



# California Crop Weather

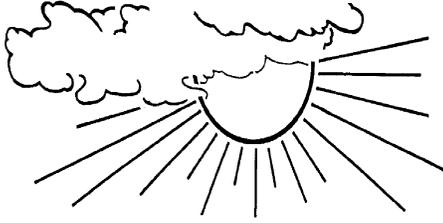
Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: May 16, 2010  
RELEASED: May 17, 2010

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## WEATHER



The previous week in weather began with a cold and powerful low pressure system that swept across Northern and Central California, and skimmed parts of Southern California. Temperatures were as low as 20 degrees below normal following this system, which also brought moderate precipitation to portions of the State on Monday. The southern San Joaquin Valley felt the impacts of this system by Tuesday, where temperatures there dropped much below normal. By mid-week, the leading edge of an offshore high pressure ridge caused temperatures to increase to near normal levels. By the end of the week, the ridge amplified and moved onshore causing temperatures to rise a few degrees above average for most of the State. By late Sunday, an offshore low pressure system began to increase cloud cover for Northern and Central California, decreasing daytime highs to near normal.

## FIELD CROPS

**Winter wheat** harvest has started in Southern California. Wheat continued to be harvested for silage in the San Joaquin Valley. Winter forage harvest continued and was either green chopped or cut and baled. **Alfalfa** harvest for hay and silage continued. Most areas have completed the first cutting. The second cutting is underway. Warmer weather aided crop growth. **Oats** were harvested in the San Joaquin Valley and **corn** continued to be planted. Corn plant height ranged from freshly planted to nine inches tall. **Cotton** fields were sprayed and cultivated. **Rice** fields were being cultivated, planed, or flooded; growers planted as conditions allowed.

## FRUIT CROP

Picking of Valencia **oranges** in the San Joaquin Valley continued normally as the **lemon** harvest was focused along the coast. The navel orange harvest continued at a slower pace, while the **tangerine** harvest neared its conclusion in the San Joaquin Valley. The citrus bloom was completed as preparations for planting of new citrus trees were undertaken. The **cherry** harvest volume from early maturing varieties continued to increase. Harvesting began for early **apricot** and **peach** varieties. Fungicide applications and tree thinning were ongoing in **prune**, **plum**, **nectarine** orchards, as well as late variety apricot and peach orchards. Fungicide, herbicide, and fertilizer applications along with irrigation were ongoing in **grape** vineyards in the Central Valley. The **blueberry** harvest began in the San Joaquin Valley as the **strawberry** harvest continued normally. Strawberry plantings were completed in Siskiyou County.

## NUT CROPS

Some precautionary miticides and fungicide applications were ongoing in **almond** orchards, while several growers planned to delay applications until hull split due to continued subdued insect development. There was also normal nut and leaf drop in almond orchards as the crop continued to show good development. Blight and herbicide applications, along with irrigation, were ongoing in **walnut** orchards. The walnut, **pistachio**, and **pecan** blooms continued toward completion.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

The **sweet corn** harvest continued in Imperial County with excellent yield and good quality reported. Treatments were applied to the crop to target corn earworm. **Melons** were also developing well. **Garlic** and **onion** growth was very good in Fresno County. **Carrots** looked good and were fertilized and treated with herbicide and fungicide. Southern San Joaquin Valley **tomatoes** were in the ground and the crop was irrigated, weeded, cultivated, fertilized and fungicides were applied. The growth of vegetables in Tulare County was slowed by the cooler weather, but the planting of tomatoes, **peppers** and **squash** continued. In Siskiyou County, producers finished planting the onion crop, and irrigation and weed control were ongoing. Sutter County's field work, preplant herbicide treatments and ground preparation advanced and the planting of tomato transplants resumed. Tomato fields were being planted in San Joaquin County while the **asparagus** harvest continued. Asparagus continued to be harvested in Merced County as well, alongside the first of the **radicchio** and **parsley** crops. The planting of bell pepper, **cantaloupe**, **honeydew**, **watermelon** and tomato fields progressed.

