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Irrigation starts early in dry local orchards

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Glenn Moore/Tracy Press

Irrigation season begins

Diego Velazquez, a ditch tender for the Banta-Carbona Irrigation District, looks over an orchard of young almond trees off Bird Road that began receiving irrigation water Tuesday morning, nearly a month earlier than normal.



Posted: Friday, February 9, 2018 10:00 am

Press staff report | 0 comments

The latest recorded rainfall in Tracy was on Jan. 26, and it wasn't much — two-hundredths of an inch — and there's no rainfall expected in the next two weeks at least. More and more people are beginning to say, "It's feeling a lot like a drought — again."

Evidence of that is unfolding in rural Tracy farmland, where irrigation water is starting to flow out of canals and into fields — a month earlier than "normal."

"We started delivering water Tuesday," reported David Wiesenberger, general manager of the Banta-Carbona Irrigation District. "We expect to keep going another 10 days and then see how things develop."

He said most of the water is being applied to almond orchards, where trees are about to start blossoming, and the water will help with pollination. Some water is also going to cherry orchards and vineyards.

The same report has come from the Byron Bethany Irrigation District, where water deliveries are beginning this week in the northern part of the district in the Byron and Brentwood areas.

"No one knows if more rain will come our way," said Nick



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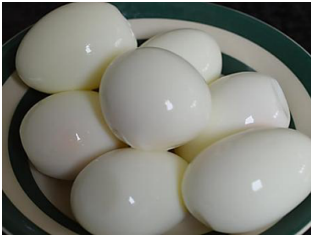
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