

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: January 1, 2006
RELEASED: January 3, 2006

FREQUENCY: Weekly
VOL. 25 NO. 27

WEATHER



The week began with one in a series of vigorous Pacific storm systems moving toward California from the west. This winter's storm track had finally reached California. The main focus of the storm was in northern California, where widespread rains fell. This system also brushed southern California as well, bringing scattered showers to that part of the State. The rest of the week saw a series of very strong frontal systems blast northern California with strong winds and heavy precipitation. The storms were subtropical in nature, meaning that they were relatively warm and packed a lot of moisture. Very heavy rains brought widespread flooding to much of northern California by New Year's weekend. Snow levels in the mountains remained fairly high. Southern California also began to receive significant rains by the weekend, with flooding concerns beginning to arise by New Years Day.

FIELD CROPS

Wet weather conditions continued, and many areas reported flooded fields. For those fields that were not flooded, the rains were highly favorable for various small grain crops, but hindered planting activities. Some winter wheat was headed. Shredding and discing of harvested **cotton** fields to comply with pink bollworm plow-down requirements was nearly complete. Planting of new **sugar beet** fields continued. Young sugar beet plants in newly emerged fields were protected from hungry birds by Mylar "scarecrows." Fields of **alfalfa** grown for both hay and seed were generally dormant; herbicides treatments were noted in a few locations.

FRUIT CROPS

Dormant season activities in **grape** vineyards and tree fruit orchards continued as weather conditions allowed. Activities included pruning, brush shredding, cane tying, cultivation, weed control treatments, fertilizer and soil amendment applications, and cover crop planting. Some river-bottom orchards in Yuba and Sutter counties had water flowing through them due to the heavy rainfall during the week. Soil fumigation was underway in a number of locations to prepare for planting of new orchards and vineyards. Several growers were already planting new vines and trees in the San Joaquin Valley. Navel **oranges** were harvested in most areas, along with **lemons**, several varieties of **tangerines**, and **pummelos**. Fruit maturity and color were good.

NUT CROPS

Dormant season field work continued in nut orchards as weather conditions allowed. Soil fumigation continued in preparation for planting of new orchards. Some river-bottom **walnut** orchards were flooding due to the heavy rainfall received during the week.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Tomato beds were being prepared for next season's crop. **Carrot** harvest continued in Kern County. Fresh market broccoli, **lettuce**, and **cauliflower** harvest continued in fields not too wet to restrict accessibility. **Radicchio** harvest continued. Harvest of cool season Asian vegetables such as **bok choy**, **gai choy**, **you choy Chinese broccoli**, **Thai broccoli**, and **sugar pea leaf** continued. **Onion** and **garlic** plants were growing well.

LIVESTOCK

Rain and mild temperatures were positive for winter pastures. Heavy rain in northern California caused flooding and some problems with livestock in low lying areas. Rain was very beneficial to foothill pastures in the south central part of the State which had been below normal in rainfall. Stocker cattle continued to be turned out on winter pastures in central and northern California. This activity should increase after the holidays. Cattle were receiving supplemental feed in areas where grass was short. Feeder cattle were being pastured in old sudan grass and new rye grass fields in the Imperial Valley. Ewes with lambs were grazing in alfalfa fields or on retired farm land in the central area. Feeder lambs in the Imperial Valley were grazing mainly in old alfalfa fields. Rain caused muddy conditions at dairies and some flooding.

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 01/01/06

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 01/01/06	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 01/01/06	January 1 - 01/01/06	Week Ending 01/01/06	July 1 - 01/01/06	July 1 - 01/01/06	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	53	5	62	45	0	0	6.43	28.29	16.12	37.53
Ukiah	50	4	58	39	0	0	7.56	22.23	14.74	37.96
Santa Rosa	52	5	60	43	0	0	10.28	21.65	11.60	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	56	7	62	47	0	0	3.73	11.65	7.06	19.70
San Jose	57	8	64	46	0	0	1.60	6.10	5.16	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	0.00	5.14	14.21
Salinas AP	54	4	64	41	0	0	1.49	4.10	4.30	12.44
Monterey FAA	55	6	66	43	0	0	1.45	3.75	5.86	18.72
King City	55	7	70	41	0	0	0.79	3.06	3.81	11.44
Paso Robles AP	52	6	65	37	0	0	1.99	3.68	3.93	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	50	6	58	35	0	0	8.44	21.62	11.78	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	50	5	62	37	0	0	4.13	14.21	9.10	22.29
Chico AFS	53	10	65	40	0	0	3.79	12.76	9.45	26.32
Marysville	51	6	62	39	0	0	3.48	10.97	8.16	21.04
Sacramento AP	53	8	61	38	0	0	4.92	10.74	6.29	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	54	10	64	42	0	0	1.65	5.01	4.99	13.95
Fresno	53	8	64	43	0	0	1.53	3.14	3.53	10.60
Bakersfield	53	6	65	40	0	0	1.12	2.44	2.03	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	54	3	66	40	0	0	2.52	6.27	4.12	12.36
Santa Barbara	55	3	69	42	0	0	2.77	6.28	5.18	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	0.00	4.58	14.38
Los Angeles	57	-1	65	49	0	0	1.04	3.02	4.09	14.77
Riverside	56	2	70	43	0	0	0.34	2.12	2.97	9.58
San Diego AP	59	2	66	51	1	0	0.23	1.12	3.35	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	41	4	63	23	0	0	1.60	3.88	1.92	5.37
Lancaster	51	9	70	31	0	0	0.24	2.98	2.50	6.92
Daggett AP	53	6	68	34	0	0	0.03	0.82	2.06	3.93
Thermal AP	58	5	77	39	2	0	0.00	2.08	1.75	3.16
Blythe	58	4	77	41	2	0	0.00	2.20	2.46	3.60
Imperial	59	5	79	42	5	0	0.00	1.40	1.73	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	35	7	49	18	0	0	0.78	6.89	4.86	12.01
Mt. Shasta	38	4	46	29	0	0	9.22	25.12	14.93	37.02
Blue Canyon	34	-5	42	25	0	0	10.42	37.00	25.88	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	34	32	0	0	0.00	0.91	14.11	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.