

# CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service  
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: August 28, 2005  
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## WEATHER



An upper level high pressure ridge remained over the West Coast at the start of the week, bringing warm and dry weather across California. This pattern changed slightly on Tuesday, as an upper level low pressure system moving through the Pacific Northwest brushed California. This resulted in an onshore flow which brought some relief from the heat to Southern California, areas along the coast, and to the Sacramento Delta region. The rest of the interior remained warm. By Friday, the trough of low pressure had been pushed out of the State by the rebuilding high pressure ridge. This brought very warm temperatures all across California for the weekend.

## FIELD CROPS

**Rice** was forming seed heads and maturing, while growers continued to dry fields in preparation for the upcoming harvest. Cultivation and land preparation for upcoming planting was ongoing in harvested **wheat**, **barley**, and **oat** fields. **Cotton** was generally doing well in the hot weather; although in Merced County, boll count and boll weight was reported as low due to excessive heat. Insecticide applications on cotton and **corn** were winding down. Field corn was being harvested for green chop and stored for silage production. **Sudan** hay and silage harvest continued. **Sweet potato**, **safflower**, and **vineseed** harvest was ongoing. **Alfalfa** hay fields continued to be cut, windrowed, raked, and baled, while other fields were irrigated. **Lettuce** grown for seed was maturing well and harvest had begun.

## FRUIT CROPS

Table **grape** harvesting continued; Flame Seedless, Autumn Royal, Princess, Fantasy, Thompson Seedless, Summer Royal, Red Globe, Kyoho, and Crimson Seedless varieties were harvested. Zante Currant grapes were on trays, and some trays were being rolled. Growers with dried-on-the-vine raisins continued cane cutting, while other growers began laying Thompson Seedless grapes on trays for drying. Many grape growers began picking for wine and bulk juice production. Harvesting of stone fruit continued; Prima 23 and Snow Giant **peaches**; Howard Sun and Rosemary **plums**; Flavor Grenade **pluots**; and August Fire and August Red **nectarines** were among the varieties harvested. Recently harvested stone fruit was showing some internal damage due to the hot weather, which reduced pack-outs. Some stone fruit growers continued summer pruning following harvest, and most growers were treating for spider mites. A few orchards were removed following harvest, and the trees were stacked for disposal. **Apple** harvest was ongoing with Granny Smith and Royal Gala varieties being picked. **Prune** harvesting was coming to its end in most areas; good yields were reported from most growers in the San Joaquin Valley, while poor quality and low yields were reported from growers in northern counties. **Fig** harvest continued. Harvest of early **pomegranate** varieties began. Citrus groves were showing steady growth, and some growers were dusting to protect trees and fruit from sunburn. Some Valencia **orange** groves with small and poor quality fruit were picked for juice processing. Growers were preparing for the upcoming Navel orange harvest. Olive fruit fly control application in **olive** orchards continued. **Kiwifruit** growers applied fertilizers and micro nutrients through drip line irrigation systems to reduce heat stress and fruit drop on kiwifruit vines.

## NUT CROPS

**Almond** harvest was well underway across the State with trees being shaken and nuts being swept and picked up from orchard floors and transported to hulling facilities. Later maturing orchards were treated with herbicides to clear weeds prior to harvest. Other nut orchards were being cultivated and irrigated, and orchard floors were prepared for harvest. There was some cleanup of broken limbs in **walnut** orchards.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Growers took advantage of the warm and mild weather and began preparation for planting some crops while continuing to harvest other crops. Fall **spinach** was planted. Ground preparation for **strawberry** and **lettuce** planting began. **Broccoli** had emerged and was growing well. Harvesting continued for **cantaloup**, **cucumber**, **bell pepper**, **eggplant**, **green beans**, **honeydew**, pickling **summer squash**, **tomatoes**, **watermelon**, and **zucchini**.

## LIVESTOCK

Rangeland conditions remained very dry, and very few livestock remained in those fields. Most livestock were in irrigated pastures. Rangeland in the upper elevations in Tulare County was still in decent grazing shape. The heat continued to stress livestock and slow milk production. Sheep continued to graze in old grain fields, fallow land, and harvested melon fields in Fresno County. Bees were working in blooming vineseed fields.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 08/28/05**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 08/28/05	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 08/28/05	January 1 - 08/28/05	Week Ending 08/28/05	July 1 - 08/28/05	July 1 - 08/28/05	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
<b>NORTH COAST</b>										
Eureka	53	-6	62	46	6	0	0.04	0.28	0.50	37.53
Ukiah	73	1	99	46	1,143	1,086	0.00	0.00	0.21	37.96
Santa Rosa	65	-2	91	47	560	623	0.00	0.04	0.17	30.30
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco AP	63	-2	75	52	353	260	0.00	0.05	0.10	19.70
San Jose	70	0	87	56	909	942	0.00	0.01	0.11	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	1,218	1,040	0.00	0.00	0.10	14.21
Salinas AP	63	-1	74	50	296	241	0.00	0.04	0.10	12.44
Monterey FAA	59	-3	67	51	94	83	0.00	0.01	0.30	18.72
King City	71	2	96	51	960	725	0.00	0.00	0.06	11.44
Paso Robles AP	75	3	106	46	1,302	1,155	0.00	0.08	0.06	13.95
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	80	2	105	57	2,042	1,879	0.00	0.00	0.42	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	80	1	104	55	1,937	1,957	0.00	0.01	0.26	22.29
Chico AFS	79	4	101	56	1,815	1,547	0.00	0.00	0.23	26.32
Marysville	78	2	101	54	1,711	1,828	0.00	0.00	0.14	21.04
Sacramento AP	76	2	99	55	1,511	1,410	0.00	0.00	0.12	17.52
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	79	3	102	56	1,791	1,638	0.01	0.25	0.09	13.95
Fresno	84	5	103	63	2,294	2,104	0.00	0.00	0.05	10.60
Bakersfield	85	4	103	65	2,360	2,312	0.00	0.02	0.10	5.72
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria AP	64	0	83	51	288	252	0.00	0.00	0.11	12.36
Santa Barbara	67	0	83	50	428	468	0.00	0.06	0.18	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	666	574	0.00	0.00	0.10	14.38
Los Angeles	77	2	94	61	1,429	1,580	0.00	0.00	0.14	14.77
Riverside	83	5	106	58	1,750	1,644	0.00	0.00	0.20	9.58
San Diego AP	73	0	84	62	1,138	1,128	0.00	0.01	0.13	9.90
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	74	1	101	49	1,484	1,305	0.00	0.43	0.31	5.37
Lancaster	82	4	107	56	1,989	1,820	0.00	0.01	0.28	6.92
Daggett AP	90	4	109	69	2,983	2,959	0.00	0.37	0.82	3.93
Thermal AP	94	5	116	74	3,728	3,585	0.00	0.00	0.57	3.16
Blythe	96	4	115	80	3,974	3,966	0.00	1.35	0.94	3.60
Imperial	95	5	114	76	3,795	3,702	0.00	0.68	0.44	2.75
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	64	2	91	36	545	291	0.00	0.00	0.65	12.01
Mt. Shasta	66	2	88	41	602	417	0.00	0.00	0.84	37.02
Blue Canyon	71	5	79	63	760	490	0.00	0.00	0.98	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	1,089	873	0.00	0.00	0.83	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.