

# the Outlook

The powerful storm system currently rolling through California will exit the region by late Friday. This slow moving system is tapping into warm subtropical moisture from the Eastern Pacific. The last in a series of storm systems will move into Central California and regions to the north over the weekend. This will conclude weeks of inclement weather (rain, winds, cold temperatures) out west as these late-season winter storms look to wind down. A strong, high-pressure system builds behind the storms providing dry conditions and a substantial warming trend for the entire western region through next week. This will be a welcome relief allowing growers to work the ground and resume plantings and harvests next week.

The southwestern desert region remains weeks ahead of schedule as their season quickly winds down. The transition region of Central California (Huron) along with the Salinas Valley have seen adverse growing conditions (heat in early growth period) along with the recent late-season storms impacting yields and production. This light transition acreage will not offset the early finish in the desert and the late start in the coastal fields. These coastal fields have seen extreme heat throughout December and January followed by late freezing temperatures and weeks of rain. Mold, mildew and disease pressure will surely rise in the fields impacting yields and quality for the near term at a minimum. Growers continue to reach for product by harvesting these young stands to meet demand. This will lessen available acreage down the road. Longer range forecasts bring another winter type storm system into Central California around early April.

We will have to wait and see how these longer range forecasts pan out. As always upcoming weather patterns will play a crucial role in supplies a quality going forward.

