

The Source

March 1, 2023

PRO*ACT

Market Updates

Apples – The market for small galas is down slightly as supply is finally back to normal levels. Small grannies will remain scarce until the upcoming harvest in September. Large-size gala inventories remain low. The market overall is steady.

Asparagus –The market is starting to come off on price. Last week's mid \$30's are now in the \$20 range. More volume next week on STD and LRG, but still light supplies on XL and JBOs.

Avocados –Pricing is slowly rising in all sizes; good demand. The market should level out next week.

Bell Peppers – Markets are steady on greens with a moderate supply. The volume will increase once spring crops start in about 4 weeks. Reds remain short due to cooler weather.

Berries (Blackberries) –Production is low out of Central Mexico and transferred fruit is causing some shorts and delays. Overall, the quality is good and the pricing is steady.

Berries (Blueberries) –The market is firming up on the 12/6 oz packs coming out of Central Mexico and Peru. Chile is done for the season. Overall, the quality is good.

Berries (Raspberries) –As the market lowers, better numbers are expected. Overall, the quality is good.

Berries (Strawberries) –Weather on the West coast is causing shortages in production out of the Oxnard and Santa Maria areas while Mexico's numbers decrease. Florida continues to produce decent quantities. Baja fruit is impacted by the same recent rain event that hit California and numbers are light.

Broccoli –Supplies continue to be good in Santa Maria and Yuma. Overall, the quality continues to be above average. Crown production continues to be better than most suppliers.

Brussels Sprouts –There is good availability and pricing is competitive in the industry. Expect steady production with this commodity throughout the week. Overall, good quality is being reported.

Continued

Carrots – Whole carrot supplies continue to be tight due to recent inclement weather. Markets are up as well.

Cauliflower –Cauliflower supplies continue to be extremely limited due to the recent and current cold weather in Santa Maria and Yuma. Look for this market to continue to adjust higher with less supplies through next week.

Celery –Cool weather in the growing regions continues to slow down the growth of this commodity. Large sizes are limited in availability and this will continue for the next few weeks. Thirty-six counts are the best size. Cold temperatures and rain will continue throughout this week so expect moderate to light availability at best. Florida is expected to have moderate availability if needed to cover east coast business. Value-added product is expected to be on escalation by the end of the week.

Citrus (Lemons) – The main growing region is District 1 and is peaking on FCY fruit. District 2 will get started in better volume in late March and will bring more choice-grade fruit into the market. District 3 is finishing up. Overall, the quality is good.

Citrus (Limes)– Prices continue to climb. Overall quality has improved and there is offshore fruit available for freight savings. Expect high prices through April.

Citrus (Oranges) - Supplies are peaking on 72/88/113ct with deals to be made on small fruit. The quality is good. Markets have been low but will firm up with rain/cold weather in the forecast.

Cucumbers – Prices are slightly lower due to moderate demand. Offshore fruit from Honduras will be available for another month, but the quality is deteriorating. Domestic cucumbers from Florida will come on in a light way in about 2 weeks. Supplies are steady out of Mexico.

Eggplant – Adequate supply on both coasts. Florida is waiting for spring crops to get started. Mexico is steady. Overall, the quality is good and the market is steady.

Garlic - Steady California production is expected throughout the week. Good quality has been reported.

Continued

Grapes (Green) –Green grapes continue to be slightly higher than reds. Imports are in better supply on both coasts as Chilean volume lands in force. Peruvian grapes command a premium over most Chilean grapes. The market is adjusting and the quality is excellent.

Grapes (Red) –Imports are in better supply on both coasts as the Chilean volume starts to increase. New varieties such as Jack Salutes and Sweet Celebrations are readily available. The market is adjusting and the quality is excellent.

Green Onions – Mexican-grown supplies are struggling a bit this week. Recent cold weather has delayed the crop. Overall, the quality is good.

Kale –This market continues to be steady. Moderate to good availability is expected throughout the week. Overall, the quality is good and the pricing is steady.

Lettuce (Iceberg) –The market is firm. Although the weather has been bad, there is enough product to meet demand. Cool weather and rain are expected throughout the week, so the markets will likely be stronger next week. Escalators are not expected for value-added products. Discoloration and pink ribbing are common complaints being reported. This is caused by rain and cold temperatures. Expect harvesting delays to continue for most shippers.

Lettuce Leaf –Multiple shippers are reporting good availability of romaine as well as all leaf items this week. The cool weather and rain in the growing regions will slow growth and affect quality. Blisters and peels continue to be the main defects reported. Romaine's hearts will be lighter in availability next week.

Lettuce Tender Leaf –Expect tighter supplies of cilantro, parsleys, spinach, and arugula due to the cooler weather in Yuma. Overall, the quality is expected to be fair and at steady pricing.

