



The Outlook

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Western Region Outlook

The unseasonably cool and moist weather conditions in Central California look to continue into next week. With more cold winter type storm systems set to roll through California over the next week growers will continue to face supply and quality issues. A deep, cold upper level trough is projected to move southward into California, bringing a series of disturbances and a chance of showers through this weekend. Although precipitation looks to remain light, if any cold, moist and breezy conditions will be the norm into next week. Daytime highs are expected to reach the low 60s through the week, remarkably cold for late May.

These cold, moist growing conditions will continue to lessen overall growth rates while increasing mold, mildew, rot and disease in the fields. Planting gaps over the winter (due to rains preventing timely plantings) along with the persistent cold, moist weather patterns this April and May have drastically lowered yields in many stands. Growers remain well ahead of harvest schedules and are forced to enter younger fields early to meet demand, resulting in smallish head size and lighter carton weights. As low yields continue, processors will be on the hunt for raw product to fill their needs. This in turn will lessen overall acreage available down the road, impacting future supplies. This season's weather pattern looks to remain problematic for growers for the short term at a minimum. We need some extended mild days help combat mold, mildews and disease and to get growth rates moving in the right direction.

Bottom line is that supplies, quality and shelf life will be problematic in the near term possibly well beyond. Future weather patterns will play a crucial role as to how these stands recover throughout the Western growing regions.