## LIVESTOCK

Non-irrigated range continued to improve across the State. With the warming temperatures, forage continued to mature and gain nutrient strength. There was concern about fire danger this summer with the late rains promoting grass growth in foothill pastures. Livestock are expected to remain on the Sutter Buttes through May due to the good forage conditions. Supplemental feeding of hay and nutrients continued in a few locations. Cattle and sheep grazed idle fields and range. Bees continued to be moved to seed onion fields and alfalfa seed fields. Some dairies and feedlots were still impacted by wet muddy conditions remaining from recent storms. The mild temperatures were beneficial to milk production.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 5/16/10**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 5/16/10	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 5/16/10	January 1 - 5/16	Week Ending 5/16/10	July 1 - 5/16/10	July 1 - 5/16	July 1 - June 30
<b>NORTH COAST</b>	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
Eureka	52	-2	59	41	38	0	0.57	38.91	36.74	38.32
Ukiah	--	--	--	--	12	9	0.00	23.66	38.24	39.36
Santa Rosa	57	-4	73	37	22	3	0.15	29.69	30.11	30.93
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco AP	56	-3	65	45	12	0	0.12	20.81	19.93	20.33
San Jose	--	--	--	--	37	46	0.00	16.00	14.74	15.15
Salinas AP	55	-4	64	41	8	0	0.13	13.84	12.53	12.86
Monterey FAA	--	--	--	--	2	0	0.00	13.14	14.49	20.52
King City	59	-3	76	40	38	17	0.02	13.65	12.02	12.24
Paso Robles AP	61	-2	88	34	36	25	0.00	13.19	13.14	13.35
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	64	-2	86	36	84	95	0.48	29.91	33.03	35.74
Red Bluff FSS	64	-3	86	36	93	110	0.11	23.17	22.73	23.73
Chico AFS	62	-3	85	37	80	73	0.25	27.42	25.45	26.52
Marysville	63	-5	86	39	78	150	0.26	18.75	21.67	22.41
Sacramento AP	63	-2	86	38	74	72	0.23	20.13	17.43	17.96
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	62	-4	87	36	76	107	0.13	15.12	13.55	13.94
Fresno	66	-3	90	43	168	180	0.01	12.14	10.92	11.38
Bakersfield	68	-2	93	45	191	228	0.12	7.02	6.30	6.55
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria AP	55	-3	68	40	8	0	0.00	15.56	13.92	14.19
Santa Barbara	58	-2	70	47	24	0	0.00	20.70	17.04	17.46
Ventura	56	0	70	44	51	0	0.00	16.12	15.12	15.34
Los Angeles	65	-2	76	53	388	269	0.00	16.31	14.98	15.29
Riverside	--	--	--	--	207	141	0.00	0.00	10.48	10.73
San Diego AP	61	-3	69	52	162	148	0.00	10.57	10.56	10.78
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	55	-7	83	25	5	9	0.01	6.78	4.71	5.04
Lancaster	62	-3	88	40	96	76	0.00	7.64	7.71	7.86
Daggett AP	--	--	--	--	321	362	0.00	4.18	4.06	4.23
Thermal AP	74	-4	96	52	534	731	0.00	3.75	3.54	3.61
Blythe	--	--	--	--	641	787	0.00	4.75	4.04	4.08
Imperial	74	-3	97	51	650	765	0.00	4.11	2.98	3.02
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	48	-2	75	28	0	0	0.44	8.21	10.86	12.26
Mt. Shasta	52	-1	77	34	0	0	*	*	37.77	39.99
Blue Canyon	49	-3	65	28	0	0	0.86	45.53	63.83	65.90
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	5	0	0.00	17.69	36.77	38.41

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.

Asterisks (\*) indicate missing data.

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.