



The Outlook

April 15, 2009

© 2009 PRO*ACT, LLC



CROP OUTLOOK

Cool windy conditions will continue today out West behind the exiting storm system following yesterday's tremendous wind event. Steady 20-30+ mph winds with gusts in the 60s were reported throughout California. A transition to much warmer temperatures begins on Thursday as high pressure moves into place. Temperatures are expected to increase 5-10 degrees each day with temperatures into the 80s and possibly the low 90s over the weekend into early next week.

The Southeast will get a welcome reprieve from the torrential rains of late. The next system (currently exiting CA see above) will take a few days before reaching the region over the weekend. The region will get a few days of much needed dry weather before the next series of short waves moves in.

The weather continues to be a challenge for California growers this transition season. Cooler temperatures, with a few late season freezes, heat waves, with a few record highs recorded (possible again this weekend), numerous heavy wind events along with untimely storm systems have all impacted the growing regions lately. The very strong winds currently throughout California will leave lettuce and leafy green stands somewhat tattered and torn with lesser texture and shelf life for the near term. These tattered and torn leaves will also allow an entrance for pathogens (molds, mildews disease etc) which may further reduce upcoming yields. The strong winds have created large swathes of blowing dirt and dust which gets deposited on the various crops and is near impossible to clean off thus adding a little top soil to many pack-outs. These winds can also cause some dehydration in lettuce and leaf items weakening overall texture while impacting yields, quality and shelf life, especially leafy greens and spring mix items. Add to this hot temperatures (10-15 degrees above seasonal norms) expected over the weekend and we have the potential for some supply hiccups as the transition continues. Insect activity will also likely rise in the warm temperatures following days of cool temperatures and strong winds limiting their movement. You can expect to see and increase in fringe burn, bruising, heat related defects and dust along with lesser texture, quality and shelf life for the near term at a minimum. As always upcoming weather patterns will play a major role as to future supplies.