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**PRO\*ACT Crop Update: West Coast braces for more heat**

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By

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[High pressure building out west](#) will bring another round of hot temperatures to the West Coast with excessive heat warnings for Southern California and the southwestern desert regions. In the Coastal California growing regions of Oxnard, Santa Maria and the Salinas valleys the roller coaster of summer temperatures will continue along with the coastal marine layer — especially for fields near the coast. Inland regions will continue to see some hotter temperatures and generally warm overnight temperatures as we move into fall.

There have been some reports of disease pressure showing up in lettuce, leafy green and other fields in certain locations across the valley. The continued warm, humid overnight conditions will increase mold, mildew and disease pressure, including sclerotinia, fusarium and downy mildew, which are caused by a soil-inhabiting fungus. The fungi can persist for long periods in the soil and is spread by wind or equipment in the moist humid conditions.

Compared to last summer we are seeing less disease pressure at the moment; however, it is not a matter of if but when we will see an increase in disease pressure. Some seeders along with fringe and tip burn are also being reported in current leaf supplies. Tip burn occurs when environmental conditions favor rapid succulent growth, warm temperatures, excessive soil moisture and warm



overnight temperatures with high relative humidity.

Broccoli supplies are showing some bead discoloration along with a branchy crown. The tender spring mix and cilantro have also been impacted by the heat and warm, humid overnight temperatures with some discoloration and a weaker texture. These warmer temperatures allow for continued growth overnight in these stands impacting texture and shelf life, especially in fresh-cut/processed items. Processed items will continue to have a reduced shelf life and should be used as quickly as possible, keeping a close eye on rotation.

To the south in the desert regions growers are currently planting for the winter season. Very hot temperatures across northern Mexico along with strong winds have drastically reduced green onion supplies from the main growing region of Mexicali. These regions supply most of the current production and will take weeks to recover at a minimum.

*With over 30 years in the produce industry, Tim Lynch started as an inspector and advanced into quality control and food safety. Beyond work, he's an avid sports fan, relishing in activities like boating, fishing, and diving. Originally from Hollywood, California, Tim attended Cal Poly SLO before making Marina his home since 1994.*

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