

# The Outlook



September 10, 2020

During the months of July and August, the Salinas Valley was fighting mold, mildew, and disease pressure due to humidity and warm overnight temperatures affecting yields and quality. Then came the recent fires and two record-breaking heatwaves, including this past weekend, which saw temperatures soar to 115, exacerbating the situation with row crops in the valley for the near future.

At this point, longer-term effects on the fields, especially the young upcoming crops, are yet to show; however, the damage will undoubtedly be felt. Yields, quality, and shelf life are significantly impacted as growers leave behind some acreage due to extensive damage.

The excessive heat has dramatically increased levels of fringe burn, tip burn, sunscald/discoloration, wilt, dehydration and lessened the texture and shelf life of lettuce and leaf items. Other defects include irregular size, shape and solidity with twisted and elongated cores, (seeders) growth crack as insect pressure rises. The extreme heat has also impacted broccoli and cauliflower fields with significantly reduced yields and discoloration, spread, branching, insect pressure, and brown bead/pin rot impacting supplies.

Wildfires continue to rage across the state, depositing silt and ash in many regions. Harvest crews working in the smoke and haze must slow down harvests attempting to discard affected/stressed heads; however, many of the defects are difficult to see in the fields. These factors will continue to cause reduced yields, quality, texture, and shelf life as we head towards fall harvests. As always, upcoming weather trends will play a significant role in upcoming supplies and quality. We will continue to keep you updated as we gather more information.

Cooler temperatures and the marine layer's return near the coast are forecast into next week as above average overnight temperatures continue.



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