

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: January 8, 2006
RELEASED: January 9, 2006

FREQUENCY: Weekly
VOL. 25 NO. 28

WEATHER



A strong Pacific storm system hit California at the start of the week, spreading heavy rains and high level snow across the entire State. Widespread flooding was reported with this system, and even the large Sacramento and San Joaquin River systems reached flood levels. Showers lingered across the State on Tuesday, although they were not as heavy as the previous day's storms. Tuesday's system was also colder, so snow levels lowered in the mountains. By Wednesday, high pressure began to rebuild over southern California, drying out that part of the State, while a few showers lingered across the north. High pressure developed across the intermountain west by late Wednesday, resulting in a dry offshore flow across the State. This was strongest in the south, where gusty winds brought dry and warm weather, with daytime highs reaching the 80s. Dry and mild conditions persisted through Friday. Late on Friday, a Pacific storm system brushed northern California, bringing some showers to the north coast and to the Sacramento Valley Friday evening and early Saturday morning. This system moved out of the State quickly, and by Saturday afternoon, clearing skies moved across northern California. Sunday was dry and mild across the State.

FIELD CROPS

The recent rains have been beneficial to late planted grain and **alfalfa** fields, although some fields were flooded. Wet and muddy field conditions caused a slowdown in field operations in several locations. The rains led to increased spraying of winter herbicide applications. Imperial County noted their spring field **corn** was planted and irrigated, with some fields emerging. Winter **wheat** planting continued in the warmer areas of the State, and the crop was in good condition except for some fields that were damaged by heavy rains. New alfalfa field planting continued to wind down. **Sweet potato** hot bed fumigations continued.

FRUIT CROPS

Field work in many orchards and vineyards came to a halt and will resume once fields dry out and become more accessible. Dormant season activities such as pruning, brush shredding, cane tying, cultivation, weed control treatments, fertilizer and soil amendment applications, and cover crop planting continued in grape vineyards and tree fruit orchards as field conditions allowed. A few growers were removing older vines and trees in preparation for new plantings. Some orchards experienced light damage from recent rains and high winds, mainly in the form of downed trees. Many tree fruit growers expressed concern over the mild winter weather thus far. The warm temperatures have not allowed adequate chill hours and have caused fruit trees in some areas to begin blooming. Planting of **blueberries** and **raspberries** began in the San Joaquin Valley. Navel **orange** harvest continued as field conditions allowed, with many houses running out of fruit. The recent heavy winds and rains caused some weaker fruit to fall off the tree. Juice processing plants were running at full capacity due to the high volume of small sizes in the Navel crop. **Lemons**, several varieties of **tangerines**, and **pummelos** were also harvested. **Olive** orchards continued to be pruned with brush shredding resuming as fields dried out. A few olive groves in the Sanger district were harvested for oil.

NUT CROPS

Dormant season field work continued in nut orchards as field conditions permitted. There were some reports of **almond** trees blown over by strong winds in the San Joaquin Valley during the latest storm. Soil fumigation continued in preparation for planting of new orchards.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Field preparations in many areas stopped momentarily as a result of flooding. A small number of **garlic**, **onion**, and **lettuce** fields were flooded in Fresno County. Winter crop fresh market **broccoli**, lettuce and **cauliflower** harvest continued in fields not too wet to restrict accessibility. Weeding and thinning of lettuce fields continued. Spring crop broccoli, garlic, lettuce, and onions were mostly progressing well in the San Joaquin Valley. **Radicchio** harvest continued. Cool season Asian vegetables such as **bok choy**, **gai choy**, **you choy**, **mustard greens**, and **sugar pea leaf** were harvested.

LIVESTOCK

Above normal rainfall and temperatures greatly benefitted foothill pastures. Supplemental feeding of cattle was limited. Stocker cattle, including contracted cattle from out-of-State, continued to move onto winter pastures. Some areas were reporting that pastures were fully stocked. Feeder cattle were being pastured in old alfalfa fields, sudan grass, and annual rye grass fields in the Imperial Valley. In central California, ewes with lambs were grazing in alfalfa fields and retired farm land, including broccoli fields. Feeder lambs in the Imperial Valley were grazing in old alfalfa, sudan grass, and rye grass fields. Dairies in the central and northern areas were still muddy from recent rains. Beehives were beginning to be placed in a few almond orchards in the central area.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 01/08/06

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 01/08/06	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 01/08/06	January 1 - 01/08/06	Week Ending 01/08/06	July 1 - 01/08/06	July 1 - 01/08/06	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	49	0	64	41	0	0	2.66	30.95	17.40	37.53
Ukiah	50	4	64	34	0	0	0.78	23.01	16.50	37.96
Santa Rosa	52	4	65	38	0	0	1.06	22.71	12.94	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	53	5	62	45	0	0	1.19	12.84	8.05	19.70
San Jose	55	5	69	43	0	0	2.00	8.10	5.81	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	0.00	5.79	14.21
Salinas AP	55	4	68	41	0	0	0.21	4.31	4.87	12.44
Monterey FAA	55	6	69	43	0	0	1.25	5.00	6.84	18.72
King City	54	5	74	39	0	0	2.03	5.09	4.30	11.44
Paso Robles AP	52	6	75	38	0	0	2.86	6.54	4.57	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	48	3	64	31	0	0	1.56	23.18	13.19	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	49	4	65	36	0	0	0.81	15.02	10.15	22.29
Chico AFS	52	8	68	39	0	0	2.12	14.88	10.60	26.32
Marysville	52	7	63	42	0	0	0.77	11.74	9.16	21.04
Sacramento AP	50	5	62	38	0	0	1.25	11.99	7.10	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	52	7	64	41	0	0	1.95	6.96	5.56	13.95
Fresno	53	7	67	41	0	0	2.21	5.35	3.99	10.60
Bakersfield	52	5	69	40	0	0	0.09	2.53	2.28	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	56	4	76	39	0	0	1.99	8.26	4.72	12.36
Santa Barbara	56	4	76	41	0	0	1.19	7.47	6.09	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	27	0	0.00	0.00	5.30	14.38
Los Angeles	61	3	85	46	20	0	1.83	4.85	4.84	14.77
Riverside	61	8	86	40	22	0	0.02	2.14	3.52	9.58
San Diego AP	60	3	83	48	12	0	0.31	1.43	3.85	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	30	-7	47	17	0	0	2.97	6.85	2.13	5.37
Lancaster	49	6	66	30	0	0	0.64	3.62	2.89	6.92
Daggett AP	53	5	69	38	0	0	0.02	0.84	2.24	3.93
Thermal AP	59	5	84	35	8	0	0.00	2.08	1.92	3.16
Blythe	59	5	80	38	9	0	0.00	2.20	2.58	3.60
Imperial	59	4	81	39	5	0	0.00	1.40	1.86	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	36	7	60	13	0	0	0.36	7.25	5.17	12.01
Mt. Shasta	37	3	56	24	0	0	1.75	26.87	16.55	37.02
Blue Canyon	41	3	60	30	0	0	0.51	37.51	28.60	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	0.91	15.69	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.