

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

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WEATHER



Upper level low pressure dominated the weather pattern over the western United States at the start of the week. By late Tuesday, high pressure began to build over northern California, but a low pressure system developed off the southern California coast. The system kept temperatures cool over southern California, and a few showers fell along the central and southern coast and the interior of southern California. The high pressure over northern California continued to build throughout the week, bringing warm and dry conditions to the north, while the low pressure continued to bring cool temperatures to the south. This pattern persisted to the end of the week, when the southern low pressure finally moved east, and warmer and drier conditions developed over southern California for the weekend.

FIELD CROPS

Rice field cultivation activities occurred in a few areas, and rice planting began in Merced County. The winter **wheat** crop continued to head out, and no large-scale lodging was observed. Chopping of **alfalfa** and **silage** fields was ongoing. Alfalfa was also baled for hay. **Safflower** fields were planted. In the Central Valley, **cotton** was planted as field conditions dried. Some cotton fields had to be re-tilled due to soil crusting that occurred during recent rain storms. In Imperial County, cotton planting was complete. Field **corn** planting began. **Sugar beet** fields continued to make good progress. Some sugar beet fields in Fresno County were harvested, with good yields reported. **Sweet potato** planting began in Merced County.

FRUIT CROPS

Field work across the State increased with the arrival of warm temperatures and dry weather. Disease pressure, however, remained high in orchards and vineyards. Field work in **stone fruit** orchards included pruning, fruit thinning, and applying fungicides to prevent hole fungus and brown rot. Some early stone fruit varieties began to show size. A few blossoms remained on **cherry** trees in Yuba County, and fruit set appeared poor in cherry and **peach** orchards. **Apple** trees were being thinned. **Kiwifruit** vines were blooming in the San Joaquin Valley, and **pomegranate** trees continued to leaf out. Growth in **grape** vineyards accelerated. Table grape vines were suckered, and shoots were thinned. Shredding and discing of cover crops continued, and many vineyards were sprayed with fungicides. **Strawberries** were harvested in the San Joaquin Valley for sale at roadside stands. Warm and dry weather also increased field work and harvesting in all citrus orchards after being delayed due to the rain. Citrus growers were busy applying foliar fertilizer, spraying for weeds, hedging, and topping orchards in preparation for the new crop. Fruit harvested included **Navel** and **Valencia** oranges, **lemons**, and **grapefruit**. Quality in Navels continued to decline, and brown rot and mold around the cap stem end continued to be problems for recently packed Navels. Valencia harvest advanced, and size and maturity continued to improve.

NUT CROPS

Nut formation in **almond** orchards continued, while **pistachio** and **walnut** trees continued to leaf out. Some Serr walnuts were shook to thin out catkins and prevent over pollination. Blight sprays continued in walnut groves.

VEGETABLE CROPS

The planting of **zucchini** squash began in some areas. **Lettuce** harvest tapered off as growers reported decay problems. **Garlic** and **onions** began forming bulbs. Onion transplants continued to grow rapidly and fields were treated with fungicides. Transplant **tomato**, **cucumber**, **eggplant**, **peppers** and **squash** were showing good growth. Packing and shipping of **radicchio** continued. Harvest of **asparagus**, **broccoli**, **celery** and **spinach** continued. Asian vegetables such as **kankon**, **basil**, **celery**, **curly mustard greens**, **sugar** and **snow pea leaf**, and **yu choy** continued to be harvested.

LIVESTOCK

Foothill pastures were in excellent condition due to ample soil moisture and warm daytime temperatures in the 80's. Cattle and sheep weight gains were at an optimum. Because of the spring rains many cattle and lambs will ship from foothill pastures later than normal. Some low lying pastures, including irrigated summer pastures, have not grown well due to the heavy rain and flooding in March and April. Milk production improved as dairies began to dry out. In central California, new crop lambs were starting to ship from foothill pastures. While some lambs were sold at prices sharply lower than a year ago, many producers have elected to retain ownership of lambs shipped to out-of-state feedlots.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 04/30/06

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 04/30/06	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 04/30/06	January 1 - 04/30/06	Week Ending 04/30/06	July 1 - 04/30/06	July 1 - 04/30/06	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	51	-1	58	43	0	0	0.05	63.48	35.82	37.53
Ukiah	64	6	89	46	35	0	0.01	50.65	37.57	37.96
Santa Rosa	59	1	80	45	9	0	0.00	43.58	29.65	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	58	1	73	51	4	0	0.00	26.18	19.66	19.70
San Jose	62	1	81	49	23	7	0.00	21.18	14.45	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	20	0	0.00	0.00	14.07	14.21
Salinas AP	57	0	70	51	12	0	0.04	14.56	12.35	12.44
Monterey FAA	55	0	65	50	10	0	0.01	13.44	14.37	18.72
King City	60	0	81	44	22	0	0.00	12.94	11.83	11.44
Paso Robles AP	59	0	85	45	15	0	0.01	13.58	12.98	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	70	8	92	48	85	19	0.01	45.21	31.91	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	69	6	92	51	66	20	0.00	30.15	22.15	22.29
Chico AFS	67	6	91	48	63	9	0.00	30.83	24.93	26.32
Marysville	66	2	87	49	50	44	0.00	29.77	21.23	21.04
Sacramento AP	64	2	87	49	36	10	0.00	23.84	17.09	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	64	2	86	47	39	24	0.00	16.62	13.24	13.95
Fresno	65	1	84	51	58	60	0.08	14.85	10.67	10.60
Bakersfield	65	-1	86	48	76	89	0.00	6.74	6.16	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	57	0	65	46	8	0	0.87	16.56	13.72	12.36
Santa Barbara	57	-2	67	48	2	0	0.29	17.96	16.88	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	76	0	0.00	0.00	15.24	14.38
Los Angeles	62	-3	73	51	150	172	0.00	12.15	14.75	14.77
Riverside	63	-1	85	45	170	57	0.00	6.84	10.29	9.58
San Diego AP	62	-1	71	54	105	83	0.01	5.38	10.41	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	63	6	87	37	32	0	0.02	8.58	4.58	5.37
Lancaster	64	2	92	40	42	9	0.00	6.60	7.63	6.92
Daggett AP	69	0	96	47	138	173	0.00	1.33	4.00	3.93
Thermal AP	71	-3	94	52	390	469	0.00	2.35	3.51	3.16
Blythe	72	-3	99	49	438	501	0.00	2.52	4.02	3.60
Imperial	71	-2	97	50	470	507	0.00	1.87	2.96	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	52	7	77	30	0	0	0.02	14.58	10.18	12.01
Mt. Shasta	58	9	80	41	6	0	0.00	58.49	36.85	37.02
Blue Canyon	55	8	72	35	6	0	0.52	88.08	62.34	67.04
Yosemite	56	3	78	38	2	0	0.20	44.80	35.84	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.