



# The Outlook

March 18, 2015

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A moderate Pacific storm system is set to roll into Northern California late this weekend with rains, strong winds and cool temperatures. The brunt of this system will remain to the North of the Salinas Valley and will not bring much needed rain to the valley.

As crops throughout the west begin the transition to spring acreage the warm temperatures look to continue as high pressure remains in control. This has been the pattern for most of the winter season. Numerous record highs have been set throughout California recently as temperatures remain well above seasonal norms. These temperatures continue to push crops ahead of schedule throughout the state.

The waning desert acreage continues ahead of schedule in the warm temperatures as seeders, heat and mildew issues continue to impact yields and quality. Fringe burn and weak tip along with ribby or leggy appearance and fair texture are common in the remaining leaf supplies.

In the transition region of Central California (Huron) lettuce harvests are showing variable shape and solidity with carton weights (34-40lbs, cellos) across the board. Harvest crews are trimming up outer leaves in an effort to minimize insect pressure leaving slightly pale color. Occasional fringe burn, weak tip, and rib blight are showing up at pack out, with growth splits/crack evident in some of the solid heads being harvested.

The light leaf supplies are showing fairly good texture and some wind and fringe burn. Most lettuce and especially leaf stands in the region are showing the signs of insect intrusion. This looks to remain a problem through the brief transition period. The numerous small insects (flies, gnats, aphids, thrips) tend to hide in between the leaves especially during strong winds.

Insect pressure is sure to rise in this region given the surrounding foliage and warm temperatures. Strong winds may deposit some soil in the leafy items as well leaving them slightly dirty or dusty.

Inclement weather (heavy rains) south of the boarder continues to hinder production as a couple more systems impact Central Mexico this week.

The warmth out west has impacted all crops and production shortages are sure to arise as we approach spring. Broccoli and Cauliflower stands are particularly susceptible to the hot temperatures received this winter. These crops prefer cooler coastal locations and tend to bolt in the warm temperatures. Yields will be very low in these upcoming stands.

We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you up to date as we gather the information.