

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER

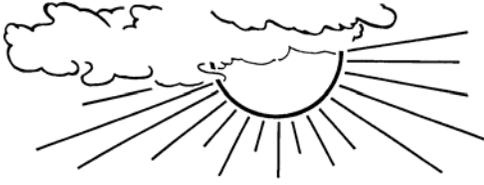


CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

WEEK ENDING: January 23, 2005
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WEATHER



A strong high pressure ridge remained the dominant weather feature over California during the week. The high pressure resulted in record high temperatures across Southern California, with some stations reporting highs in the lower 90s. Many locations along the coast reported high temperatures in the 70s. Foothill and mountain sites also experienced much sunshine and mild temperatures. The exception to this pattern was the Central Valley, where there was widespread dense fog and uniform, cool temperatures. A weak weather disturbance passed over California on Thursday, which cooled Southern California slightly but was not strong enough to break the Central Valley out of the foggy doldrums.

FIELD CROPS

Statewide, field operations were still hampered due to the previous week's rainfall, but operations were beginning to pick up. Where conditions permitted, herbicide applications continued on **wheat, oats, alfalfa**, and winter forage crops. **Sweet potato** hotbed fumigations continued in Merced County. Fresno County reported wheat, **barley**, oats, winter forage, and other small grains benefitted from the higher than normal rainfall. Fresno also reported that established and fall planted alfalfa hay fields have entered their winter dormancy period which slowed crop development. **Sugar beet** plantings continued growing well and Fresno's **triticale** crop is looking good. **Winter wheat** stands are well established in San Joaquin County but the wet weather has brought almost all activity to a halt in that area.

FRUIT CROPS

With the improvement of weather in many areas, grape growers were able to prune vines, tie canes, repair trellis wire, and replace end posts in vineyards. Fertilizers and soil amendments were also applied in a few vineyards, and dormant spraying resumed. Pruning and shredding activities neared completion in fruit orchards, but growers continued to apply insecticides for worms, borers, and scales. A few **plum** and **nectarine** orchards in Fresno County started pushing buds. Field preparations for the spring **strawberry** crop continued, with some growers laying out plastic. Harvesting activities in citrus orchards increased due to more favorable weather conditions, but remained slow in most areas. **Navel oranges, lemons, grapefruit, minneolas, and pummelos** were harvested. Ice mark and some rind puff continued to show on some Navels, resulting in heavier grading and lower pack-outs. Pruning and brush shredding continued in **olive** orchards.

NUT CROPS

Pruning and shredding activities in nut orchards continued but neared completion. A few **almond** trees were pushing buds in the San Joaquin Valley. Removal of non-productive orchards and storm damaged trees continued. Many orchards were treated with pre-emergent herbicides. **Walnut** orchards were fumigated.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Cool, wet, windy weather caused crop damage in Ventura County, but damage was minimal in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties. **Tomato** and **onion** growers ready to plant were unable to get into the wet fields as continued cool and wet conditions slowed or halted activity. Early plant hot house vegetables were progressing well. In fields dry enough to support machinery, **broccoli** and specialty Oriental crops were harvested. Planting of processed onions started in some of the drier fields in Fresno County. Fumigation of various vegetables also continued. **Cauliflower** harvest was complete in Fresno and Tulare counties. The following vegetables were also harvested: **beets, bok choy, daikon, gai choy, gailon, kale, kohlrabi, lemon grass, Napa cabbage, sugar cane, taro root, turnips, and you choy.**

LIVESTOCK

Winter pastures continued in good to mostly excellent condition. Foggy weather in some areas has slowed grass growth. Cattle were in good condition with only minimal supplemental feeding reported. There was strong demand for stocker cattle due to the excellent pasture conditions. Sheep were grazing on alfalfa pastures and fallow land. Dry weather in the southern desert allowed lambs to return to more normal weight gains. Many dairies, particularly in the central and northern valley, were still muddy due to fog and lack of sunshine. Milk production had improved in some areas. In central California, beekeepers began to move beehives into almond orchards in preparation for pollination in February.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 01/23/05

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 01/23/05	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 01/23/05	January 1 - 01/23/05	Week Ending 01/23/05	July 1 - 01/23/05	July 1 - 01/23/05	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	49	0	62	40	0	0	0.02	24.77	20.33	37.53
Ukiah	52	4	69	33	0	0	0.00	20.64	20.41	37.96
Santa Rosa	47	-2	58	38	0	0	0.00	18.89	15.91	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco Airport	50	0	57	43	0	0	0.00	15.40	10.15	19.70
San Jose	51	0	61	40	0	0	0.00	10.62	7.26	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	0.00	7.22	14.21
Salinas Airport	56	5	75	39	2	0	0.01	9.03	6.05	12.44
Monterey FAA	56	2	75	41	0	0	0.00	7.61	7.67	18.72
King City	56	6	78	37	0	0	0.00	11.17	5.38	11.44
Paso Robles Airport	52	5	73	35	0	0	0.05	13.76	5.95	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	48	2	63	37	0	0	0.05	22.49	16.88	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	46	-1	61	39	0	0	0.08	14.87	12.38	22.29
Chico AFS	44	-1	63	37	0	0	0.00	16.91	13.15	26.32
Marysville	43	-4	49	39	0	0	0.00	14.23	11.29	21.04
Sacramento Airport	44	-3	49	40	0	0	0.00	13.31	8.95	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	44	-3	48	40	0	0	0.01	10.10	6.87	13.95
Fresno	46	-1	51	41	0	0	0.00	9.05	5.02	10.60
Bakersfield	47	-2	55	39	0	0	0.00	5.47	2.83	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria Airport	57	5	78	38	1	0	0.00	10.91	6.00	12.36
Santa Barbara	57	5	80	42	1	0	0.00	19.51	7.82	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	26	0	0.00	0.00	6.90	14.38
Los Angeles	65	6	85	51	44	0	0.00	20.02	6.40	14.77
Riverside	63	9	83	43	19	0	0.00	12.60	4.67	9.58
San Diego Airport	65	7	87	50	36	0	0.00	14.03	4.90	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	48	9	69	27	0	0	0.00	6.82	2.55	5.37
Lancaster	51	6	69	32	0	0	0.00	8.49	3.68	6.92
Daggett Airport	55	5	71	39	0	0	0.00	5.11	2.55	3.93
Thermal Airport	62	7	83	43	17	0	0.00	5.14	2.27	3.16
Blythe	62	7	77	45	16	0	0.00	3.19	2.81	3.60
Imperial	62	5	80	41	16	0	0.00	3.21	2.10	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	36	6	57	17	0	0	0.00	7.30	5.82	12.01
Mt Shasta	44	8	61	27	0	0	0.00	24.56	20.25	37.02
Blue Canyon	54	15	65	46	0	0	0.00	25.37	33.84	67.04
Yosemite	43	5	58	31	0	0	0.00	9.26	19.03	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.