



# California Crop Weather

National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

In Cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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## WEATHER



At the start of the week a low pressure trough moved across northern California, but the only effect of this system was some shower activity along the extreme northern coast. Other parts of the State were dry and temperatures were above normal for the time of year. By Tuesday, a strong low pressure center approached the coastline from British Columbia, and then began to move south along the coast. This low pressure system pushed a cold front through the State. As a result, rain fell across the State, starting from the northwest and moving south and east across the length of California. Moderate rainfall amounts were reported from this system across the State. By Thursday, high pressure was beginning to build from the west, and dry and mild conditions returned, with above normal temperatures common place throughout the State. This pattern persisted until Sunday, when another low pressure system approached, and began to spread rains into northwest California, and a cooler onshore flow to the rest of the State.

## FIELD CROPS

**Wheat, barley and oat** fields developed quickly in the warm weather. The fields were aided by recent rains in some areas; however, several wheat fields were reportedly disced under due to dry conditions in Tulare and Kings Counties. In Merced County, winter forage cutting for silage had begun. **Triticale** was in very good condition in Fresno County. The first **alfalfa** cutting for green chop was ongoing in many areas. Alfalfa fields were treated for weeds and weevils. Seed alfalfa fields were mowed in Fresno County. **Safflower** field planting continued in the Sacramento Valley, and fields were growing well in the San Joaquin Valley. **Garbanzo** bean fields were treated with fungicides. Field **corn** planting continued. **Sweet potato** hotbed planting was complete in Merced County. **Cotton** field preparation and cotton planting continued in the Sacramento, San Joaquin Valleys, and Imperial Valleys. Wheat, forage, and **sugar beet** crops responded well to the high temperatures that occurred in the Imperial Valley; the irrigation system was operating near maximum capacity.

## FRUIT CROPS

**Grape** vines were leafing out earlier than normal this season. Grape growers continued fertilizing, irrigating, applying sulfur and spraying to control weeds. Pruning and repairing of trellis systems for stone fruit orchards and grape vineyards were being completed for the season. Blooms on **cherries, peaches, nectarines, plums, and pluots** were ongoing. In some orchards bloom was ending. **Pears and apples** were also blooming. **Pomegranate** orchards were being irrigated, fertilized, and herbicides were applied along with new orchards being planted. Citrus bloom buds were developing well and some growers were hedging and topping trees. Harvests of **oranges, tangerines, tangelos, mandarins, and grapefruit** continued. Internal drying of Navel oranges was occurring at a rapid pace due to the warm weather. The volume of packouts was decreasing as heavier grading of fruit damaged by the January freeze was required. Some growers were treating to control fungus and weeds and applying nutrients. New citrus trees were still being planted.

## NUT CROPS

**Almonds** bloom was finishing in many areas and petal fall and the leafing out of trees began. **Walnut** blight spraying was underway.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

**Melons** continued to be planted in Kern County. Assorted **peppers, beans, eggplants, honeydew** and mixed oriental vegetables were planted throughout Tulare County. Fields of **bitter-melons, cucumbers, eggplants, okra, peppers, squash, tomatoes, and sweet corn** were being transplanted or emerging from direct seeding in Fresno County. The warm weather promoted squash to bloom rapidly and cucumbers were showing significant progress. Harvests of **asparagus, bok choy, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, daikon, dandelion greens, garlic, green onions, kale, leaf lettuce, leeks, mustard greens, parsley, parsnips, rutabaga** and **spinach** were ongoing.

## LIVESTOCK

Foothill pastures were in fairly good condition in northern California with more rain needed soon. Pastures in central California were not faring as well with poor conditions in many areas. Pastures were in very poor condition on some ranches on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley. Supplemental feeding of cattle continued in some areas, particularly in central California. Sheep were still grazing in alfalfa fields and retired farm land but more sheep were being removed from alfalfa pastures. Poor foothill pasture conditions prompted the early movement of some new crop lambs. Most early shipments of new crop lambs were destined for Colorado feedlots for further feeding. Old crop lambs continued to ship from pastures from the Imperial Valley with many of these moving to Colorado feedlots. Bee hives were beginning to be removed from almond orchards in the central area and moving into stone fruit and orange orchards and blueberry fields.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 03/25/07**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 03/25/07	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 03/25/07	January 1 - 03/25/07	Week Ending 03/25/07	July 1 - 03/25/07	July 1 - 03/25/07	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
<b>NORTH COAST</b>										
Eureka	50	0	57	39	35	0	1.10	32.98	31.80	37.53
Ukiah	58	5	82	37	24	0	0.01	20.50	34.30	37.96
Santa Rosa	58	3	77	40	14	0	0.00	15.97	27.30	30.30
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco AP	56	1	70	46	16	0	0.13	10.44	17.98	19.70
San Jose	59	2	75	46	40	0	0.00	7.58	13.07	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	44	0	0.00	0.00	12.69	14.21
Salinas AP	55	1	73	39	15	0	0.19	7.00	11.06	12.44
Monterey FAA	55	2	68	42	10	0	0.03	6.05	12.96	18.72
King City	57	1	82	37	45	0	0.19	4.51	10.74	11.44
Paso Robles AP	57	4	80	36	36	0	0.04	3.77	11.87	13.95
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	61	6	84	43	57	0	0.09	18.63	28.92	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	61	6	85	44	53	0	0.15	10.56	20.27	22.29
Chico AFS	62	8	85	41	71	0	0.01	11.33	22.72	26.32
Marysville	59	2	79	41	27	0	0.01	10.47	19.25	21.04
Sacramento AP	59	4	78	40	28	0	0.29	9.07	15.61	17.52
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	61	5	81	38	58	0	0.04	6.60	11.89	13.95
Fresno	61	4	81	47	75	0	0.28	4.80	9.51	10.60
Bakersfield	61	3	83	45	110	0	0.33	3.02	5.45	5.72
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria AP	60	6	80	44	61	0	0.05	4.43	12.27	12.36
Santa Barbara	57	1	74	43	14	0	0.03	6.18	15.54	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	129	0	0.00	0.00	13.99	14.38
Los Angeles	62	0	80	51	212	37	0.05	2.47	13.41	14.77
Riverside	61	3	82	42	181	0	0.03	1.34	9.35	9.58
San Diego AP	59	-1	66	51	64	3	0.07	3.51	9.29	9.90
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	53	4	79	30	4	0	0.03	1.33	4.22	5.37
Lancaster	60	7	80	35	73	0	0.00	1.10	6.99	6.92
Daggett AP	65	5	86	47	157	1	0.00	0.33	3.72	3.93
Thermal AP	69	3	89	48	245	104	0.00	0.13	3.39	3.16
Blythe	67	1	90	51	270	113	0.53	3.88	3.82	3.60
Imperial	69	4	91	51	306	139	0.01	0.08	2.83	2.75
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	45	5	71	20	0	0	0.17	4.51	8.79	12.01
Mt. Shasta	49	6	71	29	0	0	0.64	22.49	33.18	37.02
Blue Canyon	50	10	66	32	6	0	0.07	38.69	55.76	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	47	36	0	0	0.72	16.19	32.32	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.