

SIERRA *News*

News, notes and tips from your friends at Sierra Pacific Farms

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Rain, Rain Go Away...

As of the date of this Newsletter, in the month of December we have received over 15 inches of rain in some areas of the Temecula foothills, 10 inches in the Ventura area and more than 8 inches in the San Diego county area.

The majority of this rain has come down without incident, however the Riverside/Temecula areas received huge downpours on Tuesday December 20th over-night and we experienced some erosion damages. If you have not been contacted by one of us, you are one of the lucky ones! I would also like to report with this storm that we do not have a problem with fruit being down. We do have some heavily-laden trees that have leaned over due to the amount of moisture in the soil and we will be back in the groves propping those

up later in the month. For the lemons, rain has caused us to take a hard look at our snail populations which should explode in the future. Brown rot applications are going on only if need be.



The Lemon Market

By now you have all received your lemon returns and once again I have to say that last year, production was the biggest surprise. On top of that having an excellent lemon market is just a plus for all growers. This year we are going to analyze our pack-outs to determine where we can improve on quality for all of the lemon groves - quality and lemon production are going to go hand-in-hand for better returns in the future.



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Sierra Pacific News Cont...

Avocados

The CAC really does not have a clear estimate for next year, they are using numbers in the range of 240 million to 270 million pounds but are doing the work to make this a more detailed estimate. Mexico is down and Chile way down, looking to bring in only 120 million pounds this year vs. what they normally do which is 300 million pounds. We are still looking for a very robust market starting in April and May once Mexico starts to wind down and we will be taking a hard look at all of the groves and deciding when to go in for our first size pick. There is no rush now to size pick because there really isn't a market for California avocados due to low volume of avocados.



Water

On our over-all water situation in the State of California, we are receiving good news. Locally, Big Bear Lake is over-flowing at the dam, this is the earliest it has occurred in the last 25 years. This is an indication that the local water sources are up tremendously. In the Delta area they have already allocated over 50% at this point in time and there are rumors going around that we may even get 100% of our allocation this year because of record rain falls and snow pack in the northern Sierras. Some storms created snow packs that were 15 to 18 feet high in the Tahoe area. On top of that, we are hearing that the Western Rockies are receiving above normal snow which will also put more water into the Colorado water system and Lake Mead, taking the pressure off of our water situation. The CAC is presently working aggressively to get the allocations pulled completely off for agriculture for the coming year, reversing everything so that we go back to normal water billing. I commend their work and support it where we can at Sierra Pacific with our influence.

On-Line Shopping

I would like to thank everyone who went to our on-line store! Shipments went out as planned. We had a very nice Christmas holiday here at the company and are wishing every one of our clients a happy new year!



UNTIL NEXT TIME...

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