

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: January 22, 2006
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WEATHER



High pressure brought dry conditions to most of California at the start of the week. The exception was the extreme northern coast where a Pacific frontal system was beginning to spread light rain. On Tuesday, the high pressure began to buckle, as the Pacific storm moved ashore. Rain from this system fell across northern and central California, while southern California remained dry. By Thursday, weak high pressure over the north brought an end to the precipitation and allowed valley fog to form, while in the south, a weak offshore flow began. On Friday, another Pacific storm hit northern California and rapidly moved into the Sierra Nevada Mountains, then dropped south, along the Sierra Crest. This storm brought showers to northern California. The upper level low pressure continued into southern California, where its main effect was an increase in the offshore flow, which led to fire weather concerns due to the dry conditions and gusty winds in the south. In the north, skies cleared and temperatures moderated for the end of the week.

FIELD CROPS

Field work continued as the weather and soil moisture allowed during the week. Late grain planting resumed. The unseasonably warm temperatures have been beneficial to growth in winter forages. Winter herbicide applications continued as weather permitted. Herbicides were being applied to fall planted alfalfa fields. **Wheat** planting in southern California was at a rest while waiting for the last of the winter vegetable harvest to finish. Weed treatment on already planted wheat fields was ongoing. **Sweet potato** hotbed fumigations continued. Fields of young **sugar beet** plants in Fresno County were growing well.

FRUIT CROPS

Even though the weather recently cooled down, many tree fruit growers continued to express concern over the unseasonably warm weather this winter. The lack of chill hours, coupled with the warmer temperatures, caused some trees to bloom ahead of schedule. Buds continued to swell in many of the early tree varieties. Several growers continued to prune trees and apply fertilizer. Many grape vineyards reported that work crews were pruning, tying canes, applying herbicides, and replacing stakes and trellis wires. A few growers continued to remove older vines and trees in order to plant new vines and trees. Dormant applications for insect control were ongoing in many stone fruit orchards. Navel **orange** harvest continued as field conditions allowed. Recent rains and the ensuing fog caused problems with scheduling of citrus harvest. Applications of copper and zinc continued in order to comply with export requirements. Problems with puff and crease increased grade-out at packing houses. **Lemon** harvest was gaining momentum. **Grapefruit** and grapefruit hybrid harvest continued. Blood orange harvest increased. **Olive** orchards continued to be pruned with brush shredding resuming as the fields dry out.

NUT CROPS

Bee hives continued to be placed in **almond** orchards. Dormant season field work continued in nut orchards as field conditions permitted. A few young **walnut** orchards were severely damage by flood water in Yuba County.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Recent rains north of the Tehachapi Mountains have slowed some field activities. Where conditions permitted, some **lettuce** and **onion** fields were weeded and thinned, and some onion fields were treated for bulb and stem nematodes. Some lettuce fields were treated for lygus and mildew. Spring planting preparations continued, including bed preparation and weed control. **Asparagus** beds were beginning to be worked in the lighter soils of the northern San Joaquin Valley. Spring **broccoli**, lettuce, **garlic**, and onions were showing good growth. Spring **sweet corn** and **melons** under plastic in the Imperial Valley were emerging. Below normal temperatures in the Imperial Valley resulted in a touch of morning lettuce ice. Broccoli, lettuce, and **radicchio** harvest continued. **Cauliflower**, **mustard greens**, and greenhouse vegetables were also harvested. Imperial Valley asparagus harvest began. Asian vegetables including **bok choy**, **gai choy**, **gailon**, **napa cabbage**, **sugar pea leaf** and **yu choy** were harvested.

LIVESTOCK

Winter foothill pastures continued in good condition. Supplemental feeding of cattle was limited to a few areas. Some ranchers were finishing taking delivery of stocker cattle. Feeder cattle and lambs were being shuffled between old alfalfa fields and sudan grass fields in the Imperial Valley. In central and north central California, ewes with lambs were grazing in alfalfa fields, with a few in retired broccoli fields. Dairies in the central and northern areas were still muddy. The placement of beehives in almond and stone fruit orchards was gaining momentum.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 01/22/06

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 01/22/06	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 01/22/06	January 1 - 01/22/06	Week Ending 01/22/06	July 1 - 01/22/06	July 1 - 01/22/06	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	47	-2	57	35	0	0	3.10	37.99	20.14	37.53
Ukiah	47	-1	61	34	0	0	1.42	26.05	20.15	37.96
Santa Rosa	48	0	65	31	0	0	1.20	25.01	15.71	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	50	0	60	39	0	0	0.36	13.85	10.02	19.70
San Jose	52	1	65	38	0	0	0.20	9.07	7.16	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	0.00	7.13	14.21
Salinas AP	49	-3	62	34	0	0	0.17	5.23	5.98	12.44
Monterey FAA	49	-4	62	37	0	0	0.18	5.71	7.62	18.72
King City	47	-3	63	28	0	0	0.03	5.72	5.31	11.44
Paso Robles AP	45	-3	60	29	0	0	0.02	6.78	5.85	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	45	-1	59	30	0	0	0.84	26.37	16.64	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	46	-1	61	33	0	0	0.56	16.98	12.24	22.29
Chico AFS	47	1	57	34	0	0	0.54	16.74	12.98	26.32
Marysville	46	-1	60	31	0	0	0.29	12.52	11.15	21.04
Sacramento AP	46	-1	59	30	0	0	0.33	12.82	8.82	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	47	1	61	31	0	0	0.73	8.30	6.78	13.95
Fresno	45	-2	54	34	0	0	0.29	5.81	4.95	10.60
Bakersfield	46	-3	58	33	0	0	0.01	2.55	2.79	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	48	-3	66	30	0	0	0.09	8.57	5.91	12.36
Santa Barbara	50	-3	74	31	0	0	0.00	7.60	7.72	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	31	0	0.00	0.00	6.79	14.38
Los Angeles	55	-4	71	41	22	0	0.00	4.95	6.30	14.77
Riverside	54	0	76	36	26	0	0.00	2.14	4.60	9.58
San Diego AP	55	-3	67	42	14	0	0.00	1.43	4.83	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	36	-2	56	15	0	0	0.00	6.89	2.53	5.37
Lancaster	42	-3	60	19	0	0	0.00	3.63	3.63	6.92
Daggett AP	46	-4	68	28	0	0	0.00	0.84	2.53	3.93
Thermal AP	51	-5	72	28	8	0	0.00	2.08	2.25	3.16
Blythe	52	-3	70	34	9	0	0.00	2.20	2.80	3.60
Imperial	52	-4	74	33	5	0	0.00	1.40	2.08	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	28	-2	45	10	0	0	0.52	7.90	5.78	12.01
Mt. Shasta	32	-3	39	24	0	0	0.82	29.63	20.00	37.02
Blue Canyon	32	-8	41	23	0	0	1.36	41.58	33.50	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	0.91	18.81	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.