

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER

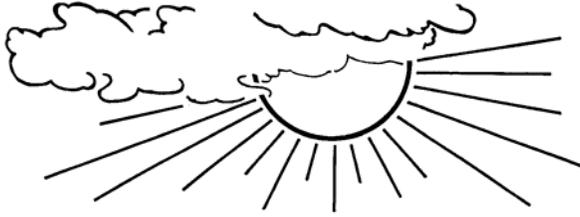


USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
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WEATHER



A series of Pacific storms brought widespread showers to most of California north of Point Conception for most of the week. These storms were relatively warm, so snow levels in the mountains were high. The heaviest rains fell along the northern coast, with rainfall tapering off further to the south. A break in the stormy weather came on Friday, as weak high pressure settled over the state. In Southern California, an offshore flow brought mild temperatures and dry conditions for most of the week. Daytime highs reached the upper 80s at the warmest locations. The offshore flow waned on Thursday as an onshore breeze cooled temperatures a few degrees, but returned for the holiday weekend, with temperatures warming back to the 80s on Friday and Saturday. By Christmas Day, another in a series of vigorous Pacific storms approached Northern California, with widespread winds, rains and mountain snow moving in. Southern California remained dry and mild.

FIELD CROPS

Wet weather conditions were highly favorable for various small grain crops, but hindered planting activities. Shredding and disking of harvested **cotton** fields to comply with pink bollworm plow-down requirements was nearly complete. Planting of new **sugar beet** fields continued. Young sugar beet plants in newly emerged fields were protected from hungry birds by Mylar "scarecrows". Fields of **alfalfa** grown for both hay and seed were generally dormant; herbicides treatments were noted in a few locations. Alfalfa fields showed good emergence.

FRUIT CROPS

Dormant season activities continued in **grape** vineyards and tree fruit orchards. Field work included pruning, brush shredding, cultivation, and cover crop planting. Weed control treatments and dormant spray applications continued, with occasional disruptions by winter rains. Soil fumigation continued to prepare for planting of new orchards and vineyards. Red Globe, Crimson, and Emperor grape varieties were moved to both domestic and export markets. **Persimmon** harvest was complete. Blood **orange** maturity was developing well. The Navel orange harvest continued. **Lemons**, several varieties of **Mandarins**, and **pummelos** were also harvested. The **tangerine** harvest continued with the Owari and Clementine varieties being picked and packed. Application of pre-emergent herbicides and white wash were applied to citrus groves.

NUT CROPS

Dormant season field work included pruning, brush shredding, cultivation, weed control treatments, fertilizer and soil amendment applications, and cover crop planting. Soil fumigation continued to prepare for planting of new orchards.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Fresh market **broccoli**, **lettuce** and **cauliflower** harvest continued in fields not too wet to restrict accessibility. **Radicchio** harvest continued along with cool season Asian vegetables such as **bok choy**, **gai choy**, **you choy** Chinese broccoli, Thai broccoli and **sugar pea leaf**. Moderate weather favored growth and development of vegetable seedlings. Later planting of broccoli, cauliflower and **spinach** has progressed well due to cool, wet weather. **Onion** and **garlic** plants were growing well, with new onion fields being transplanted. Beds were being prepared for next season's **tomato** crop. **Squash** growers were laying black plastic on top of the berm for the upcoming spring planting.

LIVESTOCK

Rain and unseasonably warm temperatures significantly boosted new grass growth on winter pastures. Stocker cattle were being turned out on winter pastures in central and northern California. Cattle were receiving supplemental feed in areas where grass was still short. Many ewes with lambs were grazing in alfalfa fields or retired farm land in the central area. Feeder lambs in the Imperial Valley were grazing in alfalfa, bermuda, and sudan fields. Rain, heavy at times, caused muddy conditions at dairies and feedlots. Beehives were being placed in protected areas for the winter.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 12/25/05

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 12/25/05	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 12/25/05	January 1 - 12/25/05	Week Ending 12/25/05	July 1 - 12/25/05	July 1 - 12/25/05	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	58	10	68	50	22	0	4.60	21.71	14.93	37.53
Ukiah	57	11	67	47	1,425	1,454	4.61	14.67	13.26	37.96
Santa Rosa	58	10	68	47	815	923	3.48	11.37	10.45	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	58	9	64	50	517	443	2.35	7.92	6.20	19.70
San Jose	61	12	70	51	1,328	1,334	1.35	4.50	4.59	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	1,599	1,457	0.00	0.00	4.58	14.21
Salinas AP	58	8	72	49	438	432	0.59	2.61	3.79	12.44
Monterey FAA	59	8	71	48	163	145	0.27	2.30	4.90	18.72
King City	59	11	76	43	1,300	1,043	0.14	2.27	3.37	11.44
Paso Robles AP	56	10	72	38	1,598	1,552	0.11	1.69	3.39	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	55	10	66	46	2,554	2,504	3.81	13.18	10.63	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	55	10	64	43	2,474	2,610	2.50	10.08	8.15	22.29
Chico AFS	57	13	69	46	2,355	2,043	2.53	8.97	8.45	26.32
Marysville	57	12	66	43	2,500	2,442	2.02	7.49	7.29	21.04
Sacramento AP	56	11	63	44	1,942	1,932	1.49	5.82	5.58	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	58	14	66	49	2,328	2,214	1.02	3.36	4.50	13.95
Fresno	59	14	70	49	2,976	2,792	0.25	1.61	3.12	10.60
Bakersfield	61	14	76	46	3,032	3,128	0.00	1.23	1.81	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	58	7	78	41	438	410	0.09	3.75	3.59	12.36
Santa Barbara	57	5	76	42	555	736	0.00	3.41	4.39	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	1,056	940	0.00	0.00	3.95	14.38
Los Angeles	64	6	81	48	2,140	2,455	0.00	1.98	3.42	14.77
Riverside	64	11	90	41	2,779	2,377	0.00	1.78	2.49	9.58
San Diego AP	61	3	80	48	1,710	1,798	0.00	0.89	2.91	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	44	8	65	27	1,634	1,552	0.15	2.28	1.73	5.37
Lancaster	52	10	76	30	2,442	2,343	0.00	2.74	2.14	6.92
Daggett AP	54	6	77	37	3,858	3,937	0.00	0.79	1.90	3.93
Thermal AP	61	8	85	38	5,121	4,870	0.00	2.08	1.61	3.16
Blythe	59	6	81	37	5,455	5,381	0.00	2.20	2.35	3.60
Imperial	61	6	83	39	5,285	5,159	0.00	1.40	1.62	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	44	16	59	30	537	296	1.29	6.11	4.58	12.01
Mt. Shasta	46	12	58	37	723	446	4.71	15.90	13.65	37.02
Blue Canyon	48	9	61	39	852	574	8.30	26.58	23.36	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	1,202	1,090	0.00	0.91	12.79	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.