

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

WEEK ENDING: April 3, 2005
RELEASED: April 4, 2005

FREQUENCY: Weekly
VOL. 24 NO. 40

WEATHER



As the week began, a Pacific weather system was pushing through California, moving east. This system spread light rain across the entire State and snow in the mountains. By Wednesday, this system had moved out of the State and surface high pressure over Nevada created a dry and warm offshore flow. As a result, temperatures during the middle of the week were warmer than normal and conditions were quite dry. This pattern persisted until the weekend. By late Saturday, a strong winter-like storm approached the State from the Gulf of Alaska. The brunt of this storm arrived on Sunday, with rain across the valleys of Northern California, and some heavy snowfall in the northern mountains. This storm mainly affected Northern California, while Southern California remained dry during the weekend.

FIELD CROPS

Alfalfa cuttings were hampered Statewide last week due to the rain, although spraying for alfalfa weevil continued where conditions allowed. Limited planting of **cotton** occurred last week, while most cotton growers waited for better soil temperature and moisture conditions. **Sugar beets** continued making good progress. Sweet potato field fumigations continued in the San Joaquin Valley. Winter forage harvest continued as field conditions allowed, while **winter wheat** continued to head out across the State.

FRUIT CROPS

Small fruit clusters began developing in many **grape** vineyards. Fungicides were applied in vineyards and tree fruit orchards to control disease, and herbicides were applied to manage vegetation. **Apple** orchards continued to bloom and were sprayed to control fire blight. Rain continued to hamper thinning activities on early **apricots**, **nectarines**, and **peaches**. Thinning was not required in early **plum** orchards due to cool and rainy weather during bloom that affected bee pollination and resulted in a light fruit set. **Strawberries** in the San Joaquin Valley were blooming, and cane berries were pushing new growth. The cooler weather, however, slowed down fruit maturity in some strawberry fields. Navel and Valencia **oranges**, Minneola **grapefruit**, **tangelos**, and **lemons** continued to be harvested. Heavier grade out was required on some Navel lots due to rind puff, lack of firmness, and granulation in the larger sized fruit. Growers were monitoring orchards for cutworms, thrips, and red mites. Hedging, topping, and pruning continued on oranges and **olives**. Late **avocado** harvesting continued.

NUT CROPS

Almond set in many locations appeared light due to poor weather conditions during bloom. Some almond trees were down as a result of wet soil and recent strong winds. Orchard floor herbicide treatments were being conducted as orchards dried out enough to allow equipment into the fields. New almond orchards continued to be planted. **Pecan** trees began leafing out, and blight sprays were applied to **walnut** orchards.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Cool temperatures slowed vegetable development, and wet fields hindered field activities. Spring vegetable planting was two weeks late in some locals due to the persistent precipitation. **Tomatoes** and **melons** were planted as field conditions allowed. Fungicides were applied to some **onion** and **garlic** fields. Pre-planting spraying in some tomato fields occurred. **Asparagus**, **broccoli**, head and romaine **lettuce**, and **turnip** harvest continued. The following vegetables were also reported harvested: **bok choy**, **carrot**, **daikon**, **gai choy**, **gailon**, **green onions**, **spinach**, and **you choy**.

LIVESTOCK

Foothill pastures were reported to be in very good to excellent condition. Ample soil moisture and mild temperatures continued to boost grass growth. Sheep and cattle were in very good condition, and cattle weight gains were reported above normal. The new crop alfalfa hay harvest has begun, and most sheep have been removed from alfalfa fields. In central California, ewes with lambs were grazing on foothill pastures, a few older alfalfa fields, and on retired farmland. Most new crop lambs have been sold except for smaller lambs that will be marketed later. In the central area, movement of bees from almond orchards was nearly complete with many being placed in citrus orchards. Out-of-State bees continued to be shipped to other states.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 04/03/05

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION				
	Average Week Ending 04/03/05	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal		
					January 1 - 04/03/05	January 1 - 04/03/05	Week Ending 04/03/05	July 1 - 04/03/05	July 1 - 04/03/05	July 1 - June 30	
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --				
NORTH COAST											
Eureka	47	-3	55	33	0	0	2.45	35.34	33.11	37.53	
Ukiah	51	-3	74	35	16	0	1.92	33.28	35.45	37.96	
Santa Rosa	54	-1	71	39	18	0	1.22	29.97	28.19	30.30	
CENTRAL COAST											
San Francisco AP	55	0	70	42	16	0	1.02	25.05	18.61	19.70	
San Jose	56	-1	73	46	31	0	0.78	20.21	13.54	14.42	
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	11	0	0.00	0.00	13.16	14.21	
Salinas AP	55	0	77	40	22	0	1.12	17.79	11.55	12.44	
Monterey FAA	55	1	72	42	10	0	0.49	14.05	13.48	18.72	
King City	56	0	81	37	28	0	0.08	17.51	11.18	11.44	
Paso Robles AP	54	0	77	36	6	0	0.08	21.15	12.30	13.95	
SACRAMENTO VALLEY											
Redding	53	-3	72	36	40	0	0.36	31.64	29.80	33.30	
Red Bluff FSS	54	-3	71	37	28	0	0.42	21.32	20.86	22.29	
Chico AFS	56	0	73	33	34	0	0.97	23.00	23.49	26.32	
Marysville	54	-4	71	36	22	0	0.55	19.77	19.91	21.04	
Sacramento AP	56	-1	72	41	14	0	0.56	19.92	16.12	17.52	
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY											
Stockton WSO	57	-1	76	37	15	0	0.41	16.88	12.36	13.95	
Fresno	58	-1	78	44	29	0	0.18	14.49	9.92	10.60	
Bakersfield	58	-1	80	41	38	0	0.05	8.99	5.73	5.72	
SOUTH COAST											
Santa Maria AP	55	0	76	39	6	0	0.14	18.33	12.84	12.36	
Santa Barbara	58	1	75	42	2	0	0.11	31.21	16.14	16.25	
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	47	0	0.00	0.00	14.50	14.38	
Los Angeles	64	1	84	52	133	59	0.11	35.81	13.93	14.77	
Riverside	--	--	84	43	62	0	0.00	15.68	9.71	9.58	
San Diego AP	64	2	80	55	114	14	0.01	22.49	9.71	9.90	
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR											
Bishop	49	-2	70	27	0	0	0.00	9.35	4.32	5.37	
Lancaster	53	-2	76	30	0	0	0.00	16.20	7.25	6.92	
Daggett AP	57	-5	79	34	43	15	0.00	8.67	3.82	3.93	
Thermal AP	65	-2	86	41	210	168	0.00	7.96	3.45	3.16	
Blythe	66	-2	89	48	172	179	0.00	7.01	3.89	3.60	
Imperial	65	-2	89	41	216	205	0.00	4.99	2.89	2.75	
CASCADE - SIERRA											
Alturas	40	-1	61	17	0	0	0.49	10.22	9.13	12.01	
Mt. Shasta	42	-1	64	26	0	0	0.85	36.70	34.35	37.02	
Blue Canyon	38	-3	57	27	0	0	2.89	45.91	57.82	67.04	
Yosemite	--	--	57	29	0	0	0.00	23.92	33.42	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.