

The Source

August 25, 2021

FOOD SERVICE
DiCarlo

Market Alerts

Apples – Market on most varieties slightly higher as shippers reach the end of their storage crop.

Asparagus – Asparagus supplies are tight as Mexican grass is transitioning from Central Mexico to Northern Baja. Supplies are also limited from the heavy rains over last weekend with Hurricane Grace.

Avocados – Markets remain strong with good demand. Supplies out of Mexico are lean, California is quickly wrapping up the season and Peruvian arrivals are on the decline. Overall markets to remain strong into September. 48s and larger as well as all category 2 fruit are extremely tight.

Bell Peppers – Markets are fairly steady on both coasts. Green bells now available out of Arroyo Grande, CA. Overall quality is good. Expect steady prices for the balance of the week.

Berries (Blackberries) – Production will remain steady with quality improving.

Berries (Blueberries) – Lighter supplies from fewer areas is resulting in a firm market.

Berries (Raspberries) – Steady supplies through September are expected.

Berries (Strawberries) – New crop fruit is beginning in Santa Maria while Northern production is declining.

Broccoli – Plenty of supplies and good quality coming out of Salinas, Santa Maria and Mexico. Look for this market to be aggressive going into the weekend.

Continued

Brussels Sprouts – Supplies remain very tight and not keeping up with demand. Look for supplies to continue to be tight going into next week.

Carrots – Quality is good on all bulk and value-added product. Suppliers are experiencing a very strong school demand, to help with better coverage we strongly advise to put orders in early. Markets remain steady. We do have options out of Texas as well on jumbos.

Cauliflower – Plenty of supplies and good quality coming out of Salinas, Santa Maria and Mexico. Look for this market to be aggressive going into the weekend.

Celery – Supplies continue to be available in both northern and southern California. The best availability and sharpest pricing continues out of the Oxnard/Santa Maria region. Large sizing continues to have the best availability, twenty-four counts in particular. The quality continues to be strong with only slight seeder being reported.

Citrus (Lemons) – Supplies out of Ventura County continue to be light with markets holding firm on both Fancy and Choice grade fruit. We're seeing steady supplies out of the east & west coast on imports. Reach out if you have any interest.

Citrus (Limes) – Growers are still evaluating the damage caused by Hurricane Grace to the growing areas. Markets are starting to strengthen as there will be less crossings towards the end of the week. We have availability out of Texas, and also have cross dock options out west and east coast.

Citrus (Oranges) - We're seeing a strong demand for school business, small sizes on 113's & 138's remain very limited and light. Sizes are peaking on 88's and larger. Overall, quality is good and prices are strengthening weekly.

Continued

Cucumbers – Markets are steady. Overall supplies are adequate. Moderate demand keeping prices level. Quality is good. Larger sizing out of Otago remain a bit more limited.

Eggplant – Markets remain firm out of Central Valley California. Supplies remain light out west but volume should increase this week. East coast supplies going strong out of NJ and MI, prices are lower.

Garlic – California supplies remain tight. Imports from Mexico and Argentina will offset in a minor way. Pricing is higher and quality is good.

Grapes (Green) – Lots of high quality green grapes available at good prices. Order with wild abandon.

Grapes (Red) – Great deals on great red seedless. Quality is high and should stay that way for awhile. Order with wild abandon.

Green Onions – Supplies are getting tighter as wet weather in Mexico is causing some quality issues and slower harvest.

Kale – Steady supplies are keeping this market level. Watch this market closely with the upcoming heatwave.

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Lettuce (Iceberg) – Steady supplies at the beginning of the week are available with this commodity both north and south. Demand is moderate at best. Some common defect being reported has been puffiness and sporadic light weights. Some shippers are flexing so please be aware. Expect steady supplies for the rest of the week.

Lettuce Leaf – Romaine as well as red and green leaf will be available in moderate to good supplies throughout the week. Multiple shippers are flexing on volume type orders. Romaine hearts has increased in demand and this market has become stronger. Fringe and tip burn has been seen upon arrivals.

Lettuce Tender Leaf – Heat wave the last couple of weeks has caused quality issues and lower yields on Cilantro. The market is up and supplies continue to be tight. Watch for this market to stay high going into next week.

Melons (Cantaloupe) – Cantaloupe markets are steady with good demand. Peaking on 12s this week. Quality is excellent and brix sugars are 12% or better.

Melons (Honeydew) – Markets have firmed up and demand is good. Supplies have tightened up this week but should improve next week. Quality is good end brix are trending 12% or better.

Melons (Watermelon) – Markets are steady and demand is good. Plenty of opportunity to move volume on seedless and minis. Quality has been excellent.

Continued

Onions – Limited yellow onions remain to load out of New Mexico and California. New crop Northwest onions are available. Size profile is peaking on mediums. Super and colossal sized onions are extremely limited.

Pears – Great pricing available on California bartletts. Washington has started new crop.

Pineapples – Supplies are improving as we are nearing the tail end of the natural flowering process. Quality is good and pricing is steady on whole and crownless fruit.

Potatoes – New crop norkotahs are peaking on 100 CT with very few 40 - 50 CT and number twos being generated. Pricing is expected to remain elevated through September.

Squash – Prices remain steady at higher levels. Eastern growers still recovering from severe weather last week. Quality is fair out of both regions; east and west. Relief not expected until first week of September.

Stone Fruit – Plum supply tightening a little. Fewer small sizes and some going into bags. Good supplies on large Peaches and Nectarines. Prices mostly steady.

Tomatoes – With the east coast recovering from remnants of tropical storm Fred, prices have firmed up this week. In the west, Baja is past its peak season and California is a bit on the lighter side due to bloom drop from summer temperatures. Expect active markets over the next week.

Weather

California – High pressure works its way back into the region today, steadily compressing the marine layer and warming temps across the area through the second half of this week.

Mexico – No major changes over the next 5 days with near to slightly below normal temps into the weekend. Shower activity will remain isolated through the week.

Florida – The Bermuda High remains over the western Atlantic, providing east to southeasterly winds to the peninsula. Scattered rain showers will increase over the weekend with only traces of rain expected as high subsiding air under high pressure dampens any significant thunderstorm development.

Arizona – Excessive heat warnings likely today into Friday due to strong high pressure ridge strengthening over the Lower Deserts.

A Peek at Peak Seasons

Carrots	Pears
Limes	Pineapples
Oranges	Stone Fruits
Green Grapes	Strawberries (Past Peak Season)
Red Grapes	















Freight

Trucks continue to be tight and expensive in the Northwest, Idaho, and California. The national average remained steady at 3.324.

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Commodities at a Glance

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



1630 North Ocean Avenue
 Holtsville, New York 11742
 1-800 DICARLO dicarlofood.com

Depot Centers:
 Bellmawr, NJ Newark, NJ Westborough, MA

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