

# CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS SERVICE

WEEK ENDING: April 24, 2005  
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## WEATHER



The week was cool and showery, especially in Northern California. Monday, an upper level trough brought rain and snow showers to the Sierra Nevada, north of Yosemite. Tuesday and Wednesday, the upper level trough persisted with a low pressure system forming over Nevada, producing showers and thunderstorms throughout California. Thursday, the State was between systems, with warming and drying and no precipitation Statewide. Friday through Sunday, an upper level low pressure system off the California coast and an upper level trough over Northern California brought scattered showers to the State. Light precipitation amounts were received Friday, mainly south of Fresno. Saturday, areas north of Modesto saw trace amounts to about .75 inch in isolated showers. On Sunday, there was lighter showery precipitation Statewide, with amounts ranging from a trace to about .25 inch. Temperatures during the week were cool with temperatures about 5 to 10 degrees below normal in all areas Statewide, except near normal temperatures Statewide on Thursday.

## FIELD CROPS

**Oat, wheat,** and winter forage harvest continued. **Sugar beet** harvest was ongoing. Field preparation for **rice** planting continued. **Cotton** and **corn** planting were in progress, and earlier planted fields of cotton and corn had emerged and were looking good. For most of California, the first **alfalfa** cutting was still underway with only a few areas reporting a second cutting this week. **Triticale,** oats, and **barley** crops were growing well. Pre-planting fumigation of sweet potato fields continued.

## FRUIT CROPS

Small fruit clusters continued to develop, and the **grape** leaf harvest began in many grape vineyards. Growers continued applications of fungicides for fungus and mildew control in vineyards. Many grape and tree fruit growers had begun their seasonal cycle of irrigation and cultivation. Fruit thinning and weed control was underway in most tree fruit orchards. Early **apricot** varieties were developing good sized fruit. The **prune** crop in northern areas of the State was reported as uneven, but appeared somewhat better than the previous year. Some prune orchards got hit by hail in past weeks, damaging approximately 40-50 percent of the fruit in those areas. The harvest of early variety **cherries** began in the San Joaquin Valley, and packing sheds were preparing for the arrival of the fruit. **Strawberries** continued to bloom, and mature berries were sold at roadside stands and to processing houses. **Navels, Valencias, tangelos,** and **lemons** continued to be harvested with good yields and markets reported. MeloGold and OroBlanco variety **grapefruit** were also harvested. Many citrus groves were still blooming.

## NUT CROPS

Many nut growers began their seasonal cycle of irrigation and cultivation. **Pistachio** pollination neared completion in many areas. Blight sprays were applied to **walnut** orchards. Recent rains in northern locations have required copper to be applied to walnuts.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Spring planting activities continued as fields dried out. Planting preparations occurred in vegetable fields across the State. Planting of fresh market and processing **tomatoes, bell peppers,** and **melons** continued. **Carrots, lettuce,** and **mustard greens,** along with many Asian vegetables, including **gailon, bok choy, daikon** and **ong choy** were planted. **Asparagus, broccoli, parsley, spinach,** and head and romaine **lettuce** were harvested. Packing of **radicchio** was ongoing.

## LIVESTOCK

Foothill pastures continued in good to excellent condition. Pastures in central California were starting to dry. Sheep and cattle were in very good condition. Feeder cattle were beginning to ship to market and to summer pastures. Due to additional rain late in the period, many feeder cattle in the central and northern areas will not ship from foothill pastures until May or June. Spring lambs were shipping from foothill and other pastures in the central and northern area, with many going out-of-State for further feeding. Mild and dry weather has boosted milk production. Bees have been moved to citrus groves in Central California, and some in the northern area were moved into safflower and seed crop fields. The movement of out-of-State bees to other states was nearly complete.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 04/24/05**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 04/24/05	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 04/24/05	January 1 - 04/24/05	Week Ending 04/24/05	July 1 - 04/24/05	July 1 - 04/24/05	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
<b>NORTH COAST</b>										
Eureka	50	-2	60	36	0	0	0.20	41.30	35.35	37.53
Ukiah	55	-2	78	37	16	0	0.25	35.24	37.22	37.96
Santa Rosa	57	-1	78	40	20	0	0.32	31.38	29.44	30.30
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco AP	59	2	73	47	18	0	0.00	25.87	19.50	19.70
San Jose	59	-1	80	47	44	1	0.28	21.87	14.28	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	13	0	0.00	0.00	13.91	14.21
Salinas AP	56	-1	76	41	22	0	0.03	18.51	12.23	12.44
Monterey FAA	54	0	71	43	10	0	0.16	14.76	14.31	18.72
King City	57	-2	81	36	31	0	0.02	17.69	11.73	11.44
Paso Robles AP	54	-4	78	32	6	0	0.14	21.39	12.87	13.95
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	59	-2	79	41	48	5	0.70	33.56	31.47	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	59	-2	79	42	32	6	0.35	22.48	21.89	22.29
Chico AFS	60	0	81	41	58	1	0.35	25.30	24.68	26.32
Marysville	58	-5	79	37	28	21	0.10	20.99	21.01	21.04
Sacramento AP	58	-2	78	40	20	1	0.08	20.27	16.93	17.52
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	60	-2	79	40	28	9	0.08	17.97	13.09	13.95
Fresno	61	-2	80	44	55	32	0.04	14.82	10.53	10.60
Bakersfield	61	-3	79	43	69	54	0.09	9.29	6.09	5.72
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria AP	54	-2	70	38	8	0	0.01	18.60	13.58	12.36
Santa Barbara	55	-3	70	42	4	0	0.01	31.22	16.77	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	61	0	0.00	0.00	15.13	14.38
Los Angeles	61	-4	75	50	196	141	0.03	35.84	14.60	14.77
Riverside	--	--	--	--	98	35	0.15	20.08	10.18	9.58
San Diego AP	60	-3	68	52	150	63	0.09	22.58	10.29	9.90
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	51	-5	72	23	4	0	0.00	9.35	4.53	5.37
Lancaster	56	-4	78	34	4	1	0.00	16.29	7.57	6.92
Daggett AP	63	-5	82	43	106	121	0.01	8.68	3.97	3.93
Thermal AP	69	-4	88	48	404	387	0.00	7.96	3.50	3.16
Blythe	70	-3	90	50	390	412	0.00	7.01	4.00	3.60
Imperial	69	-3	87	48	418	425	0.00	5.12	2.95	2.75
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	42	-2	70	25	0	0	0.54	11.52	9.92	12.01
Mt. Shasta	46	-2	69	31	0	0	0.89	39.07	36.43	37.02
Blue Canyon	41	-4	61	30	0	0	0.98	48.87	61.55	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	67	32	0	0	0.00	23.92	35.39	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.