southward as well. Most of the State saw scattered rainfall on Thursday, with some locations reporting over an inch of rainfall. The only regions that missed out on the rainfall were in the eastern desert. The heaviest rain in the southern part of the state fell on Friday, where multiple locations approached half an inch of rainfall. Temperatures dropped low enough on Thursday night in the northern and central Sierras to allow rain to transition over to snow during the overnight hours. Snow showers at the highest elevations led to little to no accumulation, with at most one inch falling at the highest locations. Temperatures were consistently warm enough during the week to continue snowpack melt in the mountains.

## FIELD CROPS

**Rice** planting progressed on schedule with nearly all fields planted and half of the crop emerged by week's end. **Alfalfa** fields continued to be irrigated, cut and baled. Some growers were on their third cutting due to a lack of early season rain. Winter forage hay crops were disked in Sacramento County to prepare for summer crops. Fields of **barley**, **oats** and **wheat** were cut, windrowed dried and baled. Winter wheat progressed on schedule with nearly the entire crop headed and 90 percent rated good or excellent. **Corn** progressed and silage continued to be planted. Over three-fourths of the **cotton** crop was planted and some fields were already in the second-leaf stage.

## FRUIT CROPS

Blight issues in **pears** appeared to be widespread. Early stone fruit varieties were harvested and exported to foreign and domestic markets. Summer pruning on some varieties of stone fruit began. Orchards were lined with reflective plastic to increase color prior to harvest. Fresh **plums**, **apricots**, **peaches**, **nectarines**, and **cherries** were in farmers' markets. Cherry harvest was in full swing with Bing cherries now being packed. Some minimal hail damage was observed in some cherry orchards in San Joaquin County due to the recent rain and thunderstorms. **Pomegranate** bloom continued. Orchards and vineyards were irrigated. Some old vineyards were pulled due to the lack of water. **Grape** leaf thinning to promote air circulation began. Late navel **orange** harvest slowed significantly due to poor quality and labor shortages. Late Navels were shipped mainly to the domestic markets. Valencia orange harvest continued. Young citrus trees continued to be planted. Older citrus trees continued to be trimmed and skirted. **Olive** bloom finished up.

## NUT CROPS

Growers started the second alternaria spray on **almonds** for the season. Nitrogen application wrapped up in anticipation of hull split. Fungicide applications were done on **pistachio** blocks that were hit with substantial rain last week. Rain also prompted some applications for blight and botryosphaeria in the **walnut** orchards.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Summer vegetable fields were prepared for planting in Sutter County. Pesticides and herbicides were applied and weeding crews worked in the organic fields. **Processing tomato** transplants continued to be planted and early fields looked good. In San Joaquin County, the **asparagus** harvest was nearly complete. The harvest of **lettuce** and **leafy greens** and other specialty crops were in full swing in Monterey County. **Celery** was within a week of first harvest. Fields were planted with **Brussels sprouts** in San Mateo County, and **artichokes** continued to fruit. In Fresno County, **carrot** stands were irrigated and treated with fungicide. **Onions** were sprayed for downy mildew. In Tulare County, the **cucumber** and **zucchini** were blooming and **melon** plants continued to grow. In Kern County, curly top was found in processing tomato fields particularly in the later plantings. Fields were also treated for powdery mildew and armyworms.

