

# The Source

Commodity of the Month - Citrus



## MARKET ALERTS

**Bell Peppers** - Supply is limited and the quality is good.

**Strawberries** - Supply is steady and the quality is fair.

**Onions** - Limited supply and the quality is fair.

## FEBRUARY 14, 2024

## CROP UPDATES

A series of storm systems are expected to enter California today, with moderate precipitation mainly in Central California and northern regions. The next system arrives Friday night, with heavy precipitation expected. A third system is expected to stall and bring rain bands across the state. The Southwestern Desert regions and northern Baja/Mexico will receive less rain than previously forecasted. [Read more](#)

## WEATHER

**Arizona** - Yuma Co. valleys will experience light lettuce icing today, with morning lows rising to low 50s, afternoon highs in mid-60s-70s, and light-moderate southerly winds shifting northerly.

**California** - Today's weather forecast is dry and cool, with lows in Nipomo, Santa Ynez Valley, and Cuyama, and highs in the mid-50s to 60s.

**Florida** - Warm temperatures through Thursday, followed by cool, wetter weather over the weekend with potential 1" rainfall and 15 mph winds.

**Mexico** - The week forecast predicts milder morning temperatures, cooler daytime temperatures due to increased clouds and shower activity, with a cold front potentially bringing drier air by the weekend.

## FREIGHT

Northeastern storm hitting the east coast is causing transit delays this week. Remainder of the US is seeing warmer temperatures and plenty of truck capacity



happy  
Valentine's Day  
with

**Driscoll's**  
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# Table of Contents



[Apples](#)



[Citrus \(Lemon\)](#)



[Melon \(Cantaloupe\)](#)



[Asparagus](#)



[Citrus \(Limes\)](#)



[Melon \(Honeydew\)](#)



[Avocados](#)



[Citrus \(Oranges\)](#)



[Melon \(Watermelon\)](#)



[Bell Peppers](#)



[Cucumbers](#)



[Mushroom](#)



[Berries \(Blackberries\)](#)



[Eggplant](#)



[Onions](#)



[Berries \(Blueberries\)](#)



[Garlic](#)



[Pears](#)



[Berries \(Raspberries\)](#)



[Grapes \(Green\)](#)



[Pineapples](#)



[Berries \(Strawberries\)](#)



[Grapes \(Red\)](#)



[Potatoes](#)



[Broccoli](#)



[Green Onions](#)



[Squash](#)



[Brussel Sprouts](#)



[Kale](#)



[Stone Fruit](#)



[Carrots](#)



[Lettuce Iceberg](#)



[Tomatoes](#)



[Cauliflower](#)



[Lettuce Leaf](#)



[Celery](#)



[Lettuce Tender Leaf](#)

# Commodity Updates



## Apples

Apples are still in good supply for most varieties. Seeing lighter supplies in galas, gold dels., and pinks.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
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Hudson, New York (September - June)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
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## Asparagus

Asparagus volume continued to be good out of Caborca this week with temperatures in the 80 degree range, which is ideal for growing asparagus. Barring adverse weather conditions, supplies should remain good going forward.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
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Caborca (Year Round)	High	\$\$\$	Good
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Ciudad Obregon (Year Round)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair
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Peru (Year Round)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
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## Avocados

With triggers possibly in play next week, markets are increasing at 48ct. Due to higher dry matter, ripening times are shortening.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
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Mexico (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
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## Bell Peppers

**ALERT**

Markets are high on both coasts. Limited FL supplies keep pressure on both coasts. Once spring crops get going, yields will be below normal until March. Quality is ok. Due to lack of warm temperatures, colored bells are still limited; quality is ok, but greening is still prevalent.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
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Florida (November - May)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
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Mexico (November - May)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
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Price Key: \$\$\$ -Low, \$\$ -Steady, \$ -High

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# Commodity Updates



## Berries (Blackberries)

Despite occasional transfer delays from Central; Mexico, supplies have been meeting demand. Over the next few weeks, CMEX numbers are expected to increase. Through the end of the week, markets will remain steady on this item.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
California (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Fair
McAllen, Texas (October-May)	Steady	\$\$\$	Fair



