

March 2023

The cotton planting forecast for Bakersfield and Fresno is experiencing technical difficulties. I have calculated the 5-day forecast using temperatures from the National Weather Service website.

Additional information about the forecast: <https://ipm.ucanr.edu/WEATHER/cottonforecast.html>

| Date | Degree Days | Temperature Min/Max |
|--------------|-------------|---------------------|
| March 28 | 0.0 | 41/71 |
| March 29 | 0.0 | 46/59 |
| March 30 | 0.0 | 43/57 |
| March 31 | 0.0 | 43/63 |
| April 1 | 0.0 | 43/66 |
| | | |
| Total | 0.0 | |

| Forecast Degree-Days | Planting Conditions |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| >20 | Ideal |
| 16 - 20 | Adequate |
| 11 - 15 | Marginal |
| | Unfavorable |

From Bob Hutmacher, Emeritus Cotton Specialist

“If you want to see a pretty high tech and user-friendly way that North Carolina State University has developed for providing cotton planting forecast information based on weather service data, check out the following website, where they have a map-based system that links in with weather data. The map that comes up will be showing North Carolina, but you actually can roll across the U.S. map over to Texas or even California, click on a spot on the map, and it will pull up the regional high and low temp data from the forecast, calculate heat units, and present the information and planting recommendations in a table like what UC-IPM has for planting decisions:

[Cotton Planting Conditions Calculator - Products | North Carolina State Climate Office \(ncsu.edu\)](#)

Guy Collins, who is one of the NC State Extension Specialists who works in cotton, sent this to me to try out, and it is really easy to use and matches up calculations that I have done myself.”

*Brian Marsh, County Director & Farm Advisor
Cotton, Small Grains, Corn & Silage
661-868-6210 or bhmarsh@ucanr.edu*

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