



IN THIS ISSUE, YOU'LL FIND:

- [CAC Assessing Interest in Laurel Wilt Florida Avocado Tour](#)
- [CAC to Host a Gem Seminar and Field Tour](#)
- [CAC 2019 General Election Nomination Forms Due August 26](#)
- [Fire Prevention Measures for California Avocado Groves](#)
- [How to Care for Your Avocado Grove After a Fire](#)
- [Regulation Protecting Workers from Exposure to Wildfire Smoke in Effect](#)
- [San Diego County Water Shutdown Due to Repairs](#)
- [San Diego County Water Quality Workshop](#)
- [San Diego Water Board Enforcing Commercial Agriculture Regulatory Program Enrollment](#)
- [Celebrate California Avocados at the 13th Annual Avocado and Margarita Festival](#)
- [California Avocado Month Public Relations Campaign Earns Double the Expected Number of Impressions](#)
- [Commission Connects with Key Retail Partners at Fourth Annual Organic Produce Summit](#)
- [Commission Engages with Industry Leaders and the Next Generation at the FPFC Expo](#)
- [Foodservice Chains Launch New California Avocado Menu Items During Peak Season](#)
- [Market Trends](#)
- [Crop Statistics](#)
- [Weather Outlook](#)

Calendar

For a listing of industry events and dates for the coming year, please visit:

<http://www.californiaavocadogrowers.com/commission/industry-calendar>

UCCE San Diego Water Quality Workshop

The UCCE San Diego Water Quality Workshop will provide information concerning irrigation efficiency, nutrient management, pesticides and groundwater, and erosion controls. Registration required. [More information here.](#)

August 28

August 28

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: San Diego Farm Bureau Office, 420 South Broadway, Escondido, CA

CAC Production Research Committee Meeting

September 5

September 5

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: CAC Office, 12 Mauchly, Suite L, Irvine, CA

13th Annual Avocado and Margarita Festival

The 13th Annual Avocado and Margarita festival will feature live music, family-friendly activities and a wide range of California avocado dishes, including *Grilled Avocados Stuffed with BBQ Tri-Tip or Albacore*, *Fudgy Pudgy Avocado Pops*, *Smoked Avocados* and *Avocado Cheese Tortellini*, as well as a number of specialty margaritas. Tickets available online. [More information here.](#)

September 7

September 7

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Location: Waterfront in Morro Bay, Morro Bay, CA

CAC Gem Seminar and Tour

Dr. Jonathan Dixon, former California Avocado Commission Research Program Director and current Chief Technical officer for Seeka, a New Zealand-based produce company, will deliver two seminars discussing his company's experience with the Gem avocado and share his knowledge of the cultivar. [More information here.](#)

September 10-11

September 10

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Location: Pine Tree Ranch, 19455 E Telegraph Rd, Santa Paula, CA

September 11

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Location: Pala Mesa Resort, 2001 Old Hwy 395, Fallbrook, CA

CAC Assessing Interest in Laurel Wilt Florida Avocado Tour

From July 29 to August 2, 2019, a group of six researchers and extension agents from the University of Florida visited California and delivered a series of seminars on laurel wilt. Laurel wilt is a deadly fungal pathogen of avocados that has been spreading across the southeastern United States since the early 2000s. This group of researchers has been receiving Federal funding to research this pathogen, its ambrosia beetle vector, and develop control strategies for the disease. Laurel wilt kills avocado trees in a matter of weeks and there is no known resistance to it.

During one of the group seminars, one of the participants proposed having a tour in Florida for California growers to see the effects of this disease firsthand and learn more about how it's being managed. The California Avocado Commission (CAC) would like to hear from growers concerning whether they would be interested in participating in such a tour. CAC would coordinate the tour, but each grower would be responsible for their own expenses, including travel to Florida.

If you are interested in taking part in a laurel wilt tour in Florida, please email Tim Spann at tspann@avocado.org to indicate your interest by September 15, 2019. Once the level of interest among growers is known, we will begin discussions with those interested and the Florida researchers to find a date for the tour that would work best for the majority of those who expressed interest in the tour.

CAC to Host a Gem Seminar and Field Tour

Dr. Jonathan Dixon, former California Avocado Commission Research Program Director, will be in California the week of September 9, 2019. Jonathan is currently the Chief Technical officer for Seeka, a New Zealand-based produce company who is the licensee for the Gem avocado in New Zealand and Australia. Jonathan will deliver two seminars discussing his company's experience with the Gem avocado and share his knowledge of the cultivar with California growers.