## LIVESTOCK

The lack of substantial rain in the foothills caused rangeland to dry up rapidly. Supplemental feeding continued. Cattle were moved to higher elevations in an effort to locate sufficient forage. In Fresno County, some hives were placed in blooming pomegranate orchards and some hives were moved to melon fields. Sheep grazed in fallow fields. Rangeland water and feed conditions were poor at lower elevations.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 5/17/2015**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		RAIN DAYS	PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 5/17/2015	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Year	Normal Year	This Season	This Week	This Season	Normal Season	Normal Year
					January 1 - 5/17/2015	January 1 - 5/17/2015	July 1 - 5/17/2015	Week Ending 5/17/2015	July 1 - 5/17/2015	July 1 - 5/17/2015	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Days /1 --	-- Inches of Precipitation --			
<b>North Coast</b>											
Eureka WFO	53	0	60	43	6	0	78	0.00	31.44	36.84	38.10
Ukiah	58	-3	76	45	137	53	54	0.29	26.22	38.16	38.90
Santa Rosa AP	58	-4	77	40	64	87	45	0.00	23.79	30.50	31.01
Napa State Hosp	59	-4	72	43	134	90	48	0.02	20.89	26.03	26.46
<b>Central Coast</b>											
San Francisco A	58	-1	65	51	101	37	35	0.00	15.10	19.86	20.11
San Jose AP	58	-6	68	46	148	161	39	0.47	11.57	14.84	15.08
Salinas AP	59	0	66	50	190	47	37	0.09	9.61	12.76	12.91
Monterey AP	57	+1	64	48	70	3	47	0.04	14.70	20.01	20.35
King City Ag	57	-6	69	40	149	114	34	0.09	7.83	12.16	12.30
Paso Robles AP	59	-4	81	40	177	80	26	0.00	8.21	13.00	13.08
<b>Sacramento Valley</b>											
Redding	65	-2	79	50	412	148	61	0.26	25.85	32.17	33.52
Red Bluff	64	-4	79	47	362	206	61	0.12	23.71	23.19	24.07
Willow s 6W	62	-3	82	46	295	156	45	0.18	20.28	18.42	19.03
Oroville AP	64	-3	78	51	325	170	47	0.01	18.13	28.07	28.75
Marysville	63	-5	78	49	265	269	43	0.01	15.25	21.54	22.07
Sacramento AP	62	-4	76	49	269	173	36	0.00	14.13	17.54	17.93
<b>San Joaquin Valley</b>											
Stockton	62	-6	77	48	290	212	37	0.00	9.82	13.59	13.84
Modesto AP	63	-5	80	47	380	279	33	0.10	8.27	12.78	13.12
Merced Macready	62	-5	81	46	249	216	34	0.18	7.18	12.27	12.50
Madera AP	64	-5	84	46	343	238	28	0.14	6.02	11.69	11.94
Fresno AP	64	-5	86	50	452	264	25	0.26	6.37	10.86	11.23
Lemoore NAS	64	-5	86	44	359	245	25	0.14	4.57	7.69	7.89
Visalia AP	64	-4	84	46	403	253	19	0.11	6.54	10.75	11.03
Bakersfield AP	65	-5	85	51	549	337	18	0.26	4.92	6.30	6.49
<b>Cascade Sierra</b>											
Alturas AP	48	-4	66	29	0	0	74	0.87	8.34	10.77	12.13
Mount Shasta AP	52	-2	70	36	2	0	79	0.66	36.28	37.39	39.16
Blue Canyon	45	-8	58	36	19	0	67	0.43	33.18	64.40	66.36
Yosemite Valley	54	-4	74	38	72	12	45	0.19	13.40	36.32	37.73
<b>South Coast</b>											
Santa Maria AP	57	-2	68	44	196	25	25	0.23	4.54	13.82	14.01
Santa Barbara A	59	-2	73	45	190	144	22	0.32	7.17	16.77	16.93
Oxnard NWS	59	-2	70	48	358	148	28	0.08	6.67	15.53	15.62
Riverside AP	63	-5	87	51	666	331	31	0.42	5.23	10.09	10.22
Los Angeles AP	61	-2	70	52	397	291	28	0.22	5.96	13.00	13.15
San Diego AP	63	-2	72	56	639	379	28	1.65	7.72	10.65	10.77
<b>Southeast Interior</b>											
Bishop AP	58	-5	81	34	87	86	10	0.01	1.44	4.67	5.02
Daggett AP	67	-6	90	46	652	453	13	0.00	1.96	4.06	4.17
Lancaster ATC	60	-7	81	43	180	185	19	0.09	4.64	7.32	7.40
Thermal	69	-10	96	42	1,052	926	18	0.07	1.29	3.49	3.53
Blythe AP	72	-7	96	50	1,163	876	23	0.23	2.99	4.01	4.02
Imperial CA	71	-6	95	50	1,119	850	19	0.62	3.32	2.92	2.96

1/ 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.

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