

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

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WEATHER



The wet weather pattern persisted for the start of the week, as an upper level low pressure center drifted off the coast of Washington and Oregon, with the associated trough of low pressure extending from this feature to cover the west coast. The storms at the start of the week were relatively warm, so snow levels were high. Rain fell on low level snow pack, resulting in high runoff and flooding concerns across much of the Central Valley. A cold front moved through California on Tuesday, which lowered snow levels and reduced runoff, but flood concerns continued for the rest of the week as swollen creeks and rivers put pressure on the region's dams and levees. Thursday, the upper level low pressure had finally shifted east, to the intermountain region, and a high pressure ridge developed over the west coast, bringing a brief respite to the week's wet weather. By the weekend, the ridge had shifted eastward, and another low pressure system began to deepen off of the Oregon coast, with occasional showers moving through northern California.

FIELD CROPS

Continued rainfall was delaying most fieldwork activity. Winter **wheat** continued to head. Most winter wheat fields were benefitting from the rain and were in excellent condition; however, standing water and lodging was noted in other fields. Lodging was also reported in some **oat** fields. Several **alfalfa** fields were ready to be cut, but growers were waiting for drier conditions. Rust was reported in some rain-saturated small grain fields in Glenn County. Most **cotton** and **rice** planting continued to be delayed by the wet conditions and cool temperatures. Many cotton growers were concerned that their window for planting was getting smaller. New **sugar beet** fields were planted in Fresno County, and earlier planted fields were making good progress. **Sweet potato** field fumigations continued in Merced County.

FRUIT CROPS

Only limited field work was underway in fruit orchards and **grape** vineyards due to the very wet soil conditions and ongoing rainy weather. Grape vines were leafing out, but vine development was slow due to cooler than average weather. Cherry trees continued to bloom in Yuba County. The rains may cause fungal problems in **cherries** and other tree fruit. Some growers were applying fungicides by air due to saturated field conditions. The wet weather was also hampering pollination of tree fruit. **Nectarine** orchards continued to be treated for thrips to prevent fruit scarring in between rain storms. Some thinning began in early nectarines and **apricots**. **Plum** trees for prune production began blooming. Girdling of early nectarines and plums to enhance fruit size continued. **Apple** and **pear** trees were blooming and **pomegranates** were leafing out. **Blueberries** and **strawberries** in the San Joaquin Valley continued to bloom, and fruit set had begun. Strawberries in the coastal areas were a few weeks behind normal in ripening. Wet soil and rainy conditions slowed all citrus harvesting. A few **Navel** oranges were harvested, but many orchards were full of standing water. **Cara Cara** Navel harvest was quickly coming to an end. **Minneola** tangelos were harvested, and **blood orange** harvest was complete for the season. **Valencia** orange maturity had improved with small sizes dominating this season. **Lemons** were packed and exported to Japan.

NUT CROPS

Most **almond** orchards were leafing out and nut development was ongoing. Growers continued to treat many almond orchards to prevent shot hole disease. **Walnut** blight spraying began in early blooming walnut orchards with fungicide and copper.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Application of fungicide by air was ongoing in **onion**, **lettuce**, **garlic**, and transplant **tomato** fields. Harvesting slowed due to wet weather in **asparagus**, **broccoli**, and lettuce fields. Growers were delaying the planting of greenhouse tomatoes as a result of the muddy soil. Some growers continued to pump water from their fields. **Carrots** were growing slowly due to the cold weather. Some growers began to prepare their fields for summer plantings. Transplant tomato, **eggplant**, and various **pepper** plants under hot caps showed good growth. Harvest of cool season Asian vegetables such as **cauliflower**, **bok choy**, **daikon**, **gai choy**, **napa cabbage**, **sugar** and **snow pea leaf** continued.

LIVESTOCK

Rain continued but a few sunny days and mild temperatures were favorable to foothill pastures. The prospects are for very good weight gains on cattle once the rain subsides and there are more sunny days. In the northern area the past week, grass had a high level of moisture and cattle were eating larger amounts to maintain condition. This was causing grass to be shorter than normal on some ranches and may affect stocking rates if rain continues. Some cattle producers were supplementing for grass tetany. This appeared to be less of a problem in central California where cattle and sheep were reportedly in good condition. Spring calving of beef cows was winding down. Branding of fall calves was complete in most areas. Muddy conditions were not favorable for milk production at dairies without free-stall barns. Dairies with free-stall barns, which includes many larger dairies, were benefitting from the mild temperatures and longer days. Old crop lamb shipments were complete in the Imperial Valley. In central California, ewes and lambs were grazing on foothill pastures. New crop lambs were shipping to other areas for further feeding.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 04/09/06

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 04/09/06	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 04/09/06	January 1 - 04/09/06	Week Ending 04/09/06	July 1 - 04/09/06	July 1 - 04/09/06	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	48	-2	56	36	0	0	1.58	60.27	33.86	37.53
Ukiah	50	-4	61	37	0	0	2.37	46.05	36.08	37.96
Santa Rosa	52	-4	62	39	0	0	2.05	40.97	28.64	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	54	-2	62	46	0	0	1.21	24.06	18.94	19.70
San Jose	55	-3	67	43	0	0	2.69	19.91	13.79	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	1	0	0.00	0.00	13.43	14.21
Salinas AP	53	-2	66	40	8	0	1.68	13.37	11.80	12.44
Monterey FAA	53	-1	64	43	10	0	1.37	13.15	13.82	18.72
King City	54	-2	69	38	6	0	2.02	12.82	11.39	11.44
Paso Robles AP	53	-2	66	37	0	0	1.47	13.22	12.51	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	52	-6	62	42	8	0	1.71	41.51	30.29	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	52	-5	63	44	2	0	1.32	27.40	21.18	22.29
Chico AFS	52	-5	64	37	0	0	0.89	28.27	23.90	26.32
Marysville	54	-6	64	44	4	0	1.99	28.21	20.28	21.04
Sacramento AP	54	-4	63	43	0	0	1.93	22.76	16.40	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	55	-3	68	41	0	0	1.65	15.76	12.62	13.95
Fresno	56	-3	70	42	0	0	1.72	13.41	10.14	10.60
Bakersfield	57	-4	74	41	12	5	0.86	5.69	5.87	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	55	0	65	38	6	0	2.54	15.39	13.13	12.36
Santa Barbara	54	-3	63	42	2	0	3.80	16.92	16.41	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	69	0	0.00	0.00	14.76	14.38
Los Angeles	58	-5	69	48	99	77	1.70	11.91	14.19	14.77
Riverside	58	-3	73	42	102	2	1.02	6.68	9.89	9.58
San Diego AP	60	-1	73	51	50	24	0.51	4.97	9.94	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	51	-1	69	24	0	0	0.29	8.55	4.39	5.37
Lancaster	53	-3	70	35	0	0	0.50	6.51	7.39	6.92
Daggett AP	61	-2	83	40	30	32	0.27	1.33	3.88	3.93
Thermal AP	67	-2	88	44	186	219	0.00	2.35	3.47	3.16
Blythe	68	0	89	43	208	232	0.00	2.52	3.93	3.60
Imperial	68	-1	87	45	256	257	0.00	1.87	2.92	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	41	0	60	31	0	0	0.55	13.37	9.35	12.01
Mt. Shasta	41	-4	56	32	0	0	2.26	55.33	35.06	37.02
Blue Canyon	36	-6	48	28	0	0	6.68	81.31	59.09	67.04
Yosemite	42	-7	65	30	0	0	6.62	42.59	34.09	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.