



California Crop Weather

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

In Cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEATHER



At the start of the week a low pressure trough was moving through southern California, bringing showers to that part of the State, while most of northern California remained dry and mild under the influence of high pressure. This high spread farther across the State on Tuesday and Wednesday, resulting in dry conditions and above normal temperatures for the Central Valley and into southern California. By this time a low pressure system had moved over the coastal waters, and another storm system came ashore on the northern coast. The low pressure moved across the State and brought significant precipitation to the northern half of the State, with soaking rains to the Central Valley and heavy snow to the mountains. There was a brief respite late Friday and Saturday, but another storm came into northern California on Sunday. The rains this week have brought monthly precipitation levels up to near normal across much of Northern California, although seasonal totals still lag behind normal.

FIELD CROPS

Rainfall accelerated the growth of grasses and small grains. Rain showers, however, have not alleviated the need for irrigation in many areas. **Wheat** and **oat** fields were treated with herbicides. **Rice** fields were being drained in the Sacramento Valley. Field preparations were ongoing for spring **cotton** planting. **Potatoes** were planted in Kern County. **Sweet potato** hotbeds were planted in Merced County. **Sudan grass** for hay was planted in the Imperial Valley. Dusting sulfur was applied to **sugar beets** for suppression of powdery mildew which was exacerbated by higher humidity and dew.

FRUIT CROPS

Grape growers continued fertilizing, irrigating, and spraying their vineyards to control weeds. Stone fruit and grape vineyard cultural practices were nearing completion with pruning and trellis system repair. **Plums** and **pluots** were beginning to bloom. Freestone **peaches** were also blooming and a few blossoms were seen in cling peach orchards. New **pomegranate** orchards were being irrigated, fertilized, and herbicides were applied. Packers were processing damaged citrus fruits into juice. The extent of damage from the January freeze was becoming more visible as the warm weather caused a large amount of damaged fruit to drop. Damaged limbs were pruned. **Tangerine**, **tangelo** and **mandarin** harvests were ongoing. The harvest of **oranges** for juice also continued. Packing of citrus for the domestic market rose sharply. Some growers were treating to control fungus and weeds.

NUT CROPS

Almond bloom was well underway. Almond, **pistachio** and **walnut** cultural activities continued with pruning, shredding, irrigating, applying herbicides and dormant sprays, and pushing out old orchards for replanting.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Fields were being prepared for **beans**, **melons**, **sweet corn** and **tomatoes**. Hot house planting of **eggplant**, **bitter melons**, **peppers**, **oriental squash** and **tomatoes** was picking up speed. Outdoor planting of **zucchini** and **yellow squash** was expected to begin soon. Harvests of **asparagus**, **bok choy**, **broccoli**, **cabbage**, **daikon**, **dandelion greens**, **green onions**, **kale**, **leaf lettuce**, **leeks**, **mustard greens**, **parsley**, **parsnips**, **rutabaga**, **Swiss chard** and **turnips** continued. **Amaranth**, **basil**, **cilantro**, **dill**, **garlic** and **red** and **yellow onions** were being weeded, irrigated, fertilized and treated to control insects and mildew.

LIVESTOCK

Winter pasture conditions improved with additional rainfall. Supplemental feeding continued in some central areas where new grasses remained short. Northern California pastures have rebounded well with the rain. Ewes with lambs and goats continued to graze in alfalfa and broccoli fields and on retired farm land. Sheep grazing on alfalfa was winding down in some areas as the new crop alfalfa hay harvest draws closer. Old crop lambs continued to ship from pastures in the Imperial Valley to market or to Colorado feedlots for further feeding. Out-of-state and local bee hives were moving into almond and plum orchards and blueberry fields for pollination.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 02/25/07

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 02/25/07	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 02/25/07	January 1 - 02/25/07	Week Ending 02/25/07	July 1 - 02/25/07	July 1 - 02/25/07	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	44	-6	50	34	0	0	5.50	28.12	26.70	37.53
Ukiah	46	-5	60	31	0	0	2.39	18.73	28.67	37.96
Santa Rosa	48	-5	65	31	2	0	1.84	14.91	22.77	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	51	-2	59	42	2	0	1.01	9.11	14.86	19.70
San Jose	51	-3	62	39	3	0	1.26	6.76	10.66	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	0.00	10.46	14.21
Salinas AP	49	-4	62	33	0	0	0.78	6.05	8.90	12.44
Monterey FAA	50	-2	60	40	4	0	0.72	5.41	10.51	18.72
King City	49	-4	69	31	16	0	0.62	3.91	8.43	11.44
Paso Robles AP	47	-4	64	30	1	0	0.48	3.52	9.35	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	48	-3	64	31	4	0	1.90	17.76	24.16	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	49	-3	66	35	2	0	0.57	10.23	16.99	22.29
Chico AFS	50	-1	65	33	0	0	1.42	11.01	18.76	26.32
Marysville	51	-3	64	34	0	0	0.98	10.04	15.95	21.04
Sacramento AP	50	-2	66	34	0	0	0.84	7.62	13.11	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	51	-1	66	35	0	0	0.92	5.91	9.84	13.95
Fresno	49	-4	66	33	0	0	1.12	4.24	7.57	10.60
Bakersfield	51	-4	66	33	0	0	0.33	2.54	4.26	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	53	-1	65	37	20	0	0.74	3.99	9.60	12.36
Santa Barbara	51	-4	66	35	3	0	0.83	5.89	12.19	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	66	0	0.00	0.00	11.30	14.38
Los Angeles	58	-2	70	45	106	4	0.46	2.38	10.67	14.77
Riverside	54	-2	73	35	60	0	0.08	1.06	7.40	9.58
San Diego AP	55	-4	63	45	25	0	0.96	3.26	7.34	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	41	-3	60	16	0	0	0.00	1.26	3.64	5.37
Lancaster	46	-4	69	28	0	0	0.45	0.96	5.71	6.92
Daggett AP	50	-5	71	31	2	0	0.05	0.32	3.23	3.93
Thermal AP	56	-5	74	31	32	3	0.00	0.12	3.02	3.16
Blythe	57	-4	76	34	42	4	0.07	3.34	3.44	3.60
Imperial	58	-3	79	37	52	16	0.00	0.06	2.55	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	33	-2	49	14	0	0	0.27	3.44	7.31	12.01
Mt. Shasta	34	-5	52	17	0	0	4.02	21.13	27.55	37.02
Blue Canyon	32	-7	50	23	0	0	2.00	32.26	46.67	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	12.90	27.14	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.