Tuesday, September 10, 8:00am

Pine Tree Ranch

19455 E Telegraph Rd

Santa Paula, CA 93060

Wednesday, September 11, 11:00am

Pala Mesa Resort

A field tour of a Gem avocado grove will follow both meetings. Directions to the field tour sites will be provided at the meetings.

CAC 2019 General Election Nomination Forms Due August 26

Nominations for the 2019 CAC General Election are now being accepted. An election announcement and self-nomination packet was sent to all commercial producers and handlers on July 15. The board election will be held in October 2019 for one producer member seat and one producer alternate seat in each of the five districts. In addition, one handler member seat and one handler alternate member seat are open. All seats are for two-year terms that will end October 31, 2021.

General election materials also are available [online](#). Those materials include the following:

- [CAC Election Procedures](#)
- [Producer nomination packets](#)
- [Handler nomination packets](#)
- A table noting [CAC districts](#) by zip code
- A summary of [open seats](#)
- Election [schedule](#)

Ballots will mail by September 23. The Commission will conduct the 2019 General Election utilizing a ranked choice voting method. Ballots will ask voters to cast their vote by ranking candidates in order of preference. The candidate receiving the highest number of first choice votes will be offered their choice of the available seats. The candidate with the highest combined total number of first and second choice votes will be offered the second available seat.

The new board will be seated at a meeting at the Commission office on November 21, 2019.

Fire Prevention Measures for California Avocado Groves

The *Topics in Subtropics* [blog](#) recently shared fire readiness tips for California avocado growers. Following are best practices as noted in the article.

One of the most important fire prevention steps a grower can take is to create defensible spaces through proper weed management, pruning and removal of plant matter debris. Defensible spaces — spaces that have been cleared of combustible materials (aka, “fuel” for fires) — can slow or prevent the spread of wildfires and create a safe space within which firefighters can work. The key is to deny a fire’s easy access to plant matter by breaking up vegetative continuity, thus reducing a fire’s intensity, flame height and rate of spreading.

It’s important to create defensible spaces around structures, along roads and groves, and across ridge tops. In order to create defensible spaces, you must not only cut down (or rake away) vegetation — you must either remove the vegetation from the area by burning it or hauling it away, or break up the vegetation into wood chips or scattered bits of material. Do not store the chips in large piles that can easily ignite and smolder.

The following are fire prevention best practices. Please keep in mind that some of these measures can be counteractive to erosion and root disease control, so these measures should be used in a balanced manner.

- Remove brush, trees and heavy vegetation within 50' of the edge of your grove
- Remove vegetative matter that surrounds the trunks of trees to at least 2' away
- Prune off low-lying limbs
- Remove broken or dead limbs from the grove
- Remove prunings and cleared brush/plants from the grove by burning them or hauling them away
- Do not pile brush and prunings in or near your grove where they can easily catch fire, nor in waterways where they can obstruct water flow
- Use steel pipe and risers for sprinkler systems
- If there is a fire threat in your area, apply sprinkler water to your grove in advance

How to Care for Your Avocado Grove After a Fire

After a fire, it's important to walk the grove in order to assess the varying level of damage to trees within the grove. This will have to be done repeatedly over the months following a fire, as it is not always immediately apparent to what extent a tree has been damaged.

One of the [first steps](#) in fire recovery is repairing the irrigation system. While buried irrigation pipes are usually safe during a fire, you may need to use roll out poly-hose for irrigation purposes in order to quickly set up temporary irrigation zones based on the level of fire damage to trees.

- Trees without damage — should be watered as soon as possible after the fire
- Trees with completely brown leaves — do not use water at first; slowly return to normal irrigation cycle as tree recovers
- Heavily damaged trees (fire damage to the trunk) — do not use as much water, but feeder roots will need to be watered with short irrigation sessions; start with a one-hour irrigation, but monitor soil closely to prevent creating root rot conditions caused by saturated soil

As for pruning, there are generally three approaches to choose from. The first is to wait three months before pruning away damaged or dead wood. This practice generally allows the trees to recover production faster. However, once the trees are pruned and/or stumped, the irrigation block will contain a mix of full-grown and partially pruned or stumped trees, which complicates a grower's irrigation and fertilization practices.