## Berries (Blueberries)

Fruit is coming from Central Mexico, Chile and Baja. A steady supply is expected from all areas, flattening the market. Currently, Dover, FL is offering mostly Chilean imports, with occasional CMEX transfers. As March approaches, Mexican availability is expected to increase.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
California (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
Dover, Florida (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
McAllen, Texas (October-May)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good



## Berries (Raspberries)

Despite occasional delays in transfers from Central; Mexico, supplies have been meeting demand. Over the next few weeks, CMEX and Baja numbers are expected to increase. Through the end of the week, markets will remain steady on this item.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
California (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
Dover, Florida (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
McAllen, Texas (October - May)	Light	\$\$\$	Good



## Berries (Strawberries)



Strawberry production at CMEX continues to increase slightly. Due to overall shortages in California and Florida, McAllen, Texas has seen an increase in demand. California's yields have been hampered by recent rains. In order to avoid plant diseases caused by moisture, growers strip fruit to maintain plant health. In the area this week, there was a much-needed drying period of 3 to 4 days. We are expecting more rain this coming weekend which will further increase difficulties in harvesting. Through the end of next week, California and Baja supplies will remain spotty. Over the next few weeks, Florida's production is expected to increase. It is normal for crews to dodge sporadic rain fronts this time of year. Increased yields depend entirely on warmer temperatures. Plant growth and production have been stunted by recent cold temperatures. When temperatures normalize, we should see significant increases.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
California (Year Round)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair
Dover, Florida (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Fair
McAllen, Texas (October-May)	steady	\$\$\$	Fair

Price Key: \$\$\$ -Low, \$\$\$ -Steady, \$\$\$ -High

# Commodity Updates



## Broccoli

Broccoli supply continues to be very good this week. This week, the market should remain steady. There are also good supplies coming out of Santa Maria. This market is expected to remain steady next week.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Mexico (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Fair
Santa Maria, California (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Fair
Yuma, Arizona (November-May)	Steady	\$\$\$	Fair



## Brussel Sprouts

There is a good supply of Brussels sprouts. Mexico and Oxnard have grown in size and production. The market is expected to remain steady next week.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Mexico (December-August)	Steady	\$\$\$	Fair
Salinas, California (July-December)	Steady	\$\$\$	Fair



## Carrots

As suppliers return to the Bakersfield growing region towards the end of February, the market on whole carrots is steady at a higher level, but with slightly better availability. Grimmway has also started shipping out of their Lake Park, GA facility.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Kern County, California (May-July) (October-February)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
Lake Park, Georgia (December - May)	Light	\$\$\$	Good



## Cauliflower

The supply of cauliflower is tightening up. Growth has slowed due to the colder weather. Look for this market to tighten up going into next week.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Mexico (Year Round)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
Yuma (November - May)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
Santa Maria, California (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good



## Celery

Most shippers expect this market to remain steady throughout the week. All sizes are available, with the largest sizes having the best numbers. Please be aware that Santa Maria/Oxnard still has the sharpest pricing. For volume type orders, shippers continue to flex, so promote as much as you can. Quality remains above average.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Oxnard, California (Year Round)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
Yuma, Arizona (December - April)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good

Price Key: \$\$\$ -Low, \$\$\$ -Steady, \$\$\$ -High

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# Commodity Updates



## Citrus (Lemons)

Currently, all three districts are shipping, with peak sizings of 140/165ct. Markets are steady. District 3 is nearly finished; only a few scraps remain. As District 3 nears its end, expect 165ct and smaller to tighten, making District 1 the main growing region with bigger fruit.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
CA Desert/Yuma (October - February)	Steady	\$\$\$	Fair



## Citrus (Limes)

Markets are steady to slightly higher on 110 through 200s. Yields will be lower now through April, as is usual at this time of year. As March approaches, we can expect availability to decline and fruit to become smaller in size.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Veracruz (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good



## Citrus (Oranges)

Currently, fruit is peaking on 72ct and larger; 88/113/138ct are extremely scarce and will remain so throughout the rest of the season. As the season progresses, fruit size will increase due to low fruit set and rain events. While we navigate our way through this shorter Navel season, please be flexible with size and grade. Lead time is very important; please send orders 5-7 days in advance. The quality is good; Brix is between 12 and 14. Zero gassing at this time.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
San Joaquin Valley (Year Round)	Light	\$\$\$	Good



