



The Outlook

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Potentially Damaging Storms Set To Disrupt Supplies

The West Coast is bracing for the series of very powerful Pacific storm systems set to impact the entire West Coast through the week possibly well beyond. These systems will bring cooler temperatures very strong (gale force at times) winds and significant precipitation throughout California beginning on Sunday. The desert growing regions of Southwestern Arizona are also expected to receive a cool down very strong winds and decent shot of significant rain as these systems roll through. These desert fields do not handle rain well and moderate amounts of rainfall can cause significant harvest disruptions. The cooler temperatures, strong winds and rain will surely impact supplies, (especially lettuce, leaf and spring mix items) quality and shelf life in future harvests. Also in the direct line of fire is the upcoming strawberry production in Southern California. These coastal stands will surely be pounded by these upcoming systems putting upcoming Valentines Day supplies in jeopardy. It is safe to say that supplies will be limited especially stem supplies. On the ominous side certain (many) extended long range forecasts (10+ days out) show a reloading of this jet stream with a possible pineapple express type of pattern setting up after Sunday. This is the type of pattern where the jet stream picks up warm moisture from the Southern Pacific (El Niño) and slams California with heavy precipitation. Needless to say we will be closely watching the weather patterns as we move forward. Upcoming weather patterns will play a crucial role as to future supply and quality and at this point we will have to wait and see the how the various regions come through these storms.

