

GreenGate Fresh Crop Report

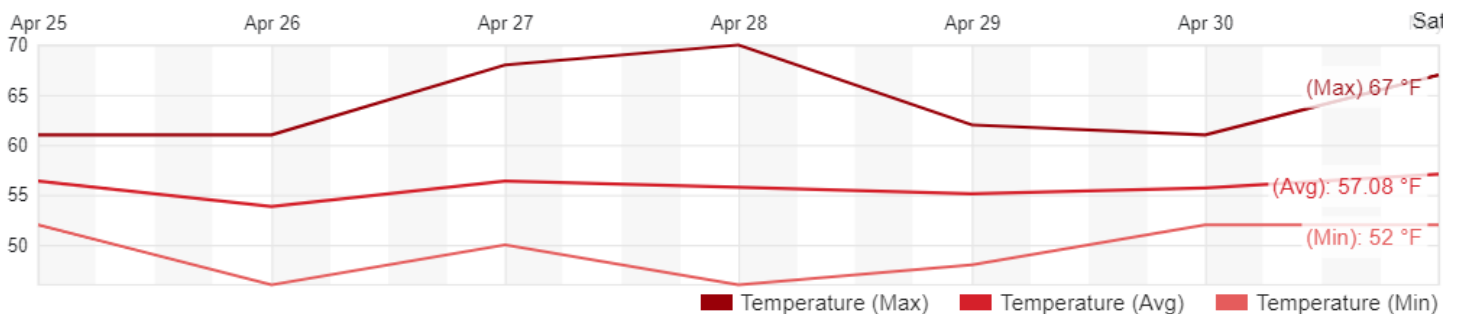


Report Date	5/3/2021
Growing Location	Salinas, CA

Overview

- **Transition update:** Our move to Salinas went very well with little to no issues. There are always some little hiccups with equipment after they bounce 600 miles down the road, but we were able to start up on time and quickly get back into a groove. The first day of Salinas production was Sunday, 4/25/21 and we have been working straight through the weekend to ensure everyone is covered.
- The quality in the Salinas Valley is superb and a welcomed change to the heat related challenges we were starting to see in Yuma at the end. The weather in Salinas has been very favorable for plantings with only slight rains here and there but no huge seed washouts or planting delays as we have seen in years past.
- The overall weather outlook looks great for now. The high temps have been hovering between mid-60's to low-70's, allowing for slower controlled growth of most crops as the days start to get longer. There was a bit of a rain scare on 4/25, but at the last minute, the storm moved mostly north of the region, depositing only 0.02" of rain where we were looking at possibly 0.30" of rain.
- As we dive into each individual crop, you will see for the most part that defects are few and far between and quality is good across the board.
- Mother's Day is fast approaching! As many of you know, Mother's Day is the biggest day in foodservice. Our employees have worked tirelessly through the weekends before and after the move to help supply our restaurant partners for this special occasion. We look forward to everyone taking a much-needed break and enjoying time with family this weekend. We wish all of you a Happy Mother's Day!

Historical Weather (Salinas Airport Station):