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Melons (Cantaloupe) – The market continues to struggle with light supplies on JBO 9's and good volume on 12/15s. We expect to see better volume at the end of the week and the following week.

Melons (Honeydew) –Honeydews remain tight this week and will continue into next week. Overall, the quality is good and the pricing is steady.

Melons (Watermelon) – We continue to see good supply out of Mexico and pricing is in the mid-20s. Offshore supply is lighter at higher prices.

Mushrooms – Excellent supplies and availability. Overall, the quality is good and the pricing is higher.

Onions – All colors are available in Northwest and South Texas. Washington and Idaho have more aggressive pricing than South Texas. Overall, the quality is good.

Pears –The market is steady and inventories continue to be light. Most shippers are down to Anjous and Bosc.

Pineapples – Steady open market volume. Overall, the quality is good and the pricing is higher.

Potatoes – The market remains extreme, limited #2s. Burbank availability is expected to increase in early April.

Squash – Prices are slightly higher. Cleaned up inventory and cool temperatures continue to keep supplies tight on all colors with yellow being limited out of Mexico. Better production and quality out of Florida with better weather.

Stone Fruit –California Asian Pears are done for the season and imports have started. Imported peaches, plums, and nectarines are available on both coasts. Supplies are light and the quality is very nice. Greek and Italian imported Kiwi remain in light supply and the market continues to increase.

Continued

Tomatoes – Lower yields out of Mexico has firmed up markets, particularly on rounds. All other varieties are stable in all regions with good availability and quality. Promotable items are available.

A Peek at Peak Seasons

Weather

California –Rainfall tapers off today, but temperatures remain below average with morning lows in the upper 20s to 40 with daytime highs in the upper 40s to mid-50s. As high pressure builds into the area tonight, minimum temperatures drop to the mid-20s to mid-30s, while maximum temperatures climb to the low 50s to low 60s.

Mexico –Temperatures will be near normal for the next five days as the general weather pattern remains the same. Through Sunday, high temperatures will range from the mid-70s to the mid-80s. Through Friday morning, temperatures should cool to the low 40s to low 50s and to the upper 30s to upper 40s over the weekend. Through March 5, dry weather is expected, with limited rain chances.

Florida –Highs in the 80s and lows in the upper 50s-mid 60s will continue into Friday afternoon. Today and Thursday, light winds are expected, but on Friday, strong gusts will feed into a low-pressure system off the east coast.

Arizona –In the low deserts this afternoon, a strong winter cold front will bring potentially damaging winds. Gusts of 40 mph are likely in the morning, increasing to 50 mph in the afternoon. Light showers are possible over the Imperial, Coachella, and Yuma Valleys from noon to 6 PM today, then into central AZ by 8 PM through overnight hours. Behind the front, winds decrease, and morning lows cool to the 30s in most valleys Thursday-Friday. Light lettuce icing in the usual cold spots Thursday, light-moderate on Friday. High temperatures will be in the low-mid 60s for most of today, cooling in the mid-50s to mid-60s by Thursday, and warming to the 70s by Sunday afternoon.

Freight

Trucks continue to be steady in California, Idaho, and the Northwest. The national diesel average dropped again this week and is currently at 4.294 per gallon. California prices also dropped and are now at 5.357 per gallon.

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Commodities at a Glance

 APPLES	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 CITRUS (LEMONS)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 MELON (CANTALOUPE)	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 ASPARAGUS	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 CITRUS (LIMES)	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 MELON (HONEYDEW)	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 AVOCADO	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 CITRUS (ORANGES)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 MELON (WATERMELON)	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 BELL PEPPERS	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 CUCUMBERS	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 MUSHROOM	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 BERRIES (BLACKBERRIES)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 EGGPLANT	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 ONIONS	Quality is good, pricing is lower
 BERRIES (BLUEBERRIES)	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 GARLIC	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 PEARS	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 BERRIES (RASPBERRIES)	Quality is good, pricing is lower	 GRAPES (GREEN)	Quality is good, pricing is lower	 PINEAPPLES	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 BERRIES (STRAWBERRIES)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 GRAPES (RED)	Quality is good, pricing is lower	 POTATOES	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 BROCCOLI	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 GREEN ONIONS	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 SQUASH	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 BRUSSELS SPROUTS	Quality is fair, pricing is steady	 KALE	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 STONE FRUIT	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 CARROTS	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 LETTUCE ICEBERG	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 TOMATOES	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 CAULIFLOWER	Quality is fair, pricing is higher	 LETTUCE LEAF	Quality is good, pricing is steady		
 CELERY	Quality is good, pricing is lower	 LETTUCE TENDER LEAF	Quality is fair, pricing is steady		