CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER

USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: January 29, 2006
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FIELD CROPS

Late grain planting continued. Warm weather has allowed for rapid weed growth in grain and **alfalfa** fields; Winter herbicides were applied. Some fields were yellowing from too much precipitation. Ground preparation for spring planting continued. **Sugar beets** were progressing nicely in the San Joaquin Valley. A large population of voles has been reported in Merced County's sugar beet fields. Applications of zinc phosphide were being made to control the pest. Herbicides were applied to **cotton** beds.

FRUIT CROPS

Recent cool weather helped with the accumulation of chilling hours in fruit trees. There was one report, however, of an entire orchard in full bloom in Fresno County. Buds continued to swell in many other orchards across the State, and there were sporadic blooms on trees planted in sandy soil. Pruning and shredding continued in deciduous fruit orchards. Dormant and pre-emergent spraying was ongoing in several fruit orchards where field conditions allowed. Pruning, shredding, tying canes, and repair work were ongoing in many **grape** vineyards. Growers were reportedly pulling out some older vineyards in order to fumigate the ground for future plantings. Weeding crews were noted in various orchards and vineyards. Navel **orange** harvest continued at a steady pace. Copper and zinc were applied to citrus trees because of the damp weather and export requirements. Problems with puff and crease have increased grade-out at packing houses. Some Navels treated earlier with gibberellic acid to delay aging were beginning to be picked. **Lemon** harvest gained momentum. **Grapefruit** and grapefruit hybrid harvest continued. Blood orange harvest increased. **Mandarin** and **tangerine** harvest was ongoing, and some early Minneola **tangelo** orchards were being harvested. **Olive** orchards continued to be pruned with brush being shredded as the fields dry out.

NUT CROPS

Beehives continued to be placed in **almond** orchards. Growers were reportedly pulling out some older almond orchards in order to fumigate the ground for future plantings. Dormant season field work continued in nut orchards as field conditions permitted.

VEGETABLE CROPS

As conditions improved, field preparations for spring plantings resumed. Some late winter vegetables continued to be harvested. **Broccoli**, **cabbage**, **lettuce,** and **spinach** fields were growing vigorously. Where conditions permitted, some lettuce and **onion** fields were weeded and thinned. **Tomato** and **garlic** beds were being prepared; Some fields were fumigated, as well. **Cauliflower**, **mustard greens**, and greenhouse vegetables were also harvested. Imperial Valley **asparagus** harvest was underway. Asian vegetables including **bok choy**, **gai choy, gailon, Napa cabbage, sugar pea leaf** and **yu choy** were harvested.

LIVESTOCK

Winter foothill pastures were in good to very good condition. Supplemental feeding of cattle was limited to a few areas. Most foothill ranches were stocked with cattle. Fall calves were being branded. Lambs and calves continued to graze on pastures in the Imperial Valley. In central and north central California, ewes with lambs were grazing in alfalfa fields and retired crop land. Lambing was complete in much of the State. Dairies were beginning to dry out in some areas. The placement of beehives in almond and stone fruit orchards was gaining momentum. Out-of State bees were moving into California for the upcoming almond pollination.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 01/29/06

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
					This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
	Average Week Ending 01/29/06	Departure from Normal	High	Low	January 1 - 01/29/06	January 1 - 01/29/06	Week Ending 01/29/06	July 1 - 01/29/06	July 1 - 01/29/06	July 1 - June 30
	- - Degrees Fahrenheit - -				- - Number - -		- - Inches - -			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	48	-1	70	35	0	0	2.33	40.32	21.46	37.53
Ukiah	47	-1	76	31	0	0	1.20	27.25	21.87	37.96
Santa Rosa	49	0	76	35	0	0	0.62	25.63	17.11	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	52	1	65	41	0	0	0.21	14.06	10.98	19.70
San Jose	53	2	67	41	0	0	0.08	9.15	7.85	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	0.00	7.79	14.21
Salinas AP	51	0	72	34	0	0	0.25	5.48	6.54	12.44
Monterey FAA	52	0	74	40	0	0	0.06	5.77	7.99	18.72
King City	50	-1	76	29	0	0	0.02	5.74	5.87	11.44
Paso Robles AP	48	0	74	29	0	0	0.03	6.81	6.51	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	49	2	70	32	0	0	0.50	26.87	18.29	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	49	1	70	34	0	0	0.26	17.24	13.18	22.29
Chico AFS	51	5	68	35	0	0	0.34	17.08	14.15	26.32
Marysville	49	1	66	33	0	0	0.22	12.74	12.13	21.04
Sacramento AP	49	1	61	33	0	0	0.16	12.98	9.69	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	50	2	63	33	0	0	0.11	8.41	7.41	13.95
Fresno	48	0	64	33	0	0	0.00	5.81	5.45	10.60
Bakersfield	51	1	71	34	0	0	0.00	2.55	3.08	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	51	-1	75	32	0	0	0.00	8.57	6.56	12.36
Santa Barbara	53	0	71	34	0	0	0.00	7.60	8.51	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	38	0	0.00	0.00	7.59	14.38
Los Angeles	58	-1	76	46	26	0	0.00	4.95	7.03	14.77
Riverside	57	2	73	39	27	0	0.00	2.14	5.10	9.58
San Diego AP	56	-3	68	44	14	0	0.00	1.43	5.32	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	38	-1	60	21	0	0	0.00	6.89	2.73	5.37
Lancaster	48	3	66	22	0	0	0.00	3.63	4.01	6.92
Daggett AP	51	0	66	28	0	0	0.00	0.84	2.65	3.93
Thermal AP	55	-1	77	33	11	0	0.00	2.08	2.39	3.16
Blythe	55	-1	76	35	10	0	0.00	2.20	2.92	3.60
Imperial	56	-2	74	37	5	0	0.00	1.40	2.18	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	33	2	51	9	0	0	0.09	7.99	6.05	12.01
Mt. Shasta	36	0	56	25	0	0	0.74	30.37	21.67	37.02
Blue Canyon	37	-2	56	26	0	0	1.38	42.96	35.77	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	0.91	20.38	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.