

the Outlook

As we look toward the transition to California fields weather patterns remain problematic for growers across the state. The unsettled weather pattern continues to bring periods of rain and strong winds to much of California as we move through into spring. This fairly wet pattern continues to impact field preparation and plantings as these systems swing through.

Longer range forecasts keep a somewhat moist weather pattern in place through March at a minimum. This season's incredible precipitation (120-200% of normal) has dramatically improved the drought conditions in California and the west in general. Most of the reservoirs are at or near capacity, and the snowpack continues to build with these spring storms. After many years of drought conditions, the tremendous precipitation has resulted in what is being called a super bloom of wildflowers in California and the Southwest. Along with the wildflowers, the rain has provided ample moisture for tremendous growth of weeds and grasses throughout the region. This, in turn, will provide an ample harborage for insects and other unwanted pests. Reptiles, amphibians, and rodents will also have ample food supply and likely be in large numbers this season.

This past season in the Salinas Valley (after similar precipitation) we saw a significant uptick in complaints involving reptiles, amphibians, rodents and especially insects finding their way into a box or bag. With the super bloom of flowers, weeds, and grasses this season we expect to see an increase in these type of pest finds this upcoming spring.