## Cucumber

As Nogales production is in a skip, the market is active again. Cold weather and strong eastern demand have caused prices to react. As we wait for FL to begin in March, offshore fruit from Honduras continues to be light.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Florida (November - May)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
Mexico (November - May)	Light	\$\$\$	Good



## Eggplant

In Florida, there is not much product available, mostly choice grade, but it is expected to improve by spring. With the erratic weather out west, eggplant production has been lighter than expected, and Lent is just around the corner.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Florida (November - May)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
Mexico (November - May)	Light	\$\$\$	Good

Price Key: \$\$\$ -Low, \$\$\$ -Steady, \$\$\$ -High

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# Commodity Updates



## Garlic

The garlic supply is slightly tight overall. South America has seen a good harvest of Argentinian garlic in recent months. It is estimated, however, that this won't be enough to fill the overall supply gap. Over the next few months, the garlic market will become tighter and more volatile.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
East Coast (Year Round)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
Bakersfield, California (Year Round)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
Gilroy, California (Year Round)	Light	\$\$\$	Good



## Grapes (Green)

The import of grapes remains very tight because Peru is finishing early and Chile is starting late. A bottleneck at the Panama Canal and heavy seas in the Pacific have delayed ship arrivals on both coasts. In February and March, the market is expected to remain tight and high.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Chile (January - April)	Light	\$\$\$	Good



## Grapes (Red)

The import of grapes remains very tight because Peru is finishing early and Chile is starting late. A bottleneck at the Panama Canal and heavy seas in the Pacific have delayed ship arrivals on both coasts. In February and March, the market is expected to remain tight and high.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Chile (January - April)	Light	\$\$\$	Good



## Green Onions

As we begin this week, supplies remain extremely limited. As a result of this week's rain, harvesters are still trying to catch up in the fields. This week's supplies should improve as Mexico's weather improves.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Mexico (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good



## Kale

Supplies are steady this week. Quality is good despite the recent freeze and rain.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Mexico (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
Oxnard, California (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
Yuma, Arizona (November- May)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good

Price Key: \$\$\$ -Low, \$\$\$ -Steady, \$\$\$ -High

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# Commodity Updates



## Lettuce Iceberg

Multiple shippers in Yuma have experienced epidermal peel and bottom rot due to cool temperatures in recent weeks. The suppliers continue to pack product as cleanly as possible, but multiple growers have reported this issue. Yields are down. The shelf life of value-added products will be shorter, so please play closer to the numbers. All lettuce packs will have discolored outer leaves. Expect lighter supplies over the next few days.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Mexico (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Fair
Santa Maria, California (March-December)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair
Yuma, Arizona (November-May)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good



## Lettuce Leaf

Multiple shippers are expected to provide moderate supplies of romaine, green and red leaf. There will be a good availability of Romaine hearts, so please be aware. All suppliers are reporting blisters and peels. Shippers continue to pack the box as well as possible, taking off outer leaves for extreme cases. Ribs are also discolored, which is directly related to the cold weather in the past few weeks. These are industry-wide issues.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Mexico (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
Oxnard, California (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
Yuma, Arizona (November-May)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good



## Lettuce Tender Leaf

Spinach and arugula are in short supply due to yellowing and poor quality. Supplies are expected to remain tight this week. Suppliers hope next week will be better for supplies.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Mexico (Year Round)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair
Oxnard, California (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
Yuma, Arizona (November-May)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair



## Melon (Cantaloupe)

Currently, supply is meeting demand and is expected to remain steady for the remainder of the month. Until additional volume is available, markets should remain firm. Retailers are preparing promotional deals for spring products, and growers are transitioning to their spring product. The size curve is expected to shift slowly to smaller sizes.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Central America (December - May)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good

Price Key: \$\$\$ -Low, \$\$\$ -Steady, \$\$\$ -High

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# Commodity Updates



## Melon (Honeydew)

Supply is currently meeting demand and is expected to remain steady for the remainder of the month. Until additional volume is available, markets should remain firm. Retailers are preparing promotional deals as growers transition to their spring product. Honeydews are available in smaller sizes in Nogales. Brix levels are lower.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Arizona (June-July) (October-November)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
Central America (December - May)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good



