



The Outlook

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Western Region Transition

A strong high pressure ridge off the West Coast will keep the region dry with gradual warming into next week. This is a welcome relief from the cool temperatures and rains this winter season. The improved weather pattern will spur growth rates in the upcoming transitional acreage and spring stands. With the beginning of the transition to California fields fast approaching supplies look to be on the light side due to numerous factors. Adverse growing conditions throughout the Southeast have greatly lessened supplies from this region putting added pressure on western growers. Near ideal growing conditions in the desert region has brought product on ahead of schedule creating less supplies for the end of the season. Rain and cool temperatures in California and Mexico this winter have impacted growth rates and yields of upcoming spring crops. Heavy rains and strong winds in the transition region of Central California has caused mold, mildew and maturity issues (head size) in this region. Processors will likely come up short on product for their plants due to these factors and will be sourcing product outside their allotted acreage. This will put further pressure on spring and transitional supplies from California. Bottom line is that supplies, quality and shelf life will be problematic during the transition possibly well beyond. Future weather patterns will play a crucial role as to how these stands recover throughout the Western growing regions.