

the Outlook

A powerful storm system approaches the West Coast tonight with strong winds and heavy precipitation. This system is tapping into subtropical moisture from the Pacific Ocean known as atmospheric rivers or the Pineapple Express. The storm track looks to bring the system into Central and Northern California with much lesser amounts to the south.

A couple of weaker systems approach next week keeping the region cool and wet with the main track of these systems focused just to the north. Rain totals of 1-2 inches are possible with the first system tonight with much lesser amounts expected next week.

These strong late-season storms will, of course, impact harvests and production from the transition regions of Huron and the new stands in Salinas and Santa Maria Valleys. These spring stands have seen difficult growing conditions this season to say the least. Record heat during the early growth cycle in December, January, and early February was followed by rare freezing temperatures in late February and now the numerous late-season rains. This will not help the already light supplies available next week.

Longer range forecast bring a warming trend to Central California around Mid-April. We will continue to see lesser size and carton weights in upcoming acreage as growers reach for product to meet demand.

We will be closely watching these latest storm systems and keep you up to date on impacts to future supplies.

