

# the Outlook

Weather patterns continue to impact yields and quality in Central California as we move into fall production. The summer months have seen a series of upper-level low-pressure systems causing an increased, dense marine layer and light afternoon winds, especially along the coast. This pattern looks to continue next week.

Pest incursions, especially insects, are on the rise throughout the region. Certain Cole crops (Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, Cabbage, Kale, Bok Choy, and Napa) seem to be hardest hit at the moment. These crops provide many nooks and crannies for insects to hide and lay eggs. This, in turn, provides many areas for these eggs and larvae to hide and avoid insecticide sprays and other mitigation techniques. These factors make it very difficult for crews to find these pests during harvests and for growers to combat infestations in the fields. Insect populations are typically on the increase in the fall as surrounding hills turn brown and creeks dry up. Growers and processors are adding workers to harvest crews and fresh cut lines while slowing production to attempt to mitigate these problems at pack out. As always upcoming weather patterns this fall will be the major factor as to production, yields, and quality.

