



The Outlook

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Crop Outlook

The very cool moist weather pattern throughout coastal California recently is forecast to continue through at least next week. This summer's overall temperatures have been below normal most of the season (minus the brief heat wave experienced in mid-July). The past few weeks have seen temperatures well below normal (5-10 degrees) with generally overcast conditions. Low clouds, fog and heavy dew in the mornings have been the norm for the most part. These growing conditions are ideal for the development of mold and mildew in the fields. In the continued cool moist conditions mold and mildew can take hold in the fields and surrounding grasses making them difficult to combat. Without the afternoon warm-up and winds to help dry out fields the mold and mildew can rapidly spread to surrounding acreage. This may become a problem for spring mix and baby leaf supplies in the near future. These cool moist growing conditions will also increase tip and internal burn in lettuce and leaf stands especially romaine. Another potential outcome of the extended cool temperatures is that fields will tend to bunch up instead of coming to maturity on their typical production cycle. This has the potential to cause production gaps in future harvests. Current mild demand is keeping things in check for the moment but supplies could become problematic as the summer rolls on.

The bottom line is that most upcoming row crops are likely to be affected to some degree (yields, quality, texture, shelf life etc). 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.