

PRO*ACT

CONNECTING FARMS | EMPOWERING KITCHENS™

Crop Update

September 30, 2026

Running Out of Runway

For the last few weeks, we've been talking about disease, insects and lower usable yields in Salinas. Now we're getting to the point where those issues are starting to shorten the season itself.

Some lettuce fields are being harvested earlier than growers would normally like because waiting longer means risking even more loss to disease and quality issues. That gets product out of the field, but it also means lighter heads, lower case weights and less usable volume from the same acreage.

Iceberg is still leading the move, with romaine following behind. Broccoli and cauliflower also remain high on the watch list as insect pressure continues to take a bite out of yields.

The good news is Huron should start helping around the middle of October, giving us another source of lettuce and leaf as Salinas begins to wind down. It's a short window, but it should give the industry a little breathing room before the full desert transition.



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And Salinas isn't the only place running up against the clock.

Hurricane Polo brought heavy rain and wind into parts of Baja California and Sonora, slowing harvests and creating another challenge for Mexico's fall production. Asparagus has been one of the crops feeling the impact, with wet weather making harvest more difficult and adding another wrinkle to an already tight transition.

Green onions may be an even better example. Production around Mexicali has already been dealing with heat, lower yields and tighter supplies, and now heavy rain is making things even tougher. When those fields get too wet, crews simply can't get in and harvest, which can quickly turn a manageable situation into a supply problem.

The bigger concern is that we're still early in the seasonal move south on a lot of Mexico-grown warm-season crops. Another storm following Polo only adds to the challenge. Prolonged rain this early in the transition can slow harvests today and create quality or supply issues that show up weeks later.

For now, there's still time for these crops to recover, but the calendar doesn't stop. Between an early Salinas finish, a short Huron window and wet weather slowing Mexico, we're starting to run out of runway before we transition to the desert this November.

