

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

WEEK ENDING: February 20, 2005
RELEASED: February 22, 2005

FREQUENCY: Weekly
VOL. 24 NO. 34

WEATHER



Widespread rains fell across California during the week, with the heaviest rains falling in the southern part of the State. Storms in the south resulted in some flooding in that area. The low pressure center of the weather system finally moved close to shore by the end of the week, bringing another round of heavy rains to the southern coast. Temperatures for the week were mild, due to the subtropical nature of the air being drawn into the region by the low pressure system.

FIELD CROPS

Across the State, **barley, oats, sugar beets, wheat**, winter forage, and other small grain plantings continued to grow well with fertilizer and herbicide applications proceeding where the weather permitted. Precipitation in the San Joaquin Valley kept growers from discing under **cotton** fields to meet the plowdown requirement for Pink Bollworm and has also halted field preparation for planting. Wet conditions prevailed in the Sacramento Valley as well, preventing spraying and field work, but where possible, winter wheat was fertilized. Wheat in Kern County, although not headed yet, was reported in good condition. In Kern County, more of the wheat on the valley floor was being grown for silage as the number of dairies in that area increases. Merced County field work was slowed due to rains, but some herbicide applications to winter forage crops, **alfalfa**, and bedded-up fields in preparation for spring planting did take place.

FRUIT CROPS

Field work, including pruning, typing canes, repairing trellis wire, and replacing end posts, was finishing up in many **grape** vineyards. As field conditions allowed, growers continued to apply pesticides and prepare open land for new plantings. Blossoms continued to appear in **apricot, nectarine, peach**, and **plum** orchards. Some growers began treating orchards with fungicides to prevent blossom rot. **Strawberry** plants in the San Joaquin Valley continued to grow well, and **blueberry** bushes in some locations were blooming. **Navel oranges, lemons, mandarins**, and **minneolas** continued to be harvested, with good yields reported, but the recent rain caused delays and cancellations in harvesting. The **tangerine** harvest was approximately 90 percent complete, and the lemon harvest neared completion in the Central Valley. A few citrus orchards in warmer areas began pushing new leaves and flower buds. Growers were actively applying herbicides to citrus orchards.

NUT CROPS

Early varieties of **almonds** were blooming across the State. Pollination, however, was severely hampered by continued periods of rain throughout the week. Growers continued to prune, shred, remove weeds, and apply dormant and blossom sprays in nut orchards.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Fields of **asparagus, broccoli**, head **lettuce**, and **onions** were progressing well in response to the warmer temperatures. Field preparation and planting of spring vegetables continued. Broccoli, **cauliflower** and **carrots** were harvested. Weeding and thinning occurred in lettuce fields. The following vegetables were also reported harvested: **beets, bok choy, daikon, gai choy, gailon, kale, kohlrabi, lemon grass, mustard greens, Napa cabbage, radishes, sugar cane, taro root, turnips**, and **you choy**.

LIVESTOCK

Winter pasture conditions were excellent, aided by additional rainfall the past week. Cattle and sheep were in very good condition with no reports of supplemental feeding. Sheep, mainly ewes with lambs, were grazing on alfalfa pastures, fallow land, or foothill pastures. Marketing of old crop lambs continued in the Southern California desert. Above normal rainfall in the southern desert this winter hindered the weight gain of lambs on pastures. Heavy rain the past week caused further problems with lambs and resulted in muddy cattle feedlots. Rain also caused muddy dairies in Southern California, while dairies in the central area were faring better. Most beehives had been moved to almond orchards in central and northern California. Almond pollination is behind in some areas as bees were not working due to cloudy weather.

This report is available the first workday of the week after 1:00 PDT at www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/pubs.htm.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 02/20/05

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 02/20/05	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 02/20/05	January 1 - 02/20/05	Week Ending 02/20/05	July 1 - 02/20/05	July 1 - 02/20/05	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	50	0	62	38	0	0	1.06	28.34	25.68	37.53
Ukiah	52	2	65	44	0	0	1.26	25.03	27.39	37.96
Santa Rosa	54	2	63	47	0	0	2.27	22.09	21.73	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco Airport	56	3	62	50	0	0	4.28	20.52	14.15	19.70
San Jose	57	3	67	49	0	0	3.44	15.42	10.14	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	0.00	9.97	14.21
Salinas Airport	56	3	66	47	2	0	2.05	12.16	8.46	12.44
Monterey FAA	55	3	63	47	0	0	1.80	10.20	10.14	18.72
King City	56	3	70	48	0	0	2.69	14.96	7.94	11.44
Paso Robles Airport	54	3	63	47	0	0	2.69	17.79	8.78	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	53	3	68	43	3	0	1.00	26.57	23.13	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	52	1	67	44	0	0	1.02	17.67	16.25	22.29
Chico AFS	54	4	68	45	0	0	1.04	19.08	17.89	26.32
Marysville	54	2	63	44	0	0	1.37	17.80	15.23	21.04
Sacramento Airport	55	3	63	45	0	0	1.71	15.71	12.50	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	56	5	65	45	0	0	1.60	12.87	9.40	13.95
Fresno	56	4	65	47	0	0	1.59	11.13	7.17	10.60
Bakersfield	56	2	69	44	0	0	1.26	7.02	4.04	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria Airport	56	3	65	45	1	0	1.59	13.14	9.00	12.36
Santa Barbara	56	2	63	45	1	0	4.47	24.92	11.44	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	30	0	0.00	0.00	10.61	14.38
Los Angeles	60	-1	75	50	66	2	4.07	29.07	9.97	14.77
Riverside	--	--	--	--	19	0	0.02	13.00	6.95	9.58
San Diego Airport	60	1	70	51	60	0	0.71	16.86	6.96	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	44	1	60	29	0	0	0.15	7.14	3.47	5.37
Lancaster	49	1	64	34	0	0	1.90	13.22	5.38	6.92
Daggett Airport	52	-3	65	40	0	0	0.63	6.46	3.11	3.93
Thermal Airport	59	-1	74	46	22	0	0.63	7.05	2.91	3.16
Blythe	59	0	70	48	24	0	0.74	5.98	3.35	3.60
Imperial	59	-2	71	44	26	7	0.30	4.67	2.48	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	38	4	53	20	0	0	0.44	8.18	7.01	12.01
Mt Shasta	41	3	57	29	0	0	0.91	28.63	26.37	37.02
Blue Canyon	37	-2	45	31	0	0	3.45	31.10	44.41	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	52	31	0	0	0.00	9.26	25.85	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.