

# CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service  
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: March 5, 2006  
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## WEATHER



The "storm door" was open during the week, with the upper level flow steering a series of storm systems toward California. These wet Pacific storms pushed through California during the week, bringing significant precipitation to the entire State. On Monday, heavy rains and mountain snow fell across northern California, with lighter rain in southern California. The focus of the heaviest rainfall shifted to the southern half of the State on Tuesday, while showers persisted in the north. A break in the weather came at midweek. Wednesday remained dry and mild all across the State. This break was short lived however, as another Pacific storm hit the north coast on Thursday and rapidly spread inland. These storms had moved into southern California by Friday. Another short break in the weather came to the state on Saturday, with weak high pressure building over southern California. By Sunday, rain was spreading into northern California again, but southern California remained dry.

## FIELD CROPS

Recent rains boosted growth in small grain fields. **Wheat, barley, and oat** fields were emerging in the San Joaquin Valley. Application of herbicides for broadleaf weeds was ongoing in many grain fields and some **alfalfa** fields. Alfalfa hay fields were cut for green chop. **Safflower** planting was delayed in Sutter County due to rainfall, while early safflower fields were emerging in Fresno County. In the central part of the State, **sugar beets** continued to emerge.

## FRUIT CROPS

Cool weather has slowed bud development on fruit trees. The weather provided conditions for disease; as a consequence, orchards were being treated with fungicides to prevent blossom rot. Dormant spraying of **peaches** and **prunes** neared completion. Cling peaches were blooming and fungicides were applied when weather permitted. Blooms were coming on slowly due to the cool conditions. Where conditions allowed, orchards were mowed, disced and strip sprayed with herbicides. Pruning was nearly finished for **cherries**. Bud swell was noted with bloom expected to begin soon. Pruning of **prune** trees was nearly complete. Cultivation and maintenance work was ongoing in many **grape** vineyards including replacing stakes and trellis wire, pruning, tying, shredding and discing of canes. Herbicide applications for weed control were ongoing. Soil amendments were applied as well as spray applications for vine mealybug. Some grape vines were showing signs of early bud swelling. **Apricot** bloom was noted as spotty with a lack of chill hours as a likely cause. The pace of the **orange** harvest slowed. Pack out percentages have continued to decline due to rind puff and small sizes. Juice plants were running at full capacity with some excess navels being used for cattle feed.

## NUT CROPS

Damage to the almond crop from winds, rain and frost was still being assessed. Almond bloom in late varieties was finishing up. Some bloom sprays were applied when conditions permitted. Pruning of walnuts was nearing completion with some bud swell noted.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Winter **radicchio** harvest and spring radicchio planting continued. Weeding and pesticide applications continued in various **lettuce** and **onion** fields in the San Joaquin Valley. Onions for processing and **garlic** continued to grow well. Fields of **cabbage** and **spinach** progressed after the minor setback due to wet weather conditions. Some late winter vegetables continued to be harvested. **Broccoli**, lettuce, **green house vegetables**, **mustard greens**, and **parsley** were harvested. Cool season Asian vegetables including **bok choy, gai choy, yu choy, daikon, napa cabbage** and **sugar pea leaf** were also harvested.

## LIVESTOCK

Rain was very beneficial to foothill pastures, particularly in central California. Pasture conditions were excellent in northern California. Rains improved conditions in the central area. Supplemental feeding was rare. Sheep were grazing in older alfalfa fields and retired crop land in the central area. Movement of ewes and lambs from alfalfa to foothill pastures continued as the start of the alfalfa hay season drew closer. Old crop lambs continued to ship from pastures in the Imperial Valley. Many lambs were moving to Colorado feedlots and most sellers were retaining ownership. Rain increased mud at some dairies. Bees were trying to work in almond orchards but cool rainy weather was limiting their activity.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 03/05/06**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 03/05/06	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 03/05/06	January 1 - 03/05/06	Week Ending 03/05/06	July 1 - 03/05/06	July 1 - 03/05/06	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
<b>NORTH COAST</b>										
Eureka	47	-3	57	40	0	0	5.42	50.08	28.29	37.53
Ukiah	46	-5	57	35	0	0	6.39	35.47	30.58	37.96
Santa Rosa	49	-4	59	34	0	0	4.84	32.26	24.29	30.30
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco AP	51	-2	64	39	0	0	2.91	17.95	15.90	19.70
San Jose	54	-1	64	42	1	0	2.40	12.11	11.44	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	1	0	0.00	0.00	11.18	14.21
Salinas AP	51	-2	65	35	8	0	1.33	7.60	9.54	12.44
Monterey FAA	53	0	70	40	10	0	1.55	7.79	11.50	18.72
King City	51	-3	66	30	2	0	1.97	8.57	9.16	11.44
Paso Robles AP	48	-4	66	28	0	0	0.91	8.37	10.17	13.95
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	47	-4	58	34	8	0	5.75	34.33	25.71	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	47	-5	57	35	2	0	3.87	22.35	18.07	22.29
Chico AFS	51	-1	61	36	0	0	4.12	21.56	20.06	26.32
Marysville	50	-4	60	36	0	0	2.38	19.17	17.04	21.04
Sacramento AP	50	-3	61	36	0	0	1.99	15.76	13.97	17.52
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	52	-2	65	34	0	0	1.01	10.24	10.48	13.95
Fresno	52	-2	67	33	0	0	0.55	6.84	8.15	10.60
Bakersfield	54	-2	71	37	8	0	0.38	3.01	4.59	5.72
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria AP	50	-3	64	32	6	0	0.95	9.11	10.44	12.36
Santa Barbara	51	-4	63	37	2	0	1.25	9.78	13.24	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	68	0	0.00	0.00	12.21	14.38
Los Angeles	56	-5	67	42	88	10	2.25	7.92	11.60	14.77
Riverside	55	-2	73	37	92	0	1.50	3.82	8.05	9.58
San Diego AP	57	-2	68	48	36	0	0.82	2.58	7.94	9.90
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	43	-2	65	18	0	0	0.78	6.30	3.86	5.37
Lancaster	49	-2	62	29	0	0	1.12	4.83	6.13	6.92
Daggett AP	54	-3	70	33	3	0	0.00	0.84	3.39	3.93
Thermal AP	60	-2	77	38	56	18	0.03	2.11	3.15	3.16
Blythe	61	-1	84	39	69	21	0.00	2.20	3.56	3.60
Imperial	62	-1	81	42	74	40	0.00	1.40	2.64	2.75
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	36	0	47	24	0	0	0.83	10.44	7.80	12.01
Mt. Shasta	35	-5	45	29	0	0	5.91	41.16	29.40	37.02
Blue Canyon	31	-7	45	22	0	0	8.10	56.23	49.81	67.04
Yosemite	37	-6	61	20	0	0	5.66	30.48	28.91	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.