

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: February 19, 2006
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WEATHER



At the start of the work week, the State of California was under strong high pressure throughout the entire region. Record highs continued from the previous week in a few locations. Daytime highs were in the 70s in the northern central valley and in the middle 80s in southern California. The Santa Ana winds in the southern portion of the State were responsible for highs in the 80s. By early Wednesday, the high pressure had broken down. A cold front had moved over northern California bringing showers to the mountains. The front brought the coldest air of the season to the Golden State. Daytime highs in the valley and southern California dropped 20 to 25 degrees. The mountains had low temperatures in the teens and single digits. Rain in the valley and snow in the mountains started late Thursday and continued through Sunday due to a change in the jet stream in the upper levels.

FIELD CROPS

Warm weather early in the week encouraged the growth and development of small grain crops. Herbicide applications continued in small grain and **alfalfa** hay fields. Ground preparation for **cotton** fields was underway. **Sugar beet** fields were showing good growth, and vole treatments were nearly complete in Merced County. **Safflower** fields were emerging in the San Joaquin Valley. **Sweet potato** hotbed preparations and seeding continued.

FRUIT CROPS

General maintenance work continued in many **grape** vineyards. Several grape growers continued discing rows and applying herbicides to the surrounding berms for weed control. Buds continued to swell in many orchards, and a few orchards were blooming. Bloom sprays were applied to blooming tree fruit orchards. Limited **strawberry** harvesting began along the central coast. Strawberry plants continued to show good growth in the San Joaquin Valley. Harvesting of Navel **oranges**, **grapefruit**, **lemons**, **mandarins**, and **tangerines** continued. Growers continued to apply copper, lime, and zinc to control fungal disease and to comply with export requirements. Fruit quality of Navels continued to decline due to warm, dry weather. Pack-out percentages have also declined due to puff and rind cracking.

NUT CROPS

Many early **almond** orchards continued to bloom. A few almond orchards were treated with fungicides to prevent blossom rot. Beehives were being placed in orchards to aid in pollination. Cold morning temperatures concerned growers about the affect they might have on bloom. Wind machines and sprinklers were utilized by some growers to combat the frost. Replanting of almond, **walnut**, and **pistachio** orchards remained underway.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Winter **radicchio** harvest and spring radicchio planting continued. Weeding and pesticide applications continued in various **lettuce** and **onion** fields in the San Joaquin Valley. Onions for processing and **garlic** continued to grow well. Fields of **cabbage** and **spinach** progressed after the minor setback due to wet weather conditions. Some late winter vegetables continued to be harvested. **Broccoli**, lettuce, green house vegetables, **mustard greens**, and **parsley** were harvested. Cool season Asian vegetables including **bok choy**, **gai choy**, **yu choy**, **gailon**, **daikon**, **napa cabbage** and **sugar pea leaf** were also harvested.

LIVESTOCK

Winter pasture conditions were excellent in north central and northern California. Conditions were mixed in central California. Foothill pastures were beginning to stress in some central area locations due to lack of rainfall, particularly south and west slopes. Rainfall was badly needed in central California. Supplemental feeding of cattle was necessary in some central locations, otherwise it was rare. Branding of fall calves was winding down. Lambs in the Imperial Valley were shipping to feedlots in Colorado with many sellers retaining ownership due to a depressed lamb market. In central and north central California, ewes with lambs were grazing in alfalfa fields and retired crop land. An increasing number of ewes with lambs were moving to foothill pastures as the 2006 alfalfa hay season moves closer. Dairies were dry and milk production was good. The placement of beehives in almond orchards was complete.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 02/19/06

