



# California Crop Weather

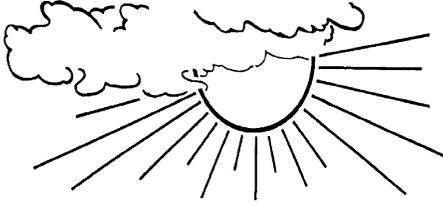
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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## WEATHER



At the start of the week, high pressure aloft over California brought warm and dry conditions to the Golden State. Highs across the interior valleys ranged in the upper 80s to upper 90s, well above the seasonal normal. On Tuesday, the high pressure had shifted east, replaced by a low pressure trough. This resulted in cooler temperatures across the state, except for the southeast deserts. Isolated showers were reported across the Northeast Plateau and

northern mountains as the trough moved across the northern half of the state Tuesday and Wednesday. Midweek temperatures were near normal as the state remained under the influence of the low pressure aloft. Temperatures began to warm on Thursday, as high pressure again built over the state, starting over the southern coast. Warm and dry conditions prevailed statewide through Saturday. On Sunday, another upper level low pressure system made its way across the state. The low pressure combined with considerable moisture to trigger widespread thunderstorm activity across the Sierra Nevada range, and over the southeast deserts.

## FIELD CROPS

**Barley, oats, wheat**, and winter forage harvests continued with some fields drying down across the state. Dryland grain, wheat, and winter forage were being cut for silage and hay. **Alfalfa** second cutting and baling was underway. **Corn** planting continued and **cotton** planting was nearly complete. **Rice** field preparation and planting continued. **Mustard** seed remained in full bloom. **Sugar beet** fields were growing well with spring fields being harvested. **Safflower** fields remained in various stages of growth.

## FRUIT CROPS

**Grapes** continued to leaf out and growers were taking measures to control suckers. Growers were still assessing frost damage that occurred to grapes and fruit trees in April. Fruit thinning was still underway in some orchards. Vineyards and stone fruit orchards were irrigated. Stone fruit harvest had begun. Brooks **cherries**, Poppy and Tasty Rich **apricots**, April Snow and Super Lady **peaches** and April Fire **nectarines** were being picked. Spring **strawberries, boysenberries** and **blueberries** were still blooming and strawberry fields were being harvested. Blueberries were near harvest and some growers were covering their crops with netting to keep birds from eating the fruit. **Tangelos, grapefruit, lemons** and Navel and Valencia **oranges** were harvested. Citrus groves were still blooming and petal fall was nearly complete in some areas. In some mandarin orchards netting was applied to keep bees from cross pollinating trees. Irrigation measures were increased in citrus groves to reduce stress and increase fruit set. **Olive** bloom continued and some trees were forming fruit.

## NUT CROPS

**Almonds** were progressing normally. Growers were closely watching their groves for pests and some were initiating insect control measures. Many new almond trees were expected to come into production this year. Blight and scale treatments took place in **walnut** groves. Damage that occurred due to freezing temperatures in April was still being assessed in walnut groves. Irrigation continued in nut groves.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Imperial Valley **onion** and sweet **corn** harvests actively continued, while early **melon** harvest was about ten days to two weeks from commencing. In Fresno County, transplanting of bell **peppers, tomatoes** for fresh and processing markets, and melons continued. **Peas, peppers, sweet corn, onions** (red, white and yellow), **beans** (green, fava and long), **cucumbers, melons** and summer **squash** were reported to be in good condition and growing nicely. **Asparagus** and **broccoli** harvests continued on the west side. Farmer's market crops such as **amaranth, basil, bok choy, beets, leeks, kale, greens, radishes** and **yams** were being harvested. In Tulare County harvest continued for squash and peppers. In Kern County, processing tomatoes were growing well. Current vegetables harvested were **lettuce** and **carrots**. In the Central Valley, fresh market and processing tomato, cantaloupe, watermelon and bell pepper harvests continued. **Spinach** harvest for the processing market was going strong while asparagus harvest was winding down. In Sutter County, fresh market onion harvest was going well with good quality reported. Other crops being harvested were dehydrated onions, carrots, sweet corn and **artichokes**. **Radicchio** packing continued.

## LIVESTOCK

Accelerated deterioration and browning of rangeland throughout the state was reported, resulting in an increased need for supplemental feeding of cattle. Cattle weight gains were reported as average to below average. Shipping of cattle to irrigated pasture, higher-elevation pasture, and to market continued. Sheep were grazing on retired farmland, alfalfa hay fields, and rangeland. Bees remained active in citrus and kiwi orchards. Movement of hives out of almond orchards was completed. Placement of leafcutter bees near alfalfa seed fields continued.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 05/04/08**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 05/04/08	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 05/04/08	January 1 - 05/04/08	Week Ending 05/04/08	July 1 - 05/04/08	July 1 - 05/04/08	July 1 - June 30
<b>NORTH COAST</b>	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
Eureka	47	-6	56	33	0	0	0.24	36.48	36.80	37.53
Ukiah	56	-3	78	36	23	0	0.00	27.83	38.38	37.96
Santa Rosa	58	-1	82	40	40	0	0.00	24.27	30.21	30.30
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco AP	54	-3	66	44	28	0	0.00	15.94	20.04	19.70
San Jose	58	-3	77	44	54	23	0.00	11.33	14.81	14.42
Salinas AP	55	-3	70	42	32	0	0.00	10.84	12.61	12.44
Monterey FAA	54	0	65	42	26	0	0.00	7.57	14.58	18.72
King City	57	-3	83	37	45	2	0.00	9.34	12.09	11.44
Paso Robles AP	60	0	90	34	52	3	0.00	8.61	13.24	13.95
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	63	0	86	41	126	53	0.18	24.01	32.90	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	63	0	88	43	122	58	0.00	14.79	22.73	22.29
Chico AFS	63	1	93	38	138	35	0.00	19.34	25.52	26.32
Marysville	61	-4	88	42	82	97	0.00	15.61	21.74	21.04
Sacramento AP	61	-1	87	39	76	35	0.00	13.67	17.48	17.52
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	62	-2	88	44	81	63	0.00	10.09	13.58	13.95
Fresno	66	0	92	45	196	123	0.00	8.64	10.97	10.60
Bakersfield	67	0	93	47	239	164	0.00	2.45	6.32	5.72
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria AP	56	-1	75	40	29	0	0.00	11.61	14.02	12.36
Santa Barbara	60	2	82	45	86	0	0.00	15.83	17.17	16.25
Ventura	59	0	81	45	106	0	0.00	13.24	15.27	14.38
Los Angeles	68	3	96	53	381	234	0.00	13.41	15.10	14.77
Riverside	--	--	--	--	273	104	0.00	6.31	10.54	9.58
San Diego AP	65	1	88	56	188	123	0.00	7.26	10.65	9.90
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	58	0	85	30	14	0	0.00	7.25	4.70	5.37
Lancaster	63	0	91	36	86	35	0.00	7.86	7.77	6.92
Daggett AP	69	-1	95	46	340	281	0.00	2.58	4.07	3.93
Thermal AP	73	-2	101	42	762	633	0.00	3.58	3.55	3.16
Blythe	75	-1	99	54	748	680	0.00	1.96	4.05	3.60
Imperial	75	0	100	50	722	670	0.00	2.37	2.98	2.75
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	44	-2	73	17	0	0	0.06	8.94	10.72	12.01
Mt. Shasta	50	0	72	28	0	0	0.00	28.32	37.76	37.02
Blue Canyon	50	2	67	31	4	0	0.00	36.33	64.04	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	22	0	0.00	15.74	36.81	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.