



## **ALERT! Row Crops from Salinas Valley Growing Region**

***Industry-wide issues with row crops, particularly lettuces and broccoli.***

*September 10, 2020*

During the months of July and August, the Salinas Valley growing area was fighting complications due to humidity and warm overnight temperatures. This was followed by the recent fires and two record-breaking heatwaves (including this past weekend, which saw temperatures soar to 115°) exacerbating the situation with row crops in the valley for the near future.

**At this point, longer-term effects on the fields, especially the young upcoming crops, are yet to show; however, the damage will undoubtedly be felt. Yields, quality, and shelf-life are significantly impacted as growers leave behind some acreage due to extensive damage.**

The excessive heat has dramatically increased levels of fringe burn, dehydration, and lessened the shelf-life of lettuce and leaf items. We're also seeing irregular shape and sizes, and seeders (elongated cores).

The extreme heat has also impacted broccoli and cauliflower fields with significantly reduced yields. Growers are seeing discoloration, branching, beading and other defects in the fields.

Wildfires continue to rage across the state, depositing silt and ash in many regions.

**Harvest crews working in the smoke and haze must slow down harvests attempting to discard product with many of the defects are difficult to see while in the fields. These factors will continue to affect yields, quality, texture, and shelf-life as we head towards fall harvests.**

As always, upcoming weather trends will play a significant role in upcoming supplies and quality. Seashore Fruit & Produce will continue to keep you updated.



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