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Trendspotting: Unsettled weather hitting crops on both coasts

By

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As many throughout the country prepare for the holiday weekend, storms are expected to impact Southern California and the southwestern desert growing regions. The rains will likely impact northern Mexico areas as well, according to Tim Lynch, quality assurance manager at Pro*Act.

"The southwestern desert regions have seen cold mornings and lettuce ice recently with some epidermal peel and blister showing up in the leafy green supplies," said Lynch. "The upcoming storm system will likely increase mold and mildew in the fields."

Adverse weather, including rain and colder temperatures, has meant strawberry production in central Mexico is low, according to Pro*Act. It is expected that through the weekend, demand will exceed supply.

Demand is also exceeding supply for asparagus and white onions, mostly due to holiday promotions.

There have been rains — and cooler temperatures — in Florida as well, as production moves toward southern Florida. The weather will likely cause some bloom drop on squash, peppers and tomatoes, impacting supplies and quality in the near term, according to Pro*Act.

Long range forecasts predict another round of unsettled weather to much of Florida early next week.

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About Craig Levitt |

When his dreams of becoming a professional hockey player came crashing down due to lack of talent, Craig Levitt turned to journalism. He graduated from Hofstra University in 1992 and has covered various areas of the retail food trade since 1996. Craig joined The Produce News in 2017 and is now managing editor. In his spare time, Craig still plays men's league hockey (poorly) and enjoys walking the aisles of his favorite supermarket with his wife and two daughters.

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