

# CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS SERVICE

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## WEATHER



A series of weather disturbances moved across California this week. The first of the Pacific storms hit Northern California early Monday and quickly moved into Southern California later that day. Weak high pressure followed quickly behind the first system. The pattern continued with another minor storm system on Tuesday, which again went south. Late Thursday and Friday, yet another system moved through Northern California and progressed to Southern California. Each of these storms brought light to moderate amounts of precipitation to the lower elevations and snow to the mountains. The last system brought rains to Southern California early Saturday before moving into Mexico. On Sunday, high pressure brought dry and mild conditions to the entire State.

## FIELD CROPS

Mild temperatures and adequate rainfall provided good growing conditions for grain crops. However, due to rapid growth, new batches of weeds were sprouting and were treated again. Ground preparation was underway for the spring planting of **dry beans**, **corn**, and **cotton**, where field conditions allowed. **Sugar beet** plantings continued to grow well. **Tricale** plantings in the San Joaquin Valley were reportedly doing very well. **Alfalfa** was also reported in excellent shape, but could not be cut and baled because of the wet conditions. Ammonium sulfate top dressing of **wheat** and **barley** continued in the Sacramento Valley, as did weed treatment for fallow corn and **sunflower** fields. Wheat was reported emerged and in good condition.

## FRUIT CROPS

In most **grape** vineyards, buds continued to swell with some bud break and leafing out noted. Some growers were applying pesticides to vineyards to control vine mealybug and cutworms. Growers continued to apply pesticides and prepare open land for new plantings as field conditions would allow. Blossoms continued to appear in **apricot**, **peach**, **plum**, **cherry**, and **nectarine** orchards across the State, and early varieties of stone fruit began leafing out. **Persimmons** were also beginning to break bud and leaf out. Some nectarine growers were treating orchards against thrips. **Strawberry** plants in Fresno County continued to grow well with adequate rainfall and warm temperatures. **Lemons**, **minneolas**, **Navel oranges**, **tangelos**, and **tangerines** continued to be harvested, but the recent rain again caused delays and cancellations in harvesting. **Avocado** harvest continued. OroBlanco and MeloGold variety **grapefruit** were harvested in the Central Valley.

## NUT CROPS

Growers continued to prune, shred, remove weeds, and apply blossom sprays in nut orchards. **Almond** bloom was winding down and trees were starting to leaf out in most areas of the State. Some **walnut** orchards have started to show signs of blooms.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Spring harvest head **lettuce**, **onions**, **garlic** and cole crops continued to progress well. Field preparation and planting of spring vegetables continued. Thinning and weeding occurred in drier fields. Fungicides were applied to fields of **spinach** and cole crops. Some fields of lettuce were disced under in the Imperial Valley due to low prices and mildew resulting from excessive rain in the region. **Broccoli**, **carrots** and **cauliflower** continued to be harvested. **Asparagus** harvest began slowing in hope that prices may improve and because many fields were still muddy. The following vegetables were also reported harvested: **beets**, **bok choy**, **cabbage**, **daikon**, **gai choy**, **gailon**, **kale**, **kohlrabi**, **lemon grass**, **mustard greens**, **Napa cabbage**, **onions**, **radishes**, **radicchio**, **sugar cane**, **taro root**, **turnips**, and **you choy**.

## LIVESTOCK

Foothill pastures in much of California were reported in the best condition in several years. Additional rainfall combined with warming temperatures has resulted in excellent grass growth. Cattle and sheep were in very good condition. Sheep, mainly ewes with lambs, were grazing in alfalfa pastures and foothill pastures. The first contract was reported on spring lambs in central California for April and May delivery. Old crop lambs in the southern desert continued to be shipped to other areas for further feeding. Muddy dairies in Southern California continued to cause above normal death loss and below normal milk production. Dairies were starting to dry out in the central and northern areas. Bees were pollinating in almond, plum, and prune orchards in central and northern areas.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 03/06/05**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 03/06/05	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 03/06/05	January 1 - 03/06/05	Week Ending 03/06/05	July 1 - 03/06/05	July 1 - 03/06/05	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
<b>NORTH COAST</b>										
Eureka	50	0	63	40	0	0	0.95	28.27	28.47	37.53
Ukiah	52	1	77	37	0	0	1.04	26.89	30.78	37.96
Santa Rosa	54	1	75	37	0	0	1.73	25.15	24.46	30.30
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco Airport	56	2	71	45	0	0	0.92	21.44	16.01	19.70
San Jose	57	1	72	44	0	0	1.88	17.91	11.52	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	0.00	11.26	14.21
Salinas Airport	55	1	71	43	2	0	1.21	14.26	9.62	12.44
Monterey FAA	55	2	69	45	0	0	0.80	11.55	11.63	18.72
King City	57	3	75	43	0	0	0.47	16.35	9.25	11.44
Paso Robles Airport	54	2	71	42	0	0	0.53	19.10	10.27	13.95
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	56	4	80	36	14	0	0.35	26.59	25.88	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	55	2	78	39	2	0	0.29	19.07	18.19	22.29
Chico AFS	53	1	75	38	0	0	0.92	20.27	20.20	26.32
Marysville	54	-1	73	39	0	0	1.20	17.81	17.16	21.04
Sacramento Airport	54	1	70	40	0	0	0.88	16.87	14.06	17.52
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	55	1	69	41	0	0	1.00	14.07	10.55	13.95
Fresno	56	2	70	45	0	0	0.97	12.21	8.22	10.60
Bakersfield	56	0	69	43	2	0	0.48	7.75	4.63	5.72
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria Airport	55	1	68	41	1	0	1.19	15.79	10.54	12.36
Santa Barbara	55	0	65	45	1	0	1.13	28.39	13.36	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	30	0	0.00	0.00	12.31	14.38
Los Angeles	60	-1	69	50	68	11	0.60	34.31	11.70	14.77
Riverside	--	--	68	43	30	0	0.03	14.97	8.13	9.58
San Diego Airport	60	0	65	54	64	0	1.45	21.72	8.01	9.90
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	46	0	66	25	0	0	0.04	8.16	3.89	5.37
Lancaster	53	2	68	34	0	0	0.19	15.67	6.18	6.92
Daggett Airport	56	-1	70	40	6	0	0.79	8.50	3.41	3.93
Thermal Airport	63	1	78	47	51	21	0.01	7.27	3.17	3.16
Blythe	61	-1	74	47	30	24	0.24	7.00	3.57	3.60
Imperial	63	-1	76	47	58	44	0.14	4.95	2.65	2.75
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	39	2	63	15	0	0	0.06	8.93	7.85	12.01
Mt Shasta	43	3	65	28	0	0	0.90	29.87	29.61	37.02
Blue Canyon	40	2	59	29	0	0	1.99	34.52	50.14	67.04
Yosemite	44	0	65	31	0	0	0.00	23.92	29.09	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.