

the Outlook

As we continue to ramp up production from the Central Coast of California a typical spring weather pattern looks to take shape. After a much cooler a wetter late winter and early spring the fight between high and low-pressure systems continues. A few cold winter type storm systems generated from the Gulf of Alaska have continued to roll into California in May. The cool and moist conditions have increased mold and mildew throughout the valley impacting yields, especially in the tender baby leaf and spring mix stands. The heavy winter rains have provided a tremendous supply of weeds and grasses for numerous fungi and pathogens to survive. These grasses will also provide cover for insect populations to thrive as the summer rolls on.

Currently, a strong high-pressure ridge forming off the Pacific Coast looks to spike temperatures to near record highs into early next week. Temperatures 10-20 degrees above norms are expected over the weekend. Heat-related defects are likely to show up in future harvests due to this anticipated heat.

Crops are coming on following the planting gaps caused by excessive rain this winter. As we move toward summer production upcoming yields will play a crucial role as to supplies from California. A drastic increase in local growers across the country has caused many growers to lessen speculative acreage due to lack of demand. This will leave current plantings as the only source of product going forward out of California. Strong yields will be an important factor as to supplies this summer. We have already seen an uptick in mold and mildew pressure as well as in the insect populations. As we move into summer harvests insect pressure is sure to rise as the surrounding hills packed with weeds and grasses provide harborage for these pests. Growers look to have a battle on their hands with fungi, pathogens, and insects in high concentrations this year. As always upcoming weather patterns will play a major role as to future supplies.