

Vegetable Crop Production Seasons in the Salinas Valley

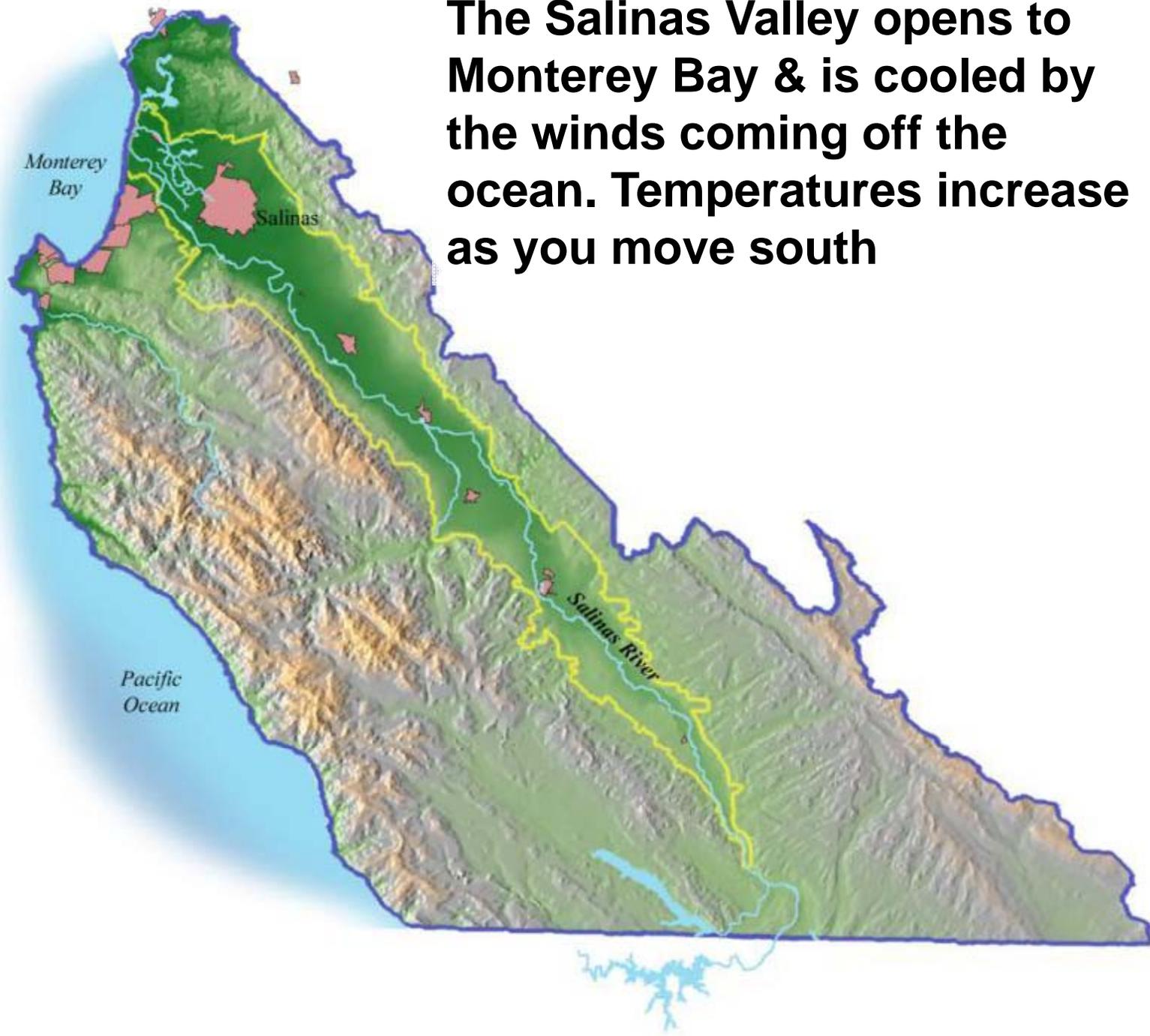
Richard Smith

Vegetable Crop and Weed Science Farm Advisor

University of California Cooperative Extension

Monterey County

The Salinas Valley opens to Monterey Bay & is cooled by the winds coming off the ocean. Temperatures increase as you move south



