

# GreenGate Fresh Crop Report

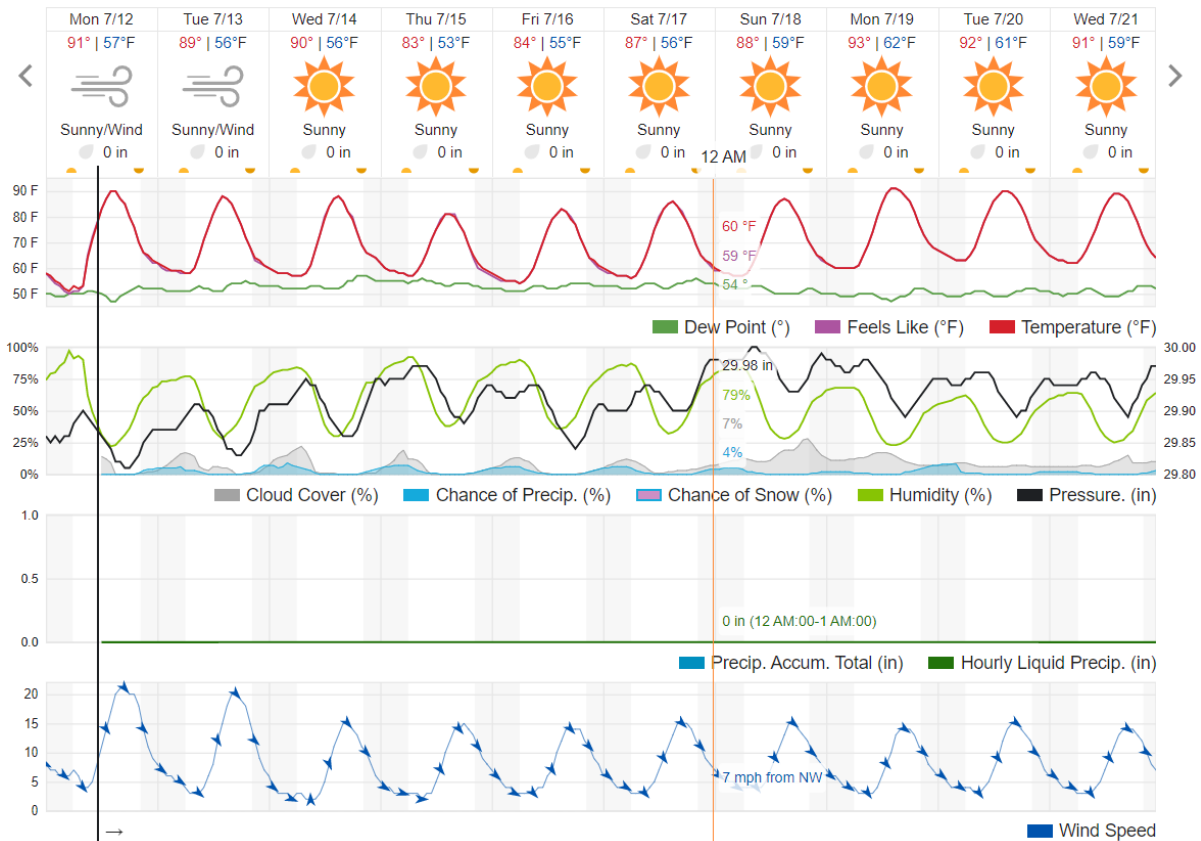


Report Date	7/12/2021
Growing Location	Salinas, CA

## Overview

- The overall quality has not been too bad, considering the heat. We had a moderate heat wave the end of June for almost a week that really sped up the crop growth, while also allowing for some related defects. The temperature cooled down after but has been slowing getting warmer as the days move forward. On a few crops, mainly the Arugula, we are harvesting a week earlier than expected to accommodate for these changes.
- As we dive into each individual crop, you will see for the most part that defects are slight but present due to days with increased recorded temperatures. Iceberg has been the most challenged, followed by tenderleaf items.
- Cold-chain management is going to be key to ensure as the weather continues to warm up (as well as the previous and projected heat waves that arise) the product retains as much quality as possible until it reaches its destination. We will see the effects of this 2<sup>nd</sup> heat wave over the next couple of weeks.

