

GreenGate Fresh Crop Report



Report Date	10/28/2021
Growing Location	Salinas, CA

Overview

- The night of Sunday, 10/24/21 and into Monday morning, the Salinas valley and surrounding regions received an unseasonably high amount of rain. We typically don't receive this increased accumulation of rain while crops are still in the ground in Salinas. Around the city of Salinas, we received approximately 1.5", while northern regions (Watsonville, Gilroy) received more, upwards of 2.5" or more in some areas. Further south was less than 1.5" but still enough to wreak havoc.
- Most harvest for Monday production was completed Saturday and Sunday, as most fields were far too muddy to do any harvesting on Monday. On Tuesday harvest remained curtailed. Machines for some commodities were getting stuck in the field, others were successfully working through the mud, yet others (primarily tenderleaf) still could not harvest until Wednesday.
- Iceberg and romaine quality is very challenged, with Iceberg being worse. The much higher market price of Iceberg is a direct result of the quality and supply challenges in the field. Expect iceberg to have decay, discoloration, mildew, burn, and other disease related defects, which are all seen throughout the valley currently. Romaine has some sclerotinia damage, mildew, and rib discoloration.
- Shelf life for most products during this period will be challenged and will rely heavily on proper cold chain management. Already weak products will not tolerate any kind of fluctuations in temperatures.
- For the moment, there is only a little sprinkle of rain forecasted for next week, but otherwise we expect conditions to be favorable to finish the season.
- The last day of production for GreenGate in Salinas will be 11/11/21, with the first day of shipping in Yuma on Monday, 11/15/21. Crops in Yuma are slightly behind schedule, so the supply issues experienced now are likely to continue throughout the transition. We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding as we work to get trucks out and provide the best available quality.

Past Rainfall Accumulation (inches)

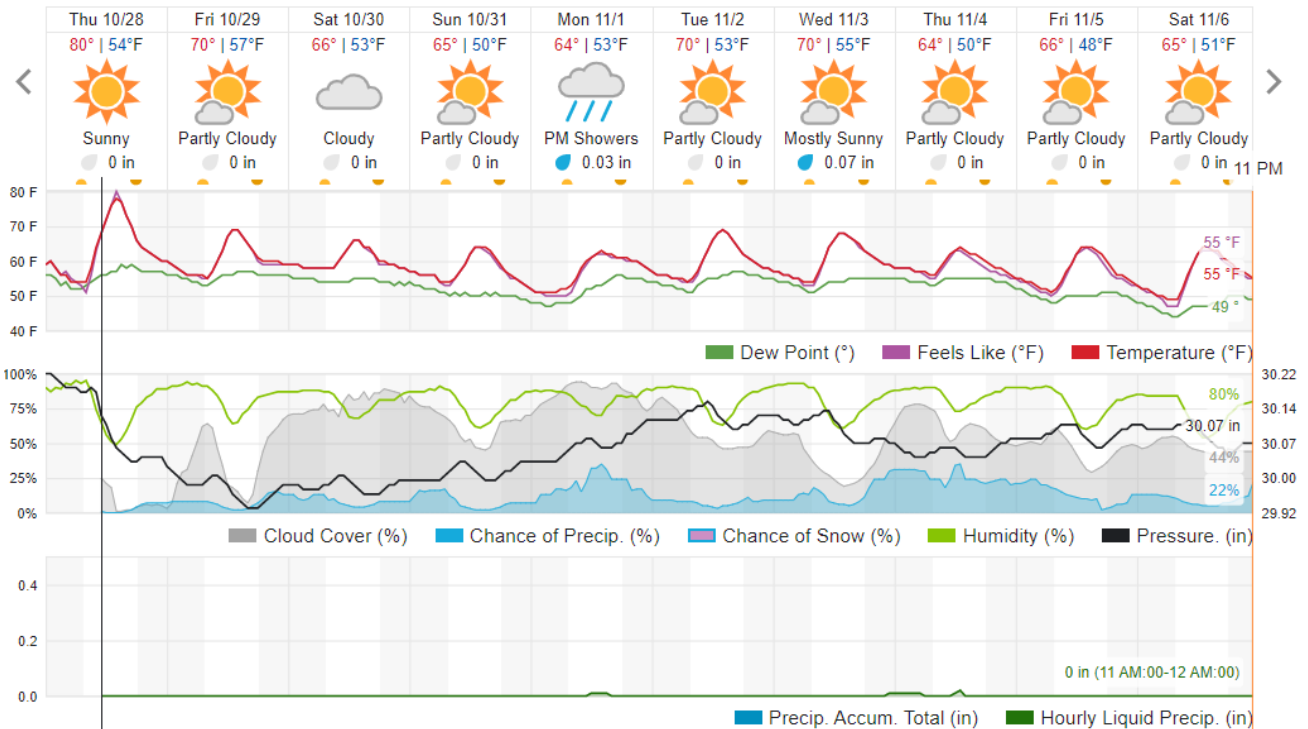
Location	Sunday 10/24	Monday 10/25
<i>Gilroy</i>	1.44	2.82
<i>Hollister</i>	0.67	2.19
<i>Watsonville</i>	1.72	1.93
<i>Castroville</i>	0.34	2.09
<i>Salinas</i>	0.28	1.13
<i>Soledad</i>	0.02	0.67
<i>King City</i>	0.01	0.79

