

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

WEEK ENDING: January 16, 2005
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WEATHER



As the week began, a strong upper level low pressure system moved across the northern coast of California, pushing a cold front ahead of it. This brought heavy rains to the northern coast and Southern California. By Wednesday, upper level high pressure finally displaced the low, and calmer weather settled over the State. Southern California experienced a dry spell along with a warming trend, which continued through the rest of the week. The high pressure trapped considerable low level moisture in the Central Valley, and this resulted in persistent fog and cool temperatures up and down the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys for the remainder of the week. A minor storm system moving through the Pacific Northwest on Saturday brushed the extreme northern counties and resulted in some light showers in those areas.

FIELD CROPS

Statewide, counties reported a standstill in field operations due to heavy rainfall. Where weather conditions permitted, herbicide applications to winter forage crops, **alfalfa** and earlier bedded-up fields in preparation for spring planting carried on. Kings and Tulare counties reported almost a complete stop in field operations except for activities associated with the redirecting of standing water. In Fresno County, **wheat, barely, oats**, and other small grains continued to make slow but progressive growth with fertilizer and soil amendments being applied by air. **Cotton** harvesting activities came to an end in Fresno County with only a few fields yet to be disced under in order to meet the plowdown requirements for Pink Bollworm. **Sugar beet** plantings continued to grow well. Oat and forage mix in Stanislaus County was growing well despite the heavy rain. Neighboring San Joaquin County did not fare as well as the heavy rains contributed to flooding and standing water in fields, which may be damaged to some extent.

FRUIT CROPS

Excessive rainfall and high winds in some locations resulted in falling limbs and trees. Rainfall also halted field work in orchards and vineyards where growers tried to continue pruning, shredding, and weed spraying activities. Fertilizers and soil amendments were applied in a few **grape** vineyards. Tree and vine removal of non-productive varieties continued, and the open ground was prepared for new plantings. Scattered bloom began in some early **plum** and **pluot** varieties in the San Joaquin Valley. Cold temperatures prompted berry growers to take measures to protect sensitive plants. Limited citrus picking and packing occurred due to sloppy field conditions. **Navel oranges, lemons, grapefruit,** and **pummelos** were harvested as weather allowed with good yields reported. Field work underway included applications of pre-emergent herbicides and fungicides. Ice marks continued to emerge on rinds as freeze damage increased from cold temperatures earlier in the season. Harvest activity of **avocados** increased. **Olive** orchards were pruned.

NUT CROPS

Pruning and shredding activities in nut orchards continued as weather permitted. A few **almond** orchards started pushing buds in some areas in the San Joaquin Valley. Removal of non-productive orchards and storm damaged trees continued. Many orchards were treated with pre-emergent herbicides. **Walnut** orchards were fumigated.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Continued cold and wet conditions slowed or halted activity in many vegetable fields. Where conditions permitted, planting and preparations for planting continued. Some **onion** beds were mulched. **Lemon grass** was covered in Fresno County to protect it from frost. Hothouse **eggplant** was being pruned. Winterizing greenhouses continued. Harvest of **radicchio, lettuce, carrots** and **broccoli** continued at a slow pace. **Cauliflower** harvest was complete in most districts of Fresno County, and nearly complete in Tulare County. The following vegetables were also harvested: **beets, bok choy, daikon, gai choy, gailon, kale, kohlrabi, lemon grass, Napa cabbage, sugar cane, taro root, turnips,** and **you choy.**

LIVESTOCK

Winter pastures in California continued in good to mostly excellent condition. Many seasonal streams were flowing. Cattle were in good condition. Minimal supplemental feeding was reported. Sheep were grazing on alfalfa pastures and fallow land. Record rainfall in the southern desert has resulted in below normal weight gains on lambs grazing alfalfa pastures. Rain has caused muddy conditions at dairies with reports of lower milk production and animal health problems. In central California, beekeepers began to move beehives into almond orchards in preparation for pollination in February.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 01/16/05

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 01/16/05	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 01/16/05	January 1 - 01/16/05	Week Ending 01/16/05	July 1 - 01/16/05	July 1 - 01/16/05	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	44	-4	56	30	0	0	0.39	24.75	18.96	37.53
Ukiah	45	-2	62	28	0	0	1.25	20.64	18.61	37.96
Santa Rosa	45	-3	61	31	0	0	0.82	18.89	14.53	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco Airport	47	-2	59	38	0	0	0.92	15.40	9.20	19.70
San Jose	47	-2	61	32	0	0	0.84	10.62	6.59	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	0.00	6.55	14.21
Salinas Airport	49	-2	67	33	0	0	0.69	9.02	5.51	12.44
Monterey FAA	49	-3	64	34	0	0	0.41	7.61	7.41	18.72
King City	48	-1	66	32	0	0	0.28	11.17	4.86	11.44
Paso Robles Airport	46	-1	67	29	0	0	0.64	13.71	5.30	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	44	-1	63	28	0	0	0.76	22.44	15.15	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	44	-3	62	29	0	0	1.07	14.79	11.35	22.29
Chico AFS	44	-1	58	29	0	0	1.49	16.91	11.98	26.32
Marysville	42	-4	59	31	0	0	0.70	14.23	10.29	21.04
Sacramento Airport	44	-2	57	33	0	0	0.92	13.31	8.09	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	44	-2	57	34	0	0	0.84	10.09	6.26	13.95
Fresno	45	-1	60	34	0	0	0.46	9.05	4.55	10.60
Bakersfield	47	-1	64	36	0	0	0.91	5.47	2.58	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria Airport	51	0	75	32	0	0	0.59	10.91	5.41	12.36
Santa Barbara	52	-1	68	36	0	0	2.52	19.51	7.07	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	4	0	0.00	0.00	6.15	14.38
Los Angeles	59	0	80	44	9	0	2.24	20.02	5.67	14.77
Riverside	--	--	81	39	3	0	3.24	12.22	4.15	9.58
San Diego Airport	58	0	76	46	4	0	1.10	14.03	4.41	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	39	1	59	19	0	0	0.89	6.82	2.36	5.37
Lancaster	45	0	62	30	0	0	1.84	8.49	3.31	6.92
Daggett Airport	48	-1	62	33	0	0	0.34	5.11	2.42	3.93
Thermal Airport	56	1	73	35	0	0	0.23	5.14	2.11	3.16
Blythe	57	2	72	38	4	0	0.01	3.19	2.71	3.60
Imperial	56	0	74	35	2	0	0.01	3.21	1.99	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	26	-4	46	-9	0	0	0.17	7.30	5.53	12.01
Mt Shasta	34	-1	51	15	0	0	0.10	24.56	18.54	37.02
Blue Canyon	38	-1	53	24	0	0	1.44	25.37	31.45	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	42	22	0	0	0.00	9.26	17.49	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.