## FUTURE WEATHER (Greenfield, CA Station; just south of Salinas, CA):

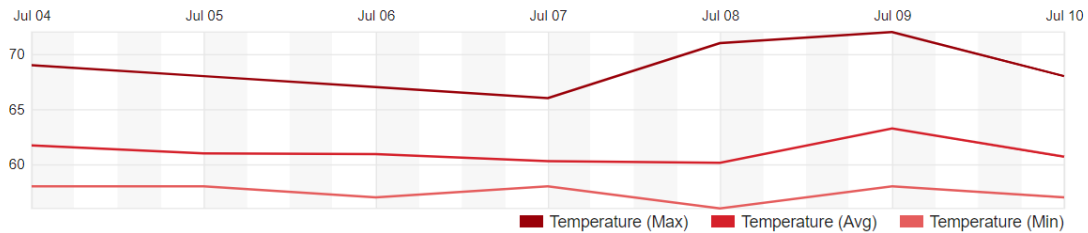


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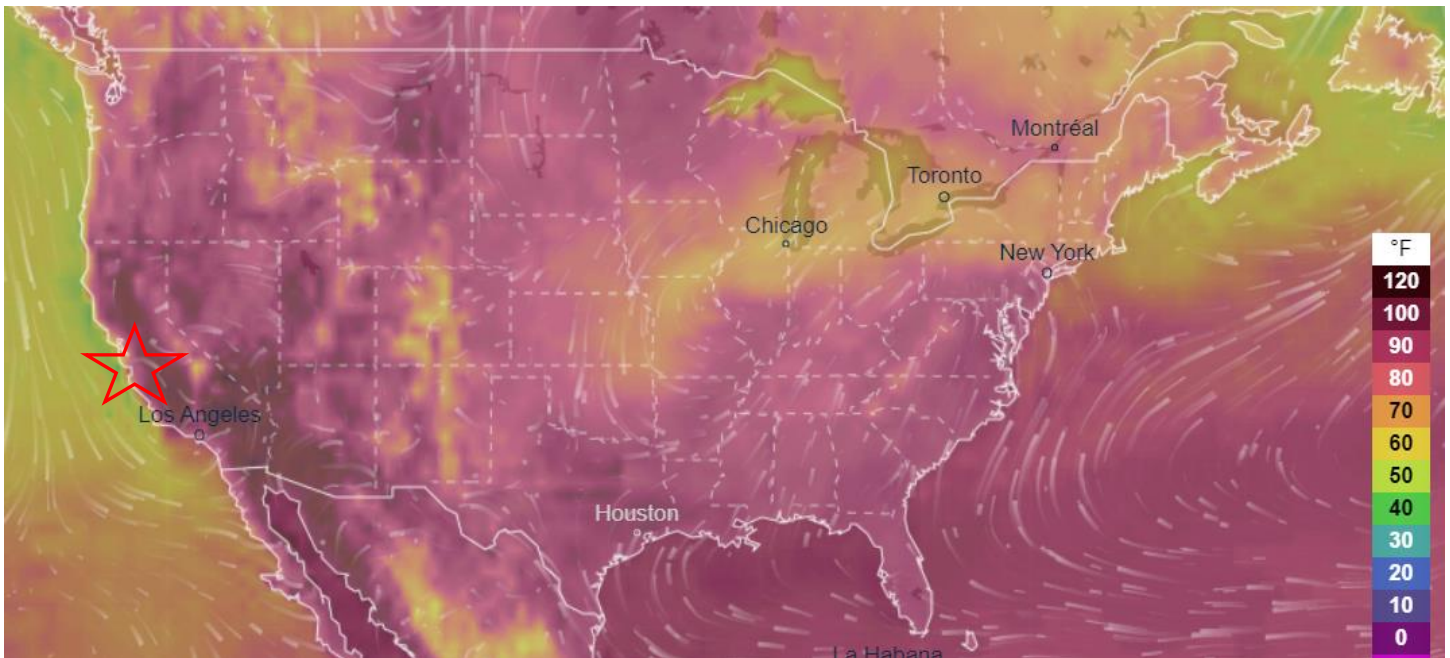


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## Historical Weather (Salinas Airport Station):



## North America Temperatures – Sunday 7/11/2021



## Crops Covered This Week:

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

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## **Iceberg**

Iceberg quality has been marked with tip burn defects due to the heat wave that came through. Heads are fairly firm, but with good sizing. Core lengths are mainly short with some slight variation. Occasional mildew on outer leaves which are easily trimmed off during harvest. So far, we have not observed any Fusarium which has been an issue with early plantings the last couple of seasons. No insect damage/aphids, or soil related diseases have been seen.