## Melon (Watermelon)

There is a limited supply of domestic watermelon available. Offshore products produce great color and quality. Watermelon supplies from Mexico are only meeting demand on the west coast. Due to the availability of product from Southern Mexico, supplies have improved. Most of the product crossing is in cartons, and bin supplies are limited.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Arizona (June-July) (October-November)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair
Central America (December-May)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair



## Mushroom

Supply and availability are excellent.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Nationwide	Steady	\$\$\$	Good



## Onions



In the Northwest, the market remains extreme. Mexican grown onions are crossing in insufficient volume.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
South Texas (July-April)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair
Tri-Cities, Washington (July-April)	High	\$\$\$	Excellent
Eastern Oregon/Parma, ID (August-April)	Steady	\$\$\$	Excellent
San Joaquin Valley (May-August)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair
Hatch, New Mexico (July-April)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair



## Pears

The Anjou is now the most dominant green pear. Prices are slightly higher than last month. The size profile of the crop is large and food service sizes are becoming difficult to find. There are many small boscs available.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Hood River, Oregon (August-July)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
Yakima, Washington (August-July)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good

Price Key: \$\$\$ -Low, \$\$\$ -Steady, \$\$\$ -High

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# Commodity Updates



## Pineapples

With transactional volume available, growers are fulfilling their contracts with supply meeting demand. The supply of 6ct crowned pineapples has been tight, and being able to sub will ensure product availability. There may be a change in loading dates due to vessel delays caused by the holiday.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Costa Rica (Year round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good



## Potatoes

There is an excellent supply and availability of both burbanks and norkotahs. The size 40 CT remains the most snug.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Bancroft, Wisconsin (August-July)	Steady	\$\$\$	Excellent
Idaho Falls, Idaho (August-July)	High	\$\$\$	Excellent
Monte Vista, Colorado (August-July)	Steady	\$\$\$	Excellent
Pasco, Washington (August-July)	High	\$\$\$	Excellent



## Squash

Out of Florida, markets are much lower. Volume has improved a bit, but nothing significant is expected until early March. Cooler weather has brought supplies to lighter levels in Sinaloa. In March, crops will transition to northern growing regions of Sinaloa, which at this time does not seem seamless.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Florida (November - May)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
Mexico (November-May)	Light	\$\$\$	Good



## Stone Fruit

Peaches, plums, and nectarines are arriving on both coasts in small quantities. Peach supplies are very light. Domestic Kiwis are steady. The crop is showing its age late in the season. The domestic crop is supplemented by imported Kiwi from Greece and Italy.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
San Joaquin Valley (May-October)	Steady	\$\$\$	Fair



## Tomatoes

The market is active again. FL still struggles with low yields due to weather; quality is fair. We can expect light production in February. The production of romas, rounds, and grapes is improving in MX. Due to recent rain in MX/ holiday, markets have reacted slightly. There will be a fairly consistent supply of Romas rounds, but cherry and grape supplies will remain tight.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Mexico (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
Florida (November-May)	Light	\$\$\$	Good

Price Key: \$\$\$ -Low, \$\$\$ -Steady, \$\$\$ -High

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# Weather Updates



## CALIFORNIA

It will be dry and cool today with morning lows in Nipomo, Santa Ynez Valley, and Cuyama, and low-mid 40s elsewhere with daytime highs in the mid 50s to low 60s. Low pressure arrives tonight causing light to moderate showers through Thursday night with totals up to 1/4". The stronger system arrives Friday night, bringing more rain through midday Sunday with totals between 1/2" and 1 1/4".



## MEXICO

As the week progresses, morning temperatures will be milder but daytime temperatures will be cooler as clouds and shower activity increase. A cold front may bring drier, cooler air by the weekend, which will mostly be felt in the morning. In most showers from Thursday afternoon into Saturday morning, rain totals will range from 0.15" to 0.35", but higher amounts are possible in some t-storms. Temperatures should be warmer and drier over the weekend.



## FLORIDA

Temperatures will warm today into Thursday, then cool and wetter weather is expected over the weekend. Over a good portion of the state, rainfall may reach near 1". Through Friday, winds will gust near 15 mph.