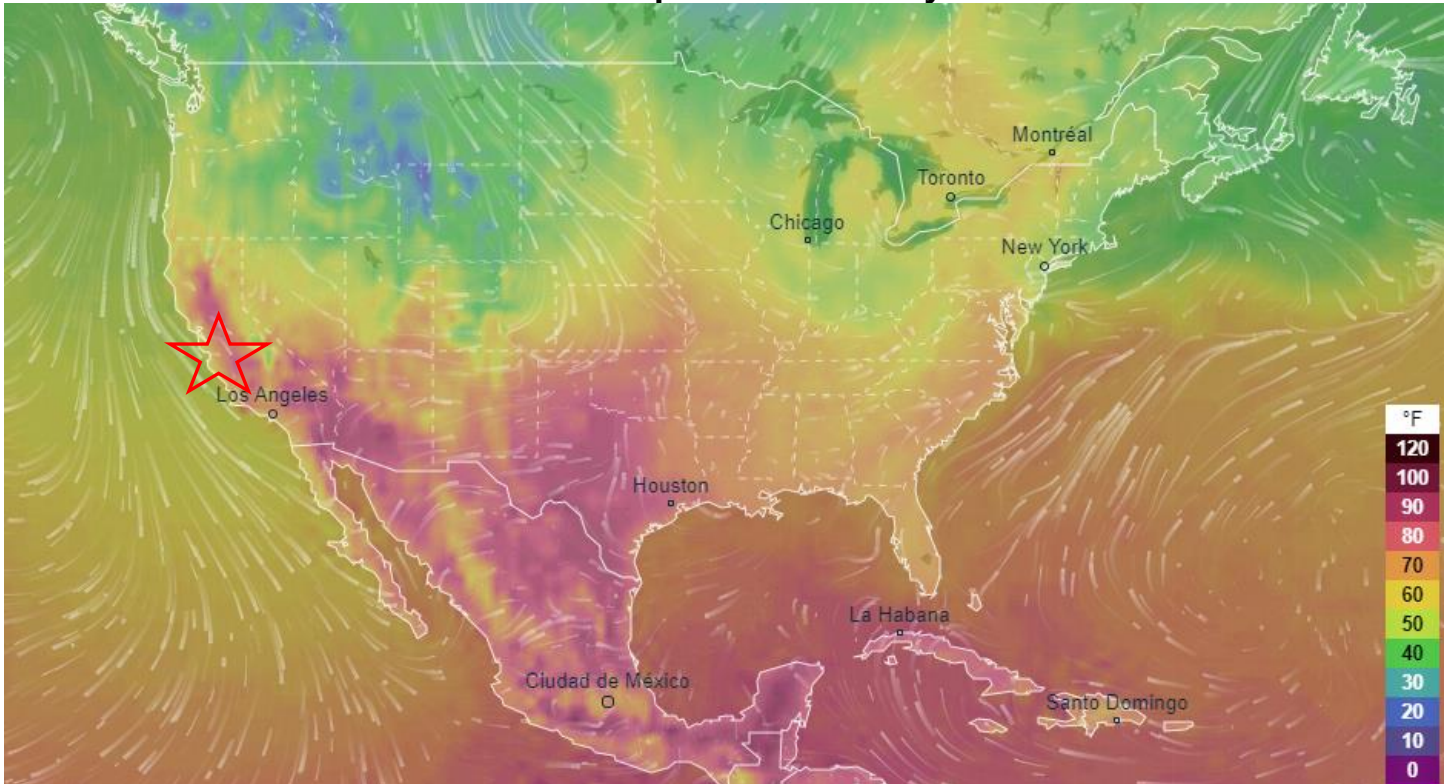


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North America Temperatures – Sunday 5/2/2021



Crops Covered This Week:

- Iceberg Lettuce
- Romaine Lettuce
- Spinach
- Arugula
- Spring Mix
- Cilantro
- Cabbage
- Broccoli
- Kale

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Iceberg

Iceberg quality is phenomenal right now. Heads are fairly firm with a little room to fill in still, but with good sizing. Core lengths are short and no burn has been seen. Occasional mildew on outer leaves which are easily trimmed off during harvest. So far, there has been no Fusarium observed which has been an issue with early plantings the last couple of seasons. No insect damage/aphids seen and no soil related diseases have been seen.



Iceberg field near Salinas, CA this weekend

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Fairly firm densities, with a little variation between parts of the field. Short cores.



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Romaine

Romaine is currently being cut a day or two earlier than scheduled but quality is excellent. The heads are young, bushy but internally very clean with no observable defects. No tip burn has been seen. Minor fringe burn that is trimmed during harvest. Short cores and small hearts. As the days continue to get longer, the heads will capture more energy during the day to stretch and cup more. There is a delicate balance between maturity, sizing and the weather to avoid defects in the bag. Heads will be larger/more cupped within the next two weeks.