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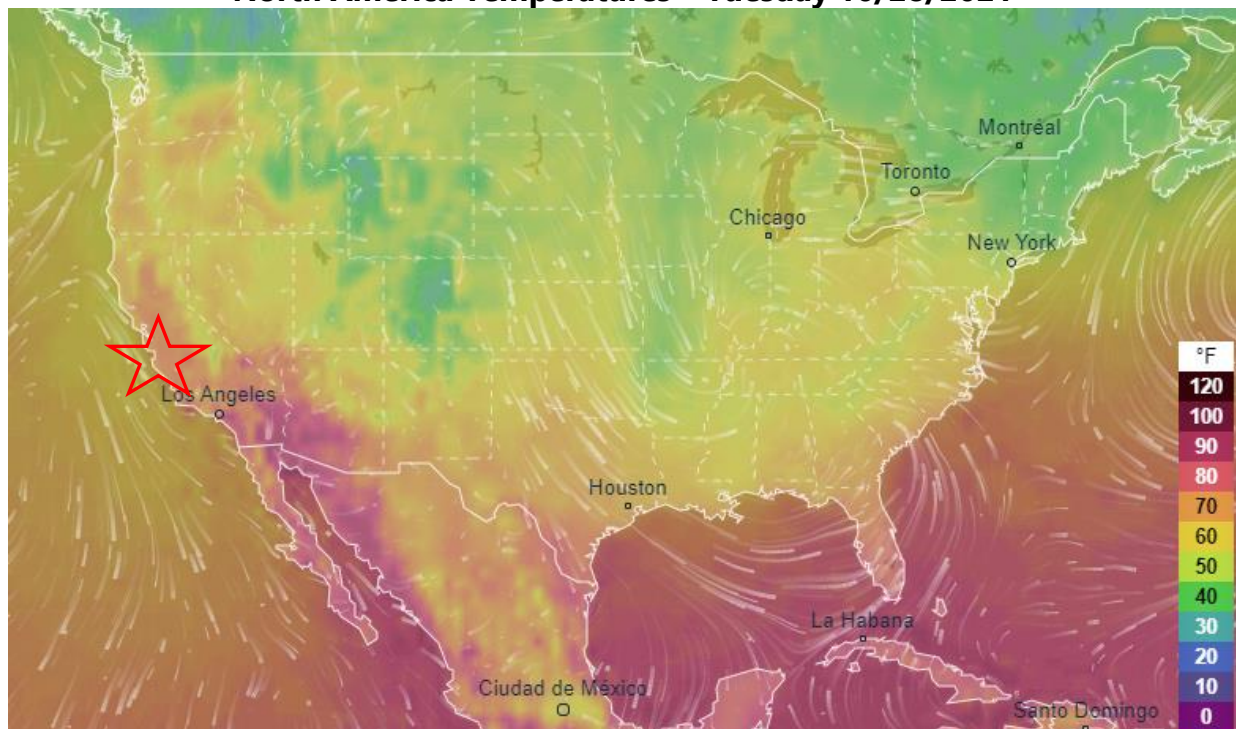


