



The Outlook

February 5, 2014

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Outlook

A couple of Pacific storm systems are set to roll into Northern California into this weekend with rains, strong winds and cool temperatures. The brunt of these systems will remain to the North however a strong wind event (20-35mph, gusts 40+mph) is expected to impact the Western Desert growing regions as these systems roll through.

As growers throughout the region brace for these much needed storm systems strawberry and bush berry supplies from Southern California (Oxnard) may incur quality issues following these storms for the short term at a minimum. Bush and strawberry supplies in the Oxnard area are improving however quality issues will likely impact yields for the near term following this windy system.

In the Desert regions strong winds may deposit some soil in the leafy items leaving them slightly dirty or dusty. lettuce harvests are showing variable solidity and carton weights with growth splits/crack evident in some of the solid heads being harvested. Most lettuce and especially romaine leaf stands in the region are showing moderate to heavy fringe burn along with some blister and weak tip. The numerous small insects (flies, gnats, aphids, thrips) also tend to hide in the leafy items especially during stormy weather. Insect pressure is on the rise in this region given the warm temperatures the past few weeks. The cool down expected in the desert regions will slow growth rates in the fields which are weeks ahead of normal schedule due to the prolonged warm spell. With the desperately needed (California) approaching storm systems and associated strong winds we will have to wait and see how the various districts come through the upcoming storm systems.