Another option is to reduce the size of all trees in an irrigation block by stumping them. This will take that particular block out of production for two years, but it does allow the grower to fertilize and irrigate uniformly across the block. If you have heavily-damaged trees in certain irrigation blocks, this may be the best option as stumping is the best practice for trees with this level of damage.

The third option is to cut back trees to about 12' in height. In this manner, most of the damaged and dead wood is removed and all the trees are uniform in size.

Finally, all fire-damaged trees should be whitewashed on the south side of the limbs.

Regulation Protecting Workers from Exposure to Wildfire Smoke in Effect

As of July 30, 2019, an emergency regulation requiring protection for workers exposed to wildfire smoke is in effect. The California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board of the Department of Industrial Relations issued the regulation.

In order to assist agricultural employers with wildfire smoke exposure compliance, the Farm Employers Labor Service has created a [webpage with compliance resources](#). This page lists, in detail, the following information relevant to the regulation.

- Exemptions
- Employee communication and training
- How to control employees' wildfire smoke exposure

According to the wildfire smoke regulation, employers must protect workers from exposure to wildfire smoke when the air quality index (AQI) is greater than 150 due to the presence of particulate matter that is 2.5 microns or smaller. Thus, an AQI greater than 150 caused by ozone or other pollutants would not trigger the regulation. Agricultural employers can obtain information about current air quality conditions at the following websites:

- [U.S. EPA AirNow](#)
- [U.S. Forest Service Wildland Air Quality Response Program](#)
- [California Air Resources Board](#)

San Diego County Water Shutdown Due to Repairs

Due to infrastructure repairs, the San Diego County Water Authority will be shutting down water within 3 – 4 weeks. The shutdown, which may last up to 10 days, will affect Fallbrook PUD, Rainbow MWD, portions of Valley Center MWD, Vista Irrigation District and Oceanside.

More information concerning the water shutdowns will be released within the next two weeks. The California Avocado Commission will pass along information to growers as it is released. If growers have concerns or questions, they should contact their local water agency.

San Diego County Water Quality Workshop

The UCCE San Diego is hosting a Water Quality Workshop August 28 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. The workshop will provide information concerning irrigation efficiency, nutrient management, pesticides and groundwater, and erosion controls.

The workshop will be held at the San Diego Farm Bureau office located at 420 South Broadway, Escondido, CA. The workshop is free for members of the San Diego Regional Irrigated Lands Group and \$30 for all other attendees. [Online registration](#) for the workshop is now available.

San Diego Water Board Enforcing Commercial Agriculture Regulatory Program Enrollment

California avocado growers in the San Diego Water Board's jurisdiction are required to enroll in the [Commercial Agriculture Regulatory Program](#) or face a fine of up to \$1,000 per day. The program plays a critical role in protecting downstream water from pollutants and in assisting agricultural operations with compliance to water quality regulations.

The San Diego Water Board is actively pursuing enforcement, thus growers are encouraged to be certain they are enrolled in the program. All farms, nurseries, orchards and vineyards that produce a crop with the intent to make a profit are required to enroll. If any one of the following is true, a grower must enroll. If the grower:

- Files IRS Form 1040 Schedule F with federal taxes
- Receives agricultural water use rate or variance
- Has a pesticide use permit or identification number

Growers may opt to enroll as an individual or as part of a Third-Party Group. The fee to enroll as an individual is \$50. If a grower is not enrolled and is contacted by the San Diego Water Board's enforcement campaign, the enrollment fee is \$200.

Those who join a Third-Party Group receive a reduced annual permit fee, share sampling and reporting costs and gain assistance with enrollment, document uploads and compliance. Membership fees may apply to the groups. Four Third-Party Groups are available:

- [De Luz Ag Group](#) (De Luz area only) — 951.366.0664
- [Frog Environmental Group](#) — 310.241.0866
- [San Diego Region Irrigated Lands Group](#) — 760.745.3023
- [Upper Santa Margarita Irrigated Lands Group](#) — 909.208.7847

An [online digital flyer](#) provides more information. Complete enrollment instructions also are available [online](#).

