

The Source

Commodity of the Month - Strawberries

Driscoll's
Only the Finest Berries™

MARKET ALERTS

Strawberries - Supply is steady and the quality is fair.

Onions - Limited supply and the quality is fair.

Squash - Limited supply and the quality is good.

Tomatoes - Limited supply and the quality is good.

JANUARY 24, 2024

CROP UPDATES

The last storm system from the west is moving east due to a high pressure system, bringing warmer weather and dry conditions next week, which is expected to alleviate heavy rains in Southwestern growing regions and hinder production in Baja and Northern Mexico. [Read more](#)

WEATHER

Arizona - Central Arizona experienced heavy showers on Monday, decreasing on Tuesday. Dry conditions expected after 7AM. Light rain on Thursday. Temperatures remain near seasonable norms.

California - Rainfall ends before sunrise, bringing dry, cloudy days with lows in the upper 30s. Low pressure systems bring light showers, high pressure Thursday leads to slow warming.

Florida - Northern Florida is expected to experience mild temperatures, with isolated showers and gusting winds ranging from 20 to 30 mph.

Mexico - Despite occasional sprinkles, the weather remains mostly dry, with temperatures slightly above normal. Maximums range from low 70s to 80s, with low-upper 40s through Wednesday.

FREIGHT

Weather continues to affect cross country transit with delays due to ice and snow, especially in the northern US states.

PRO*FRESH
LOGISTICS

AT PEAK SEASON



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Commodity Updates



Apples

We continue to have good supplies of most varieties and sizes. As some of the cheapest deals start to clean up, the overall market is slightly higher.

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



Asparagus

Right now, all eyes are on Caborca, Sonora for asparagus. There has been some recent rain in this region, and soon we will have near-perfect asparagus growing weather. For the next week, daytime highs will be in the 70's and lows will be in the mid-40's. Throughout mid-late February and early March, asparagus will have plenty of opportunities to be promoted. Peruvian asparagus volume is winding down quickly. There is still availability on the East Coast but soon there will be little demand for Peruvian asparagus as fresh Mexican raw material will be the priority.

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



Avocados

There are no triggers in effect: markets are steady. The main crop is adventajada. The 48ct and larger sizes are steady. The 60ct and smaller markets are increasing.

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



Bell Peppers

In Florida, the supply of light green fruit is average, with smaller sizes peaking. There is better availability out of Nogales. Colored bell peppers have seen slightly better supplies but expect up and down numbers due to inconsistent weather patterns. Quality is good, greening is a primary issue as a lack of warm temperatures is not allowing fruit to color up.

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

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

Key Partners



Commodity Updates



Berries (Blackberries)

There have been some delays in transferring the product harvested in Mexico into California. The daytime temperatures in Central Mexico are improving, leading to better numbers. In late January, steadier supplies are expected to ease off the markets a bit. McAllen, TX is where you can get the best prices. The additional freight fees are included in the price of transferred products. Shippers are eager to keep proper rotation and some pricing reflects that goal

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



Berries (Blueberries)

Product is available from Central Mexico, Chile, and Baja. The quality has remained steady. Over the next few weeks, Mexico will ramp up production. Chilean offshore fruit is the primary offering from this area. Available in both pints and 12/6 oz packs. Numbers are steadily increasing from Central Mexico. It is expected that this trend will continue into late February.

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



Berries (Raspberries)

We have experienced some transfer delays coming into California on product harvested in Mexico. The daytime temperatures in Central Mexico are improving, resulting in better numbers.

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



Berries (Strawberries)

ALERT

With better weather and no rain, production has increased in this area. As a result of the major freeze that has swept across the nation in many areas, the demand for strawberries has decreased significantly across all strawberry regions. We expect this short-term surplus quantity to be corrected mid- to late next week. Mexican Growers will begin sending more fruit to the Mexican National market while sending additional product to the freezers. Due to rain events in California, production estimates have been low. This week's warmer temperatures will help dry out fields and improve quality. In Southern California, more rain is forecast for late next week. Over the next few weeks, Florida expects volume to increase after recent rain interruptions.

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

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

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PRO*ACT

Commodity Updates



Broccoli

Last week's frigid morning lows and rain have slowed broccoli supplies. At the beginning of this week, supplies will be tighter. It is hoped that the warmer weather mid-week will spur growth.

