

# The Source

September 1, 2021

FOOD SERVICE  
**DiCarlo**

## Market Alerts

**Apples** – New crop Galas and Grannys are picking up speed. Expect the Granny market to adjust accordingly.

**Asparagus** – Asparagus supplies continue to be tight as Mexican grass is transitioning from Central Mexico to Northern Baja. Supplies are also limited from the heavy rains over last few weeks.

**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 strong volumes in the west and the east. Ida is currently passing the east coast and may hit some local growing regions. Quality is good so far. Expect upward pressure on markets for the back of the week.

**Berries (Blackberries)** – Market is steady quality is improving.

**Berries (Blueberries)** – Market is higher with the Pacific northwest finishing and there is a slight gap as we await the Peruvian and Mexican import season to slowly increase in numbers.

**Berries (Raspberries)** – Market is steady quality is improving.

**Berries (Strawberries)** – The Salinas and Watsonville areas are sharply declining in yields as we wait for new crop Santa Maria product to increase over the next 2 weeks.

## Continued

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

**Brussels Sprouts** – Supplies continue to 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/DOD demand. Value-added packs are allocations. We strongly advise putting orders in early. Markets remain steady. We do have options out of Texas as well on jumbos.

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

**Celery** – Steady supplies continues to be the story with this commodity. Oxnard/Santa Maria continues to produce heavy numbers to the large sizing and this region continues to offer the sharpest pricing as well as quality. Promote as much as possible as the quality and production is expected to be strong throughout the week.

**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. Supplies out of Mexico are starting up as well. Reach out if you have any interest.

**Citrus (Limes)** – Supplies are improving after the hurricane a couple of weeks ago. No real damage occurred to the growing regions. We can expect the market to back off once we see more crossings. We have availability out of Texas, and also have cross dock options out west and east coast.

## Continued

**Citrus (Oranges)** - We're seeing 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.

**Cucumbers** – Prices are fairly steady. Supplies are sufficient on both coasts. Baja producing adequate volume and the east continues with several local programs.

**Eggplant** – Prices remain steady on the higher side. Light supplies continue out of Fresno and Mexico, while the east provides an adequate amount of volume.

**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)** – Green grapes are long. Very nice quality going for cheap. Expect more of the same for the next 3 weeks.

**Grapes (Red)** – Market barely steady. Several good varieties are in good supply. Expect this to continue for several weeks unless there is some kind of weather event.

**Green Onions** – Supplies continue to be tight 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)** – This market is active with most shippers. The market has been soft the month of August, but supplies have finally tightened up. The weight have been on the lighter side averaging thirty-eight to forty-three pounds pending the shipper. Expect this market to get stronger throughout the week.

**Lettuce Leaf** – The market remains flat on green and red leaf. Romaine is stronger with multiple suppliers. Romaine hearts continue to have moderate availability. Fringe and tip burn continues to be seen upon arrivals on all leaf items. This is due to the warm temperatures in past weeks. Expect demand to be steady for the week.

**Lettuce Tender Leaf** – Supplies of Cilantro have started to improve. The market is lower as quality has started to improve. Watch for this market to continue to adjust 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** – Supers and colossal sized onions are extremely limited. Northwest season is underway. Quality is very nice, sizing is peaking on mediums.

**Pears** – New crop Bartletts are ramping up production in Washington. The market is adjusting to the increased volume. California Bartletts are still a bargain.

**Pineapples** – Supplies continue to improve 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** – Majority of Idaho packing sheds are running new crop norkotahs. Availability is increasing, but large cartons remain tight.

**Squash** – Squash is lower with moderate demand. Crops have recovered from the last Tropical Storm in the east. However, Ida is bringing another round of heavy rains this week hitting the smaller local deals but avoiding the some of the major growing areas. Expect light western supplies until mid September once Sonora supplies begin.

**Stone Fruit** – Market steady on Peaches, Plums, and Nectarines. Good quality available on all. Small sizes are scarce.

**Tomatoes** – Markets are fairly steady but trending higher for the back of the week. Still too early to assess the damage if any from Tropical Storm Ida in the eastcoast as rain hits several of the growing regions once again. Quality is good so far. Demand will shift east further driving prices upward.

## Weather

**California** – Deepening marine layer conditions and steady onshore winds associated with a system passing to the north start a cooling trend. As the system begins to exit Friday, temps moderates back to near average through most of the Labor Day Weekend.

**Mexico** – An elevated heat source with moist unstable air at the surface will cause isolated to scattered showers and thunderstorms over much of the next 5 days.

**Florida** – Thunderstorm Ida tracks northeast into eastern Tennessee, dragging southwesterly flow over northern Florida, with rain showers and thunderstorms continuing over the state through Thursday.

**Arizona** – Chance for widespread thunderstorms into Thursday morning due to tropical moisture from Nora interacting with an upper level low west of Baja.

## A Peek at Peak Seasons

Limes  
Oranges  
Green Grapes  
Red Grapes  
Onions

Pears  
Pineapples  
Potatoes  
Stone Fruits  
Blueberries (Past Peak Season)




## Freight

Trucks in the Northwest, Idaho, and California remain tight and expensive. The national average remained steady and is currently 3.339 per gallon.

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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 higher
 BERRIES (RASPBERRIES)	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 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 steady	 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 good, 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 higher	 TOMATOES	Quality is good, pricing is higher

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