

the Outlook

The cut-off upper level low pressure system slowly moving through California will bring an increased marine layer, humidity and cooler temperatures to California through the week. Strong thunderstorms and hail have already hit some Central Valley fields with more likely on the way into the weekend. The cool temperatures, humidity and moisture will increase mold, mildew and disease issues in these spring stands. One thing to remember is that most spring crops were planted over the winter and have been in the ground a long time, thus providing many opportunities for problems to arise in the fields.



As we approach summer harvests in Central California growers look for an improved weather pattern to increase supply and quality. The spring weather pattern of generally warm temperatures (with a few strong storms) has taken its toll on supplies. Spring storms disrupted many scheduled plantings causing some current gaps in supplies. The warm weather pattern that followed increased growth rates pushing crops in the ground ahead of schedule. This weather pattern has impacted yields of current supplies along with increasing mold, mildew, fringe and tip burn issues in lettuce, leaf and mix stands. The inconsistent

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temperatures and moisture has also contributed to some spotting, oxidation (pink rib), rib blight and reduced shelf life. Insect infestations remain a major problem in the region especially in leaf and lettuce stands. This looks to continue for the near term as grower's battle increasing populations.

With Iceberg, romaine and spring mix yields on the light side this spring processors are on the hunt for product to fill their needs further limiting supplies. The combination of lesser yields, processor demand and recent cooler temperatures will keep supplies on the light side for quite awhile.



Broccoli and cauliflower supplies (along with most other commodities) will remain on a bit of a roller coaster as far as supplies as new field come to harvests. Recent moisture and humidity will increase mildew and disease pressure in these upcoming harvests.

Short term forecasts expect a brief but substantial warm up next week with a similar cut-off type storm system impacting the region late next week into the weekend. As always upcoming weather patterns this spring will play a major role in future supplies and quality.