

# Crop Update

Tropical activity continues in the Eastern Pacific as Hurricane Flossie weakens and moves offshore near southern Baja over the next few days. Another system is likely to develop into a tropical depression near southwestern Mexico next week. Meanwhile in the Gulf of Mexico another tropical system is anticipated to form off the gulf coast of Florida over the weekend into early next. Regardless of development these potential systems will bring substantial precipitation to Southern and Central Mexico and the Southeast U.S. into next week.

The Southwestern and Central Mexico regions have already received significant precipitation and hail from numerous previous tropical systems as the rains continue. Growers in the region are not able to get their crews in to harvest on regular schedules due to saturated field conditions. Numerous crops continue to be impacted and with more rain on the way, yields and quality will suffer further lessening supplies from the region.

Regional U.S. production has also been impacted by inclement weather across the country hindering production. Heavy rains and the recent record heat across the Mid-Atlantic, Southeast and Eastern Seaboard have impacted production of the various crops. All of these factors have drastically increased demand for California supplies.

Out West in the coastal California growing regions, the continued heavy marine layer causing extended cooler temperatures has slowed growth rates in the fields. This has also increased mold, mildew and soil disease in the stands. Add to this increased insect pressure, especially diamondback moth intrusions in the Cole crop fields. These small moths can quickly impact broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage and cauliflower fields as the larvae feed on the plants. These larvae are quite active and well camouflaged and can easily hide in the broccoli crown (and other Cole crops) making it very difficult for growers and harvest crews to spot the embedded pests. All these factors will contribute to lesser yields and quality of the various crops impacted as growers assess damage.

We will be watching the weather patterns to keep you up to date as to the potential impacts on the various crops and growing regions as reports become available.

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