

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: August 6, 2006
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WEATHER



California was between a strong high pressure center over New Mexico and a low pressure area off the coast at the start of the week. The resulting southwesterly flow aloft, combined with a stronger layer of marine air just off the coast, resulted in an onshore flow which moderated temperatures across the State. Inland valley temperatures were close to seasonal normal, which, when coupled with cooler overnight temperatures, brought widespread relief to the State after the recent heat wave. As the week progressed, the low pressure off the coast grew stronger, resulting in even cooler temperatures for the State. Moisture circulating around the low pressure triggered thunderstorm activity over the mountains all across the State during the latter half of the week. These storms generated isolated heavy showers, and were the only significant rain reported in California during the week.

FIELD CROPS

The harvest of **corn** for silage has started in most areas. There were some reports of scorched silage corn in some parts of the San Joaquin Valley, but yields generally looked good. The **rice** crop continued to do well as heading continued in some areas. The harvest of **garbanzo** beans continued. **Safflower** harvest has begun, but quality was a concern in Fresno County due to an abundance of weeds. Growers were preparing to harvest seed **alfalfa** fields, which were at full bloom. The fourth cutting of alfalfa hay continued in some areas, while the fifth cutting was underway at other locations. **Cotton** plantings were at full bloom and were setting bolls. Cooler night temperatures were helping to alleviate heat stress during cotton bloom.

FRUIT CROPS

Stone fruit harvest continues. Varieties picked and packed included O'Henry, Summer Lady, Summer Zee and Snow King **peaches**; Royal Giant, Fantasia, Fire Sweet, and August Fire **nectarines**; Dapple Fire, Flavor Grenade, and Necticotom **pluots**; and Friar, Golden, Yummy and Prime Time **plums**. **Pomegranate** fruits continued to size and color. **Fig** harvest continued. Flame Seedless, Black Emerald, Zante Current, and Thompson Seedless table **grapes** were still being harvested in San Joaquin Valley districts. Cultural operations for grapes continued with canopy thinning, cultivation and the applications of fungicides and herbicides. Dried-on-the-vine **raisin** harvest was in progress. Tulare **prune** harvest has almost reached completion. **Blackberry** harvest was winding up. The Valencia **orange** harvest continued at a slow pace. Some orchards were being irrigated and treated to control weeds and insects. New Navel orange orchards were still being established. **Lemons** continued to be packed.

NUT CROPS

Almond and **pistachio** nuts continued to size. Some almond nuts were still showing hull splitting. Almond orchards were being sprayed for worms and mites. **Walnuts** were still being sprayed for codling moths. Orchard cultivating, mowing, and irrigating were still underway.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Sweet corn growers continued to prepare new fields for planting and were weeding the existing fields. Planting of fresh market **tomatoes** continued. Transplanting of late season tomatoes and **melons** continued while some fields were cultivated or hand weeded. Cabbage looper and cucumber beetle treatment continued on melon fields. Transplanting of fall **broccoli** and **cauliflower** continued. The excess heat caused some bulbs to have sun scald and weight loss in some **garlic** and **onion** fields. Bell **peppers** and **carrots** were harvested. **Basil, beans, carrots, cilantro, cucumbers, eggplant, onion, peppers, tomatoes and zucchini** squash continued to be harvested. **Cantaloupe, honeydew and watermelon** harvest continued. Various Asian vegetables continued to be harvested as well as **amaranth, beets, dandelion, daikon, green beans, and mustard greens**.

LIVESTOCK

Cooler temperatures were a welcome relief. Milk production was still down due to the death loss and stress from the recent heat wave. Rangeland was very dry and pastures were in fair to poor condition. High fire danger was reported in the foothill areas. Cattle movement was finished for the summer. Beef cows and heifers were starting to calve in the central and northern areas. Stock ewes were grazing small grain hay, retired farmland and alfalfa fields. Bees pollinated melon and alfalfa fields in the central area and seed crops in the northern area.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 08/06/06

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 08/06/06	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 08/06/06	January 1 - 08/06/06	Week Ending 08/06/06	July 1 - 08/06/06	July 1 - 08/06/06	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	57	-1	63	51	24	0	0.00	0.10	0.23	37.53
Ukiah	71	-3	95	52	1,134	806	0.00	0.00	0.10	37.96
Santa Rosa	65	-2	82	50	592	461	0.00	0.01	0.08	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	65	1	77	55	372	172	0.00	0.00	0.05	19.70
San Jose	69	-2	84	56	916	723	0.00	0.00	0.06	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	1,068	781	0.00	0.00	0.04	14.21
Salinas AP	63	0	74	54	295	157	0.00	0.01	0.05	12.44
Monterey FAA	62	-1	72	54	172	54	0.00	0.01	0.07	18.72
King City	68	-1	87	48	920	542	0.00	0.00	0.01	11.44
Paso Robles AP	68	-6	92	49	1,208	867	0.00	0.00	0.01	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	79	-3	98	59	1,904	1,457	0.00	0.00	0.17	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	80	-1	100	59	1,844	1,531	0.00	0.00	0.14	22.29
Chico AFS	77	0	96	56	1,670	1,202	0.00	0.00	0.10	26.32
Marysville	76	-3	95	55	1,788	1,447	0.00	0.00	0.08	21.04
Sacramento AP	74	-2	93	55	1,352	1,088	0.00	0.85	0.06	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	76	-2	97	57	1,549	1,277	0.01	0.11	0.05	13.95
Fresno	80	-3	99	60	2,006	1,657	0.00	0.91	0.02	10.60
Bakersfield	80	-5	96	63	2,072	1,824	0.00	0.17	0.02	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	66	2	77	53	426	161	0.04	0.10	0.04	12.36
Santa Barbara	68	1	78	55	539	315	0.02	0.04	0.05	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	792	407	0.00	0.00	0.03	14.38
Los Angeles	75	0	84	66	1,487	1,241	0.00	0.00	0.03	14.77
Riverside	76	-2	92	56	1,830	1,253	0.02	0.03	0.06	9.58
San Diego AP	74	2	79	67	1,154	855	0.01	0.09	0.05	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	73	-3	95	47	1,318	996	0.00	0.27	0.20	5.37
Lancaster	--	--	94	52	1,884	1,401	0.00	0.01	0.13	6.92
Daggett AP	85	-4	101	66	2,670	2,363	0.00	0.05	0.51	3.93
Thermal AP	88	-2	107	66	3,168	2,935	0.00	0.00	0.26	3.16
Blythe	91	-4	108	73	3,484	3,243	0.00	0.29	0.46	3.60
Imperial	90	-3	108	70	3,462	3,018	0.00	0.00	0.18	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	65	-1	91	39	495	205	0.00	0.03	0.38	12.01
Mt. Shasta	67	-1	90	44	590	296	0.00	0.00	0.51	37.02
Blue Canyon	68	-2	78	55	781	337	0.00	0.00	0.52	67.04
Yosemite	70	-3	87	44	872	615	0.00	0.38	0.62	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.