



California Crop Weather

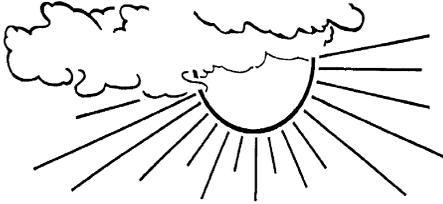
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: May 11, 2008
RELEASED: May 12, 2008

FREQUENCY: Weekly
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WEATHER



A series of weak low pressure systems transited through northern California this week, resulting in slight temperature swings from near normal to above normal for the north for most of the week. Light amounts of precipitation were mostly confined to coastal areas and across the mountains. In southern California, a moderate offshore flow kept the coastal region and nearby inland valleys cool. On Wednesday, a weak cold front pushing

through the state spread a few showers across southern California, and the coast and mountains of northern California. The Central Valley remained dry. A final low pressure trough pushed through the state on Sunday. The main effect of this system was to cool temperatures down across the state, no significant precipitation was observed from this system.

FIELD CROPS

Barley, oats, wheat, and winter forage harvests continued. **Alfalfa** second cutting continued. Planting of **corn** for grain and silage continued and weed spraying was underway. **Rice** field preparation was nearly complete while flooding and early herbicide applications continued. Dry **lima bean** planting was underway in Merced County. **Sugar beet** fields were growing well with spring fields being harvested. **Safflower** fields remained in various stages of growth.

FRUIT CROPS

With **grape** bloom underway growers were thinning leaves to increase sunlight and airflow to vines. Last month's frost damage to vineyards and orchards was still being evaluated. Irrigation and treatments in vineyards and orchards for weeds and insects remained underway. Some stone fruit orchards were still being thinned. Brooks **cherries**, Poppy and Tasty Rich **apricots**, Golden Sweet **apriums**, Super Rich, April Snow and Super Lady **peaches**, and April Fire and Ruby Fire **nectarines** were harvested. **Kiwi** blooms were showing in Yuba County. **Boysenberries** were still blooming and spring **strawberry** harvest continued. **Blueberry** harvest began. The harvests of **lemons**, Navel and Valencia **oranges**, and late season **grapefruit** continued. Pink grapefruit was going to juicers in Imperial County. **Mandarin** harvest was winding down. More rind puff and break down were seen in Navels. Field juicing of Navels not suitable for the fresh market was on the rise. Citrus bloom was winding down and fruit set had begun. New citrus plantings were underway. **Olives** were forming fruit.

NUT CROPS

Nut groves were being irrigated. **Pistachios** were set on trees. **Almond** branches were sagging under the weight of this year's crop. In some areas almond branches broke off due to winds. Codling moth spraying had begun in **walnut** groves.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Imperial Valley **onion** and sweet **corn** harvests actively continued, while early **melon** harvest was about ten days from starting. In other southern California areas processing **tomatoes** were being planted and were growing well. In the Central Valley, transplanting of bell **peppers**, tomatoes for fresh and processing markets and melons were ongoing, while **peas**, peppers, sweet corn, onions (red, white and yellow), **beans** (green, fava and long), **cucumbers** and summer **squash** were reported to be in good condition and growing nicely. **Asparagus** and **broccoli** harvests continued. **Spinach** harvest for the processing market was going strong. Farmer's market crops such as **amaranth**, **basil**, **bok choy**, **beets**, **leeks**, **kale**, **greens**, **radishes** and **yams** were being harvested. Harvest continued for early squash and peppers. In northern Central Valley areas processing tomatoes were growing well and melon growers were preparing their fields but waiting for consistent soil temperatures before planting. Current vegetables harvested were **lettuce** and **carrots**. Peppers, watermelons, and other melons were growing well. Fresh market onion harvest was going well with good quality reported in areas farther north. Other crops being harvested were dehydrated onions, carrots, sweet corn and **artichokes**. **Radicchio** packing continued.

LIVESTOCK

Rangeland deterioration continued due to lack of rain, affecting both cattle and sheep production. Supplemental feeding of cattle was ongoing. Shipping of cattle to irrigated pasture and higher elevation pasture continued, where available. Sheep continued grazing on rangeland, retired farmland, and alfalfa hay fields. Bees remained active in citrus and kiwi orchards. Placement of leafcutter bees near alfalfa seed fields continued.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 05/11/08

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 05/11/08	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 05/11/08	January 1 - 05/11/08	Week Ending 05/11/08	July 1 - 05/11/08	July 1 - 05/11/08	July 1 - June 30
NORTH COAST	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
Eureka	48	-5	54	38	0	0	0.00	36.24	37.08	37.53
Ukiah	62	2	89	42	52	4	0.00	27.83	38.58	37.96
Santa Rosa	59	-1	78	41	42	1	0.00	24.27	30.36	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	55	-3	67	46	28	0	0.00	15.94	20.11	19.70
San Jose	--	--	74	48	64	47	0.00	11.33	14.89	14.42
Salinas AP	54	-4	64	42	32	0	0.00	10.84	12.65	12.44
Monterey FAA	54	-2	63	46	26	0	0.00	7.57	14.64	18.72
King City	58	-3	78	39	44	15	0.00	9.34	12.14	11.44
Paso Robles AP	61	-1	84	38	62	21	0.00	8.61	13.27	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	70	5	92	48	232	98	1.02	25.87	33.31	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	71	5	93	51	242	111	0.00	14.79	22.96	22.29
Chico AFS	68	4	92	48	214	74	0.00	19.34	25.68	26.32
Marysville	67	0	88	47	159	155	0.00	15.61	21.87	21.04
Sacramento AP	65	1	84	47	132	73	0.00	13.67	17.59	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	65	0	85	47	142	110	0.00	10.09	13.68	13.95
Fresno	70	2	88	52	290	187	0.00	8.64	11.03	10.60
Bakersfield	70	2	88	55	332	237	0.00	2.45	6.35	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	55	-2	67	42	29	0	0.00	11.61	14.05	12.36
Santa Barbara	55	-4	65	43	72	0	0.01	15.85	17.18	16.25
Ventura	57	0	65	46	96	0	0.00	13.24	15.25	14.38
Los Angeles	62	-4	70	54	349	280	0.00	13.41	15.13	14.77
Riverside	--	--	--	--	241	148	0.00	6.31	10.59	9.58
San Diego AP	60	-4	66	56	162	154	0.02	7.30	10.66	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	61	1	85	38	24	3	0.00	7.25	4.75	5.37
Lancaster	68	4	88	49	166	76	0.00	7.86	7.78	6.92
Daggett AP	73	2	93	50	464	376	0.00	2.58	4.09	3.93
Thermal AP	77	1	96	55	910	759	0.00	3.58	3.56	3.16
Blythe	76	-2	98	56	868	817	0.00	1.96	4.06	3.60
Imperial	75	-1	97	55	828	793	0.00	2.37	2.99	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	50	2	75	26	0	0	0.03	8.66	11.02	12.01
Mt. Shasta	55	4	78	35	3	0	0.00	28.32	38.09	37.02
Blue Canyon	56	6	68	43	6	0	0.00	36.33	64.50	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	23	0	0.00	15.74	37.15	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.