



# California Crop Weather

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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RELEASED: May 7, 2007

FREQUENCY: Weekly  
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## WEATHER



An upper level high pressure ridge centered over the Four-Corners region provided California with dry and mild weather at the start of the week. This shield of high pressure quickly eroded as a Pacific frontal system approached the Pacific Northwest on Tuesday. The cold front pushed through northern California on Tuesday and Wednesday, resulting in cooler temperatures across the State and precipitation across the northern two thirds of California. Rain fell across the Sacramento and northern San Joaquin valleys, and snow fell across the higher terrain of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. A second, weaker frontal system brought a few showers to the northern half of the State on Thursday. By Friday, surface level high pressure moved into the Great Basin, resulting in an offshore flow across California, with windy, dry and warm conditions beginning on Friday and continuing through the weekend. Temperatures climbed into the upper 80s and lower 90s across interior areas. The week's precipitation largely missed southern California, and the gusty offshore winds created very dry and potentially hazardous fire weather conditions across the south.

## FIELD CROPS

Winter **wheat** heads had matured to the dough stage in many areas. In the Imperial Valley, wheat fields were mostly mature, and harvest was planned for mid-May. Slight lodging was noted in some small grain fields in western Fresno County, due to recent high winds. Most dryland wheat, **oats**, and **barley** were suffering due to drought and were not to be harvested for grain. **Alfalfa** was chopped, cut and baled; the second cutting was nearing completion in most areas. **Sugar beet** harvest was winding down in the San Joaquin Valley. **Cotton** planting was mostly complete, and many fields were emerging. **Rice** field flooding, planting, and herbicide treatments continued. Winter forage cutting for silage and hay continued. Field **corn** planting and emergence continued. **Sunflower** and **vineseed** planting continued in the Sacramento Valley.

## FRUIT CROPS

Excellent growth was observed in **grape** vineyards. Thompson table grapes were blooming. Growers continued to fertilize, irrigate and spray to control weeds, diseases and insects in grape vineyards. Stone fruit orchards were irrigated, fertilized and herbicides were applied. **Apple**, **pear**, and **quince** trees were still being thinned. Harvest of Poppy **Apricots** was underway. **Cherry** harvest continued. Damage to Brooks cherries from recent rains was still being assessed. Snow Angel **peach** harvest was underway. Harvest continued for **strawberries** and **blueberries**. Navel **orange** harvest was approaching the end in Tulare County. Orange, **tangerine**, **mandarin**, and **lemon** harvest continued in Fresno County. Some growers were still treating to control fungus and weeds and applying nutrients. Pruning of frost-damaged limbs and trees continued. **Olive** trees were blooming.

## NUT CROPS

A bumper crop of **almonds** was expected in some areas. Broken branches, split trees and fallen trees have been observed because of the weight of almonds on limbs. Blight spraying was complete for **walnuts**. Orchard work such as fertilization, irrigation, and spray applications for weeds continued in nut orchards.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

**Zucchini** continued to be planted along with transplanting of processing **tomatoes**. **Melons** were also planted and new fields prepared for future plantings. **Bittermelon**, **cucumbers**, **eggplant**, melons, **peppers**, **squash**, tomatoes and **sweet corn** were growing well. Melon harvest was expected to begin in two weeks in Imperial County. Fields of **broccoli**, **carrots**, **garlic** and red and yellow **onions** continued to be weeded, irrigated, fertilized and treated to control insects and mildew. Harvests of **asparagus**, **bok choy**, broccoli, **cabbage**, carrots, **cilantro**, **daikon**, **dandelion**, garlic, green onions, **kale**, leaf and head **lettuce**, **leeks**, **mustard greens**, **parsley**, **parsnips**, **rutabaga** and **spinach** were ongoing.

## LIVESTOCK

Strong winds were detrimental to already dry pastures in the northern parts of the State, and more cattle were shipped to market due to the accelerated deterioration of grasses. Weight gains remained below normal for cattle, and supplemental feeding was still necessary. Recent rains did not benefit dry pastures. Poor range conditions were also creating a bad year for sheep. Some sheep were still grazing on retired farm land and dry land wheat fields. Bees were at work in some orchards or in holding areas.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 05/06/07**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 05/06/07	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 05/06/07	January 1 - 05/06/07	Week Ending 05/06/07	July 1 - 05/06/07	July 1 - 05/06/07	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
<b>NORTH COAST</b>										
Eureka	50	-3	73	41	0	0	0.80	36.87	36.22	37.53
Ukiah	56	-3	90	37	54	0	0.60	23.43	37.86	37.96
Santa Rosa	58	-1	88	39	42	0	0.36	20.63	29.84	30.30
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco AP	59	1	84	48	30	0	0.12	11.71	19.79	19.70
San Jose	61	0	85	46	90	17	0.08	9.46	14.58	14.42
Salinas AP	57	0	82	41	22	0	0.12	8.42	12.44	12.44
Monterey FAA	56	1	76	45	12	0	0.04	7.02	14.41	18.72
King City	60	0	85	42	98	2	0.01	5.21	11.92	11.44
Paso Robles AP	61	1	90	38	112	3	0.00	3.92	13.06	13.95
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	60	-3	88	40	154	40	1.51	22.77	32.33	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	60	-3	89	40	154	44	0.49	12.60	22.39	22.29
Chico AFS	60	-2	87	38	195	26	0.54	12.78	25.15	26.32
Marysville	62	-3	88	41	113	76	0.41	12.18	21.42	21.04
Sacramento AP	61	-2	89	40	109	26	0.42	10.89	17.24	17.52
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	64	0	92	45	208	48	0.04	7.92	13.38	13.95
Fresno	65	-2	87	46	246	97	0.08	6.06	10.78	10.60
Bakersfield	66	-2	89	49	310	133	0.00	3.08	6.22	5.72
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria AP	58	1	84	42	102	0	0.04	5.13	13.81	12.36
Santa Barbara	60	1	77	47	22	0	0.01	7.17	16.96	16.25
Ventura	59	59	80	45	22	0	0.00	6.07	15.05	4.71
Los Angeles	65	-1	84	54	344	206	0.00	3.21	14.86	14.77
Riverside	66	1	85	49	338	85	0.00	1.70	10.37	9.58
San Diego AP	63	-1	80	55	104	106	0.00	3.91	10.48	9.90
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	54	-4	88	34	68	0	0.00	1.50	4.63	5.37
Lancaster	63	0	91	37	241	26	0.00	1.33	7.67	6.92
Daggett AP	70	0	95	49	504	235	0.00	0.66	4.02	3.93
Thermal AP	76	1	97	56	720	560	0.00	0.19	3.52	3.16
Blythe	77	1	98	61	772	601	0.00	3.85	4.03	3.60
Imperial	76	2	99	56	824	597	0.00	0.13	2.97	2.75
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	46	-2	74	27	0	0	0.20	6.49	10.44	12.01
Mt. Shasta	47	-3	74	27	3	0	0.45	25.09	37.20	37.02
Blue Canyon	46	-3	67	30	20	0	2.01	48.75	63.00	67.04
Yosemite	53	-2	80	32	27	0	0.66	15.39	36.23	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.