Romaine field close to Salinas, CA

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Young, bushy head. Romaine is slightly on the young side, yielding a darker color profile.

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Split heads – Clean internally. Notice the smaller size, bushy head and very short cores.



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Spinach

Spinach quality in general is good – slower growth in the spring provides a slightly thicker, heartier leaf structure. Some fields have a little bit of wind damage that are farther south of Salinas and some very minor mildew can be seen in some portions of some fields. At this point, we do not expect the defects to worsen, and the focus is sizing. Early spring varieties tend to have a broader leaf but getting the typical baby sizing spec is not difficult. Regular spinach may be a little bit bigger than has been seen the last few months.



Beds of spinach near Greenfield, CA

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Broader leaf structure, but good sizing and thick textures.

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Arugula

Arugula sizing has been good. There is very minor flowering in some fields which is common for arugula genetics in the spring (or when heavily stressed). Overall quality is good. No mildew or insect damage. Leaves are a little more stretched than what was seen at the end of the season in Yuma.



Arugula south of Salinas, CA

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Great quality but note that the leaves are not quite as broad as the last Yuma harvest.



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Spring Mix

Similar to the spinach and arugula, the spring mix (including baby kales) have been of good quality the last week. Sizing is varied between the red and green components, but little to no defects are seen in the field at this point. As long as we continue to have the lower humidity days where the fog burns off quickly, we shouldn't have any major mildew issues this spring. If fog settles in or we have another rain event, then mildew may become an issue in the varieties where the genetic packages are weaker.



Spring Mix beds south of Salinas

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Cilantro

Cilantro quality overall has been good. Septoria leaf spotting has been an issue on and off in Salinas, but the first plantings are not showing any defects yet. Spacing between the nodes is good with manageable stem sizes, but as the days get longer and we move into the summer months, the node spacing will get wider and appear to have less leaves in the bag. No insect damage or bacterial spotting noted during evaluations.



Cilantro beds – prior to first cuttings

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Good quality cilantro, good sizing, no defects.

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Green Cabbage

At the end of the Yuma season, 'seeders' and long twisty cores were the biggest issue with green cabbage. Our first Salinas fields were broken this last Friday and the quality is as good as we could ever ask for. Heads are beautiful, clean, no elongated cores, no stress, no insect damage, minor mildew on outer leaves (easily trimmed away during harvest) and great color. The late season Yuma cabbage tends to be much more white with lighter green profiles where the early season Salinas cabbage will provide a darker green color contrast. The weather outlook for now is ideal for cabbage growing and upcoming plantings are looking great with no issues.



Green Cabbage north of Salinas near Watsonville, CA

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Good density with a little bit of room to fill in still. Notice less white color than Yuma – better green contrast.



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Not too big, but good density and great quality.

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Broccoli

Broccoli supplies seem to be a tight – a continuation of the tighter supplies in Yuma. The quality in general is good, though tight crowns show more bleaching or yellow sections where the crown has never seen the sun to generate chlorophyll. Some outside bruising noted. No purpling in fields Salinas/south. Purple hues noted in coastal fields. Some crowns are very large, making sizing for florets a little tricky. No worm damage or insect damage seen in recent evaluations.



Broccoli field near Salinas, CA

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Large crowns, slight purpling noted.

The insides and undersides of the florets for these large crowns will show more of a yellow color since they have not seen the sun before. See red circle area.



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Mature Kale

The first cuttings of Salinas kale have been good. Plants are low to the ground, no yellowing seen yet, no insect damage, good thick leaf textures and small stem diameters. Chopped kale should continue to have this quality for at least the next month. When the area starts to heat up in June, we might see some thicker stems and a higher ratio of stem weight in the bag.



Kale field close to Soledad, CA

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Good quality. Little to no defects seen in the field.