Celebrate California Avocados at the 13th Annual Avocado and Margarita Festival

California avocado growers are encouraged to join California avocado fans at the 13th Annual Avocado and Margarita Festival held on the waterfront in Morro Bay. The California Avocado Commission is a proud sponsor of the event and Commission staff will be on hand to share California avocado branded items and recipes, as well as answer questions from attendees. The festival — which features live music, family-friendly activities and a wide range of California avocado dishes — will take place Saturday, September 7 from 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

The event will feature a California avocado-centric menu, including *Grilled Avocados Stuffed with BBQ Tri-Tip or Albacore*, *Fudgy Pudgy Avocado Pops*, *Smoked Avocados* and *Avocado Cheese Tortellini*, as well as a number of specialty margaritas. For the first time in the event's history, a special blended avocado margarita will be available.

Children can explore the "Grom Zone," which includes a musical petting zoo, yoga, art projects and the Avocado Strong Arm contest. Local bands will perform live music throughout the day and attendees will have the opportunity to win a one-year supply of California avocados.

Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the gate and can be purchased at avomargfest.com. Proceeds from the festival are donated to local beneficiary groups. Since 2015, the festival has donated more than \$50,000 to Morro Bay non-profits.



The 13th Annual Avocado and Margarita Festival features live music, family-friendly activities and California avocado dishes and beverages.

California Avocado Month Public Relations Campaign Earns Double the Expected Number of Impressions

California Avocado Month is a celebration of peak season availability — an opportunity for fans and blogger advocates to attend California Avocado Commission-branded events and enjoy new recipes crafted by the Commission’s chef partners. The Commission’s integrated public relations (PR) campaigns keep the fruit top of mind for consumers throughout the month of June, while also educating fans on the unique origin and history of California avocados.

As part of California Avocado Month, the Commission partnered with top-tier vendors at San Diego’s newly unveiled Little Italy Food Hall to showcase the fruit in one-of-a-kind California avocado dishes throughout the month of June. To introduce the partnership, CAC hosted a launch event at the food hall for 30 influencers and media members, including representatives from Travel + Leisure, San Diego Family Magazine and WHERE San Diego. Small groups of the invited guests joined members of CAC’s marketing team, as well as local California avocado grower and CAC Board Secretary Jessica Hunter, on a tour of the food hall where they visited each food vendor to sample diverse California avocado dishes. Each chef explained their inspiration and the development process of the menu item to the assembled guests. Attendees then gathered to enjoy a final few dishes while watching Chef Sam Zien of Not Not Tacos prepare *Pearl Couscous with California Avocado and Crispy Tofu* and *California Avocado and Crab Flatbread with Garlic Aioli*. Guests also listened to remarks from CAC’s Vice President Marketing Jan DeLyser as she spoke about the value of California avocado menu items and learned about the California avocado growing process from Hunter.

To extend the reach of California Avocado Month, the Commission also partnered with ten influential bloggers. Each of the bloggers created a unique California avocado recipe and then shared those recipes, coupled with high-quality photography and captivating personalized narratives, on their blogs and social media channels. [Alyssa Gagarin](#) of Meal Prep Chef shared

a mouthwatering photo of her Crab Stuffed California Avocados with Mango Salsa recipe and Cara Carin of Cara’s Kitchen created a [SoCal Summer Panzanella Salad Featuring California Avocados](#) to celebrate California Avocado Month. The posts showcased the versatility of California avocados, encouraged consumers to enjoy the fruit during its peak season, promoted the nutritional benefits of the fruit and highlighted its unique California history. The Commission supported the program on its own Facebook, Twitter and Instagram channels in May and June as well.

By showcasing California avocados in a popular, up-and-coming area of the Little Italy district and other heavily trafficked communities in San Diego, sparking California avocado conversations on a wide range of social media channels, and piquing the interest of traditional media, including articles from San Diego Patch and USA Inquirer. Traditional media coverage resulted in 39 million impressions. Press release distribution contributed an additional 91 million impressions and blogger impressions reached 1.7 million. The overall California avocado month program garnered more than double the expected impressions: 131 million!



Chef Sam Zien of Not Not Tacos demonstrated how to prepare his Pearl Couscous with California.

Commission Connects with Key Retail Partners at Fourth Annual Organic Produce Summit

The California Avocado Commission (CAC) joined produce executives and retail grocery chain decision makers from across the country at the sold out Fourth Annual Organic Produce Summit held in Monterey, CA. on July 10th and 11th. The Commission participated at the event with its exhibit booth and a CAC-led panel discussion, thereby keeping California avocados top of mind with targeted retail partners.

