

the Outlook

An extended heat wave will impact California as a strong high-pressure system moves into the southwest today. Record high temperatures are expected across the state over the weekend with temperatures 10-20° above seasonal norms. A slight cool down is forecast for early next week as a trough moves through from the North temperatures, however, will remain above average through the period. Another high-pressure system moves in mid next week with another round of hot temperature into mid-July. This weekend will likely bring the hottest temperatures of the season in many regions. The interior valleys of Central California will see triple-digit temperatures with coastal fields 10-15° above seasonal averages. This will impact harvesting in these warmest regions for the near term as the temperatures are just too hot for workers to pick and pack.

In the Salinas and Santa Maria Valleys, hot temperatures along with warm and humid overnight temperatures will continue advancing growth rates along with mold and mildew issues in these fields. Most crops have already felt the effects of these growing conditions with fringe, tip and internal burn showing up in leaf items. Texture and overall shelf life will also undoubtedly be impacted especially in the tender spinach, spring mix, and baby lettuce supplies. The warm overnight temperatures will continue to affect the texture and shelf life of these products. Heat-related defects will also be on the rise in this extended heat over the next couple of weeks.

The recent and upcoming weather patterns have been conducive for increased insect populations to thrive. Growers are doing their best to mitigate the insects with traps, repellent and increased inspections in the fields and plant. Heat, humidity, and insects all look to become problematic for growers and take a toll on supplies as we move through July. On a positive note summertime production across the U.S. is at peak volume to help overall supplies.

As always future weather patterns will play a crucial role in supplies and quality going forward.

