

the Outlook

The cool, wet weather pattern out west looks to continue well into March as a series of storm systems are set to move into California. After a very warm start to the year with numerous record high temperatures, a pattern change began in late February. While the rain and associated mountain snowpack are desperately needed in California, the timing of this wet pattern will not be conducive to crop development throughout the state. All crops from apples and stone fruit to row crops are in the line of fire with these late season storm systems. The wet weather will delay harvesting and planting activities as the cool temperatures slow growth rates in these fields. Mold mildew and disease pressure will be on the rise as growers reach for available acreage to fill demand.

With the Yuma region on the tail end of their season, supplies will be extremely light as we transition to Central California fields. Long range forecasts keep the wet pattern in place for at least the next two weeks possibly well beyond. Given the weather pattern, we can expect lighter carton weights along with lesser yields, quality and shelf life making the current transition to Central California fields very difficult, to say the least. As always, upcoming weather patterns will play a crucial role in supplies a quality going forward.

