



# Sonoma County Forecast

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by Forecaster Marc Walsh

This forecast is brought to you by the Sonoma County Winegrape Commission

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Low clouds & fog this AM (chance of some local **drizzle**) giving way to partly cloudy skies by midday. Otherwise **cooler** today; **breezy** this afternoon & evening. Sunny & **warmer** tomorrow & Sat. **Cooling** early next week.

**Short Term Weather Discussion:** An upper level trough of low pressure will slide SE'ward across Northern & Central California today causing the coastal marine layer to deepen and be drawn well inland as onshore flow (W-NW'erly winds) strengthens during the day. This will bring noticeable cooling to the county today along with considerable cloudiness (low clouds this morning, then scattered cumulus clouds this afternoon). There is a poorly organized frontal system associated with this trough which will bring some spotty precipitation (showers & isolated thunderstorms) to mainly the northern Sierra later today & this evening. Any precipitation over Sonoma County would likely come from local drizzle this morning from a thicker marine stratus deck as opposed to actual showers. Clearing skies overnight and cooler air aloft tonight should translate into cooler temps tomorrow morning, however it may end up too breezy for much of the night in most locations to allow temps to drop much below the upper 40s. There's a chance a few low lying wind sheltered locations could dip down close to 40F by dawn though if winds end up going calm for a few hours. For tomorrow high pressure will begin to rebuild along the coast as the trough departs to the east. Look for sunny skies and modest warming, with tamer yet still active W-NW'erly winds in the afternoon.

## SHORT TERM FORECAST SPECIFICS

		<u>Weather</u>	<u>Max/Min</u>	<u>Dew Pts</u>	<u>Chc of Rain</u>	<u>Amounts</u>	<u>Winds</u>
<b>TODAY</b>	Alexander Valley Area	Mostly→Ptly Cldy	70-75	45-50	10%	Tr - .02	SW 0-10→W 10-20
	Lower Russian River & Green Valleys	↓	65-72	↓	↓	↓	↓
	Petaluma/Sonoma/Carneros Areas	↓	69-74	↓	↓	↓	↓
<b>TONIGHT</b>	Alexander Valley Area	Mostly Clear	41-50	40-45	0%	none	W-NW 15-25→5-15
	Lower Russian River & Green Valleys	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
	Petaluma/Sonoma/Carneros Areas	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Alexander Valley Area	Sunny	74-79	40-45	0%	none	NW 0-10→5-15
	Lower Russian River & Green Valleys	↓	70-75	↓	↓	↓	↓
	Petaluma/Sonoma/Carneros Areas	↓	73-78	↓	↓	↓	NW 0-10→W 10-15

**Extended Forecast Discussion:** An upper level ridge of high pressure will build inland across the Golden State this weekend, suppressing the marine layer which will help warm up temperatures across the county although continued onshore flow should keep the more coastal influenced locations from warming up too much. Another trough is forecast to clip the North State on Monday bringing the next round of cooling to the county along with some clouds & breezy conditions. Latest models show more moisture with this system and maybe an outside chance of some showers for the county. By midweek medium range models diverge sharply with solutions varying from a summer-time ridging pattern to an almost winter-like trough along the West Coast. For now will go with climatology and forecast near normal temps and say rain is highly unlikely late next week through the Memorial Day Weekend. Stay tuned.

## EXTENDED RANGE OUTLOOK

	<u>Sat 5/19</u>	<u>Sun 5/20</u>	<u>Mon 5/21</u>	<u>Tue 5/22</u>	<u>Wed 5/23</u>	<u>Trends Thu 05/24 - Sat 05/26</u>
<b>Weather/Sky</b>	Sunny	M Sunny	AM clds/PC	M Sunny	M Sunny	Max Temps: Near normal
<b>Max Temps</b>	72-82	70-82	65-75	70-80	70-80	Min Temps: Near normal
<b>Min Temps</b>	42-47	43-48	44-49	45-50	44-49	Precipitation: Unlikely
<b>Chc of Rain</b>	0%	0%	10%(pm)	0%	0%	Wx Pattern: Great disparity in the models: GFS
<b>Amounts</b>	none	none	Tr - .05	none	none	looks like summer, Euro like
<b>Winds</b>	NW-W 3-15	W 3-15	SW 5-20	NW 10-20	NW 5-20	winter. GFS probably best

## REGIONAL CLIMATE SUMMARY

16 May 2012	Precipitation				Daily ETo	Past Week ETo	Today's Normals	Today's Records & Year
	Max/Min	24hr	Seas, since 7/1	% Normal				
Ukiah	90/47	0.00	<b>23.05</b>	59%	--	--	76/48	101 (1973), 32 (1930)
Windsor (103)	75/50	0.00	<b>22.26</b>	--	0.18	1.33	--	--
Sonoma Co Aprt	72/50	0.00	<b>23.07</b>	76%	--	--	74/48	98 (1997), 34 (1918)
Santa Rosa (083)	65/48	0.00	<b>21.46</b>	--	0.15	1.24	--	--
Bennett Valley (158)	73/43	<b>0.02</b>	<b>24.08</b>	--	0.18	1.32	--	--
Petaluma E (144)	68/49	0.00	<b>18.50</b>	--	0.15	1.25	--	--
Carneros (109)	70/49	0.00	<b>14.23</b>	--	0.15	1.28	--	--