Vegetable Crops

- Due to the cool summer climate, the main vegetables that are produced in the Salinas Valley include cool-season leafy vegetables, cole crops, spinach, celery, strawberries, and many others
- The climate is also moderate and allows nearly year-round production for many crops
- Warm-season crops can also be produced and are more common in the south

Cool Season Vegetables

Lettuces



Baby Leaf



Endive

Cole Crops



Artichokes



Cardoon

Peas Celery



Warm Season Vegetables - Frost Sensitive

Cucurbits



Sweet Corn



Solanaceous



Chili Pepper



Pumpkin



Melons



Green Beans



Root Vegetables

Alliums



Onion



Leek



Potato



Sweet Potato



Green Onion



Daikon Radish

Specialty Vegetables



Monterey County Weather

- **Frost dates will vary based on location, but in general, the last frost is generally in March/April and the first frost in the fall usually occurs in late October to sometime in November**
- **Between the frost dates we can produce warm season vegetables**

Monterey County Weather

- The season of warm season vegetables can be extended by the use of greenhouses or hoop houses

Monterey County Weather

Your National Weather Service *forecast*

Salinas CA

Enter Your "City, ST" or zip code ...

NWS San Francisco Bay Area/Monterey, CA Mobile Weather Information | En Español
Point Forecast: Salinas CA Last Update: 7:47 am PST Feb 24, 2011
36.69°N 121.65°W (Elev. 59 ft) Forecast Valid: 9am PST Feb 24, 2011-6pm PST Mar 2, 2011

