

# CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS SERVICE

WEEK ENDING: February 27, 2005  
RELEASED: February 28, 2005

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## WEATHER



An upper level low pressure center off the coast drifted south and then across Southern California, creating interesting weather patterns for much of the State. Tornadoes and severe thunderstorms were reported in the Sacramento area on Monday and in Southern California on Tuesday and again on Saturday. Monday and Tuesday brought moderate to heavy rains Statewide, and Thursday through Saturday were generally dry. Another system moved into Northern California Sunday with heavy rains north of the South Lake Tahoe area.

## FIELD CROPS

**Barley, oats, wheat**, winter forage, and other small grains continued to grow well due to the moderate temperature and adequate soil moisture. Herbicide applications to winter forage crops continued and **alfalfa** weevil spraying began. Herbicide applications to bedded-up fields in preparation for spring planting continued to wind down. **Sweet potato** hotbed fumigations were completed, and planting of the hotbeds began in the San Joaquin Valley. **Sugar beets** continued to grow well. Some growers in the San Joaquin Valley were pumping excess water out of their fields in order to dry them more quickly. Growers in the Sacramento Valley began top dressing wheat and barley with ammonium sulfate and treating fallow **corn** and **sunflower** fields for weeds. **Cotton** and corn fields were being pre-irrigated.

## FRUIT CROPS

Field work in **grape** vineyards was winding down, while buds were beginning to swell in vineyards in the San Joaquin Valley, with some bud break noted in the Sanger district. Blossoms continued to appear in **apricot, cherry, nectarine, peach**, and **plum** orchards across the State, and early peach trees began leafing out. Some blossom thinning was underway in a few plum orchards. Tree fruit growers continued to prune, shred, remove weeds, and apply blossom sprays. Dormant applications were still being made to **prune** orchards and **kiwifruit** plantings in northern areas of the State. **Strawberry** plants in the San Joaquin Valley continued to flourish, and **blueberry** bushes continued to bloom. **Navel oranges, lemons, mandarins**, and **avocados** continued to be harvested, but the recent rain again caused delays and cancellations in harvesting. Pack-outs of Navels remained low due to rind decay, peel miner, and end splits.

## NUT CROPS

Blossoms continued to appear in **almond** orchards, and bees were working in many orchards to aid in pollination. Recent wet weather, however, resulted in unfavorable conditions for the bees to pollinate blossoms. Growers continued to prune, shred, remove weeds, and apply blossom sprays in nut orchards.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Fields of spring harvest **asparagus, broccoli, garlic**, head **lettuce**, and **onions** continued to progress well and in some instances were pushing out new growth. Field preparation and planting of spring vegetables continued, with planting in some drier fields completed; however, fields receiving additional rainfall were still too wet to work. Weeding and thinning occurred in **lettuce** fields. Broccoli, **cauliflower** and **carrots** were harvested. The following vegetables were also reported harvested: **beets, bok choy, daikon, gai choy, gailon, kale, kohlrabi, lemon grass, mustard greens, Napa cabbage, radishes, radicchio, sugar cane, taro root, turnips**, and **you choy**.

## LIVESTOCK

Winter pastures continued in very good to excellent condition. Cattle and sheep were in 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. Heavy rain has caused serious problems for Southern California dairies with milk production lower and death loss higher than normal. Muddy corrals caused a slight decrease in milk production in central California.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 02/27/05**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 02/27/05	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 02/27/05	January 1 - 02/27/05	Week Ending 02/27/05	July 1 - 02/27/05	July 1 - 02/27/05	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
<b>NORTH COAST</b>										
Eureka	51	1	65	41	0	0	0.20	28.47	27.11	37.53
Ukiah	54	4	67	42	0	0	0.95	25.85	29.20	37.96
Santa Rosa	54	1	68	40	0	0	1.33	23.42	23.18	30.30
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco Airport	56	3	65	49	0	0	0.78	21.29	15.15	19.70
San Jose	56	1	68	44	0	0	0.61	16.18	10.86	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	0.00	10.65	14.21
Salinas Airport	55	1	67	42	2	0	0.77	12.93	9.07	12.44
Monterey FAA	54	1	64	45	0	0	0.58	10.75	10.73	18.72
King City	55	2	68	42	0	0	0.84	15.80	8.63	11.44
Paso Robles Airport	52	1	65	38	0	0	0.90	18.69	9.57	13.95
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	55	4	71	38	3	0	0.87	27.44	24.56	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	54	2	70	40	0	0	1.16	18.83	17.29	22.29
Chico AFS	56	4	73	42	0	0	0.27	19.35	19.11	26.32
Marysville	55	1	68	39	0	0	0.43	17.04	16.24	21.04
Sacramento Airport	54	1	67	42	0	0	0.62	16.32	13.35	17.52
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	54	2	69	40	0	0	0.62	13.51	10.01	13.95
Fresno	55	2	66	42	0	0	0.14	11.27	7.72	10.60
Bakersfield	57	1	69	46	2	0	0.25	7.27	4.35	5.72
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria Airport	54	1	64	40	1	0	1.53	14.63	9.82	12.36
Santa Barbara	54	-1	64	43	1	0	2.43	27.31	12.47	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	30	0	0.00	0.00	11.55	14.38
Los Angeles	58	-3	67	50	67	6	4.63	33.70	10.93	14.77
Riverside	--	--	56	50	30	0	1.51	14.94	7.57	9.58
San Diego Airport	59	0	65	51	61	0	3.50	20.36	7.50	9.90
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	44	-1	60	28	0	0	0.64	7.78	3.71	5.37
Lancaster	51	1	62	37	0	0	1.48	14.70	5.82	6.92
Daggett Airport	52	-3	65	42	0	0	1.08	7.54	3.28	3.93
Thermal Airport	60	-1	75	46	28	6	0.90	7.26	3.06	3.16
Blythe	58	-3	71	46	24	7	0.82	6.79	3.47	3.60
Imperial	59	-3	73	45	28	21	0.23	4.95	2.57	2.75
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	39	3	56	17	0	0	0.00	8.87	7.43	12.01
Mt Shasta	43	4	59	27	0	0	1.58	28.97	28.03	37.02
Blue Canyon	40	1	49	32	0	0	0.66	31.76	47.57	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	55	32	0	0	0.00	12.92	27.64	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.