



California Crop Weather

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

In Cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

California Field Office • P.O. Box 1258 • Sacramento, CA 95812 • (916) 498-5161 • www.nass.usda.gov/ca

WEEK ENDING: February 18, 2007
RELEASED: February 20, 2007

FREQUENCY: Weekly
VOL. 27 NO. 33

WEATHER



California saw a quiet weather pattern in place at the start of the week, with seasonable temperatures and scattered showers along the coast and into the mountains. On Tuesday, however, a quick moving frontal system spread some showers into the Central Valley, especially across the Sacramento Valley. At midweek another minor weather system pushing through the Pacific Northwest spread some moderate rain into the northern coastal region. High pressure squeezed before this system actually brought warming to more southern sections of the State. By Friday, a fairly strong high pressure area moved over California, and unseasonably warm temperatures were reported across the State, with some record high temperatures broken. The high pressure gradually shifted east during the weekend and kept skies fair. Temperatures cooled slightly, but remained above normal.

FIELD CROPS

In most areas the condition and growth of winter forage, **wheat**, and other small grains had improved with the warm weather and rain. Herbicide applications to small grains continued. The condition of **alfalfa** also improved with the precipitation. Some alfalfa fields were beginning to come out of dormancy in Fresno County. Newly planted alfalfa fields were irrigated and treated with herbicides. **Safflower** was planted in the San Joaquin Valley. Land preparation for **cotton** planting began. **Sweet potato** hotbed planting continued in Merced County. Imperial County had no rainfall, and field conditions remained dry.

FRUIT CROPS

Rains have alleviated the need for irrigation in some areas. In the San Joaquin Valley, warmer weather stimulated budding and bloom in **peaches**, **nectarines** and **apricots**. **Plums** and **pluots** were expected to bloom soon. **Prunes** were treated for aphids. Pruning and disking continued in fruit orchards, as did fertilization and the application of herbicides. New plantings also took place, though rains delayed some field work. **Grape** pruning and trellis repair were winding down in some areas. Cooler weather in the northern coastal regions was slowing the **strawberry** crop. Damages from the January freeze were still not fully assessed and little recovery was expected for citrus that was not irrigated prior to the freeze. Moro Blood **oranges**, Cara Cara **navels** and Minneola **tangelos** fared better than expected in Tulare County. Mechanical separators were employed to remove severely damaged fruit. Activities in packing houses had picked up slightly, though only small volumes of navels, **tangerines**, **mandarins**, tangelos, **lemons** and hybrid **grapefruit** were being picked and packed. The harvest of oranges for juice also continued.

NUT CROPS

Almond bloom had begun in some areas. New **almond** and **pistachio** orchards were being planted. **Walnut** growers were disking, amending soils and pruning trees.

VEGETABLE CROPS

In Tulare County growers of greenhouse vegetables continued to prepare their beds for early spring planting. Field preparations for **melons**, **sweet corn** and **tomatoes** were ongoing. **Amaranth**, **basil**, **cilantro**, **dill**, **garlic** and **red** and **yellow onions** were being weeded, irrigated, fertilized and treated to control insects and mildew. Harvests of **bok choy**, **broccoli**, **cabbage**, **daikon**, **dandelion greens**, **green onions**, **kale**, **leaf lettuce**, **leeks**, **mustard greens**, **parsley**, **parsnips**, **rutabaga**, **Swiss chard** and **turnips** continued.

LIVESTOCK

Rain, followed by warm temperatures in many central and northern areas was beneficial to winter pastures. Supplemental feeding of cattle continued in some central California locations as new grass growth was just starting on some ranches. More rain will be needed soon. Ewes and lambs were still grazing in alfalfa fields and on retired farm land in the central area. Sheep grazing on alfalfa fields was winding down in a few areas as the new crop alfalfa hay season was drawing near. Old crop lambs continued to ship from alfalfa pastures in the Imperial Valley. Out of State and local bee hives were beginning to move into almond and plum orchards and blueberry fields for pollination.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 02/18/07

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 02/18/07	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 02/18/07	January 1 - 02/18/07	Week Ending 02/18/07	July 1 - 02/18/07	July 1 - 02/18/07	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	49	-1	55	39	0	0	1.65	22.62	25.27	37.53
Ukiah	51	1	75	32	0	0	0.51	16.34	26.86	37.96
Santa Rosa	55	3	79	36	2	0	0.56	13.07	21.31	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	55	2	73	45	2	0	0.28	8.10	13.86	19.70
San Jose	55	2	73	43	3	0	0.33	5.50	9.93	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	0.00	9.77	14.21
Salinas AP	53	0	79	39	0	0	0.24	5.27	8.28	12.44
Monterey FAA	55	2	77	44	4	0	0.14	4.69	10.05	18.72
King City	57	4	76	37	16	0	0.01	3.29	7.74	11.44
Paso Robles AP	54	3	82	34	1	0	0.00	3.04	8.55	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	54	4	77	37	4	0	0.05	15.86	22.72	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	54	4	77	35	2	0	0.04	9.66	15.96	22.29
Chico AFS	54	4	76	33	0	0	0.20	9.59	17.55	26.32
Marysville	55	3	75	38	0	0	0.37	8.99	14.93	21.04
Sacramento AP	53	2	75	35	0	0	0.22	6.78	12.24	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	55	4	74	37	0	0	0.08	4.99	9.22	13.95
Fresno	54	2	74	42	0	0	0.07	3.12	7.00	10.60
Bakersfield	55	1	77	41	0	0	0.63	2.21	3.95	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	59	6	87	40	20	0	0.04	3.25	8.75	12.36
Santa Barbara	57	3	82	38	3	0	0.25	5.06	11.12	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	66	0	0.00	0.00	10.32	14.38
Los Angeles	64	4	89	49	102	2	0.00	1.92	9.67	14.77
Riverside	60	4	88	39	60	0	0.00	0.98	6.76	9.58
San Diego AP	60	1	81	51	25	0	0.09	2.30	6.80	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	46	3	69	22	0	0	0.00	1.26	3.40	5.37
Lancaster	51	3	75	23	0	0	0.00	0.51	5.24	6.92
Daggett AP	56	2	77	36	2	0	0.00	0.27	3.06	3.93
Thermal AP	63	4	88	33	30	0	0.00	0.12	2.86	3.16
Blythe	61	2	84	38	42	0	0.00	3.27	3.31	3.60
Imperial	63	3	85	41	52	4	0.00	0.06	2.45	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	38	4	61	16	0	0	0.17	3.48	6.90	12.01
Mt. Shasta	42	4	66	25	0	0	0.10	16.60	25.89	37.02
Blue Canyon	44	6	61	30	0	0	0.13	30.26	43.52	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	44	32	0	0	1.74	12.90	25.31	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.