

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

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WEATHER



It was another week of unseasonably cool and wet weather for California. A series of upper level low pressure areas dropped south along the coast and then turned inland, bringing cold fronts and unsettled weather to all sections of the State. The first cold front pushed through northern California at the start of the week, bringing moderate to heavy rains and mountain snow to that part of the State. The low pressure system then moved south, still off the coast, spreading more showers across the already soggy sections of northern and central California. The system next turned eastward over southern California, bringing heavy rainfall to that area. While it rained in the south, northern California received a brief break in the wet weather on Thursday, before another upper level low pressure area approached from the Gulf of Alaska. This system swept ashore during the weekend, and heavy rains again brought flooding concerns to northern and central California.

FIELD CROPS

Rainfall continued to delay most fieldwork. Winter **wheat, oats, and barley** continued to head. Some oat heads were beginning to open in Fresno County. Lodging was reported in some grain fields. **Alfalfa** fields were ready to be cut, but growers were still waiting for drier conditions. Many alfalfa, oat, wheat, and **forage** crop fields located along the San Joaquin River were damaged by flooding. **Cotton** and **rice** planting continued to be delayed by the wet conditions and cool temperatures. **Corn** planting was also delayed. **Sugar beets** in Fresno County were making good progress. **Sweet potato** field fumigations continued in Merced County.

FRUIT CROPS

Despite rainfall, field work was ongoing. Fungicide and herbicide applications continued in **grape** and **stone fruit** orchards. Some stone fruits were thinned and treated for worm control and brown rot. Grape vines continued to leaf out and were treated for Phomopsis. **Cherry** orchards continued to be treated for thrips between rain storms. A light cherry crop is expected. Orchards on the east side of Fresno County were still blooming, and harvest was expected to be two weeks later than usual. **Plum** trees continued to leaf out. Fungicides were applied to **prunes** and **apricots**. **Apple, pear** and **fig** trees were blooming and **pomegranates** continued to leaf out. **Nectarine** and **peach** bloom was complete, and cherry and prune bloom were almost complete in Merced County. Grapevine nursery stock budding continued, and approximately 300 acres of Merced County wine grapes were impacted by recent floods. Portions of Tulare County stone fruit orchards experienced hail damage, and weather related injury was still being assessed. The thinning of nectarines and early apricots began, and apples were starting to bloom.

NUT CROPS

Almonds were past petal fall and trees were beginning to leaf out and form nuts. Fungicide applications were made to control shothole disease. **Pistachio** trees were leafing out. **Walnut** orchards were pruned in Tulare County, and catkins were seen in many blocks.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Grounds were too wet for planting in some counties. Fungicide applications were ongoing in **broccoli** and **lettuce** fields. Harvesting continued for **asparagus**, spring broccoli, lettuce, and processed **spinach**. Transplant **tomato** and **onions** were showing good growth with some herbicide applications being applied. Planting of fresh market and processing tomatoes resumed where field conditions allowed. Harvest of cool season Asian vegetables such as **cauliflower, bok choy, daikon, gai choy, napa cabbage, sugar** and **snow pea leaf** continued.

LIVESTOCK

Rain continued much of the week in central and northern California with a couple of days of sunny and warmer weather. Foothill pastures were saturated in the northern area after 33 days of rain in the past 47 days. The forecast for sunny and warmer weather in the week ahead was very welcome news. Stocker cattle have yet to enter the optimal gain period due to high moisture in the grass and rainy weather. A few cattlemen have been supplementing with hay and others have been supplementing for grass tetany. Spring calving of beef cows was winding down. Muddy conditions were not favorable for milk production in the central and northern areas, particularly at dairies without free stall barns. However, those dairies with free-stall barns, which includes many larger dairies, were faring better due to mild temperatures and longer days. In central California, ewes and lambs were grazing on foothill pastures. New crop lamb movement has been delayed in some areas due to ample grass and poor market conditions. A few more producers were retaining ownership and shipped lambs to feedlots out-of-state. Most beehives have been removed from orchards in the central area. Bees were in prune orchards in the Sacramento Valley.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 04/16/06

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 04/16/06	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 04/16/06	January 1 - 04/16/06	Week Ending 04/16/06	July 1 - 04/16/06	July 1 - 04/16/06	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	50	-1	62	40	0	0	2.45	63.01	34.61	37.53
Ukiah	52	-4	71	42	0	0	3.76	49.81	36.67	37.96
Santa Rosa	55	-2	74	45	2	0	2.58	43.55	29.05	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	56	0	70	49	1	0	2.00	26.06	19.24	19.70
San Jose	58	-1	72	51	2	0	0.97	20.88	14.03	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	2	0	0.00	0.00	13.67	14.21
Salinas AP	58	1	75	49	11	0	0.90	14.27	12.03	12.44
Monterey FAA	56	3	69	50	10	0	0.25	13.40	14.12	18.72
King City	--	--	77	46	8	0	0.10	12.92	11.56	11.44
Paso Robles AP	56	-1	74	43	0	0	0.33	13.55	12.69	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	53	-6	72	42	8	0	3.27	45.20	30.84	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	54	-5	71	43	2	0	2.16	29.56	21.52	22.29
Chico AFS	57	-1	78	44	6	0	2.30	30.57	24.29	26.32
Marysville	57	-4	73	48	7	4	1.41	29.62	20.65	21.04
Sacramento AP	57	-1	73	47	4	0	1.06	23.82	16.66	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	59	-1	74	43	5	0	0.84	16.60	12.85	13.95
Fresno	60	-1	74	49	9	7	0.56	13.97	10.33	10.60
Bakersfield	61	-2	81	48	21	20	0.64	6.33	5.98	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	58	3	76	46	8	0	0.22	15.61	13.37	12.36
Santa Barbara	56	-2	69	44	2	0	0.72	17.64	16.60	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	70	0	0.00	0.00	14.95	14.38
Los Angeles	62	-2	82	51	112	104	0.21	12.12	14.40	14.77
Riverside	62	1	93	45	116	13	0.31	6.99	10.04	9.58
San Diego AP	63	0	73	54	70	40	0.32	5.29	10.13	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	54	1	77	31	0	0	0.00	8.55	4.46	5.37
Lancaster	55	-3	82	33	0	0	0.09	6.60	7.49	6.92
Daggett AP	63	-2	90	43	54	66	0.00	1.33	3.92	3.93
Thermal AP	68	-2	96	44	245	289	0.00	2.35	3.48	3.16
Blythe	70	0	97	49	281	307	0.00	2.52	3.97	3.60
Imperial	70	0	95	50	330	328	0.00	1.87	2.93	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	42	0	62	28	0	0	1.09	14.46	9.61	12.01
Mt. Shasta	41	-5	64	29	0	0	3.12	58.45	35.74	37.02
Blue Canyon	38	-6	55	28	0	0	5.48	86.79	60.34	67.04
Yosemite	48	-3	75	35	0	0	0.90	43.49	34.73	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.