

GreenGate Fresh Crop Report



Report Date	8/18/2020
Growing Location	Salinas, CA

Overview

- Over the weekend, the Salinas Valley experienced an incredible heat wave which is now starting to calm down. Temperatures of 100°F or greater were seen in many different micro-climates. Further, around 3:30AM Sunday morning, a brief but powerful lightning storm came out of nowhere, sparking what is now being tracked as the 'River Fire' and 'Carmel Fire.' As of Tuesday, the fire is roughly 10% contained with many structures damaged or threatened.
- Ash can be found in most fields, even across the valley upwind. Field pack cartons will likely have ash on them, but pre-cut items have multiple opportunities to wash away any residues.
- The quality effects of the heat wave combined with the sky now being blanketed by smoke will be seen for weeks now. Heat stressed plants are susceptible to burn and dehydration, making quality more difficult to manage across the board. Iceberg and Romaine crops scheduled for harvest after this week may exhibit tip burn due to the drastic fluctuations in day-time and night-time temperatures which can confuse the plant's metabolism – specifically, their ability to translocate calcium to the growth tips.
- Please note that with the extreme heat and the fire, we expect insect pressures to spike, particularly on tenderleaf crops. We will continue to do everything in our power to keep them from making their way through the process.



Photo Credit: <https://twitter.com/AlexLeavenworth>

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Monday Morning, 8/17/2020 – Roof of GGF Salinas Plant



Tuesday Morning, 8/18/2020 – Roof of GGF Salinas Plant:

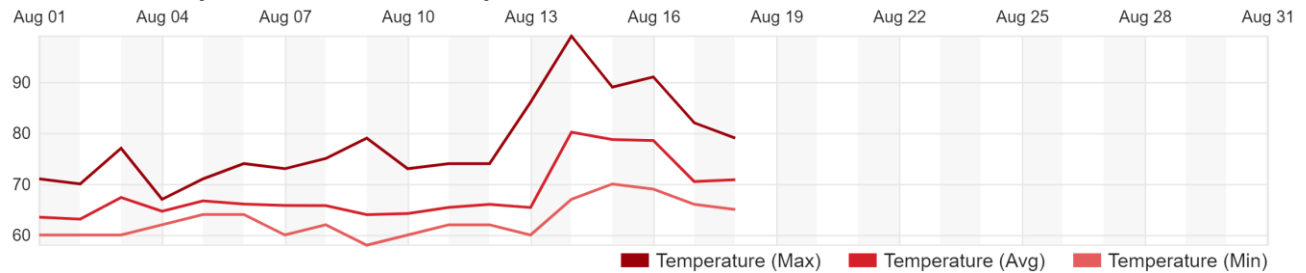


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Historical Weather (West Salinas Station):



Greenfield, CA Monthly Weather						
4:43 pm PDT						
Aug 2020						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26 ☀️ 89° 53°	27 ☀️ 87° 54°	28 ☀️ 89° 52°	29 ☀️ 89° 53°	30 ☀️ 89° 54°	31 ☀️ 88° 52°	1 ☀️ 91° 51°
2 ☀️ 94° 49°	3 ☀️ 95° 53°	4 ☀️ 83° 53°	5 ☀️ 74° 56°	6 ☀️ 80° 58°	7 ☀️ 83° 52°	8 ☀️ 88° 53°
9 ☀️ 93° 52°	10 ☀️ 92° 52°	11 ☀️ 88° 53°	12 ☀️ 94° 52°	13 ☀️ 98° 56°	14 ☀️ 109° 67°	15 ☀️ 105° 64°
16 ☀️ 109° 72°	17 ☀️ 106° 69°	18 ☁️ -- 70°	19 ☁️ 106° 65°	20 ☁️ 99° 63°	21 ☁️ 98° 66°	22 ☀️ 104° 70°
23 ☁️ 102° 69°	24 ☁️ 101° 69°	25 ☁️ 101° 66°	26 ☁️ 99° 65°	27 ☁️ 99° 68°	28 ☁️ 94° 65°	29 ☁️ 95° 64°

Crops Covered This Week:

- Iceberg Lettuce
- Romaine Lettuce
- Green Cabbage
- Spinach
- Arugula
- Broccoli

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Iceberg

This week's iceberg is primarily in Castroville, CA. The cooler temps in this area have treated the iceberg quite well. There is a little bit of tip burn, but heads are mostly clean internally. Some heads are showing elongated cores or twisted cores which can make it more difficult to remove all of the core in the field during harvesting. Very few heads are showing burst damage right now.



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Romaine

Romaine has been challenged this season with Impatiens virus, some rib blight, mildew and general heat stress. Despite these challenges, growers have been doing a great job keeping on top of appropriate water cycles to mitigate soil-borne diseases and harvest crews have done a very good job of keeping the defects out in the field and not in the bins.

I expect tip burn to become more of an issue now with the hot weather followed by much cooler days and higher humidity. The general consensus is that tip burn is caused by the inability of the plant to translocate calcium when temperatures fluctuate and confuse the metabolism of the plant. Further, elongated cores seen in many fields are a sign of stress and make trimming in the field more difficult while decreasing field yields.



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Today's Romaine – longer cores in this lot (farther away from the coast):



Tomorrow's Romaine – smaller cores in this lot:





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Tip burn example from today's romaine:



Smoke above the romaine harvest this morning:



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Green Cabbage

Green cabbage has been doing very well all season. The main issue seen is more around variability in the size of the heads. Some minor mildew on outer leaves has been seen recently but is very easy to trim away during harvest or inspection at the plant. Core lengths have stayed down and organoleptic quality has been great with sweet, crisp leaves. Thankfully, cabbage isn't as susceptible to the fluctuations in temperature but still needs to be carefully managed throughout the season for soil-borne diseases and pests. Some caterpillar/worm damage can be seen on outer leaves in many fields but as long as they are kept at bay, they won't have an effect on quality.



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Spinach

The heat will put a major stress on Spinach as well, but the shortening days should allow for a stronger cellular structure as we move into fall transition. Wind damage continues to be an issue in most parts of the valley growing regions. Supplies are steady and we don't see any reason for concern moving toward transition which is less than 3 months away now!



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Arugula

With the days shortening after the summer solstice, Arugula is doing a bit better avoiding 'survival mode,' and flowering. However, the recent heat and high humidity has sparked more mildew damage than we normally see during this time of the year. Although many plants have mildew, the rosettes are strong and the damage is minimal. Variety selection is crucial to combatting mildew and those varieties that didn't fare so well were not harvested. Unfortunately, the resistance packages for seed genetics are a moving target, much like the flu vaccine, we don't know exactly what strain will be a problem each season.



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Broccoli

Pin rot continues to be an issue in the Salinas Valley. Broccoli is generally used as a rotational crop between lettuces because it fumigates the soil and kills all kinds of diseases. Unfortunately, now we need to find the best crop to rotate around broccoli or some other management strategy that will effectively eliminate this fungal nuisance. The 'rot' has calmed down through August and the back half of the season should be much better than the front half. Crowns are great size right now, florets are crisp and well-formed. Crowns are not exhibiting much if any flowering or yellowing other than those spots on the crown that never see the sun to produce chlorophyll.



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