



The Outlook

October 4, 2012

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The mini heat wave (Sunday-Tuesday) that hit Central and Southern California early this week has ended as temperatures return to seasonal norms. Temperatures reached triple digits in many coastal growing regions causing some damage to strawberry and raspberry stands. These late season Salinas/Watsonville supplies will show the effects of this heat as damage assessments continue in the fields. Yields will be light for the near term as plants recover and the season winds down.

Lettuce stands have come through the extreme temperatures in decent shape due mainly to the short duration (3 days) of these temperatures. There is some heat related damage evident in the fields but most stands should recover and provide decent yields. The upcoming transitional acreage in the Huron region uses heat resistant varieties in this area and these fields remain in good shape at this time.

Following this warm spell the Salinas Valley has seen a return of the marine layer and temperatures a bit below normal continuing the pattern seen throughout the summer. Mid range forecasts bring a slight chance of rain into the valley early next week however computer model runs are not in agreement on this system and confidence is fairly low at the moment.

As always weather patterns from here on out will play a crucial role as yields and quality of these upcoming supplies.