

A substantial heatwave is forecasted out west for the Salinas Valley into the weekend. The San Joaquin Valley will see triple-digit temperatures with record highs possible into the weekend as well. Although crop assessment in the numerous districts will be an ongoing process, we can forecast some typical results from these weather patterns and high temperatures. Not only the heat (how hot it gets) but the duration (number of days) of this heatwave will be a factor in how the numerous crops fair going forward.

San Joaquin Valley

In the San Joaquin Valley, triple-digit temperatures this week will likely impact growth rates while increasing sun burn and heat-related defects of the various crops, affecting future yields and quality. Sizing issues and sunburn are common in stone fruit, grape, and melon harvests following extreme temperatures.

Fresh onions tend to break down due to sun burn and bloom drop in the **tomato, squash, bean, and melon** stands may affect supplies down the road. These extreme temperatures may also curtail harvesting hours throughout the valley as worker safety becomes a major concern.

Salinas and Santa Maria

As far as the coastal growing regions are concerned (Salinas and Santa Maria), we will have to wait and see how the stands come through the warm-up. Insect populations are on the rise in the warm temperatures along with mildew fringe burn, internal burn, and seeders, likely impacting yields and quality in the near future. **Romaine and romaine heart** production are susceptible to internal burn problems in these warm and humid growing conditions. **Heart** material becomes very challenging to

Salinas and Santa Maria (Continued)

produce in these growing conditions. Many **lettuce stands** are showing some mildew and fringe burn issues currently. Lighter supplies, lesser texture, shelf life, and overall quality is expected to be impacted as growers work through current acreage.

Broccoli, cauliflower, and celery yields may take a hit as rapid growth in the fields take a toll on the pack out. We will likely see an increase in bead size (broccoli) spread and hollow core impacting these stands.

Strawberry production has passed its peak and will likely show the effects of the heat as well. These conditions tend to produce smaller, tender, overripe fruit that is difficult to handle and pack. You will see an increase in bruising, bleeders, green and seedy tips, and overall tender fruit for the near term. Stem supplies will likely also be severely reduced (smaller fruit, higher counts) in these warm temperatures.

Another concern for growers is the young seedlings, transplants, and **tender or baby leaf** (spring mix, spinach, etc) items as these crops are susceptible to extended hot temperatures. Wilt, dehydration, and general growing conditions will affect the quality and shelf life of these tender leaf items.

Summary

The bottom line is that most upcoming crops are likely to be affected to some degree (yields, quality, texture, shelf life, etc). Heat-related defects will certainly rise as growers do their best to combat the heat. Product may begin to bunch up leaving the possibility of shortages as harvests continue. Keep a close eye on inventories and rotation as lesser quality and shelf life are expected over the next couple of weeks at a minimum.