

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: December 17, 2006
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WEATHER

At the beginning of the week, one in a series of Pacific weather systems was exiting the State. Showers and cool temperatures were reported statewide in this system's wake. By Tuesday, high pressure began to rebuild over the southern half of the State, and the southern two-thirds of California experienced dry and mild conditions by the middle of the week. Some light shower activity persisted across the far northern coast and the northern reaches of the Sacramento Valley and over the northern mountain ranges. Southern California enjoyed dry and very mild temperatures during this period, with some locations having highs reaching into the 80s. The next storm system arrived late Friday and early Saturday. This storm split apart, and most of the precipitation from this system headed to southern California, where light to moderate rain was reported. The main effect of this system on

northern California was to bring very cold air into that part of the State, with widespread freezing low temperatures across the interior valleys of northern and central California.



FIELD CROPS

Cotton harvest was complete in the Central Valley. The shredding of cotton stalks for plowdown compliance continued. New **alfalfa** fields were planted, and winter wheat planting continued. **Wheat** and alfalfa fields were treated with herbicides. Fields were prepared for dryland wheat planting. In the Imperial Valley, freezing overnight temperatures continued to cause frost damage to alfalfa fields. **Milo** seed heads continued to develop. **Triticale** had emerged in Fresno County, and irrigation was ongoing. Planting of winter forage, **oat** and **barley** fields was nearly complete in the San Joaquin Valley, and recent rains encouraged emergence. Herbicides were applied to new small grain fields.

FRUIT CROPS

Grape vineyard activities included fertilization, pruning, shredding and trellis system repair. Table grape harvest was almost complete. Stone fruit cultural activities continued with irrigating, pruning, fertilizing, herbicide application and the pushing out of old orchards for replanting. Harvest of Fuyu and Hachiya **persimmons** continued. Navel **orange** and **lemon** picking progressed, though some harvesting was halted by rains. Cooler weather was enhancing orange rind color. Owari, Satsuma and Clementine **tangerine** harvest was well underway. Pummelo and hybrid grapefruit harvest was also underway. Growers were treating to control fungus and weeds and pruning to prepare for harvest.

NUT CROPS

Almond and **pistachio** growers were pruning, shredding, applying herbicides, and pushing out old orchards for replanting.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Broccoli and **cauliflower** continued to be harvested, though some of the harvest was briefly interrupted by rains. In Tulare County, **tomato** harvest ended for the season. Although fall **lettuce** harvest has been completed, new lettuce fields for spring were in various stages of growth with weeding, irrigation, fertilization, and treatments to control insects and mildew. Winter vegetables were showing great progress. **Garlic** and **radicchio** were harvested, as were many Asian vegetables.

LIVESTOCK

Winter foothill pasture conditions for cattle were mixed in California. Many ranches in northern California had green grass and ample dry grass. In central California, foothills on the east side of the Valley were faring better than hills on the west side. Some hills on the west side were brown with very little green grass. This condition also existed in some central coast areas. The positive for many west side ranches was the ample amount of dry grass from last season. Many cattle continued to receive protein supplements with some hay being fed on ranches where grass is short. Cold temperatures late in the period slowed new grass growth. Sheep were grazing in alfalfa fields and on retired farm land in the central area. Fall lambing was about over on commercial operations.

This report is available the first workday of the week after 1:00 PDT at
www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/California/Publications/index.asp

