

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

WEEK ENDING: April 17, 2005
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WEATHER



A series of small storms moving through a low pressure system over the Pacific Northwest brought clouds, showers, and cool weather to the northern portions of California at the beginning of the week. This system did not affect Southern California, where the weather was dry and warm throughout the week. The storms in the Pacific Northwest brought moderate to heavy rains to the north coast, but just light and scattered rains to interior portions of Northern California. By midweek, the northern storms had passed, and all of the state had dry and warm weather for the remainder of the week, except for the extreme north coast where some rain returned during the weekend.

FIELD CROPS

Field work picked up in most **corn** and **cotton** fields. Many cotton growers resumed planting as soil continued to dry. Some earlier planted fields of corn were beginning to emerge, and the stands looked excellent. **Oat, wheat,** and winter forage harvests were underway. **Sugar beets** were making good growth progress, and mature fields were harvested. **Sunflower** for seed was being planted and, in some areas, emerging. Chopping and swathing of **alfalfa** fields continued, as well as baling of some fields.

FRUIT CROPS

Grapes continued to develop small fruit clusters and the grape leaf harvest should begin soon. Applications of fungicides were ongoing for fungus and mildew control in grapes. Herbicide applications, plowing, and irrigation continued in most vineyards. Tree fruit thinning and weed spraying continued in most tree fruit orchards. Early **apricot** varieties were developing good sized fruit. Growers applied fertilizer and irrigated in hopes of increasing fruit size in early varieties of tree fruit. Some **strawberries** were blooming, and others were sold at roadside stands in the San Joaquin Valley. Citrus bloom continued with some early blocks starting to show petal fall. Citrus groves were sprayed for worms and pre-emergent applications were made for weeds. Growers also topped and hedged their groves. Navel **oranges, tangelos,** and **lemons** continued to be harvested. The Valencia harvest gained momentum. MeloGold and OroBlanco variety **grapefruit** were harvested. **Avocado** and **olive** orchards were in the early bloom bud stage.

NUT CROPS

Many **almond** growers began irrigating their orchards. Blight sprays were applied to almond and **walnut** orchards. **Pistachio** pollination continued.

VEGETABLE CROPS

As fields dried out, planting and field preparations continued. Cultivation, pre-planting soil fumigation and herbicide applications, weeding, and thinning occurred across the State. Below normal temperatures slowed vegetable development. Strong winds blew off hot caps and plastic bedding materials in several fields in Fresno County. Fresh market and processed **tomatoes, watermelon, honeydew,** and **bell peppers** were planted. Many Asian vegetables, including **gailon, bok choy,** and **daikon,** were planted in the San Joaquin Valley. Harvesting of **asparagus, broccoli, spinach,** and head and romaine **lettuce** continued. **Parsley, squash** and **zucchini** were also reported harvested.

LIVESTOCK

Foothill pastures were in good to excellent condition. A few pastures in the central area were beginning to dry. In Central California, a few cattle were beginning to ship to market or to summer pastures, with excellent weight gains reported. Sheep and cattle were in very good condition. Spring lambs were beginning to ship out-of-State for further feeding. Ewes with lambs were grazing on foothill pastures, a few older alfalfa fields, and on retired farmland. Milk production has increased with the dry and mild weather. Bees have been moved to citrus groves in the central area, and some in the northern area were moved into safflower and seed crop fields. Out-of-State beekeepers continued to move hives back to their original homes in other states.

This report is available the first workday of the week after 1:00 PDT at www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/pubs.htm.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 04/17/05

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 04/17/05	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 04/17/05	January 1 - 04/17/05	Week Ending 04/17/05	July 1 - 04/17/05	July 1 - 04/17/05	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	46	-5	57	34	0	0	1.13	41.10	34.71	37.53
Ukiah	52	-4	74	33	16	0	0.03	34.99	36.74	37.96
Santa Rosa	54	-3	74	33	18	0	0.00	31.06	29.10	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	55	-1	66	45	16	0	0.00	25.87	19.28	19.70
San Jose	57	-3	71	44	36	0	0.00	21.59	14.07	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	13	0	0.00	0.00	13.70	14.21
Salinas AP	55	-1	69	39	22	0	0.00	18.48	12.06	12.44
Monterey FAA	52	-2	61	39	10	0	0.00	14.60	14.16	18.72
King City	56	-2	78	36	31	0	0.00	17.67	11.58	11.44
Paso Robles AP	56	-1	82	31	6	0	0.00	21.25	12.72	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	56	-3	80	34	44	0	0.02	32.86	30.92	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	56	-3	79	37	29	0	0.00	22.13	21.56	22.29
Chico AFS	57	-1	81	32	47	0	0.01	24.95	24.35	26.32
Marysville	56	-4	78	36	26	5	0.00	20.89	20.70	21.04
Sacramento AP	57	-2	76	38	18	0	0.00	20.19	16.70	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	58	-1	81	38	22	0	0.00	17.89	12.88	13.95
Fresno	60	-2	80	40	46	9	0.00	14.78	10.36	10.60
Bakersfield	60	-3	81	38	56	24	0.00	9.20	6.00	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	56	1	78	42	8	0	0.00	18.59	13.40	12.36
Santa Barbara	57	-1	76	41	4	0	0.00	31.21	16.62	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	61	0	0.00	0.00	14.97	14.38
Los Angeles	64	0	78	52	187	108	0.00	35.81	14.43	14.77
Riverside	63	1	87	40	97	15	0.00	19.93	10.06	9.58
San Diego AP	61	-1	71	53	147	43	0.00	22.49	10.15	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	52	-1	78	27	4	0	0.00	9.35	4.47	5.37
Lancaster	58	0	84	32	4	0	0.00	16.29	7.50	6.92
Daggett AP	65	0	89	41	87	72	0.00	8.67	3.93	3.93
Thermal AP	71	0	94	48	342	300	0.00	7.96	3.49	3.16
Blythe	73	2	94	51	320	319	0.00	7.01	3.97	3.60
Imperial	72	1	95	48	355	339	0.00	5.12	2.94	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	42	-1	67	18	0	0	0.41	10.86	9.64	12.01
Mt. Shasta	44	-2	65	25	0	0	0.05	38.18	35.83	37.02
Blue Canyon	42	-2	59	23	0	0	0.02	47.89	60.49	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	23.92	34.82	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.