

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: March 19, 2006
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WEATHER



The wet and cool weather pattern which soaked the State last week continued. The start of the week saw widespread showers and heavy mountain snow as unseasonably cold low pressure systems moved across the State. Temperatures were running 5 to 10 degrees below normal at most locations across the State at the start of the week. This pattern persisted through midweek as weather disturbances passed over the State. A change to drier and warmer weather finally came to northern California by Friday, but low pressure lingered over southern California through Saturday. By Sunday, high pressure began to build along the west coast, and, except for some mountain areas where afternoon showers developed, most of the State saw sunny skies and mild temperatures.

FIELD CROPS

Rainfall delayed field activities for most field crops. In the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys, isolated areas of standing water were damaging winter **wheat** fields. Due to wet conditions, there was an increase in herbicide applications for weed control in small grain fields. **Alfalfa** progress was stunted by the rainfall and cooler weather. Some growers continued to treat their alfalfa fields for the Egyptian alfalfa weevil. **Sugar beets** in Fresno County continued to emerge, and some new fields were planted despite wet weather. Where conditions allowed in the San Joaquin Valley, ground preparation for **cotton** planting was ongoing. **Sweet potato** hotbed preparation was winding down.

FRUIT CROPS

Wet weather and cool mornings adversely affected a wide range of deciduous tree fruits at their bloom and early fruit formation. The unsettled weather conditions continued to hamper bee pollination activities on **plums** and **cherries**. Growers applied herbicide applications in orchards for pre-emergent weeds. Many growers were running water in deciduous fruit orchards to aid in frost protection, but irrigation had started in many orchards as well. Fruit trees had passed the peak of bloom and had begun leafing out. Some signs of scarring were noted in early variety plums, **pluots**, and **nectarines**. **Apricot** and cherry bloom was reported to be light and erratic with some damage expected in Tulare variety cherries due to the cold temperatures. The majority of vineyards have been pruned and tied, and some growers were planting new vines. Growers continued treating their vineyards for weeds. Soil amendment applications were ongoing, and spray applications for vine mealybug continued in many vineyards. Some **grape** vines in the Central Valley began to leaf out. Thompson Seedless vines were beginning to push buds in the Clovis District of Fresno County. Pruning activities and herbicide applications continued in **olive** orchards. **Strawberry** plants continued to show good growth in the San Joaquin Valley and some have begun to bloom; strawberry harvest continued in coastal areas. Navel **orange** packing activity continued. Grade out due to rind puff and small sizes continued to be a problem. The second and third application of copper, zinc, and lime fungicides were made to oranges to meet export requirements. The Valencia orange harvest continued. Maturity was a problem in the small sizes of Valencia oranges. The harvesting of **grapefruit, lemons, mandarins, tangelos, minneolas, and tangerines** continued with good yields and quality noted. Harvested citrus groves were chopped and hedged.

NUT CROPS

Most **almond** orchards were past bloom and were beginning to leaf out. Growers continued to assess the amount of damage caused by cold temperatures in almond orchards. Many orchards continued to be treated with fungicides to prevent blossom rot. **Pistachio** trees in Fresno County began pushing buds. **Walnut** groves were pruned and shredded. Growers applied herbicides between storms.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Some growers suspended their outdoor planting activities due to forecasted freezing temperatures. Transplanting of **onions** was hindered due to cold weather. Insecticide and herbicide applications to control aphids, mildew, rust and loopers in **lettuce, garlic** and **onion** fields continued. Lettuce harvest was delayed due to cold weather and muddy conditions. Fresh market **tomato** transplanting continued where field conditions allowed. **Spinach** and **cabbage** crops progressed well. **Asparagus** harvest was delayed due to frozen spears and muddy fields. Packing and shipping of **radicchio** continued. The harvest of cool season Asian vegetables such as **cauliflower, bok choy, daikon, gai choy, napa cabbage, mustard greens, sugar pea leaf, snow pea leaf** and **yu choy** continued.

LIVESTOCK

Rangelands benefitted from recent rains, though colder weather slowed pasture growth. Sheep and cattle were grazing in the foothills. Stocker cattle and calves were in good condition. Old crop lambs continued to ship from pastures in the Imperial Valley. Weight gains were above normal on winter pastured lambs in the southern California desert regions. Milking conditions were not ideal for production as cows were stressed by the wet and muddy pastures. Cool wet weather slowed bee activity in almond, cherry and plum orchards.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 03/19/06

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 03/19/06	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 03/19/06	January 1 - 03/19/06	Week Ending 03/19/06	July 1 - 03/19/06	July 1 - 03/19/06	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	44	-6	52	32	0	0	2.92	56.10	30.82	37.53
Ukiah	46	-7	61	31	0	0	2.20	39.63	33.33	37.96
Santa Rosa	49	-5	64	30	0	0	0.87	34.57	26.53	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	51	-3	59	38	0	0	1.00	19.66	17.45	19.70
San Jose	51	-5	62	36	1	0	1.33	14.77	12.65	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	1	0	0.00	0.00	12.28	14.21
Salinas AP	49	-6	60	35	8	0	0.89	9.81	10.67	12.44
Monterey FAA	51	-2	59	39	10	0	0.98	10.23	12.64	18.72
King City	49	-6	64	30	2	0	0.83	10.00	10.36	11.44
Paso Robles AP	47	-6	62	32	0	0	0.50	9.92	11.49	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	48	-5	61	34	8	0	0.65	36.26	28.15	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	49	-5	61	32	2	0	0.20	23.88	19.75	22.29
Chico AFS	48	-6	63	30	0	0	0.64	26.12	22.07	26.32
Marysville	50	-7	62	37	0	0	0.64	21.69	18.70	21.04
Sacramento AP	50	-4	61	38	0	0	0.95	17.72	15.20	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	50	-5	63	35	0	0	0.63	12.18	11.52	13.95
Fresno	49	-7	60	35	0	0	0.69	8.15	9.16	10.60
Bakersfield	51	-7	64	37	8	0	0.49	4.21	5.22	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	48	-6	61	33	6	0	0.38	11.46	11.83	12.36
Santa Barbara	51	-5	64	35	2	0	0.36	11.13	15.02	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	68	0	0.00	0.00	13.58	14.38
Los Angeles	54	-7	66	41	88	26	0.22	7.91	12.99	14.77
Riverside	52	-6	73	35	92	0	0.33	4.30	9.04	9.58
San Diego AP	56	-4	63	47	36	0	0.25	3.36	8.94	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	38	-10	57	14	0	0	0.00	8.11	4.14	5.37
Lancaster	47	-6	65	28	0	0	0.10	5.18	6.79	6.92
Daggett AP	51	-8	71	33	3	0	0.02	0.99	3.64	3.93
Thermal AP	57	-7	74	33	64	72	0.00	2.35	3.34	3.16
Blythe	57	-8	74	38	81	78	0.00	2.51	3.75	3.60
Imperial	59	-6	77	40	90	104	0.00	1.87	2.79	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	32	-7	45	16	0	0	0.38	11.35	8.53	12.01
Mt. Shasta	34	-7	45	21	0	0	2.78	46.43	32.24	37.02
Blue Canyon	30	-10	40	23	0	0	4.24	69.47	54.19	67.04
Yosemite	33	-13	47	20	0	0	1.25	32.95	31.45	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.