

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service
California Field Office

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WEATHER



A series of fast moving cold fronts brought wet weather across California at the start of the week, with the heaviest rain falling across the northern half of the State. Heavy snowfall was encountered across the northern mountain ranges. By the middle of the week, cold and dry air moved across northern California. During the rest of the week, widespread frost was common across the interior valleys of northern California. With a high pressure system settling over the Great Basin, a dry offshore flow developed across southern California. Despite some light rains at the start of the week, the area returned to dangerously dry conditions, with much warmer than normal temperatures which contributed to the fire hazards in that region.

FIELD CROPS

Rice harvest was complete, and rice stubble was disced in preparation for next year's crop. Late harvested rice fields were being flooded. **Cotton** harvest was also complete, and field plowdown was in full swing. **Wheat** planting continued. In the San Joaquin Valley, previously planted small grain fields were irrigated due to lack of rain. The last **alfalfa** crop and the last of the **corn** for silage were being green-chopped. Some alfalfa fields were set aside for sheep grazing. Ground preparation for new plantings of alfalfa began. **Sweet potato** harvest was complete in Merced County.

FRUIT CROPS

Grape vineyard activities included fertilization, pruning, and trellis system repair. Some vineyards were covered with plastic to extend harvest. Stone fruit harvest was complete. Cultural activities continued with irrigating, pruning, fertilizing, herbicide application, and the pushing out of old orchards for replanting. **Pomegranate** harvest continued at a slow rate. Harvest of Fuyu and Hachiya **persimmons** was still in progress. Navel **orange** and **lemon** harvests were underway in Fresno County. Frosty mornings were helping to enhance orange color and make orange rinds tougher. Some citrus growers were treating to control fungus.

NUT CROPS

Some **almond** and **walnut** growers were pruning, shredding, irrigating, and applying herbicides in orchards.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Fall **Lettuce** harvest ended. Fresh market **tomato** harvest was essentially complete, but late season fresh market cherry tomatoes were still being harvested in Fresno County. Many **asparagus** crops were entering winter dormancy. Some late **squash** continued to be harvested. **Cabbage**, **eggplant**, **onions** and mixed oriental vegetables were harvested in Tulare County. **Broccoli**, **carrots**, **cauliflower**, **radicchio** and **garlic** were also harvested.

LIVESTOCK

Most cattle have been moved from higher elevation pastures to foothill pastures. Rain was needed on foothill pastures in many areas to further stimulate grass growth. Most cattle were receiving protein supplements. Some cattle on ranches with less dry grass were fed hay. Fall calving of beef cows was nearly over. Cool and dry weather continued to help milk production. Sheep were grazing in alfalfa fields and on retired farm land in the central area. Sheep were being moved into the Sutter Buttes in the Sacramento Valley. Fall lambing continued. Bees continued to arrive from northern States to over-winter before the almond pollination.

This report is available the first workday of the week after 1:00 PDT at
www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/California/Publications/index.asp

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 12/03/06

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 12/03/06	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 12/03/06	January 1 - 12/03/06	Week Ending 12/03/06	July 1 - 12/03/06	July 1 - 12/03/06	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	42	-7	57	29	18	0	0.30	9.88	10.48	37.53
Ukiah	46	-3	84	27	1,767	1,454	0.19	4.36	9.01	37.96
Santa Rosa	46	-5	66	29	931	923	0.06	4.18	7.17	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	50	-3	62	38	568	443	0.09	2.40	4.07	19.70
San Jose	49	-3	65	35	1,470	1,334	0.28	1.73	3.15	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	1,654	1,457	0.00	0.00	3.08	14.21
Salinas AP	49	-3	74	31	506	432	0.06	1.30	2.61	12.44
Monterey FAA	50	-3	74	34	296	145	0.08	0.96	4.15	18.72
King City	47	-4	75	26	1,456	1,043	0.14	0.76	2.27	11.44
Paso Robles AP	46	-3	74	23	1,766	1,552	0.02	0.84	2.22	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	46	-2	66	29	2,967	2,504	0.05	4.71	7.30	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	47	-2	65	29	2,884	2,610	0.00	2.38	5.79	22.29
Chico AFS	45	-3	66	25	2,611	2,043	0.59	2.10	5.77	26.32
Marysville	45	-5	63	28	2,484	2,442	0.07	2.05	4.91	21.04
Sacramento AP	45	-4	63	28	2,042	1,932	0.02	1.60	3.77	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	46	-3	63	29	2,389	2,214	0.11	1.86	3.18	13.95
Fresno	46	-3	65	30	3,153	2,792	0.05	0.31	2.15	10.60
Bakersfield	47	-4	72	29	3,274	3,128	0.02	0.33	1.25	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	54	1	79	35	876	410	0.12	0.77	2.30	12.36
Santa Barbara	51	-3	71	32	839	736	0.27	0.78	2.85	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	1,441	940	0.00	0.00	2.45	14.38
Los Angeles	60	-1	81	42	2,847	2,454	0.16	0.50	2.06	14.77
Riverside	54	-2	79	33	3,256	2,377	0.08	0.17	1.60	9.58
San Diego AP	57	-2	76	42	2,098	1,798	0.09	0.99	1.95	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	37	-3	64	11	1,824	1,552	0.00	0.78	1.29	5.37
Lancaster	40	-7	63	15	2,844	2,343	0.00	0.11	1.39	6.92
Daggett AP	43	-8	61	21	4,388	3,937	0.00	0.05	1.55	3.93
Thermal AP	52	-5	76	25	5,133	4,870	0.00	0.03	1.38	3.16
Blythe	53	-3	71	31	5,652	5,381	0.00	3.09	2.01	3.60
Imperial	54	-5	74	31	5,654	5,159	0.00	0.08	1.33	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	22	-10	42	-4	581	296	0.20	1.83	3.66	12.01
Mt. Shasta	31	-6	46	13	842	446	0.08	3.66	9.71	37.02
Blue Canyon	38	-2	55	19	1,192	574	1.07	8.27	16.83	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	50	22	1,396	1,090	0.00	2.66	9.30	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.