

the Outlook

As we approach the summer season the heat is on out West as a strong high-pressure system looks to bring an extended heat wave to the region. Coastal regions will be moderated somewhat due to a shallow marine layer and onshore flow. Afternoon temperatures will be well above seasonal norms through the period.

Long range forecasts keep this strong high-pressure system in place until late June. This will increase growth rates and heat related problems in the fields going forward impacting yields and quality.

Fringe burn, internal burn, seeder, and Oxidation (pinking) will be on the rise along with weaker texture and shelf life. Another major concern for growers will be the anticipated pest problem. Rodents, reptiles, amphibians and especially insect populations are at record levels throughout the regions.

The tremendous winter rains out west have created the perfect environment (plenty of weeds, grasses, bushes, and water) for these pests to thrive. We are already seeing insect populations at levels not seen in recent memory. Growers and Pest Control Advisors (PCA's) only have so many options or remedies to combat these infestations that look to be ongoing as we move into summer harvests.

We will likely see a drastic increase in insect activity in these upcoming harvests due to life cycles and the surrounding hills providing plenty of harborage for these pests. The upcoming heat will only increase insect activity in the stands. Growers look to have quite a fight with pathogens, pests, and insects as we move into summer production.

