

GreenGate Fresh Crop Report

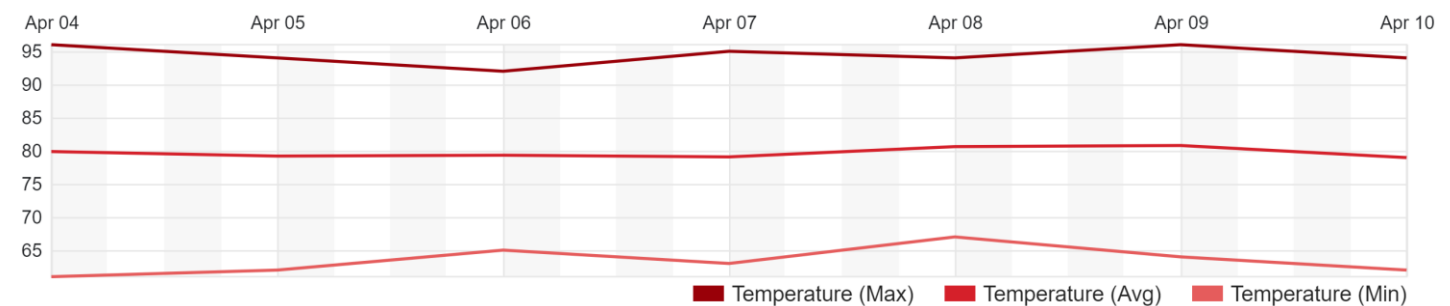


Report Date	4/14/2021
Growing Location	Yuma, AZ

Overview

- Transition update: The last few months in the desert saw excellent quality with little to no issues to report. As we now wind down the season in Yuma, the temperatures are starting impact most crops in different ways. The last couple of weeks have seen temperatures as high as 100°F in the desert, creating challenges with both product quality and harvest operations. Each commodity section below will touch on the most pressing issues related to the heat.
- To help avoid the impact of the heat, harvest crews are starting to cut anywhere from 11PM to 1AM each day, with the intention of getting all the product to the plant and vacuum cooled well before noon.
- Our last day processing in Yuma will be next Thursday. Supply is still ample, though care must be taken in the field and in the plant to avoid the defects and minimize the impact to customers. The product in Salinas is coming in nicely, though still young. We expect there to be some very minor issues in Salinas, particularly sizing with less mature, loose heads. We will have another crop report ready shortly after starting in Salinas so everyone can understand what the first loads will look like before they arrive.
- As always, if you have any questions on a specific commodity, feel free to reach out to our team to get crop-specific updates.

Historical Weather (Yuma Station):

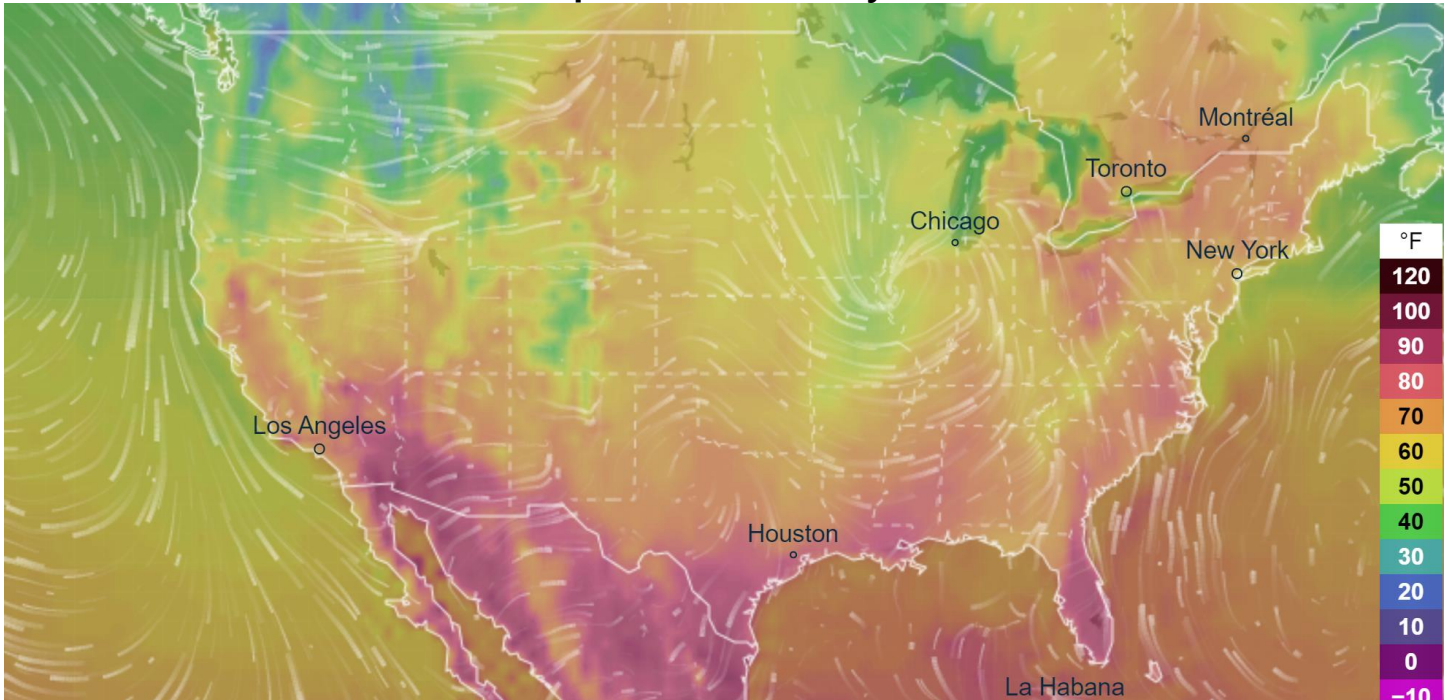


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North America Temperatures – Saturday, 4/10/21 – 2:00PM



