

# The Source

October 6, 2021

FOOD SERVICE  
**DiCarlo**

## Market Alerts

**Apples** – Market steady. Most varieties in good supply.

**Asparagus** – Asparagus supplies continue to be extremely tight. Wet weather and transition is causing Mexican grass to be limited. Peruvian grass is logistically a struggle to get to Florida. Look for the market to stay strong going into next week.

**Avocados** – New crop out of Mexico continues to improve weekly with better supplies. Markets on large sized fruit remain on the strong side with good demand. Supplies on smaller sized fruit look to be in better shape this week. We're seeing good supplies on 48's & 60's.

**Bell Peppers** – Markets are fairly steady on both coasts. Georgia will pick up volume over the next week. Quality is good with mostly larger size which is normal for first picks. Georgia season will run through the end of the month then we will transition to Florida. Western supplies are steady with good availability and quality. Coachella is on tap to start within two weeks. Expect active prices as rain moves in the South East this week, which may delay harvesting.

**Berries (Blackberries)** – Spotty availability due to logistical problems and weather in Mexico.

**Berries (Blueberries)** – Mexican imports set to increase, Peruvian Imports slowly becoming more available. Container delays at the ports still causing temporary shortages.

**Berries (Raspberries)** – Spotty availability due to logistical problems and weather in Mexico.

**Berries (Strawberries)** – Less production shipping in the Salinas and Watsonville areas as the Santa Maria and Oxnard areas combine to provide additional fruit on the market. Central Mexico has begun in a light way and numbers are expected to increase over the next few weeks.

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## Continued

**Broccoli** – Demand exceeds supplies continue on all Broccoli and Floret packs. The recent warm weather has brought fields forward and fields have been lost due to quality issues such as pin rot, brown bead and cat eye. Look for this market to continue to stay strong through next week.

**Brussels Sprouts** – Supplies and quality continue to get better. Look for the market to continue to correct downward as more supplies come through the pipeline.

**Carrots** – Quality is good on all bulk and value-added product. Demand on value-added packs continues to be strong and all packs are on weekly allocations. We strongly advise putting orders in early.

**Cauliflower** – Cauliflower supplies continue to be limited due to the recent heat and minor discoloration. Expect this market to follow Broccoli going into next week.

**Celery** – This market is stronger. Salinas has light availability, which is putting on a higher demand out of southern California. The availability is moderate in Santa Maria/Oxnard. The small sizing has been on the tighter side, thirty-six count in particular. The quality continues to be above average.

**Citrus (Lemons)** – Domestic supplies out of the desert have started and will improve weekly on availability. We're starting to see markets come off across all sizes and both grades. Imports are starting to wind down, but still available out of both coast. Supplies out of Mexico are steady and we have options to load out of Texas.

**Citrus (Limes)** – Supplies are steady and quality is looking good. We have availability out of Texas, and also have cross dock options out west and east coast.

**Citrus (Oranges)** - Small sizes on 88/113/138's remain very limited on both grades. Moving forward we can expect small sizes to remain very tight until we transition to Navels late October/early November. Sizes are peaking on 72's and larger. Quality of the fruit is looking tired, the heat, lack of water, and gas times are taking a toll on the fruit. Keep inventories tighter for better shelf life.

## Continued

**Cucumbers** – Cucumber market is steady to slightly lower. Crossings out of Nogales continue to increase as harvest improves. Overall quality is good. Rain in the east has slowed production out of Georgia. With Nogales ramping up and east-coast dealing with rain, expect demand to shift to the west.

**Eggplant** – Overall markets are lower with moderate demand. Supplies are good. Coachella is due to start next week. Quality is good. Light demand out east also keeping prices down. Expect fairly steady prices for the balance of the week.

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

**Grapes (Green)** – Still lots of good quality grapes at reasonable prices. Expect it to remain this way for the next couple of weeks.

**Grapes (Red)** – Still lots of good quality grapes at reasonable prices. Expect it to remain this way for the next couple of weeks.

**Green Onions** – Green Onion supplies continue to improve. Look for this market to continue to adjust lower as we move into next week.

