

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

WEEK ENDING: January 9, 2005
RELEASED: January 10, 2005

FREQUENCY: Weekly
VOL. 24 NO. 28

WEATHER



A broad area of low pressure spread across the West Coast at the start of the week. This pattern allowed a series of strong storm systems to move through California. Southern California was hit with repeated heavy rains, up to 12 inches in the mountains of that area. The cold air which came in with the first storm lowered snow levels to below the summit levels in the mountains near Los Angeles, including the Grapevine, where Interstate 5 was shut down briefly. Rain and mountain snow fell across the entire State during the week, with occasional breaks in the weather giving some areas a brief respite. Towards the end of the week, another series of storms hammered the State. High winds blew across Northern California, while heavy rains again visited Southern California. A tornado was reported near Oroville, in the Central Sacramento Valley. The unsettled weather pattern persisted through the weekend.

FIELD CROPS

Most field work, such as planting of small grains and winter forage, was interrupted by the heavy rainfall. Grain and new **alfalfa** fields are up and growing and herbicide applications for annual weeds continued. Herbicide applications to winter **wheat** and winter forage continued. **Cotton** shredding and plowdown efforts were hampered due to continued rain events. Preparation for spring planting progressed, where field conditions allowed. In Fresno County, **triticale**, wheat, **barley**, **oats** and new alfalfa were doing well. In some instances, water was being pumped out of fields causing a delay in planting, but the rain and a few sunny days created excellent growth conditions. Cotton harvesting activities in Fresno County ended with only a few fields to be disced under in order to meet the plowdown requirements for Pink Bollworm. Growers continued to prepare fields for **sugar beet** planting and mylar scarecrows were in place in young sugar beet plantings. **Sweet potato** hotbed fumigations continued.

FRUIT CROPS

Pruning, shredding, and weed spraying continued in orchards and vineyards as weather permitted. Many growers also applied soil amendments, herbicides, and dormant season pesticides. Removal of non-productive orchards and vineyards continued, and ground was prepared for new plantings. The **persimmon** harvest was complete in most locations. Field preparations for the spring **strawberry** crop were underway in the San Joaquin Valley, although wet ground conditions were causing delays. Harvesting of Navel **oranges**, **lemons**, and **pummelos** continued, and good yields were reported. Citrus fruit maturity and external color were excellent. Ice marks were starting to show on some Navels that were exposed to earlier freezing temperatures. **Olive** orchards were pruned and brush was shredded.

NUT CROPS

Pruning and shredding activities continued as weather conditions allowed. Removal of non-productive orchards and trees that blew down during recent storms continued. Many orchards were treated with pre-emergent herbicides. **Walnut** orchards were fumigated.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Wet conditions slowed or halted activity in many vegetable fields. Where conditions permitted, planting of vegetables, including **tomatoes**, **onions** and **garlic**, continued and harvested fields were being prepared for planting. Harvest of **radicchio** and **lettuce** continued. Harvest of **broccoli** and **spinach** was winding down. **Cauliflower** was harvested in Fresno County. Some vegetable seedlings, including **eggplant** and **peppers**, were being started in greenhouses. The following vegetables were also harvested: **bok choy**, **daikon**, **gai choy**, **gailon**, **kale**, **kohlrabi**, **lemon grass**, **Napa cabbage**, **sugar cane**, **taro root**, and **turnips**.

LIVESTOCK

Winter pastures in California were in good to excellent condition. Many seasonal streams were flowing. Cattle were in good condition. Supplemental feeding was reported in only a few areas. Stocker cattle demand was strong in the central area due to heavy rains and prospects for a good winter pasture season. Sheep were grazing on alfalfa pastures and fallow land. Rain in the southern desert is causing some disruption to lambs on pastures. Some lambs were reported to have been shipped to feedlots out-of-state due to the above normal rainfall. Rain caused muddy conditions at dairies. Beekeepers continued to over-winter beehives until almond pollination begins in February.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 01/09/05

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 01/09/05	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 01/09/05	January 1 - 01/09/05	Week Ending 01/09/05	July 1 - 01/09/05	July 1 - 01/09/05	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	43	-5	53	32	0	0	3.18	24.29	17.60	37.53
Ukiah	43	-3	50	36	0	0	2.28	19.39	16.76	37.96
Santa Rosa	46	-2	55	33	0	0	1.40	18.07	13.13	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco Airport	50	1	57	43	0	0	1.37	14.48	8.19	19.70
San Jose	50	0	57	41	0	0	1.16	9.78	5.90	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	0.00	5.88	14.21
Salinas Airport	51	0	70	33	0	0	0.97	8.33	4.95	12.44
Monterey FAA	49	1	59	36	0	0	0.58	7.20	6.95	18.72
King City	48	-1	59	33	0	0	1.76	10.89	4.37	11.44
Paso Robles Airport	49	2	62	34	0	0	2.40	13.07	4.66	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	44	-1	56	35	0	0	1.19	21.68	13.43	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	44	-2	55	31	0	0	0.99	13.72	10.30	22.29
Chico AFS	46	2	58	35	0	0	2.11	15.42	10.77	26.32
Marysville	46	0	55	34	0	0	1.84	13.53	9.30	21.04
Sacramento Airport	47	2	57	38	0	0	1.14	12.39	7.22	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	49	4	63	37	0	0	0.97	9.25	5.65	13.95
Fresno	49	3	64	37	0	0	1.44	8.59	4.06	10.60
Bakersfield	51	3	68	37	0	0	1.54	4.56	2.31	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria Airport	51	-1	62	35	0	0	2.64	10.32	4.80	12.36
Santa Barbara	51	-1	60	36	0	0	6.46	16.99	6.21	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	2	0	0.00	0.00	5.40	14.38
Los Angeles	51	-7	60	43	1	0	3.91	17.78	4.95	14.77
Riverside	47	-7	60	29	0	0	1.47	8.98	3.59	9.58
San Diego Airport	55	-2	64	45	2	0	3.42	12.93	3.92	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	30	-7	40	11	0	0	2.08	5.93	2.15	5.37
Lancaster	41	-2	53	30	0	0	1.70	6.65	2.95	6.92
Daggett Airport	45	-3	60	32	0	0	0.98	4.77	2.26	3.93
Thermal Airport	50	-4	63	34	0	0	1.21	4.91	1.95	3.16
Blythe	51	-3	64	36	0	0	0.98	3.17	2.60	3.60
Imperial	52	-3	68	36	0	0	0.53	3.20	1.88	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	24	-5	36	0	0	0	0.08	7.13	5.21	12.01
Mt Shasta	30	-5	37	19	0	0	1.79	24.46	16.79	37.02
Blue Canyon	29	-10	36	24	0	0	2.57	23.93	28.96	67.04
Yosemite	31	-6	39	24	0	0	0.00	9.26	15.91	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.