

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: September 24, 2006
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WEATHER



A very fall-like weather pattern set up over California during the week. With an upper level high pressure ridge situated to the east of the State, a dry, northerly flow began to blow an offshore breeze, starting in the north. As the week progressed, a surface-level high pressure center moved into the Pacific Northwest, while surface low pressure developed over southern California. These features, combined with the already dry, northerly flow at the upper levels of the atmosphere, created a very strong offshore wind event across the State on Friday and Saturday. Very dry air and already dry grasses meant high fire dangers across much of the State, with Red

Flag warnings posted statewide by the end of the week. Daytime temperatures were seasonably warm, except along the coast, where the offshore flow brought unusually warm temperatures to coastal locations. Because of the dryness, overnight minimums tended to be a little cooler than normal. A little light rain fell along the north coast during the first part of the week. Otherwise, no significant precipitation was reported.

FIELD CROPS

Alfalfa continued to be harvested and some fields were sprayed, irrigated, and prepared for the next cutting. **Corn** for silage was also irrigated. **Cotton** fields were weeded and treated for insects. Some early cotton bolls were starting to crack with some fields being prepared for harvest. **Sugar beet** fields were irrigated, cultivated, and side-dressed. **Dry bean, vineseed** and **sorghum** harvests remained underway. In other areas, **blackeye bean** fields were maturing and fields were prepared for harvest. **Rice** continued to be harvested. **Safflower** and wild rice harvests were nearly complete. Some harvested **wheat** and **barley** fields were prepared for future fall crops.

FRUIT CROPS

Stone fruit varieties being picked and packed included O'Henry, Snow Magic, September Snow, Snow Gem, Ryan Sun, and Full Moon **peaches**; Late Red Jim, Arctic Snow, August Red, September Red, September Bright, and Summer Flare **nectarines**; Flavor Fall **pluots**; and October Gem, Angeleno, Holiday, and October Sun **plums**. Stone fruit growers continued with irrigation, cultivation, and the 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, Merlot, and Thompson Seedless 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. Granny Smith **apple** harvest continued. Brown Turkey **fig** and **prune** harvests were underway in Fresno County. Early Foothill and Early Red **pomegranate** varieties were being harvested with good size and color. **Strawberry** growers were transplanting plants for the new fall crop. **Valencia** orange harvest progressed and growers continued with irrigation, fertilization, and weed control. New **Navel** orange orchards were planted and older orchards showed good growth.

NUT CROPS

Almond harvest was ongoing with shaking trees, windrowing nuts, and sweeping orchards. **Pistachio** harvest continued. **Walnut** varieties were maturing. Growers' preparations for harvest were underway.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Spinach production was halted pending FDA release. Transplanting of fall season **broccoli** continued. Fall **lettuce** was planted, cultivated, and irrigated in Fresno County. Insecticide applications continued for **tomatoes** and **melons**. The fall **asparagus** harvest began. Some **garlic** and **onion** fields were in the final stages of harvest. Harvesting of **cantaloupe, honeydew, and watermelon** progressed. Processing tomato harvest was in full swing. Fresh market tomatoes, lettuce, **sweet corn, bell peppers, hot peppers, cucumbers, eggplant, cilantro, and basil** harvests continued. Other crops reported harvested included **amaranth, artichokes, wax and green beans, cabbage, donqua, snake gourd, Asian melons, monqua, moap, okra, pumpkins, radicchio, and zucchini**.

LIVESTOCK

Many beef cattle remained on higher elevation pastures, with a few moving to foothill pastures. Higher elevation pastures, overall, were in good condition for this time of year. Fall calving of beef cows continued. Fire danger remained high in foothill areas with several fires burning in the State. Many cattle on foothill pastures were receiving protein and other supplements. Cooler temperatures continued to benefit milk production. Temperatures were also positive for all livestock and poultry production. In the central area, stock ewes were grazing in harvested cantaloupe fields, small grain hay fields, and retired farmland. Fall lambing was expected to begin in early October. Bees were pollinating late melon fields in the central area and vineseed fields in the northern area.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 09/24/06