**Iceberg field North of Salinas, CA**



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**Fairly firm densities, with slight variation between parts of the field. Short to medium cores.**



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**Split heads in the field. Longer core, decent quality. This particular field did not have tip burn.**



**Examples of Tip Burn in bags of chopped lettuce. Tip burn is damage seen at the growth tips of the leaves, typically buried inside the head and not completely visible during harvest.**



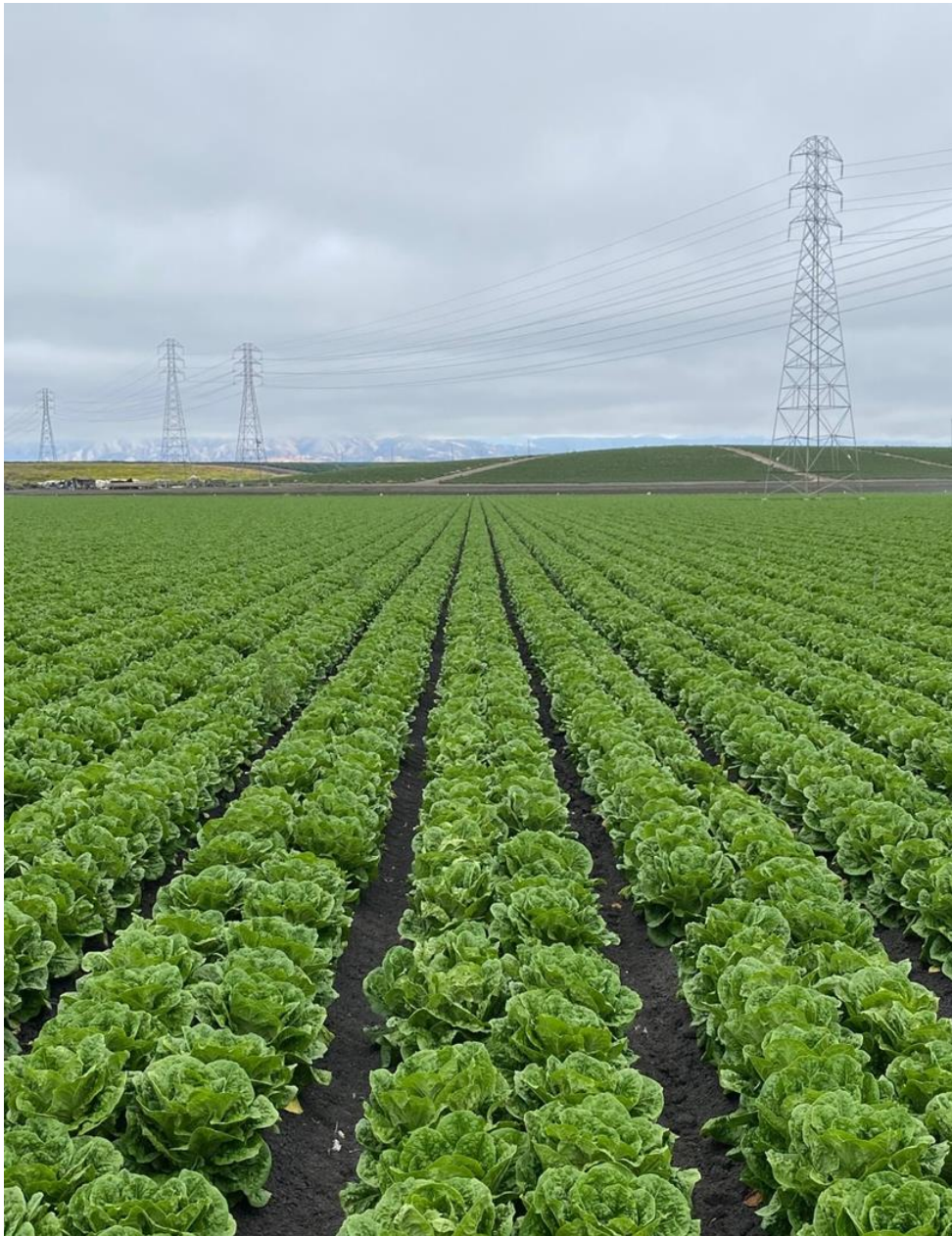
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## **Romaine**

Due to the longer days and the warmer than usual temperatures as of late, the romaine heads have been stretching upwards and cupping more, resulting in larger heads. There has been some scant amount of spoilage noticed during shipping, and with the increased temperatures, cold-chain management is going to become imperative to retain the quality of the product.