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Future Weather Outlook



North America Temperatures – Tuesday 10/28/2021



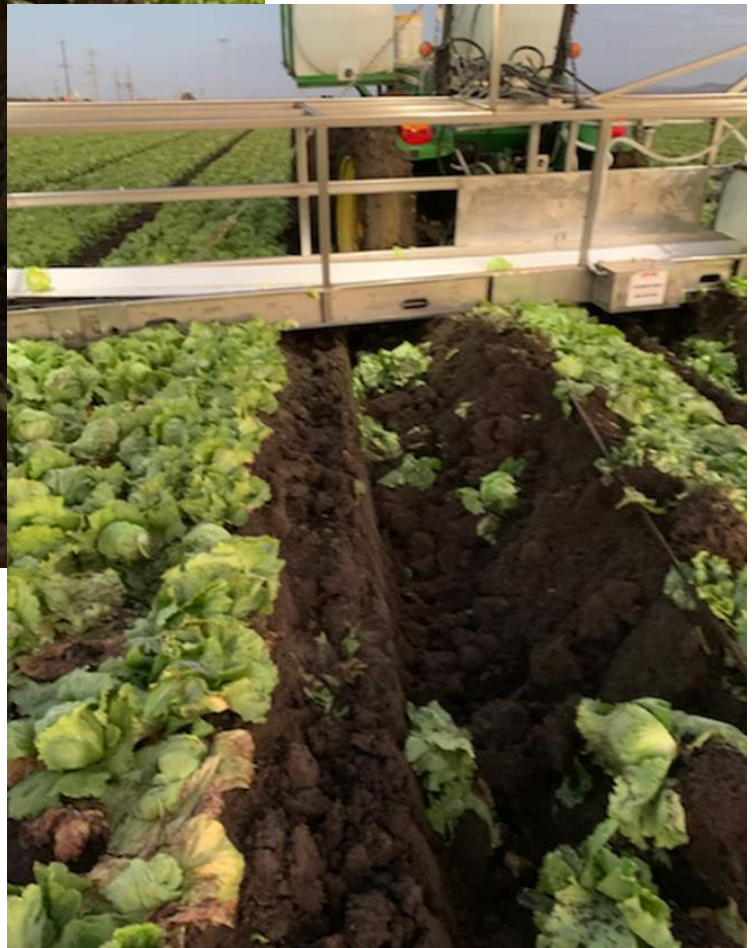
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Iceberg machine stuck in the field after rains. Sunk into the wet soil.



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Field truck after trying to check on fields Monday.



Abandoned car next to a field near Chualar, CA (Source: Nic Coury)



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Crops Covered This Week:

- Iceberg
- Romaine
- Spinach
- Arugula
- Cabbage
- Kale

Iceberg

Iceberg quality is significantly challenged. Fusarium, Verticillium, and other diseases have caused issues with both quality and supply, leading to the very high markets seen right now. This is further compounded by the end of the season, limiting any kind of wiggle room for pulling fields from one planned week to another to work around supply and quality. What is in the ground right now for the next few weeks is what's available to work with. The heavy rain this last weekend is only going to exacerbate the existing defects. Expect to see decay, discoloration, burn, pinking, and generally 'tired' looking lettuce. The harvest crews are doing everything possible to keep the worst heads out and crews in the plant are keeping a very close eye on defect tolerances. The next month or so will be rough for iceberg in general. Transition iceberg will be smaller than expected but quality will be much better.



Iceberg near Greenfield, CA

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Smaller heads as the season ends and temperatures are decreasing



