



California Crop Weather

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: April 29, 2007
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FREQUENCY: Weekly
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WEATHER



A cool and wet low pressure system moved through California at the beginning of the week, resulting in widespread showers across the length of the State on Monday. By Tuesday this system had exited the State and high pressure began to build over the coast. The high pressure, along with an increasing offshore flow, resulted in a significant warming trend through the rest of the work week. Temperatures warmed each successive day through Saturday. Interior temperatures across the Central Valley reached the 90s, and interior valleys in southern California reported highs in the 100's on Friday and Saturday. The high pressure weakened slightly on Sunday, and along with an increased onshore flow, brought slightly cooler temperatures across most of the State. The exception was in the southeastern deserts, where hot temperatures persisted.

FIELD CROPS

Winter **wheat** heading was complete in most areas of the State. In the Imperial Valley, early wheat fields were mostly mature, and harvest was planned for mid-May. Winter forage was chopped for silage, and many chopped fields were replanted with **corn**. **Alfalfa** was chopped, cut and baled; most areas were on their second alfalfa cutting. **Sugar beets** were harvested in the San Joaquin Valley. **Sunflower** and **vineseed** planting was ongoing in the Sacramento Valley. **Cotton** planting continued, and early planted fields were emerging. **Rice** field flooding and planting continued. A small number of fields were emerging, and warmer weather was needed to boost growth. Some field corn was also emerging. **Potatoes** were harvested in Kern County. **Sweet potatoes** were planted in Merced County.

FRUIT CROPS

Grape vines were vigorously leafing out and forming bunches. Fertilization, irrigation, and spray applications to control weeds, diseases, and insects continued in many vineyards. Some grapes were being sulfured. Damage from the storm earlier in April was noted in some vineyards. **Pomegranates** were forming blooms. **Apple**, **pear**, and **quince** trees were being thinned as were other fruit varieties. **Apricots** and **cherries** were sizing well and some cherry varieties were nearing maturity. The harvests of early variety cherries, **nectarines**, **peaches** and apricots were expected to begin soon. Brooks cherries received light to moderate damage from the recent rains. Harvests of **strawberries** and **blueberries** advanced. **Boysenberries** and **blackberries** were blooming. Harvests of **oranges**, **tangerines**, **mandarins**, and **lemons** continued. Some growers were still treating to control fungus and weeds and applying nutrients. Bloom was ongoing in Satsuma mandarins, oranges and **grapefruit** in Stanislaus County. **Olive** buds continued to swell.

NUT CROPS

Orchard work such as fertilization, irrigation, and spray applications for weeds was ongoing in nut groves. The **almond** crop continued to do well. Some trees were staked or limbs removed due to the heavy crop. Blight treatment was still occurring in some **walnut** orchards.

VEGETABLE CROPS

The plantings of **melons**, **tomatoes**, bell **peppers** and **squash** continued as did field preparations for future plantings. Organic vegetables were growing well in Kern County. **Asparagus**, **amaranth**, **basil**, **beets**, **broccoli**, **cabbage**, **carrots**, **cilantro**, collard and mustard **greens**, **cucumbers**, **dandelion**, **dill**, **escarole**, leaf and head **lettuce**, **leeks**, **kale**, **mint**, green **onions**, **parsley**, **parsnips**, **radishes**, **rutabaga**, **Swiss chard**, sugar and snap **peas**, **turnips** and various Asian vegetables were harvested. Many fields were weeded, irrigated, fertilized and treated for insect and mildew control.

LIVESTOCK

Foothill pastures were dry in central California and were drying rapidly in northern California. Rain was forecasted for the week but was too late to help most pastures. Cattle have shipped to market, irrigated valley pastures or higher elevation pastures earlier than normal. Large numbers of feeder cattle have been moving through central California auctions. Special feeder cattle auctions have been planned for northern California in the coming weeks. Sheep were grazing on retired farm land and older alfalfa fields. A large number of new crop lambs have been shipped to other areas, mainly Colorado for further feeding. Bees continued to work in various orchards with some late movement continuing from almond orchards. Bees in northern California were in holding areas waiting for the bloom in safflower and vineseed fields.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 04/29/07

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 04/29/07	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 04/29/07	January 1 - 04/29/07	Week Ending 04/29/07	July 1 - 04/29/07	July 1 - 04/29/07	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	47	-5	58	30	0	0	0.02	36.07	35.74	37.53
Ukiah	61	3	88	37	46	0	0.00	22.83	37.52	37.96
Santa Rosa	59	1	83	39	26	0	0.00	20.24	29.62	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	58	1	77	47	22	0	0.00	11.59	19.64	19.70
San Jose	63	3	89	45	78	6	0.00	9.18	14.42	14.42
Salinas AP	58	0	85	43	20	0	0.00	8.30	12.34	12.44
Monterey FAA	54	-1	70	43	10	0	0.00	6.98	14.36	18.72
King City	63	3	97	39	72	0	0.00	5.29	11.82	11.44
Paso Robles AP	65	6	98	38	100	0	0.00	3.92	12.96	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	66	4	87	40	135	16	0.00	21.26	31.83	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	67	5	89	43	135	17	0.00	12.11	22.11	22.29
Chico AFS	66	5	92	40	173	7	0.56	12.24	24.89	26.32
Marysville	66	2	90	42	90	40	0.00	11.77	21.20	21.04
Sacramento AP	65	4	90	41	89	8	0.00	10.47	17.07	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	68	6	95	43	174	21	0.01	7.88	13.22	13.95
Fresno	69	5	98	45	210	54	0.00	5.98	10.65	10.60
Bakersfield	70	4	97	46	269	82	0.00	3.08	6.15	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	62	6	94	43	98	0	0.00	5.09	13.70	12.36
Santa Barbara	58	-1	71	44	15	0	0.02	7.16	16.87	16.25
Ventura	57	57	71	44	42	0	0.00	6.06	14.96	4.71
Los Angeles	66	1	84	51	312	166	0.04	3.21	14.73	14.77
Riverside	68	5	100	45	297	53	0.04	1.70	10.27	9.58
San Diego AP	62	-2	72	53	84	80	0.08	3.91	10.39	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	62	6	90	36	56	0	0.00	1.50	4.57	5.37
Lancaster	68	7	96	39	208	7	0.00	1.33	7.62	6.92
Daggett AP	74	5	99	48	436	164	0.00	0.66	4.00	3.93
Thermal AP	76	3	103	51	611	454	0.00	0.19	3.51	3.16
Blythe	77	2	104	54	652	486	0.00	3.85	4.02	3.60
Imperial	77	4	106	53	706	493	0.00	0.10	2.96	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	52	6	80	29	0	0	0.00	6.13	10.13	12.01
Mt. Shasta	55	7	81	32	3	0	0.00	24.25	36.79	37.02
Blue Canyon	56	10	72	33	20	0	0.07	46.74	62.22	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	71	30	19	0	0.00	17.03	35.77	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.