



# California Crop Weather

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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## WEATHER



California lay beneath a flat ridge of high pressure at the start of the week. This weak high pressure system allowed a couple of minor frontal systems to brush the extreme northern portions of the state, bringing a few showers to the north coast and to the northern mountains. The remainder of the state was dry and warm. The high pressure ridge began to strengthen by the end of the week, resulting in very warm and dry conditions across the state through the weekend. Isolated mountain thunderstorms occurred; otherwise, dry conditions prevailed by the end of the week.

## FIELD CROPS

**Rice** preparation and planting were in full swing. Herbicide treatments were applied. **Barley** was maturing nicely. **Alfalfa** was being cut. **Corn** continued to be planted and weed spraying was underway. Early planted corn fields continued to emerge. The **cotton** crop was still looking good. There were no major mite or thrip insect problems reported. With the recent hot temperatures, the mite population was expected to increase if the heat persisted. **Oats** continued to be cut and baled. **Wheat** was past the dough stage and ripening rapidly, with harvest underway. Winter forage and other small grains were cut for silage. Fresno County received extra water allocation which should help crops. **Lima** and freezer **bean** planting preparations continued. **Safflower** was planted and growing well. Water availability remained a concern. The **sugar beet** harvest was underway.

## FRUIT CROPS

**Strawberry** harvest was in full swing. Storms from the previous week damaged Brooks and Burlat **cherries** in the Sacramento Valley. **Kiwis** bloomed in the Sacramento Valley. Asian and Bartlett **pears** developed in the Sacramento Valley. Pruning, fertilization, insect and weed control were present in orchards throughout the state. Early harvest of Snow Blaze **nectarines**, April Snow, Snow Angel and Super Lady **peaches**, Poppy, Golden Sweet and Tasty Rich **apricots**, and cherries continued in the San Joaquin Valley. Early season **blueberry** harvest began in the high desert. **Grape** vineyards were treated with fungicides, pesticides and herbicides. Vines throughout the state continued to be thinned for maximum airflow and sunlight penetration. Late varieties of Navel **oranges** were harvested, and Valencia oranges entered peak harvest season. Gold Nugget **mandarins**, W. Murcott tangerines and Minneola **tangelo** harvests were completed. **Grapefruit** and **lemons** entered peak marketing seasons. **Olives**, **figs** and **pomegranates** continued fruit set development in the San Joaquin Valley. Summer **avocados** bloomed, while springtime varieties were mid-way through harvest.

## NUT CROPS

Most **almond**, **pistachio** and **walnut** trees were in the initial phases of nut hardening. Insect monitoring and treatment continued in all orchard varieties. A 5% increase in surface water irrigation allotment was expected to help tree crops in the San Joaquin Valley, and many orchards throughout the Central Valley planned to rely on well water for the much of the rest of the season.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

**Onions** and **garlic** in Fresno County were nearly ready for harvest. Garlic and purple onions in Tulare County continued to be harvested and planted along with **tomatoes**, **peppers**, **squash** and **cucumbers**. Early-planted **melons** were beginning to emerge, while **cauliflower** and **broccoli** were starting to form. Growers prepared for future plantings of summer vegetables. Maintenance and ground preparation continued in Sutter County, and the harvest of vegetable crops for farmers' markets continued. Onions were treated for aphids and thrips, and planting continued for processing tomatoes. Imperial County's harvests of **cantaloupe** and **sweet corn** were in full swing, with sweet corn yields and quality looking good. The onion harvest was ongoing with good quality, and the **carrot** harvest was progressing. Carrots were also being harvested in Kern County along with some **asparagus**. The asparagus harvest in Merced was completed, and the spring harvest of **radicchio** continued. Both fresh market and processing tomato fields were still being planted