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

Brussels sprouts are in good supply. Oxnard and Mexico have grown in size and production. This 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

Markets on whole carrots are steady at a higher level, but slightly better availability as suppliers get back in the Bakersfield growing region. This will run towards the end of February. 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

There is a slight improvement in cauliflower supplies. Going into the weekend, expect the market to come off slightly.

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



Celery

Supplies are steady, and this is likely to continue throughout the week. All sizing is available and a few shippers are flexing so please be aware. Best offers continue to come out of southern California. The demand is moderate to light. Harvesting in Yuma continues to be light, and a few suppliers continue to transfer from Oxnard/Santa Maria. Most shippers continue to offer above-average quality.

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

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

Key Partners



Commodity Updates



Citrus (Lemons)

At the moment, all three districts are shipping, with peak sizing at 140/165ct. The market is steady. Early-February is expected to be the end of District 3.

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



Citrus (Limes)

The markets are steady to slightly higher. Crossings through TX are lighter than prior weeks however prices are holding firm for now. The quality of the fruit is good; the fruit is peaking on large sizes 110/150ct. As we approach the Superbowl weekend, demand is expected to increase.

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



Citrus (Oranges)

Fruit is peaking on 72ct and larger; 88/113/138ct are extremely scarce and will remain so throughout the navel season. Due to low fruit set and rain events, fruit will continue to grow as the season progresses. During 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

Eastern supply has not changed much. Honduras has very light offshore numbers. Florida will start producing their own crops in March, so volumes will be below normal until then. There is a severe shortage of supplies in Nogales, as their crops are in a skip. Despite good quality, we are seeing small diameters in sizing due to cold temperatures. Nogales should supply better supplies in the next 10-14 days, weather permitting.

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



Eggplant

It is a fairly steady market. Nogales supplies are moderate, while Florida supplies are lighter. Nogales has better quality than Florida.

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

Garlic supplies are tightening up overall. The past few months have seen a good harvest of Argentinian garlic in South America. It is estimated, however, that it won't be enough to fill the overall supply gap. In the coming 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 grape supply continues to shrink. There are no vessels arriving on the west coast this week, and existing inventory is very low. Chile is just getting started, while Peru is winding down. Volume on the east coast is tight, but much better than on the west coast. For the next three weeks, this market will remain high and tight.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
San Joaquin Valley (June-November)	Light	\$\$\$	Good



Grapes (Red)

The grape supply continues to shrink. There are no vessels arriving on the west coast this week, and existing inventory is very low. Chile is just getting started, while Peru is winding down. Volume on the east coast is tight, but much better than on the west coast. For the next three weeks, this market will remain high and tight.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
San Joaquin Valley (June-December)	Light	\$\$\$	Good



Green Onions

There are still limited supplies as we begin this week. As Mexico's weather improves, supplies should improve this week.

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



Kale

Supplies are steady this week. Despite the recent freeze and rain, quality is also good.

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

Key Partners



Commodity Updates



Lettuce Iceberg

The cold and wet weather Yuma has experienced this week is expected to result in stronger Yuma markets for suppliers. Epidermal blisters and peels will be the biggest problem. The outer leaves will show this, but once peeled, the quality will be fine. With multiple shippers, weights will average forty to forty-three pounds. Due to no production in California, expect stronger markets later in the week. Availability with some shippers will be hampered by a slower harvest due to rains and cool weather.

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 in the Yuma region have been affected by cold and wet weather. However, demand is low. Throughout the U.S., the cold weather has created a surplus of product in Yuma. On romaine as well as green and red leaf, shippers are flexing for volume orders so promote as much as possible. All suppliers are dealing with blister and peel issues. The outer leaves are being peeled back by shippers. Weights remain above average.

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

As a result of the recent freeze and rain, spinach and arugula have been in short supply. Later this week, look for the brittle texture to improve in Yuma due to improving weather.

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



Melon (Cantaloupe)

Supply is currently meeting demand and is expected to remain steady for the remainder of the month.

Volumes have been lowered due to weather delays in Guatemala and Honduras. Cantaloupes peak at 9s and Jumbo 9s. With a higher shell color, both external and internal quality characteristics remain good to excellent. Brix levels are between 12-14%.

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

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

Key Partners



Commodity Updates



Melon (Honeydew)

Supply is currently meeting demand and is expected to remain steady for the remainder of the month.