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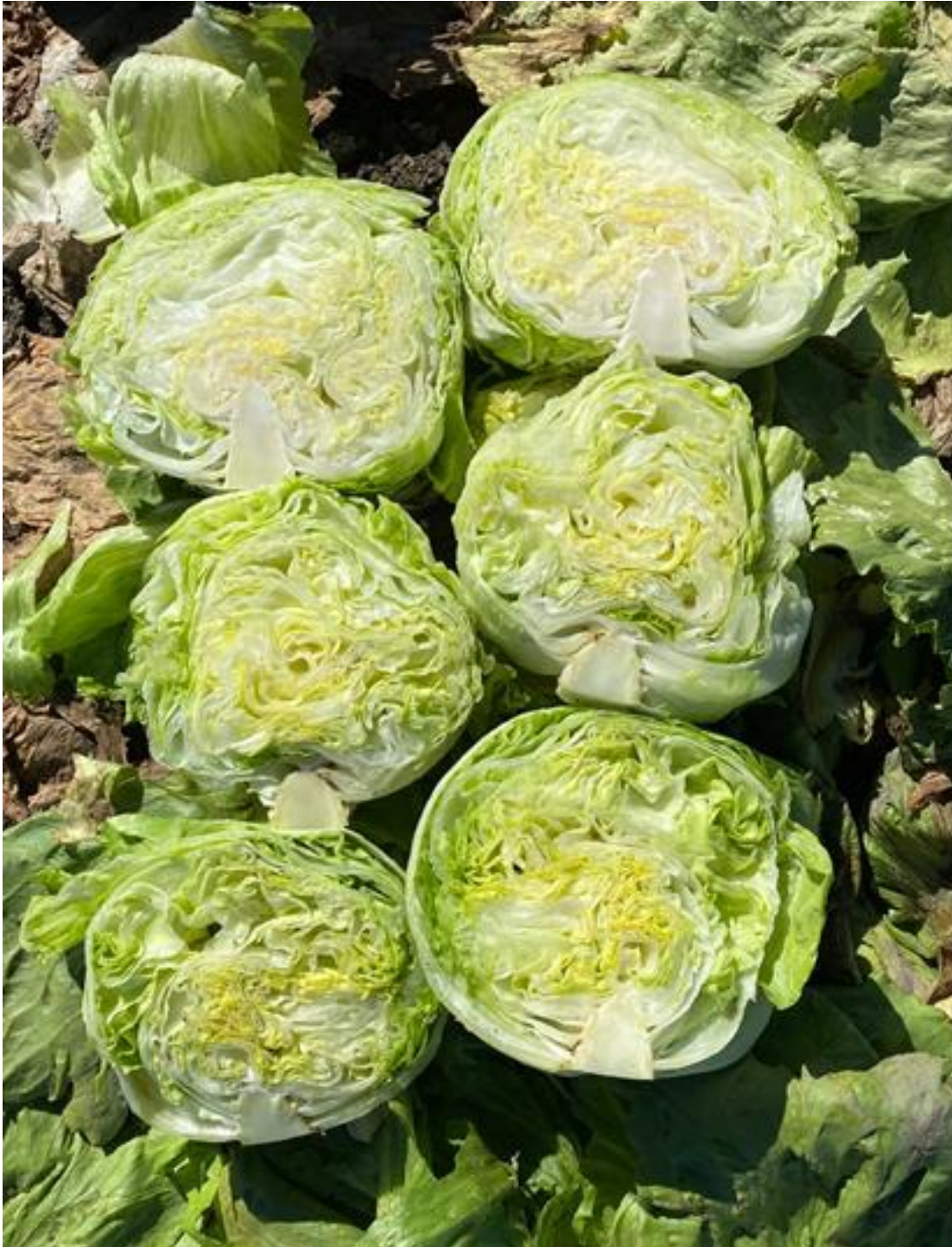
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Challenged quality split heads. Notice decay around the cores.

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Some outer and inner defects observed in the field

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A head with internal damage after being shredded. Some heads are not easily distinguishable in the field during harvest. These are removed on the inspection belt during processing.



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Romaine

Romaine quality is slightly better than iceberg. Supplies are a little bit higher, but the market is still elevated. Mildew, Sclerotinia, and other defects are common in current fields. Expect to see some rib discoloration/staining from disease, possibly some pinking from weaker raw material, and fluctuations in color profiles that will likely show more bruising in the darker, weaker leaves.



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Romaine field near Greenfield, CA – notice the impact of virus killing heads and stunting plants.

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Wet romaine field directly after rainstorms. The ground was very dry before the rain, so much of it sunk directly into the ground, preventing it from actually contacting the heads.

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Mature bushy head – small hearts. Notice mildew on right side near rib.

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Split heads with shorter cores.



Split heads with core removed. Product is relatively clean after working, but still small.



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An example of mildew noted on romaine.



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Spinach

Spinach quality is relatively good compared to the other crops. Sizing will be slightly larger on most tenderleaf items due to the harvest gap from the rains. There is minor mildew and some insect damage but generally these crops are in good shape for the moment.



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Spinach beds in Greenfield, CA



Leaf sizing is fantastic for regular. Slightly large on baby, but will be in line after this week.



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Arugula

Arugula quality remains good, with sizing on target or just slightly larger. Minor mildew/yellowing seen but product is generally in very good shape, even after the rains. Much of our tenderleaf crop was farther south and avoided the brunt of the rainstorm. However, fields were too muddy to harvest Monday & Tuesday as the mechanical harvester is far too heavy and sinks into the furrows.



Arugula field near Soledad, CA

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Arugula beds have continued to do very well, even with the rain.



Arugula sizing is doing very well



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Cabbage

Insect damage continues to be persistent in some fields, and mildew is seen in some heads in most fields. Sizing is variable – primarily on the smaller side. Quality should remain consistent throughout the rest of the season and Yuma cabbage will be on the small side as well due to slower growth in the region for transition crops.



Some mildew on outer leaves and small sizing, but otherwise good quality.

