



NEWS from the DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Melissa Cregan, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Reported by the Fresno County Department of Agriculture
Crop Report for the Month Ending Tuesday, April 30th, 2019**

SMALL GRAINS: Irrigated grain crops and dry-land grain crops were maturing rapidly; fields of barley and wheat were cut, windrowed, and baled. Rice fields were prepared for planting.

FIELD CROPS: Alfalfa was cut, windrowed for drying, and baled. Planting of cotton fields continued. Fields of cotton planted earlier had emerged and were growing well. Sweet corn and corn for silage was planted and had emerged. Garlic and onion fields continue to mature. Cantaloupe, honeydew and watermelon fields were planted, while fields already planted continued to mature. Melon plantings were growing well and beekeepers had started to bring in hives for pollination. Planting, cultivation, irrigation, and pest control treatments were ongoing for tomatoes as needed. Broccoli seed and mustard continued to mature. Alfalfa seed was exported to Chili and Ecuador.

GRAPES, DECIDUOUS TREE FRUIT AND NUTS: Grape vineyards were growing well. Bloom had finished and vineyards leafed out. Removal of sucker growth had begun. Disking, copper, sulfur, and herbicide applications were ongoing. New almonds and pistachio orchards were planted in recently cleared fields. Nut clusters were visible in some pistachio orchards. Most cherries were growing well, in size, some varieties began to show their red color. Due to a bacterial blast, some cherry orchards had little to no fruit and others had an average set. Low to medium levels of cracking was reported for cherries due to this year's frequent rainfall and fluctuating temperatures. Weather conditions resulted in a lighter than usual fruit set for plums, other stone fruit orchards progressed well. Growers had crews thinning peach and nectarine orchards. Pomegranates were blooming and some fruit had set. Raisins, prunes, walnuts, dry cranberries, dry figs, pistachios, almonds, nectarines, peaches, and apricots were packed and/ or exported to: Algeria, Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Estonia, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and Viet Nam.

VEGETABLES AND BERRIES: Continued rainfall delayed some planting of vegetables this spring. Harvesting of broccoli, asparagus, and carrots continued through the end of the month; cultivated in preparation for the next crop. Asparagus was brought in from neighboring counties for packing. Spring lettuce harvest was completed and being disked under for the next crop. Parsley and garbanzos were growing well for the upcoming season. Bell peppers are being planted and showing good growth. Squash was planted and emerged showing good growth. Strawberries were being harvested and offered for sale at roadside stands. Several eggplant fumigations were delayed because of rainfall, but fumigations had largely finished by mid-month. Raspberries, blackberries, boysenberries, and blueberries were growing well. Asparagus, fava beans, lettuce seed were shipped to: Australia, Canada, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand.

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CITRUS, OLIVES AND AVOCADOS: Citrus harvest was ongoing. Citrus groves that have been harvested were being treated with post-emergent herbicides. Foliar fungicide and nutrient applications were ongoing. Thrip sprays began after petal fall was declared in all four citrus districts. Seedless mandarin orchards were netted to exclude bee pollination. New citrus was planted while old orchards were pulled out. Lemon harvest was almost completed. Olives began to bloom. Grapefruit, lemons, navel oranges, and tangelos were packed and shipped to: Chile, Dominican Republic, French Polynesia, Guatemala, Japan, Republic of Korea, and New Zealand.

APIARY, LIVESTOCK, AND RANGELAND: Due to diminishing rains, rangeland was drying out on the hillsides. The eastern slope of the Coast Range Mountains was nearly dry, a hint of green remained on only a few north-facing slopes. Cattle were grazing in foothill pastures; sheep grazed in fallow fields. Feeder steers being shipped to processors. Beehives were removed from almond, pear, and plum orchards; while being put out in melon fields for pollination.

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