**Romaine field in Salinas, CA**

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**Slightly mature with bushy head.**



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**Split heads – Clean internally. Notice the medium/large size, bushy head and very short cores.**





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## **Spinach**

The spinach quality has been generally good, with some quicker growth, again, due to the increased temperatures and the moderate heat wave that came through. Slight wind damage has been seen in the fields that are south of Salinas but should taper off. Other various defects have not been seen thus far. Harvesting has been a slight challenge obtaining the baby spinach due to the increased crop growth but has been manageable. Cotyledons are present in many fields as they don't have time to die off and lay down out of the way of the harvester blade prior to cutting.



**Beds of spinach near Greenfield, CA**

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**Broader leaf structure, but good sizing and thick textures.**



**Cotyledons pulled from a 5# sample of baby spinach. These are the first leaves to pop out of the seed during germination. Normally these will lay down on the bed and not get cut, but with the heat, the true spinach leaves are ready to harvest before these can lay down and get out of the way.**



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## Arugula

Arugula sizing has been good and has not varied greatly over the past two months. We have noticed some mild flowering with minor weed accumulation. The heat wave that came through sporadically over the past few weeks greatly increased the growth rate of the crop. We are cutting the tender leaf almost two weeks early to avoid this issue as we transition out of the heat wave. Overall quality is good. No mildew or insect damage.



Arugula south of Salinas, CA

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**Arugula flowers – present, but not too heavy. More buds than actual flowers.**





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## **Spring Mix**

Spring mix has been growing fast like the other tenderleaf crops. The rate of growth is a little inconsistent between varieties at this point, which causes some leaves in the bag to be longer than others. Typically, the reds will grow slower than the greens. Overall, quality has been okay, but we expect to see more mildew as the valley quickly cools off from the 2<sup>nd</sup> heat wave and the fog rolls in with elevated humidity.



**Spring Mix beds south of Salinas**



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Lots of weeds have emerged due to the heat wave a few weeks ago, but the cleaning/weeding crew has continued to tackle the issue as it emerges





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## Cilantro

Cilantro quality overall has been good. The crops in Salinas are still not showing any signs of Septoria as of yet, but may as the heat gradually increases. Node spacing has just mildly increased, and the stem sizes are still manageable. You can see in the field photos that the heat wave we just recently got over affected the crop density. No insect damage or bacterial spotting noted during evaluations.



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**Good quality cilantro, good sizing, no defects.**



**Various areas have actually slowed down from the heat – possibly thermal dormancy which is rare in Salinas.**



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## **Green Cabbage**

We have been having beautiful green color contrast lately on the cabbage. We haven't noticed any insect damage or long cores. We have had a small amount of mildew on the outer leaves due to the heat wave, but these are easily trimmed during harvest. Along with the romaine, cold-chain management is crucial to alleviating this issue as the summer wanes on.



**Green Cabbage north of Salinas near Watsonville, CA**



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**Good density with better green contrast.**



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**Not too big, but good density and great quality.**





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## **Broccoli**

The broccoli harvesting has been going well, and the quality is good throughout. We have only just started to see some slight yellow sections in the crowns during the heat wave but has since tapered off. The florets are slightly larger than normal due to the increased temperatures and normal harvest time. No purple hues have been seen in the past few harvests. We have not seen any insect or soil damage.



**Broccoli field near Salinas, CA**



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**Great green color without purpling**







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## **Mature Kale**

Like many other produce fields covered, the kale has had some slight color variation due to the heat wave and increased temperatures inland. We have not seen any insect damage, and the stems have begun to thicken up compared to earlier. The leaf texture continues to be nice and thick.



**Kale field close to Soledad, CA**



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**Hearty leaves with only slight yellowing noticed**



**Thicker stems, with continuous thick leaves**