



California Crop Weather

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

In Cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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WEATHER



At the start of the week, a dry high pressure system had settled over the western United States. Daytime high temperatures across California were above normal, especially over southern California, where daytime highs reached the 80s. A radical change in the weather came at the middle of the week, as an unusually strong cold front pushed southward from Canada. For California, this system brought little significant precipitation, but it ushered in a very cold and dry arctic air mass, which brought a dramatic drop in temperatures across the State. In the clear, cold nights after the front passed, temperatures fell to below freezing all across the State, with most stations in the Central Valley reporting record low temperatures in the 20s. This sub-freezing weather also spread into southern California, where many areas saw lows in the 20s. This damaging cold continued through the remainder of the week, with daytime highs only reaching the 40s and lower 50s, and overnight lows falling into the 20s through the weekend.

FIELD CROPS

The shredding of **cotton** stalks for plowdown compliance was complete in the Central Valley. Early plantings of **oats** and **wheat** had emerged and were being fertilized and irrigated. Growth of oats, wheat, and **alfalfa** was slow due to cool temperatures. Herbicide treatments on alfalfa and small grain fields were ongoing. Seed alfalfa fields were being mowed. Planting of winter forage was nearly complete in Tulare County, where recent rains have helped newly planted and existing fields. New **sugar beet** fields were irrigated. **Sweet potato** hotbeds were fumigated in Merced County. Kern County reported freeze damage to the **potato** crop.

FRUIT CROPS

With the onslaught of sub-freezing temperatures at the end of the week, citrus growers used a combination of wind machines, bonfires, irrigation and helicopters in an attempt to raise orchard temperatures. Growers and packing houses picked and packed as much fruit as possible before the cold snap began, but the majority of fruit was still on the trees at the end of the week. The duration of the low temperatures was too much to overcome in most areas and significant damage was inflicted on the crops. The extent of damage to **oranges**, **lemons** and **tangerines** will be assessed by inspection crews in the coming days in the San Joaquin Valley and Ventura County growing regions. **Avocados** and **strawberries** were also damaged by the cold. Tree fruit cultural activities were ongoing with fertilizing, pruning, shredding, applying herbicides and dormant sprays, and the pushing out of orchards for replanting. Fuyu and Hachiya **persimmon** harvest continued. **Grape** vineyard activities such as pruning, herbicide spraying, and trellis system repair were in progress. Grape vine nursery stock digging was complete in Merced County. Strawberry and **raspberry** nursery stock digging continued.

NUT CROPS

Almond and **pistachio** growers continued with pruning, brush shredding, applying herbicides, and pushing out old orchards for replanting. **Walnut** orchards were also pruned and treated for weeds.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Growers were preparing for the spring planting season in Tulare County. Harvesting of **broccoli** continued and mold was found to be forming on the crop due to freezing weather. Harvests of **mustard greens**, **cabbage**, **lettuce**, **radicchio** and **spinach** were ongoing. **Garlic**, **red** and **yellow onions**, **amaranth**, **gailon**, **snow** and **sugar peas** were weeded, irrigated, fertilized and treated to control insects and mildew in Fresno County.

LIVESTOCK

Dairy cattle, range cattle and sheep were doing well because of the cooler temperatures. Sheep were grazing on retired farmland. Cattle were still receiving nutrient supplements in areas with ample pasture. Fall calving was finishing up and spring calving was expected to begin soon. The re-growth of ranges and pastures progressed. Stocker cattle shipments from out-of-state were increasing as grasses continued to develop, but more rain was needed to sustain the new growth. Bees were still being brought in from various northern States for over-wintering and in anticipation of spring pollination.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 01/14/07

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 01/14/07	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 01/14/07	January 1 - 01/14/07	Week Ending 01/14/07	July 1 - 01/14/07	July 1 - 01/14/07	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	38	-10	54	25	0	0	0.28	20.13	18.58	37.53
Ukiah	40	-7	66	19	0	0	0.01	11.04	18.09	37.96
Santa Rosa	44	-4	67	22	0	0	0.00	9.82	14.13	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	46	-4	64	32	0	0	0.00	6.65	8.91	19.70
San Jose	45	-4	69	30	0	0	0.00	3.74	6.39	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	0.00	6.36	14.21
Salinas AP	44	-7	75	22	0	0	0.00	3.99	5.36	12.44
Monterey FAA	46	-5	73	25	0	0	0.00	3.53	7.32	18.72
King City	43	-6	78	17	0	0	0.00	2.18	4.72	11.44
Paso Robles AP	40	-8	73	12	0	0	0.00	1.72	5.12	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	44	-2	73	19	2	0	0.00	12.15	14.66	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	44	-2	73	20	0	0	0.00	5.96	11.05	22.29
Chico AFS	43	-2	69	20	0	0	0.00	6.76	11.64	26.32
Marysville	40	-6	60	21	0	0	0.00	4.96	10.01	21.04
Sacramento AP	40	-5	62	22	0	0	0.00	5.98	7.83	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	42	-4	63	20	0	0	0.00	3.74	6.08	13.95
Fresno	41	-6	62	23	0	0	0.00	3.36	4.41	10.60
Bakersfield	41	-7	59	23	0	0	0.00	1.63	2.50	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	49	-2	83	23	3	0	0.00	2.40	5.23	12.36
Santa Barbara	49	-4	79	26	0	0	0.00	2.18	6.83	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	23	0	0.00	0.00	5.93	14.38
Los Angeles	58	0	88	36	26	0	0.00	1.31	5.46	14.77
Riverside	52	-2	84	26	16	0	0.01	0.80	3.98	9.58
San Diego AP	54	-3	75	36	4	0	0.00	2.05	4.26	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	32	-5	65	1	0	0	0.00	0.83	2.30	5.37
Lancaster	37	-7	68	3	0	0	0.00	0.44	3.21	6.92
Daggett AP	43	-6	68	17	0	0	0.00	0.22	2.37	3.93
Thermal AP	49	-6	83	18	1	0	0.00	0.03	2.06	3.16
Blythe	50	-4	76	25	2	0	0.00	4.65	2.67	3.60
Imperial	51	-5	80	21	3	0	0.00	0.05	1.96	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	21	-8	41	-6	0	0	0.00	2.61	5.44	12.01
Mt. Shasta	29	-6	44	14	0	0	0.00	13.00	18.05	37.02
Blue Canyon	35	-4	61	14	0	0	0.12	20.00	30.75	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	--	--	0	0	0.00	10.56	17.04	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.