

the Outlook

A major long duration Santa Ana wind event is set to impact Southern California this week beginning today into Friday. Santa Ana winds begin the day with sustained winds of 20-30mph increasing throughout the day gusting up to 60mph. Winds continue overnight and increase on Tuesday under a strengthening high-pressure system.

Very low humidity levels will greatly increase wildfire risk throughout the week. Winds begin to taper off toward the latter part of the week as the high pressure weakens this weekend.

These winds have the potential to impact the numerous crops grown in the region. Lemons can be knocked from trees along with an increase scarring of the crop. Strawberries will get rolled around in the winds causing bruising and heavy wind damage. The tender cilantro, parsley, spinach and baby leaf items can be shredded in the powerful wind. Lettuce and leafy greens will be affected as wind and fringe burn increases, and sand and dust are picked up and deposited by the winds. These winds will also zap the texture of these crops causing dehydration, wilt, and limpness at pack out.

The desert regions of the Imperial Valley and Yuma will also see some strong winds (20-35mph gusting to 50mph) with this event early this week tapering off by mid-week. These extreme winds can do long-term damage to crops especially given the long duration of this event. As always upcoming weather patterns will play a crucial role in supplies and quality going forward.