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 12/17/06

| STATIONS | TEMPERATURE | | | | GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE | | PRECIPITATION | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------|-----|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | Average Week Ending 12/17/06 | Departure from Normal | High | Low | This Season | Normal | This Season | | Normal | |
| | | | | | January 1 - 12/17/06 | January 1 - 12/17/06 | Week Ending 12/17/06 | July 1 - 12/17/06 | July 1 - 12/17/06 | July 1 - June 30 |
| | -- Degrees Fahrenheit -- | | | | -- Number -- | | -- Inches -- | | | |
| NORTH COAST | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eureka | 49 | 0 | 59 | 32 | 17 | 0 | 3.97 | 15.58 | 13.47 | 37.53 |
| Ukiah | 49 | 2 | 60 | 27 | 1,768 | 1,454 | 1.47 | 7.56 | 11.70 | 37.96 |
| Santa Rosa | 50 | 2 | 63 | 30 | 938 | 923 | 1.25 | 7.00 | 9.22 | 30.30 |
| CENTRAL COAST | | | | | | | | | | |
| San Francisco AP | 53 | 3 | 61 | 39 | 567 | 443 | 1.80 | 5.90 | 5.33 | 19.70 |
| San Jose | 54 | 4 | 67 | 37 | 1,472 | 1,334 | 0.26 | 2.94 | 4.02 | 14.42 |
| Livermore Tele | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1,658 | 1,457 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3.99 | 14.21 |
| Salinas AP | 50 | 0 | 65 | 34 | 502 | 432 | 0.31 | 2.71 | 3.31 | 12.44 |
| Monterey FAA | 52 | 1 | 65 | 39 | 296 | 145 | 0.14 | 2.42 | 4.53 | 18.72 |
| King City | 51 | 2 | 66 | 32 | 1,459 | 1,043 | 0.10 | 1.57 | 2.94 | 11.44 |
| Paso Robles AP | 49 | 2 | 66 | 29 | 1,763 | 1,552 | 0.00 | 1.52 | 2.90 | 13.95 |
| SACRAMENTO VALLEY | | | | | | | | | | |
| Redding | 48 | 2 | 59 | 28 | 2,950 | 2,504 | 2.97 | 10.01 | 9.43 | 33.30 |
| Red Bluff FSS | 48 | 1 | 62 | 25 | 2,876 | 2,610 | 1.03 | 4.25 | 7.27 | 22.29 |
| Chico AFS | 48 | 3 | 62 | 28 | 2,611 | 2,043 | 1.06 | 4.60 | 7.44 | 26.32 |
| Marysville | 49 | 2 | 63 | 28 | 2,538 | 2,442 | 0.52 | 3.81 | 6.40 | 21.04 |
| Sacramento AP | 49 | 3 | 62 | 29 | 2,041 | 1,932 | 0.43 | 3.85 | 4.88 | 17.52 |
| SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY | | | | | | | | | | |
| Stockton WSO | 51 | 6 | 66 | 33 | 2,389 | 2,214 | 0.62 | 3.09 | 4.00 | 13.95 |
| Fresno | 49 | 3 | 64 | 36 | 3,158 | 2,792 | 0.14 | 1.05 | 2.73 | 10.60 |
| Bakersfield | 52 | 4 | 66 | 38 | 3,278 | 3,128 | 0.14 | 0.86 | 1.59 | 5.72 |
| SOUTH COAST | | | | | | | | | | |
| Santa Maria AP | 55 | 4 | 73 | 40 | 874 | 410 | 0.17 | 1.46 | 3.08 | 12.36 |
| Santa Barbara | 54 | 2 | 74 | 36 | 837 | 736 | 0.02 | 1.72 | 3.73 | 16.25 |
| Oxnard | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1,448 | 940 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3.37 | 14.38 |
| Los Angeles | 61 | 2 | 79 | 45 | 2,874 | 2,455 | 0.15 | 1.08 | 2.85 | 14.77 |
| Riverside | 58 | 4 | 82 | 41 | 3,272 | 2,377 | 0.08 | 0.45 | 2.11 | 9.58 |
| San Diego AP | 58 | 0 | 70 | 48 | 2,097 | 1,798 | 0.40 | 1.81 | 2.53 | 9.90 |
| SOUTHEAST INTERIOR | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bishop | 40 | 2 | 72 | 17 | 1,822 | 1,552 | 0.00 | 0.79 | 1.56 | 5.37 |
| Lancaster | 48 | 5 | 71 | 26 | 2,836 | 2,343 | 0.00 | 0.34 | 1.83 | 6.92 |
| Daggett AP | 50 | 2 | 73 | 33 | 4,272 | 3,937 | 0.00 | 0.15 | 1.75 | 3.93 |
| Thermal AP | 55 | 1 | 74 | 36 | 5,133 | 4,870 | 0.00 | 0.03 | 1.51 | 3.16 |
| Blythe | 55 | 1 | 72 | 38 | 5,646 | 5,381 | 0.00 | 3.09 | 2.23 | 3.60 |
| Imperial | 58 | 2 | 77 | 41 | 5,687 | 5,159 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 1.51 | 2.75 |
| CASCADE - SIERRA | | | | | | | | | | |
| Alturas | 33 | 4 | 54 | 5 | 581 | 296 | 0.08 | 1.92 | 4.26 | 12.01 |
| Mt. Shasta | 36 | 1 | 49 | 17 | 842 | 446 | 2.39 | 8.35 | 12.24 | 37.02 |
| Blue Canyon | 35 | -5 | 45 | 21 | 1,190 | 574 | 3.71 | 13.77 | 20.87 | 67.04 |
| Yosemite | 40 | 2 | 68 | 26 | 1,396 | 1,090 | 4.86 | 7.52 | 11.45 | 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.