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Cabbage north of Salinas near Greenfield, CA

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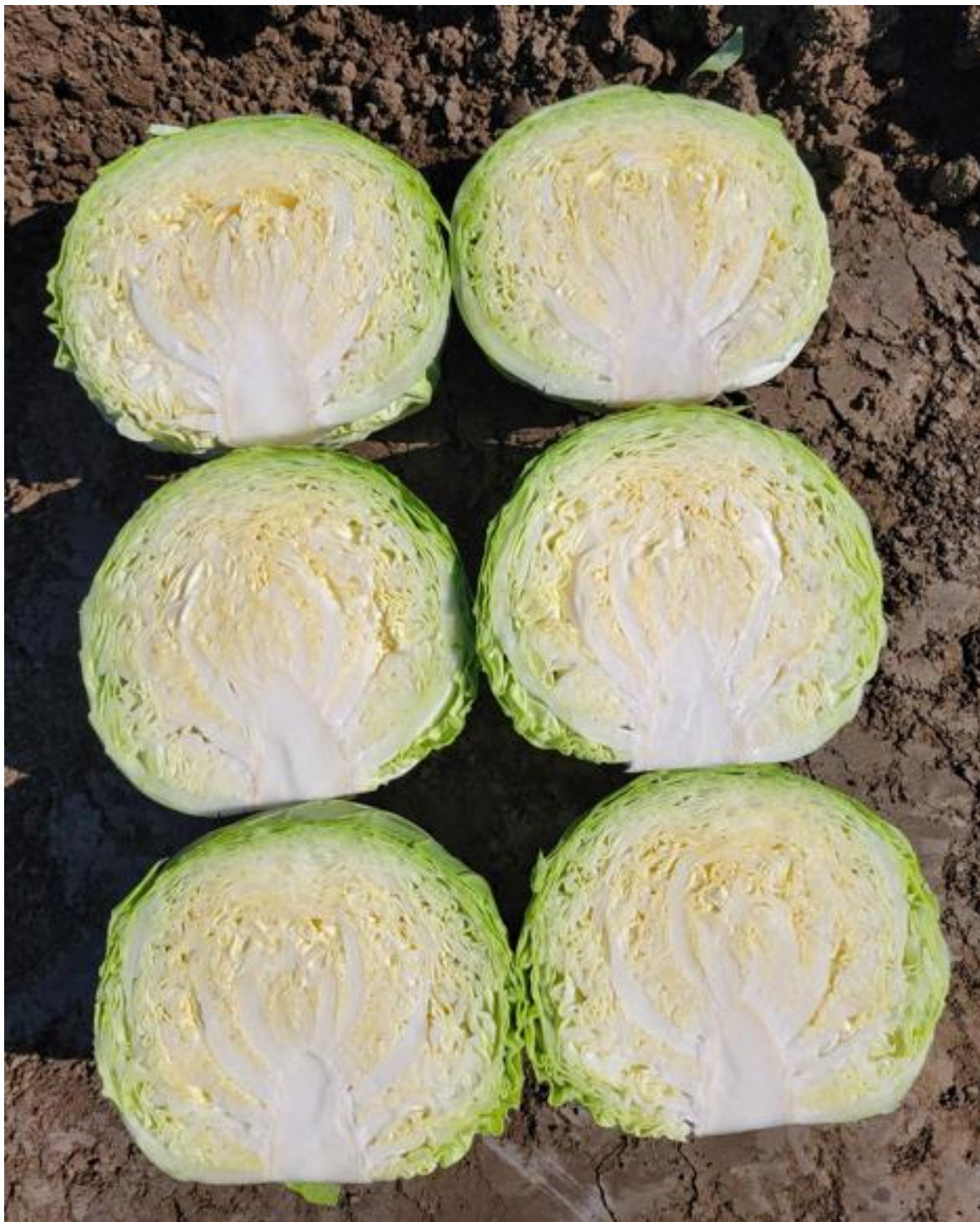


Cored head. Slightly elongated cores.

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Split head with great density and slightly longer cores.

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Slightly smaller head sizing



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Mature Kale

Mature kale avoided most of the rain impacts, though higher humidity underneath the canopy will likely lead to some mildew and yellowing leaves. In general, kale is still in very good shape. Some occasional insect damage seen; some occasional yellowing leaves seen. Shelf life remains stable. Kale in the Yuma region is coming in very slowly, so Salinas may hold longer after the move.



Kale field in Soledad, CA

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Hardy leaves. Not as wide as the summer, but still decent quality.