

# CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER

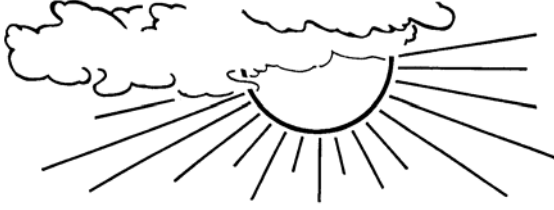


USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service  
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## WEATHER



A vigorous cold front passed through northern California at the start of the week, bringing heavy rains to the northern coast. This frontal system stalled briefly over the northwest part of the State, dumping large amounts of rain over the coastal counties. The front slowly edged eastward. By Tuesday, the heaviest rain was falling over the northern Sacramento Valley, and was accompanied by gusty winds. The front finally picked up speed and moved across the Sierra and into southern California by Wednesday. The cold front brought significant snowfall to the northern mountain ranges and to the Sierra Nevada range. By Thursday, the storm had passed through southern California, dropping snow over the southern mountain ranges, and kicking up strong winds over the passes. By late Thursday, high pressure was moving in behind the front, bringing clearing skies and warmer temperatures for the last weekend of the year.

## FIELD CROPS

Winter forage crops, **wheat**, **oats** and **barley** were emerging. Land preparations for winter forage crops were still underway in Fresno County and **triticale** and wheat seed were being drilled into bedded fields. In other areas fields were prepared for spring planting. Silage harvest was complete in Kern County. Some **potatoes** were being planted in Kern County, but most planting was expected to take place mid-January through February. Cold weather put **alfalfa** fields into dormancy and seed alfalfa fields were mowed. New **sugar beet** fields were irrigated, cultivated and side-dressed. **Sweet potato** hotbed fumigations continued.

## FRUIT CROPS

Stonefruit and **pomegranate** cultural practices included fertilizing, pruning, shredding, applying herbicides and dormant sprays, and the pushing out of orchards for replanting. **Persimmon** harvest continued with Fuyu and Hachiya varieties being picked. **Grape** vineyard activities such as pruning, dormant spraying, and trellis system repair remained underway. Harvests of Navel **oranges**, **mandarins**, **tangerines**, and **lemons** were ongoing, though wet weather disrupted picking. Some Navel growers were running wind machines due to lower temperatures earlier in the week. Some lots were showing more ice marks from the previous frosty weather. **Olive** orchards were pruned and brush was shredded. **Strawberry** and **raspberry** nursery stock digging continued.

## NUT CROPS

**Almond** and **pistachio** growers were pruning, shredding, applying herbicides and pushing out old orchards for replanting. **Walnut** orchards were also being pruned and soil amendments were applied. Assessments were made of damage to the walnut crop due to heat earlier in the season.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

**Tomato** fields were prepared for bedding. **Garlic** was beginning to emerge in Fresno County. Fall crops of garlic, **leeks**, **red** and **yellow onions**, **lettuce** and various Asian vegetables were weeded, irrigated and fertilized. Bedding for spring vegetable planting was finished in Kern County. Winter vegetables such as onions and **sugar peas** were growing well in Tulare County. **Radicchio** harvest remained underway. The harvests of **broccoli**, **cauliflower**, lettuce, **cabbage**, **spinach**, **Swiss chard**, **mustard** and **dandelion greens** were ongoing.

## LIVESTOCK

Winter foothill pasture conditions continued to be mixed in California. Northern California pastures were in better condition than those in central California. While rain during the third week of December was beneficial to pastures, rainfall and pasture conditions were still lagging behind normal in central portions of the State. Supplemental feeding was becoming increasingly necessary on ranches where dry grass was diminishing and new grass growth was still short. Milk production was boosted by dry and cool weather. Ewes and lambs were grazing on alfalfa pastures and on retired farm land in the central area. Fall lambing was complete on commercial operations. Feeder lambs continued to graze on mainly alfalfa pastures in the Imperial Valley. Bees continued to be brought in from other states for over-wintering and in preparation for spring pollination.

**CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 12/31/06**

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 12/31/06	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 12/31/06	January 1 - 12/31/06	Week Ending 12/31/06	July 1 - 12/31/06	July 1 - 12/31/06	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
<b>NORTH COAST</b>										
Eureka	46	-2	61	32	57	0	1.98	19.21	15.94	37.53
Ukiah	47	2	58	28	1,768	1,454	2.24	10.63	14.51	37.96
Santa Rosa	48	1	64	29	938	923	1.74	9.62	11.42	30.30
<b>CENTRAL COAST</b>										
San Francisco AP	50	1	63	37	567	443	0.54	6.94	6.93	19.70
San Jose	52	3	69	35	1,475	1,334	0.16	3.53	5.07	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	1,658	1,457	0.00	0.00	5.06	14.21
Salinas AP	49	0	64	31	502	432	0.36	3.62	4.23	12.44
Monterey FAA	51	2	68	34	296	145	0.38	3.31	5.70	18.72
King City	49	1	71	26	1,459	1,043	0.20	2.01	3.74	11.44
Paso Robles AP	46	0	69	24	1,763	1,552	0.14	1.70	3.85	13.95
<b>SACRAMENTO VALLEY</b>										
Redding	45	1	56	28	2,950	2,504	2.03	12.34	11.60	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	45	0	57	28	2,876	2,610	1.71	6.35	8.95	22.29
Chico AFS	45	1	57	29	2,611	2,043	1.63	6.76	9.30	26.32
Marysville	45	0	58	28	2,538	2,442	0.71	5.09	8.02	21.04
Sacramento AP	46	2	59	30	2,041	1,932	0.68	5.27	6.17	17.52
<b>SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY</b>										
Stockton WSO	48	3	61	30	2,389	2,214	0.32	3.63	4.91	13.95
Fresno	46	1	64	30	3,158	2,792	0.36	2.36	3.47	10.60
Bakersfield	47	0	66	30	3,278	3,128	0.27	1.34	2.00	5.72
<b>SOUTH COAST</b>										
Santa Maria AP	52	1	74	32	874	410	0.57	2.33	4.04	12.36
Santa Barbara	51	-1	74	31	837	736	0.65	2.40	5.06	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	1,453	940	0.00	0.00	4.49	14.38
Los Angeles	59	1	80	43	2,885	2,455	0.21	1.31	3.99	14.77
Riverside	57	3	85	37	3,285	2,377	0.11	0.56	2.90	9.58
San Diego AP	56	-1	75	44	2,098	1,798	0.16	2.00	3.28	9.90
<b>SOUTHEAST INTERIOR</b>										
Bishop	41	4	65	16	1,822	1,552	0.01	0.80	1.89	5.37
Lancaster	43	1	66	18	2,836	2,343	0.10	0.45	2.44	6.92
Daggett AP	46	-1	62	26	4,272	3,937	0.05	0.20	2.03	3.93
Thermal AP	53	0	73	28	5,133	4,870	0.00	0.03	1.73	3.16
Blythe	54	1	70	33	5,646	5,381	0.00	3.09	2.45	3.60
Imperial	56	1	73	36	5,687	5,159	0.00	0.05	1.72	2.75
<b>CASCADE - SIERRA</b>										
Alturas	32	4	49	10	581	296	0.22	2.21	4.82	12.01
Mt. Shasta	42	8	58	21	842	446	3.54	12.32	14.72	37.02
Blue Canyon	39	0	58	20	1,190	574	1.49	17.49	25.49	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	49	26	1,396	1,090	1.01	10.03	13.90	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.