



# California Crop Weather

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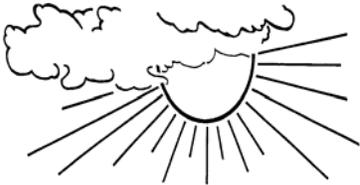
In Cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEEK ENDING: March 4, 2007  
RELEASED: March 5, 2007

FREQUENCY: Weekly  
VOL. 27 NO. 35

## WEATHER



At the beginning of the week, a well organized low pressure area in the Gulf of Alaska was approaching the West Coast and beginning to affect the weather in the northwest corner of California. Clouds and showers spread to that part of the State, while southern California was mild and dry. As the week progressed, the low pressure system gradually moved ashore and brought some active weather to the State. This included heavy showers, strong winds and heavy mountain snowfall. Precipitation persisted across northern California through Thursday.

By Friday the low pressure had moved well east of California, and high pressure was beginning to build over the West Coast, resulting in dry and very mild conditions. High temperatures reached the 70s in northern California, and the 80s in interior southern California valleys.

## FIELD CROPS

Warm weather was promoting the growth of small grains. Weed treatments took place on **wheat** and **oat** fields. Wheat was looking much better with recent rains, but remained short in some areas due to late planting. The moisture slowed some field work activities. **Alfalfa** conditions also improved with the increased moisture. Fields coming out of dormancy or that had suffered from the January freeze were growing well. In some areas alfalfa fields were irrigated and seed alfalfa fields were mowed. New **sugar beet** fields were irrigated, cultivated and side-dressed. **Safflower** was growing well. **Cotton** planting was expected to begin soon.

## FRUIT CROPS

**Grape** growers continued fertilizing, irrigating, and spraying to control weeds. Some early variety grape buds were beginning to swell. Pruning and the repair of trellis systems in stone fruit orchards and grape vineyards were being completed for the season. Early blooms on **peaches**, **nectarines**, **plums** and **pluots** were ongoing in Tulare County. **Blueberry** fields were blooming. **Pomegranate** orchards were irrigated, fertilized, and herbicides were applied. New orchards were also planted. The harvests of **oranges**, **tangerines**, **tangelos**, **mandarins**, and **grapefruit** continued. The pruning of frost damaged limbs was ongoing and some growers were treating to control fungus and weeds, as well as applying nutrients.

## NUT CROPS

**Almond**, **pistachio** and **walnut** cultural activities continued with pruning, shredding, irrigating, applying herbicides and dormant sprays, and pushing out old orchards for replanting. Almonds remained in full bloom.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Ground preparations such as furrowing, installing stakes and drip system lines were underway in Tulare County. Greenhouse planting of **eggplant**, **peppers**, **tomatoes** and assorted oriental vegetables was ongoing. Fields were prepared for **melons**, **sweet corn** and **tomatoes**. 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. **Amaranth**, **basil**, **cilantro**, **dill**, **garlic** and red and yellow **onions** were being weeded, irrigated, fertilized and treated to control insects and mildew.

## LIVESTOCK

Suppressed germination of range grasses and slowed growth were boosted by recent rains. Cattle benefited from the change in pasture conditions. Supplemental feeding of livestock nonetheless continued. Some ranges still lacked sufficient moisture as rainfall remained below normal for the season. Sheep continued to graze on retired farmland and alfalfa fields. Bees were still being placed in blueberry fields and in almond and stone fruit orchards.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 03/04/07**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 03/04/07	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 03/04/07	January 1 - 03/04/07	Week Ending 03/04/07	July 1 - 03/04/07	July 1 - 03/04/07	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
<b>NORTH COAST</b>										
Eureka	44	-6	61	33	0	0	3.29	31.41	28.11	37.53
Ukiah	46	-6	73	30	0	0	1.72	20.45	30.37	37.96
Santa Rosa	48	-5	71	33	2	0	1.06	15.97	24.12	30.30
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco AP	50	-4	64	39	2	0	1.20	10.31	15.79	19.70
San Jose	51	-4	76	36	5	0	0.82	7.58	11.35	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	0.00	11.10	14.21
Salinas AP	50	-4	72	31	0	0	0.75	6.80	9.47	12.44
Monterey FAA	51	-2	70	37	4	0	0.61	6.02	11.37	18.72
King City	50	-4	75	31	16	0	0.41	4.32	9.07	11.44
Paso Robles AP	48	-4	74	30	1	0	0.21	3.73	10.07	13.95
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	46	-5	72	29	4	0	0.77	18.53	25.53	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	47	-5	73	30	2	0	0.16	10.39	17.94	22.29
Chico AFS	48	-4	76	34	0	0	0.31	11.32	19.91	26.32
Marysville	48	-7	68	32	0	0	0.42	10.46	16.91	21.04
Sacramento AP	48	-5	70	31	0	0	1.16	8.78	13.87	17.52
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	50	-3	70	33	0	0	0.65	6.56	10.41	13.95
Fresno	50	-4	72	33	0	0	0.28	4.52	8.08	10.60
Bakersfield	51	-5	79	32	2	0	0.15	2.69	4.55	5.72
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria AP	53	0	75	37	20	0	0.38	4.37	10.33	12.36
Santa Barbara	54	-2	73	38	3	0	0.26	6.15	13.11	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	68	0	0.00	0.00	12.11	14.38
Los Angeles	60	-1	82	46	117	10	0.04	2.42	11.49	14.77
Riverside	55	-2	79	33	60	0	0.25	1.31	7.97	9.58
San Diego AP	56	-3	75	45	27	0	0.18	3.44	7.87	9.90
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	40	-5	66	9	0	0	0.04	1.30	3.84	5.37
Lancaster	48	-2	67	27	0	0	0.14	1.10	6.08	6.92
Daggett AP	49	-7	69	30	2	0	0.01	0.33	3.38	3.93
Thermal AP	57	-5	76	30	40	16	0.01	0.13	3.14	3.16
Blythe	57	-5	76	38	42	18	0.01	3.35	3.54	3.60
Imperial	58	-5	80	37	60	36	0.01	0.07	2.63	2.75
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	29	-7	56	7	0	0	0.75	4.19	7.74	12.01
Mt. Shasta	34	-6	58	15	0	0	0.45	21.58	29.18	37.02
Blue Canyon	33	-6	53	21	0	0	6.35	38.61	49.48	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	36	18	0	0	0.25	13.15	28.72	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.