Prior to the start of the expo, guests attended numerous education sessions, panels and keynote addresses. Jan DeLyser, CAC vice president marketing, moderated a Tackling Food Waste panel. Commission staff also met with retail partners at the CAC exhibit booth. Many of the retailers in the west mentioned the importance of having California avocados on display when available to satisfy their consumers’ preference and noted the challenges associated with this season’s pricing. That said, they noted the quality of the California fruit was evident and that customers continued to purchase California avocados throughout the season.

The summit provides the Commission with the opportunity to connect with the many retail partners who carry organic California avocados and discuss how CAC’s marketing support can help encourage sales of the fruit. Representatives from Albertsons, Bristol Farms, Costco Wholesale, Gelson’s Markets, Grocery Outlet, Harmons, Kroger, Mollie Stone’s, Pavilions, Raley’s, Safeway, Save Mart, Sprouts Farmers Markets, Vons and more were in attendance at the event.



Jan DeLyser moderated a discussion that focused on tackling food waste.

Commission Engages with Industry Leaders and the Next Generation at the FPFC Expo

More than 1,600 guests participated in the Fresh Produce and Floral Council (FPFC) Expo 2019 held July 15 – 16 in Anaheim, Calif. As a key sponsor of the event, the California Avocado Commission (CAC) was able to showcase fresh California avocados at the height of the season while sharing important information about the fruit.

The welcome reception for retail guests, sponsors and exhibitors took place at the Disneyland California Adventure® Park and was followed by a well-received visit to the World of Color in the Park. The following morning, attendees enjoyed a Keynote Breakfast, co-sponsored by CAC, while viewing a video about California avocado growers. While delivering his keynote address, NFL great Hines Ward commented on CAC Vice President Marketing Jan DeLyser's avocado socks and noted repeatedly how much he loved avocados.

The Commission also sponsored PMA Career Pathways at the Expo where DeLyser and David Cruz, CAC Business Development Director, connected with the next generation of produce industry leaders by serving as program ambassadors to college students interested in the produce industry.

Throughout the Expo, the Commission met with key customers and handlers to discuss CAC's marketing support, fruit availability at retail and updated crop numbers for August. Representatives from Albertsons/Vons/Pavilions, Bristol Farms, Gelson's, Lazy Acres, Raley's, Save Mart and Stater Bros. were in attendance.



NFL star Hines Ward, the keynote speaker for the FPFC Expo, flanked by CAC's Jan DeLyser and David Cruz.

Foodservice Chains Launch New California Avocado Menu Items During Peak Season

To encourage sales of California avocados during the peak season, the California Avocado Commission (CAC) partners with targeted foodservice chains to showcase the Golden State fruit on their menus, POS materials and social media channels. This season both Baja Fresh and Café Rio Mexican Grill celebrated the California avocado season with brand new avocado-centric menu items from spring through summer.

Beginning in late April, 62 Baja Fresh units in California launched their Honey Chipotle Chicken Salad with fresh slices of California avocado. The California avocado brand logo was featured on in-store limited-time-offer point-of-purchase pieces, mailers and in the foodservice chain's social media posts. The promotion will run through September 1.

Café Rio Mexican Grill launched new fajitas featuring freshly made California avocado guacamole on June 10 in 126 units located in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Washington and Washington, D.C. Throughout the promotion, which will run through September 1, the California avocado brand logo will be showcased on their ordering line window cling and in a variety of the chain's social media posts.

These season-long foodservice promotions not only help boost sales of the fruit by building awareness of the brand in both California and nationwide markets, they also provide California avocado fans with new menu ideas they can prepare at home.



These window clings were featured in 126 nationwide Café Rio locations throughout the summer.

California Market Trends

To view all market trend graphs, including “Weekly Volume Summary,” “Weekly Avocado Prices” and “U.S. Avocado Supply,” please visit: <http://www.californiaavocadogrowers.com/industry/market-statistics>.

California Avocado Society Weekly Newslines* Avocado Prices – August 14, 2019

	Conventional #1	Organic #1
California Hass	(Field Price Per Lb)	(Field Price Per Lb)
#32's	\$1.90 - \$2.02	\$2.10 - \$2.16
36's	\$1.90 - \$2.02	\$2.10 - \$2.16
40's	\$1.80 - \$2.02	\$2.00 - \$2.26
48's	\$1.80 - \$2.02	\$2.00 - \$2.40
60's	\$1.50 - \$1.58	\$2.00 - \$2.36
70's	\$1.10 - \$1.16	\$1.90 - \$2.26
84's	\$0.85 - \$0.96	\$0.95 - \$1.20

*To subscribe to the Weekly Newslines, please contact the California Avocado Society at (949) 940-8869 or www.CaliforniaAvocadoSociety.org.

