

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

WEEK ENDING: February 13, 2005
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WEATHER



On Monday, a low pressure system entered Northern California just north of Sacramento. One half to one inch of rain fell along the coast, and less than a quarter inch of rain fell in the valley. The remainder of the State was under partly to mostly cloudy skies. On Tuesday, an upper level disturbance brought light rain over most of California. Light snow fell in the mountains above 5000 feet. Wednesday and Thursday, the entire State was under weak high pressure, and remained dry with variable cloudiness. By Friday and Saturday morning, a major winter storm hit Southern California south of Bakersfield. One to three inches of rain fell along the coast and in the Valley, and the mountains received 3 to just over 6 inches of precipitation. The remainder of the weekend the Southland was drying out. Northern California over the weekend had partly to mostly cloudy skies.

FIELD CROPS

Across the State, counties reported that the warm, dry weather increased field activity and sparked vigorous plant growth. Herbicide applications continued in **alfalfa**, **ryegrass**, **wheat**, **oats**, winter forage, and fallow fields. Small grains across the State were doing well due to the adequate soil moisture and warmer weather. Glenn County reported some wheat fields were exhibiting signs of rust. In Fresno County, fertilizer applications were ongoing to the **triticale** crop. **Sugar beet** plantings continued to grow well with some growers applying herbicides.

FRUIT CROPS

Field work continued in **grape** vineyards, which included pruning vines, tying canes, repairing trellis wire, replacing end posts, and applying fertilizers and soil amendments. Non-productive orchard and vineyard removal continued. Growers applied insecticides to the open ground and prepared the land for new plantings. Blossoms appeared in **apricot**, **peach**, **plum**, and **nectarine** orchards, thanks to recent warm temperatures. Growers were pruning, shredding, removing weeds, and beginning to apply dormant and blossom sprays to blooming trees. **Strawberry** plants in the San Joaquin Valley continued to grow well. Harvest of **Navel oranges** continued and was about 40 percent complete. Poor quality, however, affected pack-outs due to rind decay, split fruit, and extruding navels. **Lemons**, **mandarins**, and **minneolas** were also harvested, with good yields reported. Oranges were treated with fungicide sprays. **Olive** trees were pruned and treated with herbicides.

NUT CROPS

Thanks to recent warm weather, many **almond** trees in the San Joaquin Valley began to bloom. Pruning, shredding, weed removal, and dormant and blossom sprays were underway. Due to the short supply of bees, many almond growers were buying bees to place in their orchards. New orchards were planted in open ground where older, non-productive orchards had been removed.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Generally drier weather from the San Joaquin Valley north allowed more operators to prepare grounds for **cucumbers**, **squash**, and other vegetables. Weeding and thinning occurred in **lettuce** fields. **Tomato** fields were treated for weeds in preparation for planting. Transplanting spring **broccoli** continued in Stanislaus County. Fresno County fields of **asparagus**, broccoli, **garlic**, **head lettuce**, and **onions** planted for spring harvest were progressing well in response to the warmer weather. The following vegetables were harvested: **beets**, **bok choy**, **carrots**, **daikon**, **gai choy**, **gailon**, **kale**, **kohlrabi**, **lemon grass**, **mustard greens**, **Napa cabbage**, **radishes**, **sugar cane**, **taro root**, **turnips**, and **you choy**.

LIVESTOCK

Sunny and mild temperatures combined with ample soil moisture continued to boost winter pastures in California. Cattle were in good condition with no reports of supplemental feeding. Branding and doctoring of calves continued. Sheep, mainly ewes with lambs, were grazing on alfalfa pastures and fallow land. Some sheep were grazing on foothills and in the Mojave desert. Marketing of old crop lambs was beginning in the Southern California desert. Dairies were drying, which was improving milk production. Some almond growers in central area were having trouble finding an adequate number of bees for pollination due to reduction in numbers caused by the Varroa Mite.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 02/13/05

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 02/13/05	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 02/13/05	January 1 - 02/13/05	Week Ending 02/13/05	July 1 - 02/13/05	July 1 - 02/13/05	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	45	-4	58	33	0	0	0.45	27.03	24.27	37.53
Ukiah	49	-1	66	32	0	0	0.60	23.77	25.58	37.96
Santa Rosa	50	-1	68	35	0	0	0.02	19.82	20.25	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco Airport	54	2	65	45	0	0	0.05	16.24	13.12	19.70
San Jose	54	2	68	42	0	0	0.27	11.98	9.41	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	0.00	9.28	14.21
Salinas Airport	53	1	70	39	2	0	0.44	10.11	7.84	12.44
Monterey FAA	54	1	71	41	0	0	0.30	8.40	9.69	18.72
King City	54	2	70	35	0	0	0.19	12.27	7.25	11.44
Paso Robles Airport	52	2	63	36	0	0	0.28	15.09	8.00	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	50	1	70	33	3	0	0.72	25.17	21.70	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	50	0	68	36	0	0	0.43	16.52	15.28	22.29
Chico AFS	51	2	67	35	0	0	0.12	18.04	16.71	26.32
Marysville	50	-1	65	35	0	0	0.03	15.19	14.23	21.04
Sacramento Airport	51	1	64	39	0	0	0.00	14.00	11.60	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	52	2	67	37	0	0	0.18	11.27	8.77	13.95
Fresno	54	3	65	39	0	0	0.24	9.54	6.60	10.60
Bakersfield	53	0	66	37	0	0	0.09	5.76	3.74	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria Airport	54	1	68	38	1	0	0.27	11.55	8.17	12.36
Santa Barbara	55	1	69	41	1	0	0.44	20.45	10.40	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	28	0	0.00	0.00	9.61	14.38
Los Angeles	60	0	73	48	59	0	2.18	25.00	8.97	14.77
Riverside	--	--	--	--	19	0	0.00	12.98	6.31	9.58
San Diego Airport	60	1	70	51	56	0	1.67	16.15	6.42	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	42	0	58	21	0	0	0.01	6.99	3.22	5.37
Lancaster	48	1	62	30	0	0	1.34	11.32	4.91	6.92
Daggett Airport	51	-1	63	34	0	0	0.41	5.83	2.95	3.93
Thermal Airport	57	-1	73	38	22	0	1.13	6.42	2.74	3.16
Blythe	57	-1	70	41	23	0	1.30	5.24	3.21	3.60
Imperial	57	-2	71	40	26	0	0.55	4.37	2.38	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	33	1	52	15	0	0	0.31	7.74	6.65	12.01
Mt Shasta	38	0	57	22	0	0	0.36	27.72	24.73	37.02
Blue Canyon	38	-1	52	29	0	0	0.42	27.65	41.38	67.04
Yosemite	42	1	59	27	0	0	0.00	9.26	24.05	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.