Volumes have been lowered due to weather delays in Guatemala and Honduras. Honeydews are heavily affected. In the last month, the price has doubled. For the remainder of the month, Guatemalan sizes will peak on 5s and 6s. Quality has been fair with some spotting and discoloration but it is expected to improve as more product becomes available.

There are limited Mexican honeydews available causing offshore honeydews to cover contract commitments.

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



Melon (Watermelon)

The domestic season is coming to an end and Honduran products are available. The product is available for processing, and it has a great color.

Watermelon supplies from Mexico are only meeting demand on the west coast. Northern Mexico's rains have affected fruit supply, and fruit is slowly becoming available in Southern Mexico. Suppliers did not want to send product East Coast in fear of rejection. Within the next two weeks, additional inventory will be available.

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



Mushroom

All foodservice packs are available and in excellent supply.

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



Onions



The Northwest market remains extremely active. The availability of white onions is low, and pricing is extremely high. This will continue until we see Mexican crossings late next month. The price of yellow onions remains high. Reds are steady.

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

Bartlett pears are winding down in Washington but are still available. Anjou are running large and smaller foodservice sizes are becoming scarce. The market is steady and there is a good supply of bosc.

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

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

Key Partners



Commodity Updates



Pineapples

Supply meets demand and growers are fulfilling their contract with limited transactional volume available. 6ct crowned pineapples have been in short supply and being able to sub will ensure product.

Mexican volume have dropped and growers are limiting the exported product. Rains and thunderstorms are expected this week in Costa Rica which may continue to limit product. High markets are expected due to harvest being short during the holidays.

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

The market remains steady. Prices and availability for 40 and 50 CT remain stable. The crop profile is peaking on 80 CT with load volume deals on 80 - 120 CT and 6 ounce #2s. Both Burbanks and Norkotahs are shipping.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
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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

ALERT

There is an excess of demand, and supplies are extremely limited. Florida squash is nearly non-existent. The temperatures have not been warm enough for fruit to grow. The rain has further slowed production and reduced yields over the last few weeks. Out west, Sinaloa continues with their own weather related issues. The recent rain will further slow supplies. We are forecasting an increase in temperature for the remainder of the week and into the next, which should provide some relief.

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



Stone Fruit

Imported plums have started. Small volumes of imported peaches and nectarines are now arriving on both Coasts. Domestic pomegranates and persimmons will finish at the end of the month. The domestic Kiwi is steady and expected to remain so into February.

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

ALERT

The market is extreme. The production is down significantly on both coasts, with a few shippers declaring AOG on contracts. The overall yields are down, with some growers reporting yields of 30% to 50% below normal, due to these very high prices. Warmer temperatures are forecast in Sinaloa which will help bring on more fruit and color. Weather will continue to determine if we will see an improvement in supply.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
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Baja California (Spring/Summer-November)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
Mexico (Year Round)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
Florida (November-May)	Light	\$\$\$	Good

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

Key Partners



FRESH LINK



Weather Updates



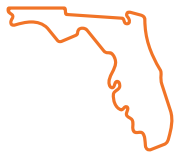
CALIFORNIA

Rainfall will conclude before sunrise Tuesday bringing a dry, but cloudy day. The morning lows will be in the upper 30s in Cuyama and the low 40s to low 50s elsewhere, while the daytime highs will be in the upper 50s to mid 60s. During Wednesday night, the next low pressure system will bring light showers and rain totals of less than 1/4 inches. The region will be experiencing high pressure Thursday, which will cause a slow warming trend with maximum temperatures reaching the low 60s to low 70s on Saturday.



MEXICO

There will be a few sprinkles through the weekend, but mostly dry weather. Over most fields, temperatures will remain slightly above normal into Saturday. Through Tuesday, max temperatures will be in the low 70s to low 80s, and mid 70s to mid 80s for Friday and Saturday. It will be in the low-upper 40s through Wednesday, in the upper 30s to upper 40s on Thursday and Friday, and in the low-upper 40s on Saturday.



FLORIDA

Mostly mild temperatures over most of northern Florida with isolated showers mainly over northern and north-central Florida into the weekend. For most showers that do occur, rain totals will range from trace amounts to 0.20". Throughout most of the state, winds will gust between 20 and 30 mph.



