

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: February 26, 2006
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FIELD CROPS

Small grain development was spurred by recent rains. Herbicide applications continued in **winter wheat** and **forage** crops. Some **alfalfa** fields were fertilized, and others were grazed by sheep or green chopped for dairies. **Cotton**, **corn** and **silage** ground preparations continued. **Sugar beet** vole treatments were complete in Merced County. Sugar beets were planted and previously planted fields were progressing well.

FRUIT CROPS

General maintenance activities remained underway in many **grape** vineyards as growers continued replacing stakes and trellis wire, pruning, and shredding canes. Several grape growers continued discing rows and applying herbicides to the surrounding berms for weed control. Insecticides were applied to some vineyards to control the vine mealybug. Despite the cool temperatures, some early variety deciduous fruit trees began leafing out. It was still uncertain whether or not the recent freezing temperatures resulted in any crop damage. New **peach** orchards were planted in the San Joaquin Valley. **Strawberry** plants continued to show good growth in the San Joaquin Valley, and harvesting continued along the central coast. Harvesting of **Navel** oranges, **grapefruit**, **lemons**, **mandarins**, **tangelos**, and **tangerines** continued with good yields reported. Harvest of early variety **Valencia** oranges began, but some maturity problems were reported. Citrus growers were busy running water and wind machines when temperatures dropped below freezing. Navel demand in the domestic and export market was moderate. Puff and rind problems continued to be problematic in Navels resulting in lower than normal pack-outs.

NUT CROPS

Most early variety **almond** orchards were in full bloom, and later maturing varieties began to bloom. A few orchards were treated with fungicides to prevent blossom rot. Freezing temperatures caused damage to early almond varieties, but the overall impact remains to be determined. **Bees** were busy working to pollinate the almond trees, but the cool temperatures slowed their production. Replanting of almond, **walnut**, and **pistachio** orchards continued.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Insecticide and herbicide applications were ongoing to control aphids, mildew and loopers in **lettuce**, **garlic** and **onion** fields. Pre-planting fumigation occurred in many fields expected to grow **tomatoes**. Fields of **cabbage** and **spinach** were progressing well as were fields of transplanted tomato plants. Some fields were irrigated in preparation of fields for spring crops. Growers protected vegetables with plastic hot caps in areas that experienced cooler temperatures. Winter **broccoli** harvest continued in the central part of the State with little damage reported from the cold weather. The cold weather slowed the start of the **asparagus** harvest. Winter **radicchio** harvest was complete. Spring radicchio planting was almost complete. **Squash** plantings were in good shape and did not appear to be damaged from the cold temperatures. Harvesting of cool season vegetables such as **snow pea leaf**, **cauliflower**, **bok choy**, **daikon**, **mustard greens**, **napa cabbage** and **sugar pea leaf** were ongoing.

LIVESTOCK

Winter pasture conditions were excellent in north central and northern California. Late rains were very beneficial and more rain was forecasted for the coming week. Central California was in need of rain. Rain was forecasted for central California for the coming week. Lambs in the Imperial Valley were being shipped from winter pastures. Many were moving to Colorado feedlots. Due to a market that was sharply lower than the previous year, more sellers than usual were retaining ownership of lambs. In central and north central California, ewes with lambs were grazing in alfalfa fields and retired crop land. An increasing number of ewes with lambs were moving to foothill pastures as the 2006 alfalfa hay season moved closer. Dairies were dry and milk production was excellent, particularly in the central area. Bees were pollinating almond orchards, but cool temperatures and late rains in the northern areas slowed their progress.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 02/26/06

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 02/26/06	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 02/26/06	January 1 - 02/26/06	Week Ending 02/26/06	July 1 - 02/26/06	July 1 - 02/26/06	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	44	-6	65	31	0	0	0.53	45.91	26.91	37.53
Ukiah	50	-1	73	27	0	0	0.14	29.08	28.94	37.96
Santa Rosa	50	-3	72	28	0	0	0.18	27.42	22.98	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	52	-1	69	38	0	0	0.28	15.04	15.01	19.70
San Jose	53	-1	70	37	1	0	0.00	9.71	10.76	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	1	0	0.00	0.00	10.55	14.21
Salinas AP	50	-3	70	30	8	0	0.09	6.27	8.99	12.44
Monterey FAA	50	-3	65	34	7	0	0.14	6.24	10.62	18.72
King City	49	-4	77	27	2	0	0.03	6.60	8.53	11.44
Paso Robles AP	48	-3	73	28	0	0	0.02	7.46	9.47	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	50	0	73	25	8	0	0.41	28.58	24.36	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	50	-2	74	27	2	0	0.34	18.48	17.14	22.29
Chico AFS	51	-1	73	26	0	0	0.00	17.44	18.93	26.32
Marysville	49	-5	69	29	0	0	0.02	16.73	16.10	21.04
Sacramento AP	49	-3	69	29	0	0	0.40	13.77	13.23	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	49	-3	74	30	0	0	0.24	9.23	9.93	13.95
Fresno	51	-2	73	31	0	0	0.03	6.29	7.65	10.60
Bakersfield	53	-2	79	32	5	0	0.00	2.63	4.30	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	50	-4	74	29	6	0	0.00	8.16	9.72	12.36
Santa Barbara	51	-4	68	32	2	0	0.00	8.53	12.34	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	66	0	0.00	0.00	11.43	14.38
Los Angeles	57	-4	75	41	88	5	0.00	5.67	10.80	14.77
Riverside	55	-1	80	33	92	0	0.00	2.32	7.49	9.58
San Diego AP	56	-3	75	45	35	0	0.00	1.76	7.42	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	41	-3	66	17	0	0	0.00	5.52	3.68	5.37
Lancaster	45	-4	72	18	0	0	0.00	3.71	5.77	6.92
Daggett AP	52	-4	75	28	3	0	0.00	0.84	3.26	3.93
Thermal AP	58	-3	83	36	42	4	0.00	2.08	3.04	3.16
Blythe	57	-4	82	35	54	5	0.00	2.20	3.45	3.60
Imperial	58	-4	82	35	55	19	0.00	1.40	2.56	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	34	-2	58	4	0	0	0.00	9.61	7.37	12.01
Mt. Shasta	41	2	61	15	0	0	1.26	35.25	27.79	37.02
Blue Canyon	41	3	54	22	0	0	0.07	48.13	47.13	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	63	15	0	0	0.05	24.82	27.39	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.