

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

WEEK ENDING: March 13, 2005
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WEATHER



The weather pattern over the continental United States consisted of a strong low pressure trough over the eastern half of the country, while a strong high pressure ridge was entrenched over the West Coast. This resulted in dry and very warm conditions for California. During the first part of the week, an offshore wind flow created some very warm conditions for the coastal areas, especially the San Francisco Bay area which saw record high temperatures climbing into the 80s. Record high temperatures were common through much of the State, including the Central Valley, where midweek highs reached the mid 80s. The warmest temperatures were found in the southeastern deserts, where highs reached the 90s. Although the overall upper level pattern changed little during the week, surface pressure patterns gradually shifted from a dry and warm offshore pattern to a slightly cooler onshore pattern, which resulted in cooler temperatures for the coastal and valley regions, but had little effect on the southern desert's temperatures. No significant precipitation fell this week.

FIELD CROPS

Several California counties reported spraying for weevils in **alfalfa** fields last week as well as applying herbicide applications to keep down the new batch of weeds that the sunshine has inspired. Across the State, **barley, oats, wheat,** winter forage, and small grain plantings continued to grow well with the warm afternoon weather. Seed head formation was observed in several fields of winter forage, and harvest was underway in a few fields in the San Joaquin Valley. **Sugar beet** plantings were also reported to be doing well in the San Joaquin Valley. **Sweet potato** field fumigations started in this area as well. Growers continued to prepare ground for pre-irrigation for the **cotton** planting.

FRUIT CROPS

Buds continued to swell in grape vineyards, and bud break and leafing out continued in some vineyards. Cultivation was underway to remove winter weeds and prepare for the year's first irrigation. Some growers applied pesticides to vineyards to control vine mealybug and cutworms and to prepare ground for new plantings. Blossoms began dropping in **apricot, peach, plum, cherry,** and **nectarine** orchards in the San Joaquin Valley. Early varieties of stone fruit and **persimmons** continued to leaf out. Some nectarine growers were treating orchards against thrips. Bloom began in many **pear** and cherry orchards in northern areas of the State. By the end of the week, many orchards were in full bloom, as above normal temperatures stimulated growth. Planting and grafting of new tree fruit varieties continued. **Strawberry** plants in the San Joaquin Valley continued to grow well and began blooming. **Blueberry** bushes were being planted. **Navel oranges, lemons, tangelos, mandarins,** and **tangerines** continued to be harvested and packed with good yields reported. However, the recent rain continued to delay and cause cancellations in harvesting. **Avocado** harvest continued. OroBlanco and MeloGold variety **grapefruit** were harvested in the Central Valley.

NUT CROPS

Most **almond** orchards were in the petal fall stage, and leafing out was noted in much of the State. **Walnut** growers began blight sprays, and early walnut varieties were showing signs of blooming. Growers continued to prune, shred, remove weeds, and apply blossom sprays in nut orchards.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Warmer temperatures stimulated vigorous growth in many vegetable fields. Field preparation and planting of spring vegetables continued. Transplanting of **lettuce** and **tomatoes** and thinning and weeding occurred as fields dried. Fungicides and weed sprays were applied to some fields of **spinach,** tomato, and cole crops. Some fields were irrigated in Fresno County. The **asparagus** harvest continued in the San Joaquin Valley. **Broccoli, carrots** and **radicchio** continued to be harvested. The following vegetables were also reported harvested: **beets, bok choy, cabbage, daikon, gai choy, gailon, mustard greens, radishes, turnips,** and **you choy.**

LIVESTOCK

Warm weather combined with ample soil moisture resulted in excellent winter pasture conditions. Cattle and sheep were in very good condition with producers anticipating excellent weight gains for the season. No supplemental feeding was reported. Ewes and lambs were moving from alfalfa fields as the new crop alfalfa season approaches. Sheep were grazing on foothill pastures and irrigated pastures. Old crop lambs continued to be shipped in the southern desert. Dairies were drying out in the central and northern areas. Bee activity was winding down in some orchards.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 03/13/05

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 03/13/05	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 03/13/05	January 1 - 03/13/05	Week Ending 03/13/05	July 1 - 03/13/05	July 1 - 03/13/05	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	51	1	62	43	0	0	0.04	28.31	29.77	37.53
Ukiah	62	10	88	42	16	0	0.00	26.89	32.20	37.96
Santa Rosa	62	9	87	46	18	0	0.00	25.15	25.63	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco Airport	61	7	83	50	14	0	0.00	21.44	16.83	19.70
San Jose	64	8	87	49	25	0	0.00	17.91	12.15	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	11	0	0.00	0.00	11.82	14.21
Salinas Airport	62	8	87	48	22	0	0.03	14.29	10.19	12.44
Monterey FAA	58	6	81	48	10	0	0.00	11.55	12.30	18.72
King City	63	8	90	46	24	0	0.00	16.35	9.88	11.44
Paso Robles Airport	60	7	82	43	6	0	0.09	19.19	10.98	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	64	11	84	44	39	0	0.00	26.59	27.16	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	63	10	84	45	28	0	0.00	19.07	19.06	22.29
Chico AFS	65	12	87	46	32	0	0.00	20.27	21.24	26.32
Marysville	63	7	83	43	22	0	0.00	17.81	18.02	21.04
Sacramento Airport	62	8	80	45	14	0	0.00	16.87	14.70	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	62	7	83	44	15	0	0.04	14.11	11.08	13.95
Fresno	63	7	80	48	22	0	0.00	12.21	8.75	10.60
Bakersfield	63	6	81	46	24	0	0.01	7.76	4.95	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria Airport	59	6	84	46	6	0	0.00	15.79	11.27	12.36
Santa Barbara	58	2	68	45	1	0	0.00	28.39	14.32	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	34	0	0.00	0.00	13.03	14.38
Los Angeles	63	2	77	55	91	19	0.00	34.31	12.43	14.77
Riverside	61	4	85	42	48	0	0.03	15.00	8.65	9.58
San Diego Airport	61	1	67	55	70	0	0.00	21.72	8.52	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	56	9	80	32	0	0	0.00	8.16	4.03	5.37
Lancaster	58	7	81	34	0	0	0.00	15.67	6.52	6.92
Daggett Airport	64	6	82	44	35	0	0.00	8.50	3.54	3.93
Thermal Airport	70	7	94	45	121	45	0.00	7.27	3.27	3.16
Blythe	69	5	90	49	95	50	0.01	7.01	3.67	3.60
Imperial	70	6	92	48	130	74	0.00	4.95	2.73	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	45	7	74	18	0	0	0.00	8.93	8.23	12.01
Mt Shasta	53	12	74	32	0	0	0.00	29.87	31.13	37.02
Blue Canyon	56	17	66	45	0	0	0.00	34.52	52.40	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	65	32	0	0	0.00	23.92	30.37	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.