



# California Crop Weather

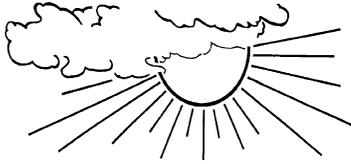
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: May 3, 2009  
RELEASED: May 4, 2009

FREQUENCY: Weekly  
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## WEATHER



A weak high pressure ridge over California quickly gave way to an upper level low pressure system which moved over Oregon at the start of the week. Cool but dry conditions prevailed over most of California for the first few days. Only isolated light showers fell across the coast and mountain areas of extreme Northern California, and in the Northeast Plateau. This pattern persisted through the middle of the week for Northern California, while high pressure gradually rebuilt over the south. Unseasonably cool temperatures were the result across the northern two-thirds of the state, while Southern California saw temperatures warm to normal levels. By Friday, subtropical moisture was drawn into the circulation of the upper level low pressure, resulting in widespread shower activity across Northern California; Southern California only received light precipitation. The remainder of the weekend was relatively mild with continued showers falling across the north, while Southern California remained dry.

## FIELD CROPS

Cooler weather this week slowed growth and development of grain and silage crops. **Wheat** harvest was expected to start in the next two to three weeks in the Imperial and San Joaquin Valleys. In the San Joaquin Valley, wheat yields will be reduced for some growers due to lack of water. Planting of **rice** was in full swing across the state. Previously seeded fields were ready for warmer weather. Some rice fields in the Sacramento Valley will not be tended due to sale of irrigation water for permanent crops. **Sunflower** and **bean** planting also took place in the Sacramento Valley; sunflower and **safflower** were beginning to emerge. **Alfalfa** was cut and baled for hay statewide, along with other forage crops. **Sugar beet** harvest began in the Imperial Valley. **Corn** and **cotton** fields continued to be planted; weed spraying in corn continued. Sweet **potato** transplanting and hot bed digging continued in Merced County.

## FRUIT CROPS

**Grape** vine growth along the north coast slowed due to unusual fluctuations in air and soil temperatures. Leaves were thinned in vineyards to increase sunlight penetration and airflow. Grape vines bloomed in the San Joaquin Valley. Fertilizer applications were prevalent throughout the state for all crops. **Strawberry** harvest continued in the Sacramento Valley, and cool growing conditions allowed strawberries to last longer on the plant in the San Joaquin Valley. **Blueberries** and **boysenberries** continued to mature. Weed control continued for **prune**, **peach**, **apricots** and **nectarines**. Fruit set appeared positive for orchard crops, and fruit thinning was still underway in some orchards. Rain hindered early variety cherry harvest for Royal Champagnes in the San Joaquin Valley. Navel **orange** harvest was mostly complete, and Valencia orange harvest picked up. **Lemon** and **grapefruit** harvests continued. Irrigation was prevalent in citrus groves due to strong winds and declining soil moistures. Harvest was almost complete for Murcott **tangerines** and Minneola tangelos. **Olive** trees began to bloom in the San Joaquin Valley.

## NUT CROPS

**Walnuts** were treated for blight and sucker control. The **almond** set was fair, and spring rains helped with mite control. All nut crops were irrigated and fertilized in the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys. **Pistachios** finished bloom and nuts began to set on trees in the San Joaquin Valley.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

The planting of processing **tomatoes** continued in Colusa County. Tomatoes were transplanted in Stanislaus County, where **melon** planting also occurred. Imperial County experienced winds which prevented bees from effectively pollinating, slowing down the crown set of **cantaloupe** and **watermelon** fields. In Fresno County, blooming tomatoes were fertilized, cultivated, and irrigated. **Onions** were treated with fungicide to prevent downy mildew and **carrots** were cultivated, irrigated, and treated with herbicide. **Garlic** was fertilized. The spring harvest of **radicchio** began in Merced County, where the **asparagus** harvest also progressed. Kern County began harvesting **lettuce**, along with planting acres of tomatoes and **peppers**. Organic vegetables were growing well. Although the quality remained good, **squash** harvested in Tulare County slowed slightly due to cooler weather. **Cucumbers** were gaining sized and early planted melons began to emerge. Ground preparation continued for future plantings of summer vegetables.