| STATIONS | TEMPERATURE | | | | GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE | | PRECIPITATION | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------|-----|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | Average Week Ending 02/19/06 | Departure from Normal | High | Low | This Season | Normal | This Season | | Normal | |
| | | | | | January 1 - 02/19/06 | January 1 - 02/19/06 | Week Ending 02/19/06 | July 1 - 02/19/06 | July 1 - 02/19/06 | July 1 - June 30 |
| | -- Degrees Fahrenheit -- | | | | -- Number -- | | -- Inches -- | | | |
| NORTH COAST | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eureka | 41 | -8 | 57 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 0.52 | 45.38 | 25.48 | 37.53 |
| Ukiah | 44 | -7 | 74 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 28.94 | 27.13 | 37.96 |
| Santa Rosa | 46 | -6 | 75 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 0.19 | 27.24 | 21.52 | 30.30 |
| CENTRAL COAST | | | | | | | | | | |
| San Francisco AP | 49 | -4 | 68 | 37 | 0 | 0 | 0.39 | 14.76 | 14.00 | 19.70 |
| San Jose | 50 | -3 | 70 | 37 | 1 | 0 | 0.48 | 9.71 | 10.03 | 14.42 |
| Livermore Tele | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 9.87 | 14.21 |
| Salinas AP | 48 | -5 | 77 | 30 | 8 | 0 | 0.36 | 6.18 | 8.37 | 12.44 |
| Monterey FAA | 50 | -3 | 75 | 37 | 7 | 0 | 0.30 | 6.10 | 10.10 | 18.72 |
| King City | 47 | -5 | 83 | 26 | 2 | 0 | 0.30 | 6.57 | 7.84 | 11.44 |
| Paso Robles AP | 45 | -6 | 75 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 0.65 | 7.44 | 8.66 | 13.95 |
| SACRAMENTO VALLEY | | | | | | | | | | |
| Redding | 47 | -3 | 77 | 23 | 8 | 0 | 0.07 | 28.17 | 22.92 | 33.30 |
| Red Bluff FSS | 46 | -5 | 76 | 25 | 2 | 0 | 0.03 | 18.14 | 16.11 | 22.29 |
| Chico AFS | 47 | -3 | 76 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 17.44 | 17.72 | 26.32 |
| Marysville | 46 | -6 | 72 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 0.15 | 16.71 | 15.08 | 21.04 |
| Sacramento AP | 47 | -5 | 72 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 0.35 | 13.37 | 12.37 | 17.52 |
| SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY | | | | | | | | | | |
| Stockton WSO | 48 | -4 | 71 | 29 | 0 | 0 | 0.25 | 8.99 | 9.31 | 13.95 |
| Fresno | 49 | -3 | 72 | 31 | 0 | 0 | 0.46 | 6.26 | 7.08 | 10.60 |
| Bakersfield | 50 | -4 | 75 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 0.17 | 2.63 | 4.00 | 5.72 |
| SOUTH COAST | | | | | | | | | | |
| Santa Maria AP | 49 | -4 | 83 | 28 | 6 | 0 | 0.54 | 8.16 | 8.88 | 12.36 |
| Santa Barbara | 50 | -5 | 80 | 33 | 2 | 0 | 0.94 | 8.53 | 11.28 | 16.25 |
| Oxnard | -- | -- | -- | -- | 66 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10.46 | 14.38 |
| Los Angeles | 57 | -3 | 86 | 43 | 83 | 2 | 0.29 | 5.67 | 9.82 | 14.77 |
| Riverside | 56 | 0 | 88 | 38 | 88 | 0 | 0.35 | 2.32 | 6.85 | 9.58 |
| San Diego AP | 57 | -2 | 71 | 49 | 32 | 0 | 0.37 | 1.76 | 6.88 | 9.90 |
| SOUTHEAST INTERIOR | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bishop | 36 | -6 | 69 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0.01 | 5.52 | 3.43 | 5.37 |
| Lancaster | 45 | -3 | 74 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 0.08 | 3.71 | 5.31 | 6.92 |
| Daggett AP | 50 | -5 | 79 | 29 | 3 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.84 | 3.08 | 3.93 |
| Thermal AP | 56 | -3 | 86 | 35 | 39 | 0 | 0.00 | 2.08 | 2.88 | 3.16 |
| Blythe | 57 | -2 | 83 | 35 | 48 | 0 | 0.00 | 2.20 | 3.33 | 3.60 |
| Imperial | 59 | -2 | 83 | 38 | 48 | 5 | 0.00 | 1.40 | 2.47 | 2.75 |
| CASCADE - SIERRA | | | | | | | | | | |
| Alturas | 26 | -8 | 56 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0.01 | 9.61 | 6.95 | 12.01 |
| Mt. Shasta | 31 | -7 | 57 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0.16 | 33.99 | 26.13 | 37.02 |
| Blue Canyon | 32 | -7 | 61 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 0.66 | 48.06 | 43.96 | 67.04 |
| Yosemite | 39 | -3 | 65 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0.62 | 24.77 | 25.58 | 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.