

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

WEEK ENDING: April 10, 2005
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WEATHER



High pressure was building over California at the start of the week, on the heels of a storm which brought rains the previous weekend. The high pressure, accompanied by an offshore wind flow, produced dry and warm weather across the entire State Monday through Wednesday, with daytime highs reaching the 70s in Northern California, and the 80s in Southern California. On Thursday, a cool and wet Pacific storm system reached the Northern Coast and moved through the north State. This storm brought widespread rain and mountain snow to Northern California, but the precipitation did not reach Southern California. In the cool and unstable atmosphere over Northern California on Friday, some severe weather occurred, including several reported tornados and funnel clouds in the Central Valley, which caused some orchard damage. By Saturday, high pressure again redeveloped over the State, and brought dry and mild conditions for the weekend.

FIELD CROPS

Harvesting and planting activities Statewide were hampered due to rain. Where field work could be done, planting of **cotton** and **corn** was underway. **Alfalfa** cuttings continued. Some **sugar beets** were harvested. When possible, **rice** fields in Northern California continued to be worked in preparation for planting. **Sweet potato** field fumigations were nearing completion. Lodging of small grains continued to be noted in some areas due to windy and wet conditions.

FRUIT CROPS

Small fruit clusters were developing in **grape** vineyards. Growers utilized foliar applications of fungicides to control fungus and mildew in grapes, and applied herbicides to control vegetation. Irrigation activities began in a few vineyards, and new vines were being planted. Tree fruit thinning and weed spraying were underway in most tree fruit orchards. Many **apple** orchards continued to bloom, and early **apricot** varieties were developing good size fruit. Some **strawberries** were blooming, and others were beginning to be sold at roadside stands in the San Joaquin Valley. **Caneberries** were pushing new growth. **Navel oranges, tangelos, and lemons** continued to be harvested. **Valencia** harvest was increasing, and small amounts of fruit began arriving at local packing sheds. Valencia fruit quality and maturity were reported as excellent. **Olive** blocks continued to be pruned. Buds were swelling on olive trees, indicating bloom is near.

NUT CROPS

Almond set appeared light due to poor weather conditions during bloom. Orchard floors in almond orchards were treated with herbicides as the ground continued to dry out enough to allow equipment in the fields. Blight sprays were applied to almond and **walnut** orchards. **Pecan** trees continued to leaf out. **Pistachio** trees were leafed out, and pollination was underway.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Rain slowed vegetable planting and harvesting activities in and north of the San Joaquin Valley, while cooler than average temperatures slowed vegetable development Statewide. Where field conditions permitted, planting occurred or fields were being prepared for planting. Planting of fresh market **tomatoes** and **melons** continued. **Eggplant, string beans, bell peppers, fava beans,** and some Asian vegetables were planted. Fungicides to control rust were applied to some **onion** and **garlic** fields. Pre-planting soil fumigation occurred in some tomato fields. In the south, some vegetable fields were irrigated. Harvesting of **asparagus, broccoli, carrots, spinach,** head and romaine **lettuce** continued. Early planted **zucchini** and yellow **squash** were reported harvested in the San Joaquin Valley.

LIVESTOCK

Foothill pastures continued in excellent condition. Additional rain and mild temperatures boosted grass growth. Cattle weight gains were reported as very good. Sheep and cattle were in very good condition. In central California, ewes with lambs were grazing on foothill pastures, a few older alfalfa fields, and on retired farmland. The new crop alfalfa hay harvest has begun in the central area and most sheep have been removed from alfalfa fields. Most new crop lambs have been sold except for smaller lambs that will be marketed later. Milk production and herd health has improved at dairies. Many bees have moved from nut orchards to citrus groves in the central area. Out-of-State beekeepers continued to move hives back to their original states.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 04/10/05

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION				
	Average Week Ending 04/10/05	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal		
					January 1 - 04/10/05	January 1 - 04/10/05	Week Ending 04/10/05	July 1 - 04/10/05	July 1 - 04/10/05	July 1 - June 30	
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --				
NORTH COAST											
Eureka	48	-3	57	39	0	0	4.10	39.95	33.98	37.53	
Ukiah	52	-3	71	36	16	0	1.68	34.96	36.17	37.96	
Santa Rosa	54	-2	72	37	18	0	1.09	31.06	28.70	30.30	
CENTRAL COAST											
San Francisco AP	56	0	71	45	16	0	0.82	25.87	18.99	19.70	
San Jose	57	-1	78	45	35	0	1.32	21.53	13.83	14.42	
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	11	0	0.00	0.00	13.47	14.21	
Salinas AP	54	-1	75	40	22	0	0.69	18.48	11.84	12.44	
Monterey FAA	53	0	67	42	10	0	0.55	14.60	13.87	18.72	
King City	56	-1	84	37	30	0	0.16	17.67	11.42	11.44	
Paso Robles AP	54	-2	78	32	6	0	0.10	21.25	12.54	13.95	
SACRAMENTO VALLEY											
Redding	54	-3	73	40	40	0	1.20	32.84	30.37	33.30	
Red Bluff FSS	54	-4	74	40	28	0	0.81	22.13	21.23	22.29	
Chico AFS	54	-3	76	38	36	0	1.85	24.94	23.96	26.32	
Marysville	54	-5	73	37	22	0	0.84	20.61	20.34	21.04	
Sacramento AP	55	-2	74	40	14	0	0.27	20.19	16.44	17.52	
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY											
Stockton WSO	55	-3	77	40	15	0	1.01	17.89	12.65	13.95	
Fresno	57	-3	83	41	36	0	0.20	14.78	10.17	10.60	
Bakersfield	58	-3	88	41	46	6	0.18	9.20	5.89	5.72	
SOUTH COAST											
Santa Maria AP	53	-1	75	36	6	0	0.18	18.59	13.17	12.36	
Santa Barbara	58	1	72	40	4	0	0.00	31.21	16.45	16.25	
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	49	0	0.00	0.00	14.79	14.38	
Los Angeles	63	0	88	49	157	81	0.00	35.81	14.23	14.77	
Riverside	61	0	88	39	75	3	0.00	15.68	9.92	9.58	
San Diego AP	63	2	86	53	137	26	0.00	22.49	9.97	9.90	
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR											
Bishop	51	-1	76	26	4	0	0.00	9.35	4.41	5.37	
Lancaster	55	-1	78	33	0	0	0.09	16.29	7.41	6.92	
Daggett AP	59	-4	83	40	50	36	0.00	8.67	3.89	3.93	
Thermal AP	68	0	91	46	266	228	0.00	7.96	3.47	3.16	
Blythe	68	-1	95	52	230	242	0.00	7.01	3.94	3.60	
Imperial	67	-2	92	46	264	266	0.00	4.99	2.92	2.75	
CASCADE - SIERRA											
Alturas	42	0	73	19	0	0	0.24	10.46	9.39	12.01	
Mt. Shasta	43	-1	64	30	0	0	1.23	37.93	35.17	37.02	
Blue Canyon	38	-4	58	26	0	0	1.96	47.87	59.29	67.04	
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	23.92	34.19	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.