California Avocado Commission Weekly Volume Summary (Pounds)

	Week Ending 8/11/2019	Season-to-Date (since 11/01/2018)	2019 Year to Date
Hass	3,883,292	186,644,561	186,271,440
Lamb	448,731	10,688,227	10,266,481
Other (Greens)	0	690,460	475,493
California Total	4,332,023	198,023,248	197,013,414
Florida	2,333,815	24,745,930	19,878,815
Chile	141,037	28,094,892	5,748,130
Mexico	18,955,035	1,620,610,308	1,264,256,544
Peru	7,490,420	165,489,678	165,489,678
Other (Imports)	700,000	38,580,000	28,870,000
Import Total	27,286,492	1,852,774,878	1,464,364,352
USA Total	33,952,330	2,075,544,056	1,681,256,581

Sources:

California = CAC (AMRIC)

Florida = Florida Avocado Admin Committee

Chile = Comite de Paltas, Chile

Mexico = APEAM

Peru = ProHass

Other Imports = USDA AMS website

Crop Statistics

Below are the California Crop Weekly Harvest Projections versus Actual Harvest/Shipments for 2019. While the total crop volume has exceeded the July 2019 handler estimates of 180 million pounds, as the crop approaches 200 million pounds, CAC has set its eyes on the May 2019 mid-season grower survey volume of 218.8 million pounds. While another 20 million pounds of fruit to harvest may be a bit high, late-season discussions with the industry indicate that we could see a final crop volume close to 210 million pounds, which is just a 4% variance from the mid-season grower survey results. As the season comes to a close actual harvest volumes should continue to track the projected volumes, with the bulk of the fruit harvested in the next 3-5 weeks.

2019 California Crop Weekly Harvest Projection
Weekly Crop Movement vs. Distribution Projections
All Varieties

Week Ending (CAC Week)	4-Year Historical Forecast	AMRIC Handler Forecast	Industry Adjusted		
	2019 Pre-Season Crop Estimate	May 2019 Update	AMRIC Harvest	AMRIC Shipments	Crop Size Indicator
1st QTR SubTotal	28,968,293	8,570,500	9,088,266	5,722,201	
Jun 2 - (31)	7,648,747	6,656,300	9,725,414	8,380,505	192,361,719
Jun 9 - (32)	6,794,936	8,693,500	10,753,155	11,084,147	193,398,228
Jun 16 - (33)	7,174,220	9,174,700	11,305,158	10,449,531	196,024,662
Jun 23 - (34)	7,439,590	9,502,600	12,949,517	11,875,141	199,072,642
Jun 30 - (35)	7,044,822	8,933,400	14,126,304	12,435,425	204,262,885
2nd QTR SubTotal	95,274,149	111,477,100	135,154,493	118,530,115	
Jul 7 - (36)	7,183,374	7,654,800	13,056,239	13,325,006	209,399,586
Jul 14 - (37)	6,864,306	7,283,300	13,196,924	12,125,979	214,721,313
Jul 21 - (38)	7,056,509	7,483,600	10,199,390	11,270,316	215,612,788
Jul 28 - (39)	5,684,434	6,043,600	7,775,647	10,462,878	214,398,380
Aug 4 - (40)	4,904,787	4,741,000	5,571,768	7,768,763	215,245,835
Aug 11 - (41)	4,180,595	4,040,700	4,332,022	6,479,019	214,398,380
Aug 18 - (42)	3,655,708	3,531,300	-	-	
Aug 25 - (43)	2,905,312	2,805,900	-	-	
Sep 1 - (44)	2,336,529	2,256,400	-	-	
Sep 8 - (45)	1,527,122	1,245,200	-	-	
Sep 15 - (46)	1,095,437	886,900	-	-	
Sep 22 - (47)	1,071,316	855,200	-	-	
Sep 29 - (48)	868,897	693,500	-	-	
3rd QTR SubTotal	49,334,327	49,521,400	54,131,991	61,431,961	
4th QTR SubTotal	1,423,231	431,000	-	-	
Season-to-Date	160,116,447	157,294,600	198,374,750	185,684,277	
% of Crop	91%	93%	117%	109%	
Crop Size	175,000,000	170,000,000	Left to Harvest	Left to Ship	
Crop Variance	38,258,303	41,080,150	(28,374,750)	(15,684,277)	

[Click Here to View the Complete 2019 Crop Projection](#)

Weather: 30-Day Outlook For California's Coastal & Valley Areas

(August 16 – September 8)

Summary- The monsoon is active over western Mexico, and the southern Rockies area and southern Plateau area. However, the action to produce thunderstorms (TSTMS) remains mostly east of California.

