

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

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WEATHER



Upper level low pressure lingered over Northern California at the start of the week, with a weak cold front extending from the low into Southern California. As a result, light rain showers fell across most of the State, with the heaviest amounts recorded along the northern coast and mountains. A few isolated showers lingered over Northern California on Tuesday, but building high pressure eventually drove the showers out of the State, and a warming trend began. By the middle of the week, daytime temperatures climbed into the 80s across Northern California, while highs in Southern California hit the lower 90s. Temperatures in the southeastern deserts rose into the low 100s under this high pressure system. The ridge persisted into the weekend, but another springtime storm began to affect the West Coast late Saturday, and showers spread across Northern California on Sunday. Southern California remained dry and warm on Sunday, but the northern storm brought increasing clouds to that area by Sunday night.

FIELD CROPS

Late season rains hampered field crop activities for the first half of the week. **Oat, wheat**, and winter forage harvest continued as field conditions allowed. **Triticale** was harvested for silage. As fields dried out, grass **hay** and alfalfa were baled or green chopped, although some earlier cut alfalfa got rained on early in the week. **Rice** field flooding and some planting occurred. However, rain in the Sacramento Valley delayed some rice planting preparations. **Cotton** planting was nearly complete and fertilizer was applied to some fields. Replanting began for some cotton fields damaged by rain and low temperatures. Planting of **corn** continued. **Sweet potato** field fumigations were completed in parts of the San Joaquin Valley. Some **sugar beets** were side dressed, and harvest of mature sugar beets continued. Earlier planted **dry beans** were beginning to set fruit, and **blackeye beans** were planted.

FRUIT CROPS

The seasonal cycle of irrigation and cultivation continued in **grape** vineyards and tree fruit orchards. Fruit thinning and weed control continued in most orchards, and applications of fungicides for brown rot remained underway in most **cherry** and stone fruit orchards. Field crews began harvesting stone fruit varieties as weather permitted, including Poppy and Earlicot **apricots**, Super Rich and Spring Treat **peaches**, and Earligro **nectarines**. The harvest of early varieties of cherries continued, with excellent demand and market prices reported. There were reports of cherry loss from rain damage ranging from 25 percent to over 80 percent in cherry producing areas of the State. Some later ripening cherry varieties were also beginning to show a high percentage of splitting. **Blueberry** and **strawberry** harvesting continued, but some growers reported a loss due to rot caused by recent rains. Grapes were advancing well, with vines developing small fruit clusters. The grape leaf harvest remained underway. Rains slowed picking activities in citrus orchards, but growers believe the delay will benefit the **Valencia** crop. As **Navel orange** harvest neared completion, Late Lane was the major variety still being picked. Citrus bloom continued, and petal fall was complete. **Olive** growers were concerned about fruit set due to rains during bloom.

NUT CROPS

Growers continued their seasonal cycle of irrigation and cultivation in nut orchards. **Almond** growers were reporting a lighter crop but larger nut size. **Walnuts** were being treated for blight and codling moth.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Cool temperatures continued to slow vegetable development. Ground preparations for summer vegetable and **melon** planting continued. Planting of fresh market and processed **tomatoes, bell peppers** and melons continued. Weeding of **squash**, melon and tomato fields began in the southern regions. Some tomato fields were treated for mites and fungus. **Amaranth, mustard greens**, and many Asian vegetables were planted. **Onion** and **garlic** fields were irrigated and treated with fungicides. **Asparagus, broccoli** and **spinach** harvest continued. Other vegetables harvested include **cucumbers, fava beans, green beans, parsley, radicchio**, and squash.

LIVESTOCK

Foothill pastures were in excellent condition due to recent rains. Some pastures, mainly in the central area, had dried to the point where cattle had to be shipped. Due to outstanding cattle weight gains, some operators planned to ship yearling feeder cattle by June 1 to avoid excessive weights. There was concern about fire danger this summer with the heavy build up of grass on foothill pastures. Many spring lambs have shipped to out-of-State locations for further feeding. Some spring lambs are being discounted in price because of stickers in pelts. Beehives were being moved out of citrus orchards and into staging areas in the central area.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 05/15/05

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 05/15/05	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 05/15/05	January 1 - 05/15/05	Week Ending 05/15/05	July 1 - 05/15/05	July 1 - 05/15/05	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	55	1	66	43	0	0	1.64	45.06	36.69	37.53
Ukiah	60	-1	82	38	34	8	0.44	37.47	38.20	37.96
Santa Rosa	59	-1	76	40	28	3	1.03	35.05	30.08	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco Airport	61	2	72	51	35	0	0.28	27.33	19.92	19.70
San Jose	62	-1	77	47	81	42	0.40	24.58	14.73	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	46	22	0.00	0.00	14.34	14.21
Salinas Airport	60	1	75	45	34	0	0.31	19.56	12.52	12.44
Monterey FAA	58	2	70	48	16	0	0.06	15.35	14.49	18.72
King City	63	1	85	42	69	15	0.27	18.84	12.01	11.44
Paso Robles Airport	64	2	89	41	52	22	0.17	22.83	13.13	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	63	-2	86	41	122	89	1.41	37.07	32.95	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	64	-3	85	41	98	102	0.07	25.48	22.70	22.29
Chico AFS	64	-1	87	43	148	68	1.56	27.64	25.42	26.32
Marysville	63	-4	86	41	117	141	0.36	21.63	21.65	21.04
Sacramento Airport	64	-1	84	42	72	67	0.25	21.25	17.41	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	66	0	88	44	107	100	0.07	18.57	13.53	13.95
Fresno	66	-2	88	46	156	171	0.40	16.51	10.91	10.60
Bakersfield	67	-3	88	44	178	217	0.03	9.93	6.29	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria Airport	60	2	76	42	15	0	0.12	19.79	13.91	12.36
Santa Barbara	63	4	77	46	26	0	0.36	32.65	17.03	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	91	10	0.00	0.00	15.39	14.38
Los Angeles	68	1	87	52	294	262	0.18	37.07	14.97	14.77
Riverside	67	2	92	45	185	135	0.00	21.13	10.47	9.58
San Diego Airport	66	2	79	56	231	143	0.00	22.65	10.55	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	60	-1	90	37	21	7	0.00	10.17	4.70	5.37
Lancaster	64	-1	91	41	64	70	0.01	17.36	7.71	6.92
Daggett Airport	70	-3	98	47	260	348	0.00	8.63	4.06	3.93
Thermal Airport	77	0	105	54	718	713	0.00	7.96	3.54	3.16
Blythe	77	-2	105	54	682	767	0.00	6.70	4.04	3.60
Imperial	76	-1	103	51	730	747	0.00	5.13	2.98	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	49	0	73	32	0	0	0.48	13.71	10.82	12.01
Mt Shasta	53	0	76	37	0	0	0.80	43.42	37.71	37.02
Blue Canyon	47	-4	66	29	0	0	1.88	53.43	63.76	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	73	41	5	0	0.00	23.92	36.72	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.