Crops Covered This Week:

- Iceberg Lettuce
- Romaine Lettuce
- Spinach
- Cabbage
- Broccoli
- Kale

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Iceberg

Supplies are being crunched a little bit on iceberg due to fields being lost for quality and surpassing expected harvest dates. The biggest issues we are seeing on iceberg right now are tip burn, sun scalding and burst/cracked heads. The extreme temperatures have put a lot of stress on fields, causing them to grow faster than the plants were ready for. Tip burn manifests as brownish discoloration on the growth tips of the leaves, often presenting a 'salt & pepper' look with brown spots around the discoloration. Sun scalding looks like a yellowish bald spot on the head, which are generally easy to peel off and remove during harvest. Bursting heads are growing so fast that the inside of the head grows faster than the leaves on the outside can handle and the inside leaves 'burst' out of the side of the head, causing a crack that becomes discolored around the wound.



Iceberg field in the Tacna, AZ area – east of Yuma

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Heads are relatively large with firm densities.



Example of tip burn.

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Example of a 'burst' head. Notice how the inside has punched its way out through the head and the cracked outer leaves start to become discolored where they were broken.

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Romaine

Romaine has been holding up a bit better in the heat compared to the iceberg heads. Defects seen on romaine right now include some tip burn and rib discoloration/rib blight. The timing of fields at the end of this season have worked well with our program and we are in relatively young fields that have not had a chance to develop serious defects from the heat. The outlook for romaine through next week remains good, and the lower temperatures yesterday and today (~85 degrees) have given these fields a welcomed rest. Color profiles are leaning toward darker green with less heart material.



Romaine field close to Roll, AZ

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Young, bushy head.



Split head – Clean internally. Notice the bushy head and very short core.

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Example of tip burn on a romaine leaf. Tip burn has been very minor this season.

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Spinach

Heavy winds in some areas of Yuma have created some dehydration/wilting and wind burn in some fields. The biggest issues seen recently include uneven growth due to the heat which can cause some longer stems in the finished product as the set blade height gets vastly different leaf lengths during harvest. Further, as fields finish in the desert and crops like alfalfa are being cut, insects are looking for a new home. So far, the insect pressures have not been as bad as they were last season, but they are still present. The quick growing spinach also makes it more likely to pick up cotyledons, or seed leaves, during harvest which can make their way through to the finished product. Cotyledons look like blades of grass, but are actually the first leaves to pop out of the seed during germination. Normally, these leaves have a chance to lay over on the ground and drop away from the rosette of spinach leaves, preventing them from being picked up during harvest, but when the spinach grows very fast, they remain upright and right in the path of the harvest machine.



Beds of spinach near Somerton, AZ

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Quality is very good, but sizing has been the only real challenge at this point in the season.



Photo illustrating sizing, as well as the variation in sizing from a single blade height. Some leaves have longer stems and some are cut very close to the beginning of the blade. Areas of the bed that are more uneven can have an even more extreme effect with half leaves or very long stems (2"+).

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Cabbage

Cabbage quality has been great all season, but the biggest issue to contend with related to the heat is the presence of 'seeders' or elongated seed stems in the cabbage heads. These seed stems are very difficult to remove 100% during harvest. The remaining core pieces that make their way past the harvesters and into the plant may create 'spiders' after being shredded, which appear as a piece of core with various leaf legs attached to them. Harvest crews have moved to starting very early to have enough time to work through each head and remove as much as possible of the cores. Other defects seen right now include light mildew on outer leaves and sun scalding.



Green Cabbage far east of Yuma near Roll, AZ

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Notice the higher density of the head as well as the slightly elongated core. Some heads have a core that is more exaggerated or twisty, making it difficult to remove completely.



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Broccoli

Broccoli quality across the desert is very challenged at the moment. Most heads are showing some level of discoloration or burn. Crews are taking time to inspect each crown and leave those that are obviously burned in the field. The field-floretting process is slow going right now with these small, discolored heads.



Broccoli field near Yuma, AZ

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Good head that will be harvested.



Bad head that will be skipped.

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Mature Kale

Kale in the desert has been very good all year, but as with the other items above, the heat creates a challenge. Yellowing of the under-canopy of the crops makes harvesting a little more difficult. Any of the yellowing that makes it through the harvest process is removed by inspection in the plant, but the occasional yellow leaf may get through the gauntlet of inspection. Other than the discolored/burned leaves on the lower side of the canopy, there are very few other defects across the fields.



Kale field close to the City of Yuma, AZ



Example of some of the yellowing leaves pulled from the under-canopy of a kale field. The vast majority of these are removed during pre-harvest cleaning & weeding and the leaves that still sneak through are removed during inspection prior to cutting in the plant.