ARIZONA

Central Arizona experienced moderate-heavy showers Monday night, which decreased throughout Tuesday, while dry conditions are expected elsewhere after 7AM. Thursday night, there is a slight chance of light rain in central Arizona. Temperatures are expected to remain near seasonable norms for the remainder of the week, with highs in the 60s to low 70s and morning lows in the 40s from Wednesday through Saturday.

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

Freight Updates



Weather continues to affect cross country transit with delays due to ice and snow, especially in the northern US states.



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

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

	01/08/24	01/15/24	01/22/24	Change from	
				week ago	year ago
U.S.	3.828	3.863	3.838	↓ -0.025	↓ -0.766
East Coast (PADD1)	3.959	3.992	3.979	↓ -0.013	↓ -0.831
New England (PADD1A)	4.322	4.296	4.288	↓ -0.008	↓ -0.816
Central Atlantic (PADD1B)	4.249	4.249	4.232	↓ -0.017	↓ -0.837
Lower Atlantic (PADD1C)	3.814	3.865	3.853	↓ -0.012	↓ -0.833
Midwest (PADD2)	3.692	3.729	3.704	↓ -0.025	↓ -0.769
Gulf Coast (PADD3)	3.531	3.592	3.584	↓ -0.008	↓ -0.736
Rocky Mountain (PADD4)	3.797	3.755	3.696	↓ -0.059	↓ -1.040
West Coast (PADD5)	4.570	4.576	4.504	↓ -0.072	↓ -0.591
West Coast less California	4.063	4.083	3.992	↓ -0.091	↓ -0.765
California	5.152	5.142	5.092	↓ -0.050	↓ -0.392

*prices include all taxes

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

Crop Updates



The last in a series of storm systems from the west will move to the east today as a building high pressure system brings a warmer weather pattern and dry conditions into next week. This will be welcome relief from the recent heavy rains throughout the Southwestern growing regions. Baja and Northern Mexico have also received significant rains and cooler temperatures hindering production in these regions.

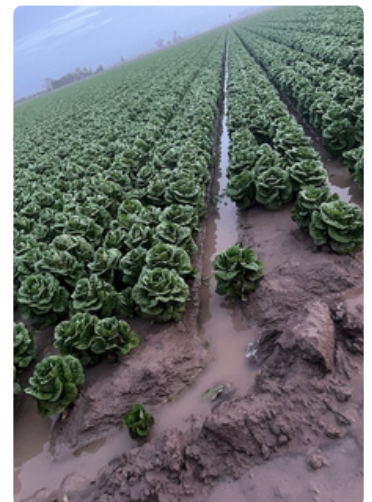
Rain earlier this week in the Yuma region has curtailed harvests as crews work in muddy conditions. Many harvesting crews were unable to enter the fields due to the muddy conditions. The crews that did get into the fields were severely limited in what could be harvested. These desert fields do not handle heavy rains well and will take some time to dry out. The ground does not quickly absorb the moisture which can remain in the fields for days following heavy rains. This will limit supplies in the chain, especially the front part of this week as growers attempt to increase harvesting as fields dry out. The heavy rains will only exacerbate quality issues in the fields in the near term at a minimum. Previous very cold temperatures in the region caused widespread blistering and epidermal peeling in many leafy green stands. This will remain evident in supplies in the near future given the extent of the damage. The rain will encourage these blisters to break open and discolor, allowing an entrance for pathogens to take hold in the plants. Bottom rot, mold and especially mildew will be on the rise in these stands with all the available moisture in the soil. We will likely see an increase in oxidation or pinking along the ribs of romaine, green leaf and other whole leaf items. This condition is not evident at pack out and tends to show up during transit and storage.

The spring mix and tender leaf items are especially difficult to harvest in muddy conditions and excess water can bring fields along quickly as the weather warms up. These fields were already showing yellow leaves and discoloration in the stands due to the cold temperatures. Arugula is especially sensitive to these growing conditions. Initially the leaves will display purpling tips (bronzing) which then turn yellow and later transition towards wilt and decay.

Processed products will likely see an increase in oxidation/pinking along with lesser texture and shelf life in upcoming supplies due to these rains and previous cold temperatures.

Harvesting in these muddy conditions is a challenge as harvest crews do their best to keep mud out of the box and off the carton. It is important to keep your rotations in check moving forward as the shelf life of all products will be challenged. Be prepared for pro rates and loading delays for the near term as growers work through current obstacles.

We will keep you up to date as to supplies and quality as reports become available.



TIM LYNCH
QUALITY ASSURANCE