

# the Outlook

The winter heat wave continues out west as the strong high-pressure systems continue to block storm systems, deflecting them to the north. Record high temperatures continue in many growing regions across the west with temperatures 10-15° above seasonal norms. The hot temperatures along with warm and humid overnight temperatures are advancing growth rates in the fields. Most crops have felt the effects of these growing conditions however supplies and quality remain strong currently.

While overall quality is strong insect populations are on the rise in the warm temperatures. The weather pattern this winter has been unseasonably warm and conducive for increased insect populations to thrive. Of most concern at the moment are the advancing growth rates in these western fields. The Southwestern Desert growing regions remain 2-3 weeks ahead of schedule currently. The upcoming spring acreage is reportedly already up to a week ahead of schedule in the warm winter pattern. This may lead to a substantial gap in supplies as we move into new acreage. Near-term weather outlooks keep the warm temperatures around in these regions into mid-February at a minimum. As always upcoming weather patterns will play a crucial role in supplies a quality going forward.

