

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: March 26, 2006
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FIELD CROPS

Winter **wheat** was beginning to head in the San Joaquin Valley. Many winter wheat fields were being sprayed for broadleaf weeds. **Alfalfa** fields were sprayed for weevils. In Tulare County, most ground preparations for **corn** and **cotton** were at a standstill due to cool temperatures. **Sugar beet** plantings were progressing well. **Garbanzo** beans were also growing well. Newly planted **corn** fields were beginning to emerge in Fresno County. Spring **potatoes** were harvested in Kern County. In Merced County, **sweet potato** hotbed preparation and seeding were complete.

FRUIT CROPS

Wet weather continued to affect deciduous trees in the early bloom to fruit set stages. Growers began precautionary fungicide applications in order to prevent fungus diseases that might result from the rainy conditions. Some **nectarine** trees were treated for thrips to prevent fruit scarring. **Cherry** trees were blooming, with many reaching the apex. Herbicide applications continued for prevention of pre-emergent weeds. Some cherry orchards reported significant damage due to cold weather and extremely wet conditions. Bloom sprays were applied to **prune** orchards between rains in Yuba County. Some pruning remained underway, but many orchards had only been topped. **Kiwifruit** plants were treated with dormant sprays. **Apple** and **pear** trees were starting to bloom, and **pomegranates** began leafing out. **Apricot** and **peach** bloom continued. Apples were sprayed for scale. **Blueberry** and **strawberry** plants were blooming in the San Joaquin Valley. Strawberry harvest continued in coastal areas. **Grape** buds were starting to swell and open, and leaves were beginning to appear. Vineyards were treated for weeds, and several growers were French-plowing their rows. Soil amendments were applied in many vineyards, and spray applications for vine mealy bug continued. Harvesting continued of Navel **oranges**, **grapefruit**, **lemons**, **mandarins**, **tangelos**, **minneolas**, and **tangerines**, with good yields and quality reported. Picking was occasionally interrupted by the rain. Packing houses continued to see a lot of puff, and an increase of soft fruit as well as ice marks. The second and third applications of copper, zinc, and lime fungicides continued for oranges destined for export to the Republic of Korea to meet program requirements on Septoria fungus control. **Avocado** harvest began. Some **olive** groves were being pruned.

NUT CROPS

Most **almond** orchards were past bloom and beginning to leaf out. Many orchards were being treated to prevent shot hole disease. Cover crops were planted in some almond orchards to provide a longer nectar flow for the pollinating bees. Bee hives were being moved out of some almond orchards and into orange groves. Winter pruning and shredding, as well as some herbicide applications continued in **walnut** groves between rain storms. Newer walnut plantings were being grafted.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Weed control was ongoing in **onion**, **lettuce**, **garlic** and transplant **tomato** fields. Lettuce harvest started to gain strength. **Radishes** for seed were blooming. The **asparagus**, **broccoli**, **carrot** and **spinach** harvest continued. **Radicchio** packing and shipping continued. Transplant tomatoes were under hot caps and many growers had bedding in place for summer vegetables such as **eggplant**, **peppers**, **squash** and **zucchini**. In green houses mixed oriental vegetables were progressing well. The harvest of cool season Asian vegetables such as **bittermelon leaf**, **gailon**, **bok choy**, **daikon**, **kankon**, **ong choy**, **gai choy**, **mustard greens**, **cabbage**, **napa cabbage**, **sugar pea leaf**, **snow pea leaf**, and **yu choy** were ongoing.

LIVESTOCK

Rain and periods of sunny weather were very positive for foothill pastures. Cattle and sheep were in good condition. Supplemental feeding of livestock was rare. Spring calving of beef cows continued. Old crop lamb shipments continued from the Imperial Valley. In central California, ewes and lambs were grazing on foothill pastures, alfalfa fields, or retired crop land. Unlike the past few years, there have been no contracts reported on California spring lambs for the Easter market. Milk production continued to be negatively impacted by wet and muddy conditions at dairies. Bee activity in almond, cherry, and plum orchards continued to be slowed by wet and windy weather. Some beehives were being moved out of almond orchards. Beehives were moving into prune orchards in the Sacramento Valley.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 03/26/06

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 03/26/06	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 03/26/06	January 1 - 03/26/06	Week Ending 03/26/06	July 1 - 03/26/06	July 1 - 03/26/06	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	48	-2	61	35	0	0	2.00	58.10	31.96	37.53
Ukiah	49	-4	65	35	0	0	1.27	40.90	34.44	37.96
Santa Rosa	51	-3	66	36	0	0	1.72	36.29	27.42	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	53	-1	64	44	0	0	1.55	21.21	18.06	19.70
San Jose	54	-3	64	42	1	0	1.65	16.17	13.13	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	1	0	0.00	0.00	12.75	14.21
Salinas AP	52	-3	69	38	8	0	1.07	10.88	11.12	12.44
Monterey FAA	51	-2	64	40	10	0	0.98	11.21	13.01	18.72
King City	52	-3	77	33	2	0	0.27	9.93	10.80	11.44
Paso Robles AP	50	-4	71	31	0	0	0.22	10.14	11.92	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	49	-6	65	35	8	0	1.47	37.73	29.03	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	50	-6	65	36	2	0	0.75	24.63	20.35	22.29
Chico AFS	51	-3	65	35	0	0	0.82	26.94	22.82	26.32
Marysville	52	-6	65	37	4	0	1.62	23.58	19.34	21.04
Sacramento AP	51	-4	67	38	0	0	1.65	19.37	15.67	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	53	-3	72	37	0	0	1.07	13.25	11.95	13.95
Fresno	53	-4	74	38	0	0	0.79	8.94	9.56	10.60
Bakersfield	55	-3	81	39	10	0	0.02	4.23	5.48	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	51	-3	68	36	6	0	0.33	11.79	12.34	12.36
Santa Barbara	52	-4	69	38	2	0	0.30	11.43	15.62	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	68	0	0.00	0.00	14.05	14.38
Los Angeles	59	-3	80	44	98	39	0.37	8.28	13.47	14.77
Riverside	59	0	85	37	98	0	0.27	4.77	9.40	9.58
San Diego AP	59	-2	75	48	39	4	0.68	4.04	9.34	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	44	-5	72	18	0	0	0.00	8.11	4.23	5.37
Lancaster	51	-2	76	27	0	0	0.14	5.32	7.02	6.92
Daggett AP	56	-4	79	37	9	1	0.03	1.02	3.73	3.93
Thermal AP	63	-3	87	39	92	111	0.00	2.35	3.40	3.16
Blythe	62	-3	88	39	110	119	0.01	2.52	3.83	3.60
Imperial	64	-2	90	41	128	146	0.00	1.87	2.84	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	38	-1	60	18	0	0	0.49	11.95	8.83	12.01
Mt. Shasta	37	-5	51	24	0	0	1.49	47.91	33.32	37.02
Blue Canyon	35	-5	50	25	0	0	2.81	72.28	56.01	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	52	22	0	0	1.05	34.00	32.45	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.