

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

WEEK ENDING: March 20, 2005
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WEATHER



The week started out dry and mild across most of the Golden State under the influence of weakening high pressure. The high pressure ridge began to break down on Thursday with cooling temperatures and increasing cloudiness noted at many locations. Most regions began to experience at least scattered rain showers on Friday with more significant rains moving across mainly northern and central portions of California on Saturday and Sunday, as a more active precipitation pattern began to take shape.

FIELD CROPS

Weed treatment of **alfalfa**, **wheat**, winter forage, and **rice** fields was ongoing across California this week. **Sweet potato** hot-bed planting and field fumigation continued in the San Joaquin Valley. Alfalfa was growing well, and the first round of cuttings and windrowing began. Irrigation of wheat and **oat** fields continued. Growers also continued herbicide applications to bedded-up fields in preparation for spring planting. Ground preparations for planting **cotton** was also taking place in the San Joaquin Valley. Winter **potato** harvest was underway in Kern County. Groundwork began in rice fields in the Sacramento Valley, where there were also reports of **corn** planting.

FRUIT CROPS

Buds were pushing rapidly in **grape** vineyards, and bud break and leafing out were increasing. Cultivation to remove winter weeds and prepare for the year's first irrigation continued. Some growers applied pesticides to vineyards to control vine mealybug and cutworms and to prepare ground for new plantings. **Apricots**, **cherries**, **nectarines**, **peaches**, and **plums** were in varying stages of bloom, but blooms were dropping in many orchards, and trees were leafing out. Early varieties of apricots and cherries began developing fruit. Micronutrients were applied to cherries to enhance fruit development. Bee activities in plum orchards improved due to the warmer temperatures. **Apples** began blooming across the State. **Kiwifruit** vines were pushing foliar growth. Green shoots continued to elongate and fruit in **persimmon** orchards. **Strawberry** plants continued to grow well in the San Joaquin Valley, with blooms and new growth underway. **Lemons**, W. Murcott **mandarins**, Navel **oranges**, Valencia oranges, **tangelos**, and **tangerines** were harvested and packed with good yields reported. However, some lots of Navels were showing puff and aging. Late **avocado** harvest continued. Bloom began developing on citrus trees in early locations. Growers were monitoring for cutworms and red mites in citrus. Planting began of citrus nursery trees. Pruning and shredding in **olive** orchards continued.

NUT CROPS

Bee activities in **almond** orchards improved due to warmer temperatures, and growers in some locations began removing bees. Almond bloom was complete in most areas and trees were leafed out. Catkins were elongating in **walnut** orchards, prompting walnut growers to apply blight sprays. Growers continued to prune, shred, remove weeds, and apply blossom sprays in nut orchards.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Warmer weather stimulated growth. **Eggplant** and **tomato** sprouts were poking through plastic furrow liners in the San Joaquin Valley, where fresh market tomato planting began. Field preparation and planting of spring vegetables continued. **Melon** planting began in Tulare County. Fungicide and weed control sprays were applied to some fields of cole crops. Harvest of **cabbage** was winding down after Saint Patrick's Day. Harvest of **broccoli**, **radicchio**, and **asparagus** continued. **Lettuce**, **chard**, and **spinach** harvest began in the Central Valley. The following vegetables were also reported harvested: **beets**, **bok choy**, **cabbage**, **daikon**, **gai choy**, **gailon**, **garlic**, **mustard greens**, **onions**, **radishes**, **turnips**, and **you choy**.

LIVESTOCK

Pastures and rangeland were in good to excellent condition Statewide. Reporters in the San Joaquin Valley and the Central Coast districts noted that cattle weight gains were very high. Milking conditions in the San Joaquin Valley improved from the past week, due to drier weather conditions. Sheep continued to graze in a few alfalfa fields. Bees were being removed from almond orchards, and out-of-State bees were being shipped back out of California.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 03/20/05

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 03/20/05	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 03/20/05	January 1 - 03/20/05	Week Ending 03/20/05	July 1 - 03/20/05	July 1 - 03/20/05	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	50	0	68	37	0	0	1.85	30.16	30.99	37.53
Ukiah	54	1	75	36	16	0	1.78	28.67	33.50	37.96
Santa Rosa	57	3	75	42	18	0	1.45	26.60	26.67	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	59	5	74	47	16	0	0.74	22.18	17.55	19.70
San Jose	60	4	75	43	30	0	0.48	18.39	12.73	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	11	0	0.00	0.00	12.35	14.21
Salinas AP	57	2	74	40	22	0	0.32	14.61	10.74	12.44
Monterey FAA	57	4	71	44	10	0	0.29	11.84	12.69	18.72
King City	56	1	76	35	26	0	0.07	16.42	10.43	11.44
Paso Robles AP	54	0	72	35	6	0	0.37	19.56	11.56	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	53	0	73	34	40	0	1.49	28.08	28.29	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	54	0	73	36	28	0	0.62	19.69	19.84	22.29
Chico AFS	57	3	76	35	32	0	0.95	21.22	22.19	26.32
Marysville	55	-1	70	37	22	0	0.64	18.45	18.80	21.04
Sacramento AP	56	2	71	38	14	0	1.05	17.92	15.27	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	57	2	76	36	15	0	0.71	14.82	11.58	13.95
Fresno	58	2	73	46	23	0	0.85	13.06	9.22	10.60
Bakersfield	59	1	75	42	26	0	0.24	8.00	5.26	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	56	2	72	39	6	0	0.33	16.12	11.91	12.36
Santa Barbara	55	0	71	43	1	0	0.36	28.75	15.12	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	41	0	0.00	0.00	13.65	14.38
Los Angeles	61	-1	76	48	99	28	0.30	34.61	13.07	14.77
Riverside	--	--	79	39	48	0	0.01	15.01	9.10	9.58
San Diego AP	62	1	77	50	80	0	0.13	21.86	9.00	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	46	-2	65	22	0	0	0.01	8.17	4.15	5.37
Lancaster	52	0	71	28	0	0	0.21	15.88	6.82	6.92
Daggett AP	56	-3	71	32	38	0	0.11	8.61	3.66	3.93
Thermal AP	62	-2	79	39	139	76	0.00	7.27	3.35	3.16
Blythe	63	-2	79	39	117	84	0.00	7.01	3.77	3.60
Imperial	63	-3	81	39	154	109	0.04	4.99	2.80	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	39	0	61	12	0	0	0.14	9.07	8.58	12.01
Mt. Shasta	42	1	63	26	0	0	1.85	31.72	32.41	37.02
Blue Canyon	39	0	50	29	0	0	2.68	37.20	54.46	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	62	37	0	0	0.00	23.92	31.60	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.