## LIVESTOCK

Livestock producers continued to contend with mostly poor rangeland and pasture conditions throughout the state. Rising temperatures contributed to additional decline of forage grasses and the drying of water sources in central and southern areas, as well as heat stress on animals. Early shipment of cattle from the Colusa County foothills continued. Beef cattle were receiving supplemental feed in Tulare County, and some herds were also headed to summer pastures. Cattle continued to receive supplemental feed and nutrients in Merced County and other central areas, as well. Dairy herds were downsized in Kern County and throughout the state. Sheep were grazing on harvested alfalfa and grain fields, idle farmland and rangeland in Fresno and other central areas. Pollination of kiwi in Sutter County was winding down. Bees were in or near citrus in Fresno for honey production.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 05/17/09**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION				
	Average Week Ending 05/17/09	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal		
					January 1 - 05/17/09	January 1 - 05/17/09	Week Ending 05/17/09	July 1 - 05/17/09	July 1 - 05/17/09	July 1 - June 30	
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --				
<b>NORTH COAST</b>											
Eureka	51	-2	58	39	0	0	0.38	29.55	36.79	37.53	
Ukiah	66	4	99	42	98	11	0.00	21.65	38.28	37.96	
Santa Rosa	69	8	97	48	158	4	0.00	22.39	30.14	30.30	
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>											
San Francisco AP	62	3	93	49	80	0	0.00	14.59	19.94	19.70	
San Jose	--	--	--	--	172	50	--	--	14.76	14.42	
Salinas AP	61	3	89	48	107	0	0.00	11.15	12.54	12.44	
Monterey FAA	59	2	85	46	90	0	0.00	10.70	14.49	18.72	
King City	69	7	103	45	194	19	0.00	5.98	12.03	11.44	
Paso Robles AP	71	8	106	41	205	28	0.00	6.30	13.15	13.95	
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>											
Redding	73	7	101	46	242	102	0.00	21.32	33.12	33.30	
Red Bluff FSS	75	8	103	54	276	119	0.00	15.69	22.77	22.29	
Chico AFS	71	6	99	45	213	79	0.00	28.36	25.48	26.32	
Marysville	72	4	103	48	224	158	0.00	15.74	21.69	21.04	
Sacramento AP	72	7	102	49	224	78	0.00	15.93	17.44	17.52	
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>											
Stockton WSO	73	6	105	47	236	114	0.00	9.41	13.56	13.95	
Fresno	76	7	106	54	368	190	0.00	7.55	10.93	10.60	
Bakersfield	77	7	105	57	476	239	0.00	4.86	6.30	5.72	
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>											
Santa Maria AP	59	1	76	44	74	0	0.00	9.14	13.93	12.36	
Santa Barbara	61	1	80	47	138	0	0.01	9.62	17.04	16.25	
Ventura	60	0	71	47	166	0	0.02	9.45	15.12	14.38	
Los Angeles	68	1	79	58	480	276	0.00	8.93	14.99	14.77	
Riverside	72	6	95	54	475	148	0.00	6.64	10.48	9.58	
San Diego AP	63	-1	68	59	296	153	0.00	9.08	10.56	9.90	
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>											
Bishop	71	9	97	45	158	12	0.00	2.16	4.72	5.37	
Lancaster	76	11	102	53	309	83	0.00	5.36	7.72	6.92	
Daggett AP	82	9	105	61	538	376	0.00	3.80	4.06	3.93	
Thermal AP	82	4	104	58	931	750	0.00	1.48	3.54	3.16	
Blythe	87	7	107	68	1,016	806	0.00	1.82	4.04	3.60	
Imperial	85	8	107	63	940	783	0.00	1.95	2.98	2.75	
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>											
Alturas	53	3	91	24	5	0	0.01	8.66	10.90	12.01	
Mt. Shasta	58	5	93	32	28	0	0.00	33.82	37.83	37.02	
Blue Canyon	62	9	83	47	58	0	0.00	47.07	63.91	67.04	
Yosemite	--	--	76	49	70	0	0.00	19.66	36.82	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.