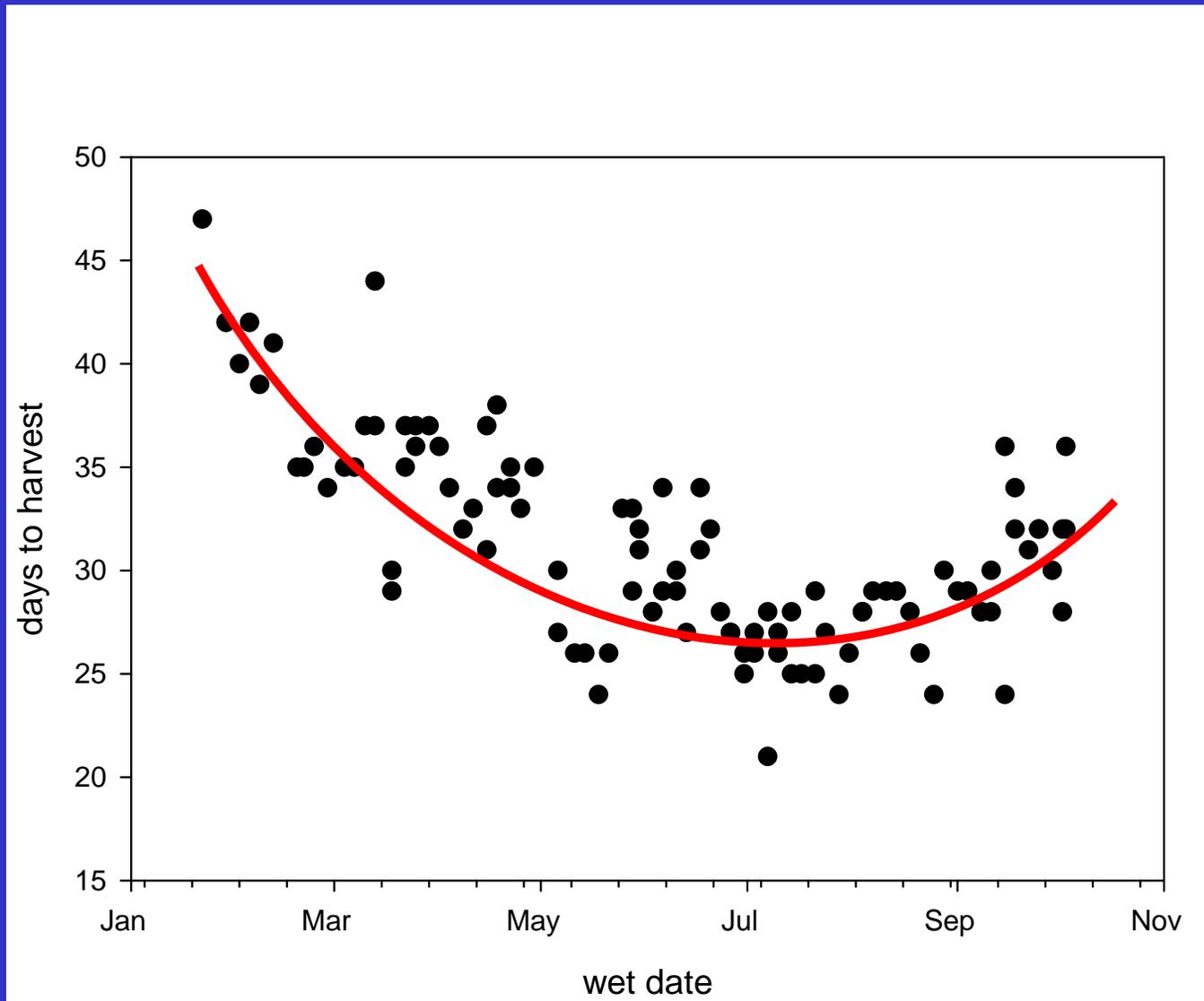
Forecast at a Glance

Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
 70% Showers Likely Hi 54 °F	 80% Showers Lo 41 °F	 90% Heavy Rain Hi 53 °F	 60% Rain/Snow Likely Lo 35 °F	 30% Chance Rain/Snow Hi 46 °F	 Partly Cloudy Lo 30 °F	 Sunny Hi 55 °F	 Partly Cloudy Lo 37 °F	 Mostly Sunny Hi 58 °F

- A storm like this can cause quality problems on all crops currently planted

Effect of Planting Date on Days to Harvest

Baby Lettuce



Vegetable Planting Seasons

Winter - December/January

Crop	Days to harvest
Lettuce	110 - 120
Broccoli	120
Cauliflower (transplant)	120
Spinach	>50
Rappini	>50
Annual Artichoke (transplant)	>120
Fennel	
Carrots	

Vegetable Planting Seasons

Spring – February to April

Crop	Days to harvest
Lettuce	80 - 90
Broccoli	85 - 95
Cauliflower (transplant)	85 - 95
Celery	120
Spinach	35 - 45
Rappini; Annual Artichoke; Fennel; Carrots	
Sweet Corn (transplant/seed)	120
Summer Squash (transplant)	65

Vegetable Planting Seasons

Summer – May to July

Crop	Days to harvest
Lettuce	60 – 65
Broccoli	75 - 80
Cauliflower (transplant)	70
Celery	90 - 95
Spinach	25 - 30
Rappini; Annual Artichoke; Fennel; Carrots	
Sweet Corn; squash; beans; tomatoes & peppers (transplant)	

Vegetable Planting Seasons

Fall – August to November

Crop	Days to harvest
Lettuce (until mid-august)	110 - 120
Broccoli	overwinter?
Cauliflower (transplant)	overwinter?
Spinach	50
Rappini; Annual Artichoke; Fennel; Carrots	
Beans & Squash (by mid-august)	

Sources of Information

- **Seed sales people can be very knowledgeable about how varieties that they sell will react to various planting dates**
- **Your experience is the best source to you**
- **Always be experimenting, always have more than one variety in a planting. It gives you an opportunity to learn, especially if a problem occurs**

Sources of Information

- Visit markets and learn about what is in season & when.
- Also, how it is presented and how much it is worth



Sources of Information

- **Read as much as you can and listen for new ideas**
- **There are many creative operations out there that have captured new markets for commodities or premium markets**
- **Always be on the look out for these opportunities**