



# California Crop Weather

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

California Field Office • P.O. Box 1258 • Sacramento, CA 95812 • (916) 498-5161 • (916) 498-5186 FAX • [www.nass.usda.gov/ca](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ca)

WEEK ENDING: May 12, 2013  
RELEASED: May 13, 2013

FREQUENCY: Weekly  
VOL. 33 NO. 45

## WEATHER



A weak low pressure system was located near the Central California coast at the start of the week. This system produced widespread showers and brought cool temperatures to the entire State through Tuesday. The low pressure system began to slowly move southeastward on Wednesday, eventually reaching the Four Corners area by the end of the week. At the same time, a slanting high pressure ridge, its axis oriented from the

Central Coast through to the Northeast Plateau, began to develop. This high pressure gradually pushed the low pressure out of the State and brought warming temperatures to Northern California by Thursday. Moisture from the Four Corner's low was still circulating into the State from the East, however, resulting in scattered showers and thunderstorm activity across the Sierra Crest and the southeastern desert region. The precipitation that fell across California at the start of the week was light to moderate and amounts were variable. Temperatures were below normal at the start of the week, but had risen to very warm levels statewide by the weekend.

## FIELD CROPS

**Wheat, oats** and winter **forage** crops were being cut for hay and silage. **Rice** fields were almost three quarters complete by week's end, while **cotton** plantings were nearly complete. Cotton continued to germinate and grow well with the wet weather, causing some producers to start the irrigation earlier than normal. Planting varied this year from Mid-march to Early May so developmental stages also varied. Some plants were showing leaves, while more advanced plants were at 7 to 8 nodes. Growers were cutting, windrowing, raking and baling **alfalfa** during the week.

## FRUIT CROPS

Orchard growers continued to irrigate, fertilize, and spray for weeds. **Kiwi** and **pomegranates** were blooming. **Grape** growers were irrigating and treating to control fungus, mildew and mites. Blooms were appearing in grape vineyards; vines continued to leaf out. Early variety **cherries** were picked. **Strawberry** harvest continued across the State. **Apples** were showing fruit. **Apricots** and early variety **peaches** and **nectarines** were harvested. **Pomegranate** trees were in full bloom. **Olive** bloom neared completion. Citrus groves were irrigated and bloom was complete. **Tangerine** growers pulled off netting that was used to prevent seeds.

## NUT CROPS

**Almond** growers were irrigating, fertilizing, and spraying trees with miticides and fungicides. Rain last week pushed more producers into spraying preventive fungicide applications. Almond nuts continued to develop well. **Walnut** growers were trapping and monitoring codling moths. Codling moth sprays continued. Walnut and **pistachio** trees were being irrigated and fertilized.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

In Tulare County, certified producers continued to plant and harvest for Farmers Markets, while snap **pea** harvest finished. Fresno County reported **onions** were being sprayed with fungicides; **carrots** were being fertilized and sprayed with herbicides. Sulfur was applied to processing **tomatoes**; curly top virus was a concern for producers. **Asparagus** harvest was winding down in San Joaquin County. Vegetable growth was not harmed by the heat and winds due to plentiful irrigation. Onions were growing well. Bell **peppers**, **pumpkins** and tomatoes were being transplanted. **Watermelon** and **cantaloupe** plants were growing very well. Greenhouse tomatoes were being picked and sugar snap peas, **lettuce**, onions **garlic**, **squash**, fava **beans**, and **radishes** were being harvested for farmers markets. Growers were still planting tomatoes and beans; tomatoes and peppers that were already established were growing well. Sutter County reported that farmers continued to transplant tomatoes and prepare beds for melons and vineseed crops.

## LIVESTOCK

Range and pasture conditions were reported to be in fair to poor condition. The week's light rains were too late in the season to benefit lower elevation range and raised concerns about degrading grass nutrient value. Cattle continued to be moved from range to irrigated pasture due to the declining range conditions. Cattle and sheep grazed on rangeland, idle fields, dry land grain and alfalfa fields. Supplemental feeding of livestock continued. In Sutter County, bees were placed in kiwi in preparation for bloom.