Colder than normal sea surface temperature anomalies will encourage tropical cyclones to remain south of southern Baja, then turn northwestward well off the Baja coast, bringing them over colder water with minimal effect on S California. There is a better chance for showers and TSTMS in S California from a tropical cyclone remnant around the end of August (26-28th).

Longwave troughing will continue in the NE Pacific near or just west of central and N California. The central Pacific trough has been replaced by westerly flow, while a trough just off the NORCAL coast has continued to develop. There continues some weak support in the sea surface temperature anomaly field the longwave trough to redevelop in the central Pacific.

For western Mexico the Sierra Madre Occidental have above normal rainfall due to thunderstorms (TSTMS). Despite the increase of rainfall in W Mexico, the overall effect of high pressure aloft will continue to minimize TSTM activity in SOCAL during the late summer (second half of August), due to lack of a well-defined shift to SE monsoonal flow. SE flow does develop, but is mostly further south than usual for August.

In the Near Term – Aug. 16-30... Salinas Valley-San Luis Obispo Co...For the agricultural valleys Dry with a few hot days from Aug 18-21st. Mostly mild conditions occur inland and muggy/warm at coast during the 22-25th, then some drizzle or light drizzly rain from the 26-27th on the coast, chance for TSTMS in SierraNV from the 24-26th, then a drizzly rain from the 26-27th, while turning cooler than normal.

In the southern California avocado growing areas, from San Luis Obispo south, the marine layer will be intermittent. Watch for local gusty winds, partly cloudy skies, and a chance for showers from Aug 24-26th, followed by drizzle and mild, humid conditions from the 26-28th. Partly cloudy skies and continued warm days at the coast while mild inland due to the residually moist and unstable airmass. We try to return to usual night-morning coastal low clouds and local fog in early mornings (at least intermittently) per the usual pattern.

Summary – September 1-15... The general synopsis for Northern, Central and Southern California is that upper low activity continues off the central coast and may drift south off the SOCAL coast. If a SE flow develops, we could see some more tropical airmasses, and TSTMS, for southern California. This may again provide tropical moisture inputs for thunderstorms (TSTMS) in the SierraNV. Monsoonal TSTM activity will be primarily forced by upper lows drifting near the coast of N and Central California, and occasionally to SOCAL, with the lows being the primary driver of the monsoon this late seasonal period. This is in contrast to strong upper high pressure over New Mexico that provides strong steering of moisture from NW Mexico into California. Nonetheless, recurrent dry lightning events should be in the preparation plans for Fire Weather, especially in the mountain areas of N, Central and S California.

Seasonal Outlook / El Niño Update... September 15 – December 31...We see that *El Niño* has persisted, for the most part, through the summer. This argues for a return of *El Niño* type conditions to California during the fall and early winter months of Nov-Dec 2019 and Jan 2020. What we are currently seeing is an IVT pattern, related to the Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly (SSTA) pattern that supports a trough near the California coast. We do receive some dry months or dry intra-monthly periods, especially in Nov, and early Jan 2020.

Oct appears to have near normal rainfall. However, watch for some cutoff lows developing, and risk of heavy convective rainfall. Recall that, with warmer sea surface close by, there will tend to be more moisture in general in the atmosphere than historically in October, so there may be a higher risk of heavy rains this October, due to an increase in available moisture.

Dec currently appears very wet, followed by a nice dry break possibly developing for a week or two in early to mid-Jan 2020.

For SOCAL, the tropical cyclone season has been delayed, but now is beginning to turn more robust off W Mexico as the SSTA pattern allows a more normal development of tropical cyclones. At times such as this, we look to the longer range forecast models (NMME and CFSv2) for model forecast options. However, we also look toward to the IVTinit analysis maps to tell us what kind of patterns are currently favored by the sea surface temperature anomaly field.

Alan Fox...Fox Weather, LLC

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