

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: December 18, 2005
RELEASED: December 19, 2005

FREQUENCY: Weekly
VOL. 25 NO. 25

WEATHER



A high pressure ridge protected the west coast from Pacific storms at the start of the week, while an old low pressure center lingered off the coast of central California. Widespread fog formed across the central valley, as cool moist air became trapped under an inversion layer created by the high pressure. While foothill locations enjoyed dry and mild weather, the valley remained damp and cold through the week. Southern California, which did not have any trapped cold air to deal with, enjoyed sunny and mild weather through the week. The pattern changed on Saturday, as the first of a series of Pacific weather systems finally pushed through the ridge. Over the weekend, record amounts of rain were reported at some central valley locations, and heavy snow fell across the central and northern Sierra Nevada. The storms brought subtropical air to the State, so temperatures became very mild during the weekend. Only light precipitation made it into southern California.

FIELD CROPS

Field preparation for planting of **barley**, **oats**, and **wheat** continued in a few areas. Winter wheat has been slow to emerge in the San Joaquin Valley, due to dry conditions. Tulare County reported that the lack of rain forced farmers to irrigate their grain fields. **Cotton** harvest was almost completed this week, and cotton growers continued shredding and discing harvested fields. Planting of new **sugar beet** fields continued. Fields of **alfalfa** grown for both hay and seed were generally dormant. **Sweet potato** hotbed fumigations in Merced County continued.

FRUIT CROPS

Dormant season activities were underway in **grape** vineyards and tree fruit orchards. Table grape harvest was complete in the San Joaquin Valley, but some shippers still had quite a few grapes in storage. **Persimmon** harvest was also complete. Some **pomegranate** and **kiwifruit** harvesting continued. Foggy weather delayed picking activities for Navel **oranges**, **tangerines**, and **pummelos**. Most Navel oranges picked required shorter gassing as rind color improved significantly. A large amount of the Valencia orange crop remained unharvested. Pummelo and hybrid **grapefruit** harvest was underway. Blood oranges were maturing well. Fungicide applications were underway in some citrus groves, and irrigation was ongoing as needed.

NUT CROPS

Dormant season field work was also underway in nut orchards. Field work included pruning, brush shredding, cultivation, cover crop planting, weed control treatments, and fertilizer, soil amendment, and dormant spray applications. Soil fumigation was also underway to prepare for planting of new orchards.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Field preparation was underway in the San Joaquin Valley for new **asparagus** plantings and next season's **tomato** crop. Spring crop **lettuce** planting continued with good emergence noted in recently planted fields. **Carrot** harvest was underway, along with the harvest of **broccoli**, **cilantro**, **garlic**, fall **melons**, **green beans**, **onions**, **parsley**, **radicchio**, and **sweet corn**.

LIVESTOCK

Rain late in the week was beneficial to winter pastures, particularly pastures where new grass had started. Cattle were still receiving supplemental feed in some areas. Fall calving of beef cows was complete. Many ewes with lambs were grazing in alfalfa fields or fallow fields in the central valley. Feeder lambs in the Imperial Valley were grazing in alfalfa, bermuda, and sudan fields.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 12/18/05

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION				
	Average Week Ending 12/18/05	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal		
					January 1 - 12/18/05	January 1 - 12/18/05	Week Ending 12/18/05	July 1 - 12/18/05	July 1 - 12/18/05	July 1 - June 30	
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --				
NORTH COAST											
Eureka	42	-7	58	29	20	0	0.65	16.02	13.67	37.53	
Ukiah	43	-3	60	27	1,425	1,454	2.24	10.06	11.89	37.96	
Santa Rosa	44	-5	59	28	815	923	2.33	7.89	9.36	30.30	
CENTRAL COAST											
San Francisco AP	50	0	63	40	516	443	3.02	5.57	5.43	19.70	
San Jose	51	2	61	38	1,318	1,334	1.45	3.15	4.09	14.42	
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	1,594	1,457	0.00	0.00	4.06	14.21	
Salinas AP	50	-1	64	34	436	432	0.96	2.02	3.36	12.44	
Monterey FAA	50	-1	63	37	160	145	0.72	2.03	4.54	18.72	
King City	49	0	66	29	1,292	1,043	0.98	2.13	2.99	11.44	
Paso Robles AP	48	1	65	29	1,596	1,552	0.44	1.58	2.95	13.95	
SACRAMENTO VALLEY											
Redding	41	-4	62	24	2,554	2,504	1.72	9.37	9.57	33.30	
Red Bluff FSS	42	-4	61	28	2,474	2,610	1.46	7.58	7.37	22.29	
Chico AFS	44	-1	64	30	2,353	2,043	1.49	6.44	7.56	26.32	
Marysville	43	-4	57	28	2,498	2,442	1.52	5.47	6.51	21.04	
Sacramento AP	45	-1	58	33	1,942	1,932	2.06	4.33	4.96	17.52	
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY											
Stockton WSO	46	0	59	32	2,327	2,214	1.37	2.34	4.06	13.95	
Fresno	47	1	59	40	2,974	2,792	0.60	1.36	2.77	10.60	
Bakersfield	49	1	69	34	3,022	3,128	0.02	1.23	1.62	5.72	
SOUTH COAST											
Santa Maria AP	51	0	63	34	432	410	0.02	3.66	3.14	12.36	
Santa Barbara	51	-1	63	36	553	736	0.06	3.41	3.79	16.25	
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	1,050	940	0.00	0.00	3.44	14.38	
Los Angeles	56	-3	66	46	2,109	2,455	0.00	1.98	2.92	14.77	
Riverside	54	0	72	37	2,746	2,377	0.00	1.78	2.15	9.58	
San Diego AP	56	-2	62	48	1,701	1,798	0.00	0.89	2.57	9.90	
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR											
Bishop	36	-2	57	13	1,634	1,552	0.23	2.13	1.58	5.37	
Lancaster	46	2	66	17	2,442	2,343	0.00	2.74	1.86	6.92	
Daggett AP	46	-3	66	28	3,858	3,937	0.00	0.79	1.77	3.93	
Thermal AP	51	-3	76	26	5,104	4,870	0.00	2.08	1.52	3.16	
Blythe	48	-7	70	26	5,448	5,381	0.00	2.20	2.24	3.60	
Imperial	52	-4	71	31	5,272	5,159	0.00	1.40	1.52	2.75	
CASCADE - SIERRA											
Alturas	27	-3	44	6	537	296	0.35	4.82	4.30	12.01	
Mt. Shasta	32	-3	48	18	723	446	1.52	11.19	12.42	37.02	
Blue Canyon	41	1	53	32	852	574	2.87	18.28	21.16	67.04	
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	1,202	1,090	0.00	0.91	11.61	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.