## LIVESTOCK

Heavy, late-week precipitation improved the outlook for livestock production in the northern Central Valley, as the rains were expected to rejuvenate forage conditions in many areas. Grazing conditions overall remained only fair to poor, with continued drying of forage grasses reported in more central and southern areas. Though rangeland continued to decline, pasture in Yuba and other northern and central areas was in relatively good condition. In Colusa County, cattle were reportedly being shipped from the foothills earlier in the year than normal. Southern and western facing slopes in the foothill range of Tulare County continued to decline due to dry and windy conditions, and some supplemental feeding of livestock was underway there, due to the poor grazing conditions. Beef cattle continued to receive supplemental feed and nutrients in Merced County as well. Dairy herds were downsized. Sheep were grazing on idle farmland and harvested alfalfa in some northern and central areas and shipment to feedlots was ongoing. Honeybees were relocated to Sutter County and other areas as hives were repaired and otherwise maintained in preparation for field crop pollination.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 05/03/09**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 05/03/09	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 05/03/09	January 1 - 05/03/09	Week Ending 05/03/09	July 1 - 05/03/09	July 1 - 05/03/09	July 1 - June 30
<b>NORTH COAST</b>	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
Eureka	49	-3	58	39	0	0	1.01	28.31	36.02	37.53
Ukiah	54	-5	68	34	48	0	1.07	20.26	37.72	37.96
Santa Rosa	55	-3	68	39	76	0	2.01	20.49	29.75	30.30
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco AP	56	-2	64	47	44	0	0.24	14.47	19.73	19.70
San Jose	--	--	--	--	87	11	--	--	14.52	14.42
Salinas AP	56	-2	68	40	72	0	0.28	11.13	12.40	12.44
Monterey FAA	54	-1	70	41	65	0	0.23	10.68	14.39	18.72
King City	58	-2	78	37	88	1	0.15	5.90	11.88	11.44
Paso Robles AP	59	-1	82	34	64	1	0.03	6.30	13.02	13.95
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	57	-6	71	41	102	29	1.51	20.63	32.12	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	58	-5	72	43	114	31	0.41	15.65	22.27	22.29
Chico AFS	58	-4	74	43	102	16	1.70	28.18	25.05	26.32
Marysville	58	-7	70	41	90	59	1.37	15.59	21.34	21.04
Sacramento AP	57	-5	70	43	86	17	0.96	15.88	17.17	17.52
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	58	-5	74	40	86	35	0.37	9.43	13.31	13.95
Fresno	63	-2	80	45	170	77	0.40	7.55	10.73	10.60
Bakersfield	63	-3	83	45	270	110	0.35	4.86	6.19	5.72
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria AP	55	-1	71	37	56	0	0.06	9.12	13.77	12.36
Santa Barbara	59	0	89	40	54	0	0.00	9.61	16.93	16.25
Ventura	56	0	69	42	155	0	0.00	9.29	15.03	14.38
Los Angeles	62	-4	73	51	355	189	0.00	8.93	14.81	14.77
Riverside	65	1	85	46	307	70	0.00	4.09	10.34	9.58
San Diego AP	63	0	73	55	236	94	0.00	9.08	10.45	9.90
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	60	2	84	28	36	0	0.00	2.16	4.60	5.37
Lancaster	63	1	84	44	95	17	0.00	5.36	7.65	6.92
Daggett AP	69	-1	90	47	247	203	0.00	3.80	4.01	3.93
Thermal AP	76	1	99	55	607	513	0.01	1.48	3.52	3.16
Blythe	75	-1	92	53	636	550	0.00	1.82	4.02	3.60
Imperial	74	0	99	51	600	551	0.00	1.86	2.96	2.75
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	44	-2	58	23	0	0	0.53	8.17	10.31	12.01
Mt. Shasta	44	-5	58	29	12	0	1.68	33.61	37.03	37.02
Blue Canyon	42	-6	53	30	26	0	5.48	44.67	62.69	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	60	41	26	0	2.82	19.66	36.04	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.