



The Outlook

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CROP OUTLOOK

Hot temperatures are forecast once again for Central California late this week into the weekend following weeks of cooler humid temperatures in the region. Forecasts anticipate these hot temperatures to be followed by another cool down mid next week. And so the roller coaster continues as to temperatures and growing conditions in California this year.

The Southeast has also seen hot temperatures this week continuing into next week following a very wet spring in the region.

Lettuces- Weeks of moist, humid conditions throughout May and early June have created ongoing quality issues in leaf and lettuce stands in the Salinas Valley. These growing conditions have drastically increased molds and mildews in the fields with the moist, humid overnight conditions contributing to internal and tip burn. Most affected are romaine and iceberg stands as yields remain on the light side for the near term given the anticipated weather pattern. Local and regional growing deals across the country and Canada will add to supplies easing demand somewhat. These local supplies are subject to weather patterns and growing conditions and demand can quickly shift back to California production. Upcoming demand, especially processor demand, will play a crucial role as to upcoming supplies.

Cauliflower- Supplies will remain light to moderate for the near term as yields lessen in the anticipated warmer temperatures. Current production remains heavy toward large sized (9s) flower and the warm up will only increase growth rates in these stands. Demand remains relatively light at the moment but can quickly change as we move through summer production.

Onions- Demand exceeds supplies currently on fresh onion production as California growers struggle to provide product. Overall cooler temperatures in the San Joaquin Valley along with less planted acreage (water restrictions) have combined to create a shortfall of product. The current size structure in the valley is heavy toward smaller sized onions. The cooler temperatures are also impacting the drying of the onions at the moment. Overall growing conditions (cool, moist) have increased stain and pitting in the crop further reducing yields. Add to this light production out of New Mexico (30% less planted acreage) pushing demand toward California and we have our current situation. The recent warm up should help with the drying process and improve growth rates in the fields. Given the various factors supplies look to remain tight for the near term at a minimum.

Hot temperatures forecast in the Midwest and Southeast this week may impact local supplies from these regions as numerous heat advisories have been issued in the various states. These temperatures have the potential to impact supplies of beans, bell pepper, squash and especially tomatoes due to bloom drop and heat stress. At this time we will have to wait and see how the various regions come through the current heat wave.