

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

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WEATHER



A series of weather disturbances associated with an offshore low pressure system brought clouds and rain to Northern California at the start of the week. The main effects in Southern California were some cloudiness and gusty winds in the high deserts. The weather systems managed to produce significant late season precipitation along the northern coast and in the northern mountains through Thursday. By Friday, the low pressure system, which had been off the coast, weakened and moved north. This allowed high pressure to develop across the State, resulting in warmer, more seasonable temperatures, with highs reaching the lower 90s in some northern California valley locations, the mid and upper 90s in Southern California, and the 100's in the deserts.

FIELD CROPS

Field work increased this week as the sun came out. Earlier planted crops were being cultivated to break up the soil crust caused by recent rains. Small grains were cut and baled for hay. Both **cotton** and **corn** continued to be planted in some areas. Cotton in Madera County was very late, and some fields were abandoned and replanted to corn. Where the cotton was growing well, herbicide applications, side dressings, and cultivation continued. **Wheat, barley**, and winter forage were at or near harvest stage. Flooding of **rice** fields continued, as well as rice seeding. Rice herbicide and fertilizer applications were underway. **Sugar beet** harvest continued.

FRUIT CROPS

Stone fruit harvest continued across the State. Among the varieties harvested were Earlicot and Flavorella **apricots**, Super Rich and Sugar Snow **peaches**, and Earliglo and Crimson Baby **nectarines**. Red Beaut **plum** harvest began in Tulare County. More varieties of apricots were showing some cracking, and spring weather conditions may have decreased fruit set on **prunes** for this year's crop. The harvest of early variety **cherries** ended in some areas of the San Joaquin Valley. Silver mulch was applied, and fruit thinning and weed control continued in most orchards. The seasonal cycle of irrigation and cultivation continued in **grape** vineyards and tree fruit orchards. Grape canes continued to push, and growers continued to apply fungicides to vines for fungus and mildew control. Fruit set for **kiwifruit** appeared heavy. **Blueberry** and **strawberry** harvesting continued. The recent rains caused some minor splitting damage to blueberries in some areas. Herbicides were applied to citrus orchards. The Navel **orange** season was in its last stage, and some packers were already finished. The Valencia orange harvest increased. Citrus bloom continued but reached it's final stage. **Olive** groves continued to bloom, but it was still too early to determine fruit set. **Avocado** orchards began blooming.

NUT CROPS

Growers continued their seasonal cycle of irrigation and cultivation in nut orchards. Many **almond** growers were applying pesticides and fungicides to their trees. **Walnuts** were being treated for blight and codling moth.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Warming temperatures stimulated vegetable growth in Southern California while late season precipitation in the north half of the State again slowed some field activities. Ground preparations for summer vegetable planting continued. Many fields were cultivated, irrigated, fertilized, and weeded. Fungicides were applied to many crops as the wet spring weather has increased disease incidence. Some **tomato** fields were sprayed for weeds, mites, and aphids. **Onion** and **garlic** fields were irrigated and treated with fungicides. Planting of fresh market and processed tomatoes, **bell peppers**, and **melons** continued. **Amaranth, mustard greens, spinach**, and many Asian vegetables, including **bok choy, gai choy, kankon**, and **you choy**, were planted. **Asparagus** harvest was winding down. Vegetables also reported harvested include bitter melon, **broccoli, cucumbers, fava beans, green beans, parsley, radicchio, spinach** and **squash**.

LIVESTOCK

Foothill pastures were still in excellent condition after the recent rains. Sheep and cattle were grazing in rangelands and in great condition. Some pastures in the central area were drying out. Rangeland grasses were reported to be nearly two feet in height and in good condition. Weight gains were at record highs. Cattle were being shipped to market. Sheep have been moved into broccoli fields. Milk production was excellent as the weather turned warm and dry. Beehives were being moved out of citrus orchards and into staging areas or cantaloupe fields. Bee keepers have begun to extract honey from hives in the orange orchards.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 05/22/05

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 05/22/05	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 05/22/05	January 1 - 05/22/05	Week Ending 05/22/05	July 1 - 05/22/05	July 1 - 05/22/05	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	55	1	63	44	0	0	1.35	46.41	37.04	37.53
Ukiah	51	-12	78	0	38	25	0.12	37.59	38.46	37.96
Santa Rosa	59	-2	78	45	36	10	1.95	37.00	30.26	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	62	3	71	54	50	0	0.36	27.69	20.00	19.70
San Jose	64	0	77	53	108	70	0.17	24.75	14.82	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	71	45	0.00	0.00	14.43	14.21
Salinas AP	64	5	79	49	60	0	0.01	19.57	12.58	12.44
Monterey FAA	61	4	76	48	27	0	0.01	15.36	14.50	18.72
King City	66	4	89	45	113	31	0.02	18.86	12.06	11.44
Paso Robles AP	66	2	94	44	93	47	0.00	22.83	13.18	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	62	-5	86	48	148	139	1.40	38.47	33.57	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	63	-6	87	50	126	164	1.52	27.00	22.92	22.29
Chico AFS	63	-4	86	48	172	112	1.40	29.04	25.63	26.32
Marysville	64	-5	90	49	151	205	0.66	22.29	21.81	21.04
Sacramento AP	64	-2	90	48	106	109	0.22	21.47	17.52	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	67	0	92	48	158	152	0.05	18.66	13.63	13.95
Fresno	70	0	92	51	228	241	0.13	16.71	10.99	10.60
Bakersfield	69	-2	89	49	241	296	0.03	9.96	6.34	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	64	6	88	44	46	0	0.03	19.82	13.97	12.36
Santa Barbara	65	5	79	51	62	0	0.02	32.67	17.08	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	141	19	0.00	0.00	15.43	14.38
Los Angeles	70	3	88	57	366	310	0.00	37.07	15.04	14.77
Riverside	--	--	--	--	256	182	0.00	21.13	10.52	9.58
San Diego AP	67	2	78	58	278	176	0.00	22.65	10.59	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	66	3	95	36	65	28	0.05	10.22	4.76	5.37
Lancaster	71	4	96	50	141	119	0.00	17.36	7.73	6.92
Daggett AP	78	3	103	56	386	451	0.00	8.63	4.07	3.93
Thermal AP	83	4	109	63	878	844	0.00	7.96	3.55	3.16
Blythe	86	6	111	62	866	910	0.00	6.70	4.04	3.60
Imperial	84	5	110	62	896	876	0.00	5.13	2.99	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	50	-2	73	31	0	0	0.77	14.75	11.10	12.01
Mt. Shasta	49	-5	73	32	0	0	1.66	45.08	38.13	37.02
Blue Canyon	47	-7	68	32	2	0	7.94	61.37	64.23	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	74	39	8	0	0.00	23.92	37.06	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.