

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

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WEATHER



At the beginning of the week, a strong low pressure system was poised to cross over central California from the Great Basin region of southern Idaho and northern Nevada. This low pressure moved to the southwest across the Sierra Nevada on Tuesday, spreading the first significant snowfall of the season across the higher terrain of those mountains, mainly across the eastern slopes. As the low continued to move southwestwardly, showers spread across the central and southern portions of the State. The low paused off the coast of southern California, and then shifted direction and moved inland across the south, spreading numerous showers to the southern counties on Friday and during the weekend. Precipitation was reported all across the State at different times during the week. Temperatures tended to run near or a little below normal for most of the State.

FIELD CROPS

Low morning temperatures were slowing the harvest of crops in some areas. The **rice** harvest progressed with some delays and rice straw was being baled. Yields were lower than expected from some growers. Ground preparations were made for winter **wheat** planting and winter forage crops. **Alfalfa** continued to be cut and baled, though growth was slowed due to shorter days and cooler temperatures. Trace amounts of rain added to the drying time. **Sudan grass** was also cut and dried. **Corn** silage, **vineseed** and **dry bean** harvests were ongoing. **Sugar beets** were irrigated, cultivated and side-dressed. Mature fields were harvested. **Cotton** fields were defoliated, but wet conditions in some areas made it difficult to get into the fields. **Milo** fields were developing well due to the recent wet weather.

FRUIT CROPS

Stone fruit harvest was almost complete. Stone fruit varieties being picked and packed included Autumn Sun and Prima Gattie **peaches**; Flavor Fall **pluots**; and Angelino, Sweet Miriam, and Holiday **plums**. Other activities in stone fruit orchards included fall pruning, the application of herbicides and the pushing out of orchards for replanting. Grape growers continued to cultivate, irrigate and treat vineyards with herbicides. Autumn Royal, Ruby Seedless, Crimson Seedless, Ruby Red, Prima Red, Red Globe and Thompson Seedless table, wine and juice **grape** varieties were being harvested. Growers of dried-on-the-vine raisins continued to harvest their crop. The Granny Smith **apple** harvest continued. Pink Lady apple harvest began. **Persimmon** harvest began in some areas. **Fig** harvest remained underway. Early Foothill, Early Red, and Early Wonderful **pomegranates** were harvested. Valencia **oranges** were still being packed in Tulare County and **olive** harvest was also underway. Citrus groves were irrigated and fertilized and treatments were applied for weed control and fungus.

NUT CROPS

Almond harvest progressed with the shaking of trees, windrowing of nuts, and sweeping orchard floors. **Walnut** and **pistachio** growers continued their harvest in Tulare County.

VEGETABLE CROPS

The cooler temperatures and shorter days have slowed down the production and harvests of **melons** and processing **tomatoes**. The fall **asparagus** harvest continued. Fall **broccoli**, **cauliflower**, **cabbage** and **lettuce** fields were in various stages of planting and growth. Weeding, irrigation, fertilization and treatments to control insects and mildew occurred in many fields. Fall crops of **onions**, **garlic**, **cilantro**, **dill** and Asian vegetables showed vigorous growth. Fresh market tomatoes, **sweet corn**, **eggplant**, **squash**, **bell peppers** and **pumpkin** were harvested. Other crops reported harvested included **amaranth**, **basil**, **wax** and **green beans**, **cabbage**, **cucumber**, **snake gourd**, Asian melons and **bittermelon**.

LIVESTOCK

A few more beef cows have moved from higher elevation pastures to foothill pastures. Most are receiving protein and other supplements. The larger movement of beef cows to foothill pastures was not expected until after November 1. Beef stocker cattle movement to foothill pastures will not be in full swing until it rains and there is new grass growth. Fall calving of beef cows continued. Mild weather in valley areas was helping milk production. Sheep were grazing in harvested fields of alfalfa, cantaloupe, wheat and barley stubble and on retired farm land. Fall lambing was expected to begin soon. Feeder lambs were arriving in the southern desert from out-of-state for the winter pasture season. Bees were moving to winter staging areas in the central and northern valleys.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 10/15/06

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 10/15/06	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 10/15/06	January 1 - 10/15/06	Week Ending 10/15/06	July 1 - 10/15/06	July 1 - 10/15/06	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	53	-3	65	41	73	0	0.19	0.90	2.19	37.53
Ukiah	62	-1	88	40	1,738	1,450	0.00	0.31	1.56	37.96
Santa Rosa	61	-2	87	44	888	909	0.00	0.57	1.24	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	60	-2	77	51	534	437	0.00	0.34	0.68	19.70
San Jose	63	-2	82	54	1,395	1,309	0.00	0.34	0.66	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	1,609	1,438	0.00	0.00	0.63	14.21
Salinas AP	61	-2	74	48	454	424	0.00	0.05	0.55	12.44
Monterey FAA	60	-1	71	50	249	145	0.00	0.04	1.56	18.72
King City	61	-2	84	45	1,389	1,031	0.00	0.36	0.43	11.44
Paso Robles AP	57	-7	78	42	1,709	1,544	0.63	0.63	0.55	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	67	1	88	46	2,858	2,476	0.00	0.26	1.78	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	67	-1	90	46	2,806	2,575	0.00	0.12	1.53	22.29
Chico AFS	66	1	89	44	2,548	2,029	0.00	0.15	1.25	26.32
Marysville	63	-4	87	41	2,458	2,397	0.00	0.19	0.93	21.04
Sacramento AP	63	-3	86	45	1,999	1,901	0.03	1.14	0.75	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	64	-3	86	46	2,331	2,180	0.01	0.90	0.66	13.95
Fresno	65	-2	83	51	3,058	2,749	0.00	0.99	0.50	10.60
Bakersfield	66	-4	87	51	3,182	3,050	0.18	0.48	0.38	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	63	1	79	48	746	406	0.28	0.47	0.53	12.36
Santa Barbara	61	-2	72	49	788	720	0.01	0.30	0.92	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	1,260	880	0.00	0.00	0.59	14.38
Los Angeles	68	-3	77	57	2,439	2,221	0.33	0.34	0.58	14.77
Riverside	65	-3	84	48	2,943	2,274	0.06	0.09	0.57	9.58
San Diego AP	65	-3	71	59	1,874	1,642	0.76	0.85	0.49	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	54	-4	76	34	1,830	1,552	0.50	0.79	0.65	5.37
Lancaster	62	-2	85	37	2,808	2,336	0.05	0.10	0.60	6.92
Daggett AP	--	--	59	57	4,168	3,835	0.00	0.06	1.22	3.93
Thermal AP	74	-2	91	53	4,840	4,646	0.00	0.00	1.06	3.16
Blythe	74	-3	91	56	5,340	5,132	0.00	4.61	1.61	3.60
Imperial	75	-3	93	58	5,322	4,854	0.00	0.08	0.96	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	49	0	78	21	629	296	0.00	0.09	1.62	12.01
Mt. Shasta	54	1	78	31	846	446	0.00	0.06	2.49	37.02
Blue Canyon	56	0	68	42	1,209	574	0.00	0.59	4.11	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	71	36	1,375	1,090	0.10	1.08	2.47	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.