

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: October 1, 2006
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WEATHER



Warm and dry conditions continued across California at the beginning of the week with a northerly, off-shore wind pattern. Upper level high pressure was centered over the Four-Corners region, and this pattern held through much of the week. The offshore flow, however, gradually weakened. By Thursday, an onshore breeze brought cooler temperatures to the northern and central coasts, and to the Sacramento/San Joaquin River Delta. This onshore flow also brought some light rain to coastal areas by Friday. Southern California remained warm and dry until the weekend, when the onshore flow returned to that part of the State and finally began

to ease the dangerous wild fire conditions there. By Sunday, widespread clouds moved into the Central Valley, and even a few showers were noted in the San Joaquin Valley.

FIELD CROPS

Rice harvest activities were slowly increasing. **Alfalfa** hay was on its sixth cutting in most areas, seventh cutting in others. **Oat** hay and **Sudan** hay were also cut and baled. Drying conditions had slowed due to cooler temperatures. **Safflower** and wild rice harvesting was complete in the Sacramento Valley. Ground preparation for winter **wheat** planting and winter forage planting was ongoing. **Corn** continued to be harvested for silage and feed. **Cotton** growers were weeding by hand and treating to control aphid and whitefly infestations. Many cotton fields were being treated with defoliants. **Potatoes** were harvested in Kern County.

FRUIT CROPS

Stone fruit varieties being picked and packed included Fairtime, Snow Magic, Autumn Flame, Snow Fall, Prima Gattie, and Full Moon **peaches**; Late Red Jim, Arctic Mist, September Red, September Bright, and Summer Flare **nectarines**; Flavor Fall **pluots**; and October Gem, Angeleno, and Holiday **plums**. Stone fruit growers continued with irrigation, cultivation, and applications of fungicides and herbicides. Cultural operations for table **grapes** were similar to those of stone fruit varieties. Red Globe, Prima Red, Cabernet Franz, Crimson, Grenache, Autumn Royal, Alicante Bouschet, Christmas Rose, Zinfandel, and Merlot table and wine grape varieties were being harvested. Some grapes for **raisins** were still being harvested and dried. Dried-on-the-vine raisin growers were cutting canes and bunches were drying. Early varieties were being harvested. The Granny Smith **apple** harvest continued, as did the **fig** and **prune** harvests. Early Foothill **pomegranate** varieties were being harvested with reports of good size and color. **Strawberry** fields were being plowed and prepared for the fall season. Valencia **oranges** were packed in Tulare County. Irrigation, fertilization, and weed control were ongoing in citrus orchards. The planting of new Navel orange orchards progressed and older orchards showed good growth.

NUT CROPS

Almond harvest continued with shaking trees, windrowing nuts, and sweeping orchards. **Pistachio** and **walnut** harvests remained underway. Some walnut orchards were irrigated in preparation for harvest in Tulare County.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Garlic harvest was complete. **Cucumber** and **sweet corn** were in the final stages of harvest. The fall **asparagus** harvest was in full swing. Transplanting of late season **beans** continued, while some fields were cultivated or hand weeded. Fall **broccoli**, **cauliflower**, and **lettuce** fields were in various stages of planting, cultivation, irrigation, fertilization, and treatments to control insects and diseases. **Onion** planting was ongoing. Insecticides were applied to **tomatoes** and **melons**. Harvesting of **cantaloupe**, **honeydew**, and **watermelon** progressed. Honeydew season was coming to an end. Processing tomato harvest was well underway. Fresh market tomatoes, lettuce, sweet corn, **bell peppers**, **hot peppers**, **cucumbers**, **eggplant**, **cilantro**, and **basil** were harvested. Other harvested crops included **amaranth**, **artichokes**, wax and green beans, **cabbage**, **donqua**, **snake gourd**, Asian melons, **monqua**, **moap**, **okra**, **pumpkins**, **radicchio**, and **zucchini**. At the end of the week the Food and Drug Administration lifted the ban on fresh **spinach**.

LIVESTOCK

Fall calving of beef cows continued. More beef cattle were moved to foothill pastures. Ranchers continued their practice of supplementing feed with protein and minerals. The fire danger level remained high for most of the week. Sheep were grazing on small grain hay fields and retired farmland. Dairy production was good due to the milder temperatures. Bees were working in vineseed fields in the northern area. Some hives were being stored at various locations in the central area.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 10/01/06

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 10/01/06	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 10/01/06	January 1 - 10/01/06	Week Ending 10/01/06	July 1 - 10/01/06	July 1 - 10/01/06	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	52	-5	65	45	31	0	0.04	0.43	1.46	37.53
Ukiah	66	-1	95	45	1,716	1,394	0.00	0.00	0.95	37.96
Santa Rosa	61	-5	94	42	876	850	0.00	0.02	0.72	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	61	-3	81	53	520	401	0.00	0.00	0.35	19.70
San Jose	64	-3	86	56	1,346	1,233	0.10	0.10	0.37	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	1,582	1,361	0.00	0.00	0.36	14.21
Salinas AP	61	-3	84	50	441	384	0.00	0.05	0.32	12.44
Monterey FAA	60	-2	74	53	238	128	0.00	0.01	0.76	18.72
King City	63	-3	98	46	1,324	969	0.01	0.01	0.26	11.44
Paso Robles AP	65	-2	95	44	1,685	1,481	0.00	0.00	0.35	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	69	-3	96	48	2,778	2,367	0.00	0.04	1.27	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	70	-1	94	51	2,738	2,459	0.00	0.02	1.03	22.29
Chico AFS	72	3	96	48	2,488	1,947	0.00	0.00	0.87	26.32
Marysville	67	-4	93	46	2,422	2,283	0.00	0.00	0.59	21.04
Sacramento AP	66	-3	92	47	1,966	1,805	0.00	0.85	0.49	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	67	-3	93	48	2,279	2,077	0.09	0.34	0.41	13.95
Fresno	72	0	95	55	2,990	2,626	0.00	0.91	0.31	10.60
Bakersfield	74	0	92	57	3,123	2,898	0.01	0.18	0.27	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	64	0	76	53	712	377	0.04	0.15	0.38	12.36
Santa Barbara	62	-3	74	50	773	670	0.13	0.24	0.64	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	1,212	807	0.00	0.00	0.41	14.38
Los Angeles	72	-1	86	59	2,318	2,062	0.00	0.00	0.44	14.77
Riverside	75	3	101	54	2,838	2,138	0.00	0.03	0.46	9.58
San Diego AP	69	-2	76	63	1,796	1,517	0.00	0.09	0.34	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	64	1	89	34	1,818	1,547	0.00	0.27	0.57	5.37
Lancaster	70	1	96	45	2,765	2,262	0.03	0.04	0.51	6.92
Daggett AP	79	2	98	53	4,001	3,659	0.01	0.06	1.15	3.93
Thermal AP	83	2	107	57	4,613	4,413	0.00	0.00	0.97	3.16
Blythe	85	3	103	66	5,111	4,876	0.00	4.61	1.45	3.60
Imperial	86	4	107	65	5,137	4,595	0.00	0.00	0.82	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	54	1	87	24	640	296	0.00	0.03	1.31	12.01
Mt. Shasta	60	4	87	35	845	446	0.00	0.00	1.85	37.02
Blue Canyon	67	7	78	53	1,207	574	0.00	0.00	2.75	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	87	42	1,371	1,085	0.00	0.38	1.77	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.