



California Crop Weather

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

In Cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

California Field Office • P.O. Box 1258 • Sacramento, CA 95812 • (916) 498-5161 • www.nass.usda.gov/ca

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WEATHER



At the beginning of the week a minor cold front passed across northern California. This system brought showers to the northern part of the State on Monday and Tuesday. Lighter showers associated with this system made their way to southern California by Tuesday. In the unstable air behind the front, a few thunderstorms formed and there were some isolated areas of heavy rain in the Central Valley. The mountains had some late season snow from this storm. Isolated showers even made their way to the southeastern deserts on Tuesday and Wednesday. As this system moved eastward into the Great Basin, an offshore flow brought dry and warm conditions to California, especially in the south, where fire hazards persisted. Building high pressure aloft combined with the offshore flow brought drier and warmer than normal conditions for the rest of the work week. On the weekend, another frontal system approached. This system was not as strong as the earlier storm, and precipitation was mostly confined to the extreme northern coast. For the rest of the northern California, this system only resulted in a slight cooling trend and increased high clouds, while southern California was largely unaffected.

FIELD CROPS

Land was being prepared for **rice** planting. Field **corn** was planted, and growers were spraying to control weeds. Small grain crops in the San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys responded well to recent rain, but there was concern among growers that more moisture was needed for a good crop. Winter forage was cut for silage. In the San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys, **cotton** field preparation and planting continued, and some cotton fields have begun to emerge. The Imperial Valley cotton crop was being challenged by the region's unusually cool weather and high winds. **Alfalfa** was cut and baled, and some fields were green chopped. Pre-plant **sweet potato** field fumigations continued in Merced County.

FRUIT CROPS

Grapes were leafing out well. **Pears** and **apples** were past full bloom in the northwestern areas of the State. **Peach, cherry, nectarine** and **plum** bloom were complete in some areas, but **prune** bloom was ongoing. Fruit set for many varieties has been heavy due to the warm weather conditions this season. **Cherry** harvest was expected to be delayed in some areas. **Quince** trees were blooming. **Persimmon** stem elongation and leaf expansion were well underway. Stone fruit and **pomegranate** orchards continued to be irrigated and fertilized, as well as treated with herbicides and bloom sprays. Stone fruit orchards were being thinned. The recent warm spring weather continued to dry out citrus fruits damaged by the January freeze. Recovery of damaged trees continued, although flowering and fruit set appeared to be lost for the season in parts of Imperial County. In Tulare County, citrus bloom began early. Navel **orange** harvest has been slow and steady, and packing houses were not working at full capacity. Murcott **tangerines** were being packed and showed good quality. **Lemons** were also packed. **Strawberries** were setting fruit.

NUT CROPS

Fungicides were applied to **almonds** and many groves were irrigated. Late **walnut** varieties were sprayed for blight.

VEGETABLE CROPS

The planting of bell **peppers, cucumber, eggplant, squash, sweet corn** and **watermelons** continued. The recent rainfall did little to disrupt field activities. Fields of **broccoli, carrots, onions** and processing **tomatoes** were being weeded, irrigated, fertilized, and treated to control insects and mildew. Harvests of **asparagus, bok choy, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, daikon, dandelion greens, garlic, green onions, kale, leaf and head lettuce, leeks, mustard greens, parsley, parsnips** and **rutabaga** were ongoing. **Spinach** was cut a second time.

LIVESTOCK

Rangeland conditions improved slightly in some areas due to a small amount of rain. The rains were not enough to alleviate dry soils. Grass growth remained below normal. Supplemental feeding of livestock was essential. Some cattle have been removed from pastures earlier than normal due to the poor range conditions. In some areas, rangeland livestock were being moved to irrigated pastures. Most dairies were doing well. Alfalfa fields and retired farmland were grazed by sheep. Bees continued to be removed from almond orchards and placed in blooming fruit orchards.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 04/01/07

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 04/01/07	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 04/01/07	January 1 - 04/01/07	Week Ending 04/01/07	July 1 - 04/01/07	July 1 - 04/01/07	July 1 - June 30
	-- Degrees Fahrenheit --				-- Number --		-- Inches --			
NORTH COAST										
Eureka	48	-2	56	35	0	0	0.85	33.83	32.83	37.53
Ukiah	54	0	78	33	24	0	0.36	20.86	35.22	37.96
Santa Rosa	54	-1	75	35	14	0	0.27	16.24	28.02	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	54	-1	71	43	16	0	0.14	10.58	18.48	19.70
San Jose	57	0	74	41	40	0	0.26	7.84	13.44	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	50	0	0.00	0.00	13.06	14.21
Salinas AP	--	--	70	36	15	0	0.31	7.31	11.45	12.44
Monterey FAA	--	--	67	39	10	0	0.28	6.33	13.36	18.72
King City	57	1	81	35	46	0	0.28	4.79	11.10	11.44
Paso Robles AP	56	2	84	33	39	0	0.03	3.80	12.22	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	57	0	79	34	63	0	0.40	19.03	29.61	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	57	0	78	38	56	0	0.37	10.93	20.74	22.29
Chico AFS	57	2	81	33	80	0	0.14	11.47	23.34	26.32
Marysville	56	-2	78	35	28	0	0.28	10.75	19.78	21.04
Sacramento AP	57	0	77	36	29	0	0.06	9.13	16.02	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	59	3	83	36	70	0	0.27	6.87	12.26	13.95
Fresno	59	1	81	39	88	0	0.69	5.49	9.83	10.60
Bakersfield	61	1	81	44	128	0	0.11	3.13	5.67	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	58	3	78	38	63	0	0.12	4.55	12.73	12.36
Santa Barbara	55	-2	72	40	14	0	0.00	6.18	16.03	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	133	0	0.00	0.00	14.40	14.38
Los Angeles	62	-1	77	49	226	54	0.00	2.47	13.82	14.77
Riverside	60	0	86	38	196	0	0.00	1.34	9.64	9.58
San Diego AP	59	-2	71	50	66	11	0.00	3.51	9.62	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	51	1	79	29	4	0	0.00	1.33	4.30	5.37
Lancaster	56	2	85	30	85	0	0.15	1.25	7.20	6.92
Daggett AP	--	--	82	42	193	10	0.01	0.34	3.80	3.93
Thermal AP	63	-4	85	40	291	153	0.01	0.14	3.43	3.16
Blythe	66	-1	88	46	314	163	0.00	3.88	3.87	3.60
Imperial	67	-1	92	45	352	189	0.00	0.08	2.88	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	41	1	68	18	0	0	0.18	4.69	9.05	12.01
Mt. Shasta	44	1	68	25	0	0	0.33	22.82	34.10	37.02
Blue Canyon	44	3	60	25	6	0	1.24	39.93	57.38	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	63	26	0	0	0.89	17.08	33.19	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.