## Sonoma County Campbell Scientific Weather Station Network

### Daily Meteorological Summary

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Station:	Temperature					Avg DewPt °F	Avg RH %	WIND			Precipitation		Solar	ETo in.	17-May-12	
	Max	time	Min	time	Avg			Avg	Avg	Gust	Gust	24hr	Season		Rad	This Morning's
	°F	occur	°F	occur	°F			°F	mph	mph	Dir	In.	In.		cal/cm <sup>2</sup>	Min Temp °F (7am)
Geyserville-West	80.4	1406	49.7	2400	60.3	-----	77	1.5	12.5	----	0.00	<b>28.06</b>	728	0.20	50.0	
Geyserville	80.2	1557	49.0	1	60.6	50.9	73	3.0	11.5	ESE	0.00	<b>27.02</b>	634	0.19	50.3	
<i>Alexander Valley not available</i>																
Lytton	79.1	1503	48.3	1	59.6	51.0	75	2.5	12.4	SW	0.00	<b>27.51</b>	621	0.18	49.8	
Forestville	72.6	1346	48.8	2228	56.7	50.5	81	3.8	15.6	E	0.00	<b>30.66</b>	591	0.16	48.6	
Sebastopol	70.3	1602	49.0	2053	55.4	49.7	82	3.3	14.3	SSW	0.00	<b>26.37</b>	-----	-----	48.5	
Graton-South	67.2	1533	48.7	2135	54.0	49.4	85	2.8	16.0	WSW	0.00	<b>27.53</b>	-----	-----	48.0	
Sonoma-SW	80.5	1438	47.1	2222	59.0	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	49.1	
Sonoma-West	82.5	1443	46.7	2400	59.2	50.1	75	2.8	18.9	SW	0.00	<b>21.18</b>	625	0.17	49.4	

## Sonoma County Weather Station Network

### Daily Biometeorological Summary

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Station:	Continuous Hours		Powdery Mildew Stress	Growing Degree Days T>50°F		Chill Hours	Min Battery
	70-85°F	T>95°F	Category (PTS)	Yest.	Season (Since 4/1)	T<45°F	Volts
Geyserville-West	6.9	0.0	not active	10.3	438	0.0	12.7
Geyserville	7.2	0.0	not active	10.6	447	0.0	12.3
<i>Alexander Valley  </i>							
Lytton	6.6	0.0	moderate (40)	9.6	431	0.0	12.3
Forestville	2.8	0.0	moderate (50)	6.8	385	0.0	12.4
Sebastopol	0.0	0.0	moderate (50)	5.5	346	0.0	12.3
Graton-South	0.0	0.0	moderate (50)	4.2	315	0.0	13.3
Sonoma-SW	5.5	0.0	light (0)	9.1	414	-----	11.9
Sonoma-West	6.2	0.0	light (20)	9.4	403	0.0	12.2

	Sonoma County Evapotranspiration (ETo) Forecast	7 Day Outlook 5/17 - 5/23		Past Week ( 5/10 - 5/16 ) Summary				
		Normal	Forecast	Daily		7 Day Total	Period Normal	Percent Normal
				Max	Min			
Geyserville		1.40	1.61	0.25	0.18	1.60	1.33	120%
Windsor		1.27	1.33	0.23	0.12	1.33	1.22	109%
Graton		1.23	1.23	0.24	0.10	1.24	1.19	104%
Petaluma		1.31	1.38	0.23	0.14	1.25	1.25	100%
Carneros		1.28	1.41	0.22	0.15	1.28	1.22	105%

**Powdery Mildew Stress Outlook:** Temperatures should be too cool in most place today and stress should decrease (where model is active). Temperatures tomorrow and over the weekend temps will be conducive to increasing stress and we may see the model go active in Geyserville.

## Sonoma County Historical Growing Degree Days

(4/1 through 5/16)	Geyserville W	Geyserville	Alexander Valley	Lytton	Forestville
GDD's 2012:	438	447	445	431	385
GDD's 2011:	358	366	371	354	327
GDD's 2010:	308	n/a	317	n/a	n/a
<b>Avg to Date:</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>356</b>

	Graton-South	Sebastopol	Sonoma-SW	Sonoma-West
GDD's 2012:	315	348	414	403
GDD's 2011:	277	295	334	317
GDD's 2010:	251	265	295	271
<b>Avg to Date:</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>330</b>