

# CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service  
California Field Office

WEEK ENDING: April 2, 2006  
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## WEATHER



Unsettled weather persisted over much of California throughout the week, with high pressure remaining to the east of the State, allowing Pacific storm systems to move across the west coast. One organized low pressure system moved over the coast at mid-week, bringing unstable conditions which generated widespread thunderstorms along with relatively low snow levels and unseasonably cool temperatures. Generally, lower pressure remained over the State for most of the week, resulting in conditions that were cooler and wetter than normal. By the end of the week, a relatively neutral pressure pattern brought milder temperatures to California, but another band of pre-frontal rains began to move in across the north, spreading more rain to an already soggy region.

## FIELD CROPS

Rains delayed the planting of **corn**, **cotton**, and **beans**, though a few growers were able to plant corn in Tulare County. Small grains and forage crops were growing well, but **alfalfa** growers delayed their first cutting to bale. Alfalfa weevil spraying and herbicide applications continued. **Sugar beets** were growing well. The rains have laid some of the crops down in Stanislaus County. **Sweet potato** field fumigations continued.

## FRUIT CROPS

Herbicide applications for pre-emergent weeds and clean-up were ongoing in orchards; irrigation had started in some orchards as well. Despite the rain throughout the state, **peach**, **nectarine** and **apple** trees were beginning to bloom. **Cherry** and **prune** bloom continued. Various late variety **apricot** and **plum** orchards bloomed sporadically, while most early varieties continued to leaf. **Strawberries** were blooming rapidly. **Apricot** bloom was complete. Many vineyards were leafing out and irrigation began. Many vineyards were also sprayed with copper and sulfur. Growers began applying fungicide during the recent rains and new tree fruit orchards were still being planted. New fields of **blueberries** were planted. In some areas field conditions of blooming trees were too wet to enter. Some nectarine orchards were treated for thrips to prevent fruit scaring.

## NUT CROPS

Rains slowed pollination on **almonds**. Fungicides were applied to almond orchards to fight disease in some areas. Almond trees that did not pollinate dropped buds. **Walnuts** were getting closer to the catkins stage in Tulare County. Exports of **pistachios** to the United Kingdom and South Africa continued.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Weed control and fungicide spraying were ongoing in **onion**, **lettuce**, **garlic** and transplant **tomato** fields. Transplant tomato, **eggplant**, and various **pepper** plants under hot caps were growing well. Some growers had to pump their fields each time they tried to plant tomatoes as a result of the heavy rains. Onions had to be fertilized by air instead of through irrigation as fields were too wet to enter. As a result of wet weather, **lettuce**, **broccoli**, and **asparagus** harvesting slowed. **Carrots** were growing very slow due to the cold weather. In some areas, vegetables planted in greenhouses were showing significant progress due to slightly warmer temperatures. Several fields of **melons** have been planted with plastic overlay to the rows. **Asparagus** continued to be harvested. Packing and shipping of **radicchio** continued. Harvest of cool season Asian vegetables such as **cauliflower**, **bok choy**, **daikon**, **gai choy**, **napa cabbage**, **sugar pea leaf**, **snow pea leaf** and **yu choy** continued.

## LIVESTOCK

Continued rain was a mixed blessing for California's foothill pastures. In northern California, a record number of rainy days in March and a lack of sunny weather was beginning to negatively impact cattle weight gains. Due to the amount of moisture in the grass and low nutrient content, some cattle were losing condition. In central California, rain was much more beneficial to foothill pastures and cattle and sheep were in good condition. Spring calving of beef cows continued. Muddy conditions at dairies were not favorable for milk production. Old crop lamb shipments continued from the Imperial Valley. In central California, ewes and lambs were grazing on foothill pastures. New crop lambs were beginning to ship to other areas for further feeding. Bee activity in almond, stone fruit and orange orchards continued to be slowed by wet and windy weather. Some beehives were being moved out of almond orchards.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 04/02/06**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 04/02/06	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 04/02/06	January 1 - 04/02/06	Week Ending 04/02/06	July 1 - 04/02/06	July 1 - 04/02/06	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
<b>NORTH COAST</b>										
Eureka	49	-2	58	36	0	0	2.49	60.26	32.97	37.53
Ukiah	49	-5	60	37	0	0	2.78	43.68	35.33	37.96
Santa Rosa	51	-4	64	37	0	0	2.63	38.91	28.10	30.30
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco AP	53	-2	60	44	0	0	1.64	23.01	18.55	19.70
San Jose	54	-3	64	43	0	0	0.48	17.23	13.49	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	1	0	0.00	0.00	13.11	14.21
Salinas AP	53	-2	66	41	8	0	0.81	11.64	11.50	12.44
Monterey FAA	52	-1	64	42	10	0	0.57	11.78	13.41	18.72
King City	53	-3	67	38	6	0	0.91	10.80	11.14	11.44
Paso Robles AP	50	-4	63	36	0	0	1.61	11.80	12.26	13.95
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	49	-7	62	38	8	0	2.07	40.28	29.70	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	50	-7	61	37	2	0	1.45	26.26	20.80	22.29
Chico AFS	52	-3	65	41	0	0	0.44	27.38	23.41	26.32
Marysville	52	-6	66	42	4	0	1.13	25.82	19.85	21.04
Sacramento AP	53	-4	64	43	0	0	1.46	20.98	16.07	17.52
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	54	-3	66	40	0	0	0.86	14.21	12.31	13.95
Fresno	54	-4	66	43	0	0	2.75	11.81	9.87	10.60
Bakersfield	56	-3	70	41	10	0	0.60	4.92	5.70	5.72
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria AP	53	-1	67	39	6	0	1.06	13.80	12.78	12.36
Santa Barbara	53	-4	63	41	2	0	1.69	13.14	16.09	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	68	0	0.00	0.00	14.45	14.38
Los Angeles	57	-6	69	47	98	56	1.93	10.21	13.88	14.77
Riverside	57	-2	74	39	99	0	0.89	5.67	9.68	9.58
San Diego AP	60	-1	66	52	42	12	0.42	4.50	9.67	9.90
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	48	-2	68	28	0	0	0.15	8.26	4.31	5.37
Lancaster	53	-2	69	38	0	0	0.69	6.01	7.23	6.92
Daggett AP	59	-3	76	42	11	12	0.04	1.06	3.81	3.93
Thermal AP	67	0	83	51	139	160	0.00	2.35	3.44	3.16
Blythe	66	-2	83	47	150	171	0.00	2.52	3.88	3.60
Imperial	66	-1	84	49	200	197	0.00	1.87	2.88	2.75
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	39	-1	58	22	0	0	0.14	13.06	9.09	12.01
Mt. Shasta	37	-6	54	30	0	0	4.16	53.33	34.23	37.02
Blue Canyon	34	-7	50	24	0	0	2.35	74.05	57.60	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	64	29	0	0	2.29	35.86	33.30	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.