| STATIONS | TEMPERATURE | | | | GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE | | PRECIPITATION | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------|-----|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | Average Week Ending 09/24/06 | Departure from Normal | High | Low | This Season | Normal | This Season | | Normal | |
| | | | | | January 1 - 09/24/06 | January 1 - 09/24/06 | Week Ending 09/24/06 | July 1 - 09/24/06 | July 1 - 09/24/06 | July 1 - June 30 |
| | -- Degrees Fahrenheit -- | | | | -- Number -- | | -- Inches -- | | | |
| NORTH COAST | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eureka | 56 | -2 | 69 | 43 | 31 | 0 | 0.10 | 0.39 | 1.20 | 37.53 |
| Ukiah | 67 | -1 | 91 | 43 | 1,672 | 1,347 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.73 | 37.96 |
| Santa Rosa | 68 | 2 | 88 | 45 | 862 | 810 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.54 | 30.30 |
| CENTRAL COAST | | | | | | | | | | |
| San Francisco AP | 64 | 0 | 79 | 52 | 508 | 375 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.25 | 19.70 |
| San Jose | 69 | 1 | 85 | 54 | 1,316 | 1,183 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.27 | 14.42 |
| Livermore Tele | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1,545 | 1,307 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.25 | 14.21 |
| Salinas AP | 62 | -3 | 78 | 45 | 432 | 356 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 0.23 | 12.44 |
| Monterey FAA | 61 | -1 | 75 | 48 | 234 | 117 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.43 | 18.72 |
| King City | 66 | -1 | 96 | 44 | 1,299 | 926 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.18 | 11.44 |
| Paso Robles AP | 65 | -4 | 89 | 38 | 1,644 | 1,431 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.26 | 13.95 |
| SACRAMENTO VALLEY | | | | | | | | | | |
| Redding | 71 | -2 | 91 | 49 | 2,716 | 2,286 | 0.00 | 0.04 | 1.04 | 33.30 |
| Red Bluff FSS | 74 | 0 | 92 | 54 | 2,665 | 2,377 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.79 | 22.29 |
| Chico AFS | 71 | 1 | 91 | 49 | 2,407 | 1,884 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.70 | 26.32 |
| Marysville | 72 | 0 | 90 | 47 | 2,369 | 2,207 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.44 | 21.04 |
| Sacramento AP | 71 | 0 | 89 | 49 | 1,918 | 1,740 | 0.00 | 0.85 | 0.37 | 17.52 |
| SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY | | | | | | | | | | |
| Stockton WSO | 72 | 0 | 92 | 50 | 2,227 | 2,004 | 0.00 | 0.25 | 0.30 | 13.95 |
| Fresno | 73 | -1 | 92 | 56 | 2,904 | 2,541 | 0.00 | 0.91 | 0.23 | 10.60 |
| Bakersfield | 74 | -2 | 93 | 55 | 3,026 | 2,800 | 0.00 | 0.17 | 0.22 | 5.72 |
| SOUTH COAST | | | | | | | | | | |
| Santa Maria AP | 68 | 4 | 87 | 53 | 687 | 355 | 0.00 | 0.11 | 0.31 | 12.36 |
| Santa Barbara | 64 | -2 | 85 | 48 | 761 | 636 | 0.01 | 0.11 | 0.52 | 16.25 |
| Oxnard | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1,176 | 764 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.32 | 14.38 |
| Los Angeles | 73 | 0 | 92 | 61 | 2,234 | 1,971 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.37 | 14.77 |
| Riverside | 73 | 0 | 99 | 52 | 2,738 | 2,054 | 0.00 | 0.03 | 0.40 | 9.58 |
| San Diego AP | 70 | -1 | 84 | 62 | 1,735 | 1,444 | 0.00 | 0.09 | 0.28 | 9.90 |
| SOUTHEAST INTERIOR | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bishop | 60 | -6 | 85 | 31 | 1,789 | 1,527 | 0.00 | 0.27 | 0.52 | 5.37 |
| Lancaster | 68 | -4 | 91 | 40 | 2,698 | 2,200 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.46 | 6.92 |
| Daggett AP | 74 | -5 | 95 | 50 | 3,871 | 3,544 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 1.11 | 3.93 |
| Thermal AP | 76 | -6 | 100 | 50 | 4,454 | 4,270 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.91 | 3.16 |
| Blythe | 80 | -5 | 98 | 62 | 4,936 | 4,719 | 0.00 | 4.61 | 1.34 | 3.60 |
| Imperial | 80 | -5 | 100 | 59 | 4,952 | 4,439 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.74 | 2.75 |
| CASCADE - SIERRA | | | | | | | | | | |
| Alturas | 51 | -4 | 79 | 23 | 640 | 296 | 0.00 | 0.03 | 1.16 | 12.01 |
| Mt. Shasta | 56 | -3 | 78 | 35 | 833 | 446 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.60 | 37.02 |
| Blue Canyon | 60 | -1 | 72 | 44 | 1,160 | 574 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.21 | 67.04 |
| Yosemite | -- | -- | 82 | 36 | 1,328 | 1,066 | 0.00 | 0.38 | 1.53 | 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.