**Alert! The window to respond to the Census of Agriculture is almost closed!**

There are only a few weeks left to complete and return the 2012 Census of Agriculture. Because time is running out, NASS may contact you or farmers in your area by phone or in person to collect information for the Census. *Help ensure you and your industry have the most complete set of agricultural statistics available for your country and county.* For more information or for help filling out your Census form, visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov) or call (888) 424-7828.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 5/12/13**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		RAIN DAYS	PRECIPITATION				
	Average Week Ending 5/12/13.	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Year	Normal Year	This Season	This Week	This Season	Normal Season	Normal Year	
					January 1 - 5/12/13	January 1 - 5/12/13	July 1 - 5/12/13	Week Ending 5/12/13	July 1 - 5/12/13	July 1 - 5/12/13	July 1 - June 30	
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Days /1 --	-- Inches of Precipitation --				
<b>North Coast</b>												
Eureka_WFO	54	+2	66	48	1	0	98	0.22	26.85	36.77	38.10	
Ukiah	66	+6	94	50	145	38	61	0.02	27.86	38.17	38.90	
Santa_Rosa_AG	65	+5	86	51	172	72	45	0.07	21.28	30.52	31.01	
Napa_State_Hosp	64	+3	84	49	192	75	52	0.23	18.39	26.02	26.46	
<b>Central Coast</b>												
San_Francisco_A	60	+3	71	51	92	27	47	0.00	12.80	19.92	20.11	
San_Jose_AP	63	+1	83	53	177	136	48	0.00	9.10	14.86	15.08	
Salinas_AP	61	+3	76	51	70	37	42	0.00	8.92	12.77	12.91	
Monterey_AP	58	+3	70	49	29	0	55	0.00	11.27	20.01	20.35	
King_City_Ag	66	+5	95	46	198	95	39	0.00	4.58	12.16	12.30	
Paso_Robles_AP	68	+7	102	46	234	60	37	0.05	4.67	13.02	13.08	
<b>Sacramento Valley</b>												
Redding	72	+9	96	56	321	114	55	0.15	26.20	32.06	33.52	
Red_Bluff	72	+6	95	54	361	165	50	0.04	17.60	23.12	24.07	
Willows_6W	69	+6	92	54	286	124	52	0.21	18.98	18.36	19.03	
Oroville_AP	70	+6	95	55	264	136	43	0.25	17.59	28.06	28.75	
Marysville	70	+4	96	52	293	225	44	0.32	18.93	21.53	22.07	
Sacramento_AP	69	+6	92	51	287	142	40	0.23	14.23	17.53	17.93	
<b>San Joaquin Valley</b>												
Stockton	70	+5	95	51	285	176	42	0.00	9.86	13.56	13.84	
Modesto_AP	70	+5	95	53	369	239	44	0.13	8.98	12.75	13.12	
Merced_Macready	72	+7	98	53	354	178	39	0.10	7.68	12.26	12.50	
Madera_AP	71	+5	99	51	289	197	38	0.06	7.99	11.69	11.94	
Fresno_AP	74	+8	102	57	527	219	36	0.07	5.66	10.86	11.23	
Lemoore_NAS	71	+5	102	51	330	204	35	0.13	3.61	7.68	7.89	
Visalia_AP	71	+6	99	54	358	212	31	0.08	4.39	10.75	11.03	
Bakersfield	73	+5	100	55	478	285	34	0.05	3.15	6.28	6.49	
<b>Cascade Sierra</b>												
Alturas_AP	57	+8	83	36	6	0	66	0.41	6.79	10.55	12.13	
Mount_Shasta_AP	62	+11	88	44	36	0	71	0.58	25.24	37.27	39.16	
Blue_Canyon	55	+5	76	37	44	0	77	1.07	45.46	64.19	66.36	
Yosemite_Valley	58	+2	85	42	80	2	49	0.53	16.21	36.22	37.73	
<b>South Coast</b>												
Santa_Maria_AP	63	+7	78	49	83	15	36	0.04	6.21	13.84	14.01	
Santa_Barbara_A	64	+4	79	51	111	129	39	0.01	9.33	16.81	16.93	
Oxnard_NWS	64	+5	80	52	175	133	29	0.07	5.49	15.57	15.62	
Riverside_AP	69	+4	103	52	452	294	31	0.10	4.43	10.09	10.22	
Los_Angeles_AP	65	+3	73	58	250	270	32	0.39	6.23	13.03	13.15	
San_Diego_AP	66	+2	78	60	224	353	35	0.26	6.51	10.65	10.77	
<b>Southeast Interior</b>												
Bishop_AP	62	+2	92	44	103	61	13	0.47	1.34	4.63	5.02	
Daggett_AP	72	+2	101	50	627	390	17	0.01	1.58	4.07	4.17	
Lancaster_ATC	68	+5	98	49	328	149	12	0.15	1.26	7.31	7.40	
Thermal	78	+2	105	59	961	834	13	0.00	2.59	3.46	3.53	
Blythe_AP	77	0	103	55	975	784	19	0.00	4.39	4.02	4.02	
Imperial_CA	76	+1	103	58	961	766	13	0.00	2.07	2.94	2.96	

1/ Total number of days with precipitation events this season.  
 Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) is in inches.  
 Air Temperatures are in Degrees Fahrenheit.  
 Normal periods 1970-2000 used in Departure From Normal calculations.  
 For more weather information visit [www.awis.com](http://www.awis.com) or call 1-888-798-9955.  
 Copyright 2013: Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc.  
 All rights reserved.