



California Crop Weather

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

In Cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEATHER



Weak high pressure aloft brought dry and mild weather to most of California at the start of the week. The exception was along the central and northern coastal strips, where some light rain fell. By the middle of the week, a Pacific cold front came ashore, resulting in widespread rainfall across the State, with new snow in the mountains. Behind the frontal passage came a brief drying period. On Saturday, another more vigorous frontal system spread heavier rain across northern California. This storm passed through the north and brought lighter rains to southern California on Sunday.

FIELD CROPS

The flooding of **rice** fields was ongoing, and some rice planting had begun. Rice fields were treated with herbicides. **Alfalfa** was cut and baled, and the second cutting began in some areas. **Safflower** and **sunflower** fields were planted in the Sacramento Valley. Field **corn** was planted and treated for weeds. Winter forage crops were growing quickly and were cut for silage and hay in the San Joaquin Valley. Some lodging and drought stress was reported due to strong winds and lack of rain. **Wheat** and **oat** fields were maturing, and irrigation was required in most areas. **Sugar beets** were harvested in the San Joaquin Valley. **Cotton** was planted and early fields were emerging. **Sweet potatoes** were planted in Merced County.

FRUIT CROPS

Grape vines were vigorously leafing out and forming bunches. Vineyard fertilization, irrigation and spray applications to control weeds, diseases and insects were ongoing. Winter cover crops were being disced or mowed. Stone fruit and **pomegranate** orchards were irrigated, fertilized and herbicides were applied. New orchards continued to be planted. Early stone fruit varieties were thinned. **Cherry** growers appeared to have an excellent crop. **Apple**, **pear**, and **quince** trees were forming fruit. **Blueberries** were harvested. **Strawberries** were harvested in the south coastal areas and harvest in the Central Valley was beginning. Citrus trees were being hedged, topped, and thinned. Harvests of **oranges**, **tangerines**, **mandarins**, and **lemons** continued at a slow pace. Star Ruby **grapefruit** was being harvested in Tulare County. Some growers treated their groves to control fungus and weeds and applied nutrients. Pruning of frost-damaged limbs was ongoing. **Olive** buds continued to swell.

NUT CROPS

The **almond** crop continued to look good. Orchard work such as fertilization, irrigation, and spray applications for weeds continued. Blight treatment in **walnut** orchards was winding down. **Pistachio** bloom continued.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Transplanting of **tomatoes** for processing was in full swing. **Bittermelon**, **cucumbers**, **eggplant**, **melons**, **peppers**, **squash**, tomatoes, and **sweet corn** were growing well. Strong winds affected some of the melon vines causing leaf damage. Fields of **broccoli**, **carrots**, **garlic**, red and yellow **onions**, and processing tomatoes continued to be weeded, irrigated, fertilized and treated to control insects and mildew. Harvests of **asparagus**, **bok choy**, broccoli, **cabbage**, carrots, **cilantro**, **daikon**, **dandelion greens**, garlic, green onions, **kale**, leaf and head **lettuce**, **leeks**, **mustard greens**, **parsley**, **parsnips**, **rutabaga** and **spinach** were ongoing. Packing and shipping of **radicchio** continued.

LIVESTOCK

Rain in northern California benefitted some foothill pastures while others had dried beyond the point of being helped by moisture. Pastures in central California were dry and feeder cattle were beginning to ship to local auctions or to feedlot buyers in other States. Some beef cows and stocker cattle were moving from the foothills to irrigated pastures in the central and northern valleys earlier than normal. Weight gains on cattle shipped thus far have been well below normal. New crop lambs continued to ship from pastures in central and northern California. Sheep were grazing in alfalfa fields and on retired farm land. Dairy cows were benefitting from below normal temperatures. Bee hives continued to move from almond orchards into holding areas or into other orchards.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 04/15/07

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION				
	Average Week Ending 04/15/07	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal		
					January 1 - 04/15/07	January 1 - 04/15/07	Week Ending 04/15/07	July 1 - 04/15/07	July 1 - 04/15/07	July 1 - June 30	
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --				
NORTH COAST											
Eureka	48	-3	55	37	0	0	1.72	36.46	34.52	37.53	
Ukiah	53	-3	72	35	28	0	0.67	21.54	36.59	37.96	
Santa Rosa	56	-1	71	39	15	0	0.54	16.84	29.00	30.30	
CENTRAL COAST											
San Francisco AP	55	-1	67	45	16	0	0.34	10.93	19.20	19.70	
San Jose	57	-2	73	40	49	0	0.46	8.30	14.00	14.42	
Salinas AP	55	-1	71	37	15	0	0.48	7.79	12.00	12.44	
Monterey FAA	53	-1	64	39	10	0	0.45	6.78	14.09	18.72	
King City	56	-2	79	36	58	0	0.18	4.97	11.54	11.44	
Paso Robles AP	54	-2	79	32	61	0	0.00	3.80	12.67	13.95	
SACRAMENTO VALLEY											
Redding	55	-3	73	36	86	0	0.62	19.74	30.76	33.30	
Red Bluff FSS	57	-2	74	39	82	0	0.71	11.64	21.47	22.29	
Chico AFS	56	-2	76	35	118	0	0.21	11.68	24.24	26.32	
Marysville	56	-4	73	39	42	2	0.94	11.69	20.60	21.04	
Sacramento AP	57	-1	73	40	48	0	0.66	9.79	16.63	17.52	
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY											
Stockton WSO	60	1	77	43	116	0	0.81	7.68	12.82	13.95	
Fresno	58	-2	76	43	138	5	0.07	5.56	10.31	10.60	
Bakersfield	58	-4	75	46	188	17	0.47	3.60	5.97	5.72	
SOUTH COAST											
Santa Maria AP	58	3	84	41	75	0	0.01	4.56	13.34	12.36	
Santa Barbara	59	1	78	41	15	0	0.00	6.19	16.57	16.25	
Ventura	55	55	68	41	64	0	0.00	5.04	14.65	4.71	
Los Angeles	63	-1	79	51	268	100	0.20	2.67	14.37	14.77	
Riverside	61	0	82	44	238	10	0.08	1.42	10.02	9.58	
San Diego AP	60	-2	69	52	74	38	0.00	3.51	10.10	9.90	
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR											
Bishop	51	-1	83	27	31	0	0.17	1.50	4.45	5.37	
Lancaster	57	-1	74	39	147	0	0.00	1.25	7.47	6.92	
Daggett AP	64	0	85	47	328	60	0.08	0.42	3.92	3.93	
Thermal AP	70	0	92	46	466	278	0.04	0.18	3.48	3.16	
Blythe	71	0	92	50	502	296	0.00	3.88	3.97	3.60	
Imperial	71	1	94	50	538	317	0.00	0.08	2.93	2.75	
CASCADE - SIERRA											
Alturas	41	-2	63	20	0	0	0.75	5.70	9.57	12.01	
Mt. Shasta	44	-2	65	26	0	0	0.43	23.35	35.65	37.02	
Blue Canyon	39	-4	54	24	10	0	1.47	41.45	60.18	67.04	
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	17.08	34.65	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.