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PRO*ACT Crop Update: Wildfires severely impact production

By

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February 5, 2025



[Temperatures have returned to seasonal averages](#) in northern Mexico and the southwestern desert regions following weeks of cold temperatures.

In early January hurricane-force winds sparked extensive wildfires in Southern California and Northern Baja that severely impacted herb production from these regions. The strong winds and extended cold temperatures have reduced supplies of most herbs, especially basil followed by tarragon and sage.

A couple of low-pressure systems will bring slightly cooler temperatures and light precipitation to the region through the weekend followed by seasonal temperatures and dry conditions next week. Upcoming availability will depend on how quickly these crops recover in the warming temperatures expected next week. Add to this, logistical challenges at the ports in the East Coast limiting imported herb supplies from Central America.



Upcoming weather patterns will play a pivotal role in herb production out west as we move through February. Overall supplies look to remain light for the near term.

Plenty of uncertainty remains regarding the potential tariffs on Canada and Mexico that have been placed on a 30-day pause by the Trump administration. Given the numerous fruits and vegetables that may be impacted by these potential tariffs, the produce industry is justifiably concerned as negotiations continue between officials.

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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