## ARIZONA

Most Yuma Co. valleys will experience light lettuce icing today, with the Mohawk Valley experiencing it only on Thursday morning. The morning lows will rise from the mid 30s to the low 40s most fields today to the mid 40s to the low 50s by Sunday. The afternoon highs will be in the mid-60s-low 70s on Wednesday, then warming to the mid-upper 70s on Saturday. On Thursday, light-moderate southerly winds shift northerly, then gust to 20-25 mph most of Friday.

For more information: <https://www.ventusky.com/?p=31.4;-89.7;3&l=rain-3h>

# Freight Updates



Northeastern storm hitting the east coast is causing transit delays this week. Remainder of the US is seeing warmer temperatures and plenty of truck capacity



## U.S. On-Highway Diesel Fuel Prices\*(dollars per gallon)

[full history](#) [XLS](#)

	01/29/24	02/05/24	02/12/24	Change from	
				week ago	year ago
U.S.	3.867	3.899	4.109	↑ 0.210	↓ -0.335
East Coast (PADD1)	4.043	4.043	4.201	↑ 0.158	↓ -0.452
New England (PADD1A)	4.289	4.324	4.350	↑ 0.026	↓ -0.704
Central Atlantic (PADD1B)	4.228	4.275	4.317	↑ 0.042	↓ -0.631
Lower Atlantic (PADD1C)	3.949	3.929	4.143	↑ 0.214	↓ -0.360
Midwest (PADD2)	3.704	3.738	4.042	↑ 0.304	↓ -0.232
Gulf Coast (PADD3)	3.644	3.702	3.865	↑ 0.163	↓ -0.285
Rocky Mountain (PADD4)	3.645	3.650	3.805	↑ 0.155	↓ -0.855
West Coast (PADD5)	4.508	4.551	4.723	↑ 0.172	↓ -0.310
West Coast less California	4.011	4.054	4.264	↑ 0.210	↓ -0.410
California	5.078	5.121	5.250	↑ 0.129	↓ -0.195

\*prices include all taxes

For more information: <https://www.eia.gov/petroleum/gasdiesel/>

# Crop Updates



The first in a series of storm systems will move into California today with moderate precipitation mainly across Central California and regions to the north. The next system arrives Friday night into early Sunday with heavy precipitation expected across the state. A third system is expected to move into California Sunday night. This system is forecast to stall over the area forming a cut-off low pressure system that will bring bands of rain across the state into the middle of next week. This may then bring a warm rain event to the desert regions early next week. While these longer-range forecasts can often change, updated forecast now bring much less rain to the Southwestern Desert regions and northern Baja/Mexico than previous forecasts. Warmer temperatures look to move into the Desert regions with morning lows remaining above frost levels into early next week. This will help with recovery and growth rates in the area hampered by previous rains and very cold mornings this week.

The strawberry growing regions of Southern California (Oxnard) will once again be impacted by these upcoming storm systems with 2-4 additional inches of rain expected over the weekend into mid next week. Growers have been stripping and cleaning up fields with some light harvesting in front of the next round of rain. The plants remain strong with good fruit sets and flowers currently.

Iceberg, romaine and leafy green fields continue to exhibit epidermal peeling, blistering and rib discoloration along with increasing reports of weak tip, mildew and bottom rot in current stands. Harvesting crews will be trimming out the outer leaves in an effort to reduce these defects in the box resulting in a smaller head size along with lighter color and carton weights. These supplies will likely continue to show some premature pinking along the rib that tends to show up during transit and storage. Processed leafy green items will also likely see an increase in this pinking showing up in the bag.

The spring mix and tender leaf items will continue to show some yellowing and discoloration along with weaker texture and lesser shelf life due to the rains, hail and morning frost conditions in the region.

Broccoli fields are seeing increasing amounts of brown beads and pin rot along with some branchy crowns in current supplies. Cauliflower supplies are showing generally a creamy color with occasional discoloration and mold spotting at pack out.

It is important to keep your rotations in check as the overall quality and shelf life of most crops will be challenged. We will keep an eye on the upcoming weather and the impact on the various crops to keep you up to date as we gather more information.



**TIM LYNCH**  
QUALITY ASSURANCE