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

**Lettuce (Iceberg)** – Demand continues to exceed supplies with this commodity. High temperatures in the growing regions along with insect and disease has caused for lower yields with all growers. Yuma will not begin production until the second week of November. Huron will begin in approximately 3 weeks. Expect light supplies for the next two weeks, minimum.

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**Lettuce Leaf** – Romaine as well as all leaf items are active. Fringe and tip burn is being reported. The cause has been warm temperatures in all the growing regions in the last couple of weeks. Shippers are expecting moderate to light availability at best romaine and romaine hearts for the week. Green and red leaf will have better supplies. Butter is on the light side as well.

**Lettuce Tender Leaf** – Plenty of tender leaf items is keeping this market steady. Look for this market to stay steady going into next week.

**Melons (Cantaloupe)** – Markets are steady with moderate demand. Summer crop out of Central California is wrapping up. New crop out of the desert has started in a light way and should see better volume next week. The desert season will typically run thru Thanksgiving weather permitting. Overall quality is good.

**Melons (Honeydew)** – Supplies remain extremely limited as demand exceeds. Quality is ok with bigger sizing continuing to be a challenge. Mexican honeydews are now available and should help cover demand. New crop out of the desert have also started in a light way. Expect markets to ease up a bit next week as volume increases out of the new growing regions.

**Melons (Watermelon)** – Markets are fairly steady. Domestic is finishing up out of Central California as the Mexican season has started in a light way. Quality is fair this time of year. But should improve as the Mexican season ramps up.

**Onions** – Super, colossal, and jumbo sized red and yellow onions remain elevated. Harvest is about 2 weeks away from concluding. Projection is that it will be a short crop.

## Continued

**Pears** – Bartletts, Anjou, Bosc, and Red pears are all in production in Washington now. Markets steady at seasonal levels.

**Pineapples** – Bartletts, Anjou, Bosc, and Red pears are all in production in Washington now. Markets steady at seasonal levels.

**Potatoes** – Norkotahs have been fully harvest and the burbank harvest has begun. Expect burbanks to become available at the end of the month, after they've undergone the suberization process.

**Squash** – Lighter than normal production out of Baja and Santa Maria due to cooler temps are keeping the squash market steady to firm. Nogales has started some crossings from Hermosillo and Obregon, but early pickings are showing scarring. Even with the new crossings, markets are strong on both yellow and Italian squash. Eastern US production on zucchini is limited as well, and demand is going west to fill orders.

**Stone Fruit** – With Fall comes the winding down of stone fruit. Nectarines are done. There will be peaches for another 2 or 3 weeks. Good supplies on plums through mid December.

**Tomatoes** – With the East Coast getting rain in main growing regions in Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida, Tennessee. Prices are poised to rise for the month of October. Expect elevated markets during mid to late October as crop transitions to Florida out of Quincy. Expect tight supplies and higher prices until late October once Central Florida ramps up. Out west, supplies remain steady but markets should firm up as demand from the east will shift out west. Expect better supplies by late-October.

## Weather

**California** – Temps continue to drop as a slow moving low pressure approaches the region today. Max temps will only reach the low-upper 60s at the coast and low 70s to low 80s further inland.

**Mexico** – A relatively dry period is likely through October 10th, excluding a few isolated sprinkles. Temps should be near to slightly below normal over most fields through the weekend.

**Florida** – The Bermuda High remains situated over the western Atlantic, bringing easterly flow to the peninsula through the week. Rain showers and afternoon to evening thunderstorms will continue over the peninsula.

**Arizona** – Rainfall amounts of .05" to .30"+ were observed over most of the forecast area with heavier rainfall amounts observed over the higher terrain. Hail and strong winds have also been observed.

## A Peek at Peak Seasons

Apples  
Strawberries  
Lemons  
Green Grapes  
Red Grapes  
Onions

Pears  
Potatoes  
Stone Fruits (Past Peak Season)


































## Freight

Trucks remain tight in the Northwest, Idaho, and California. The national average is up again this week and currently at 3.477 per gallon.

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# Commodities at a Glance

 APPLES	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 CELERY	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 LETTUCE LEAF	Quality is fair, pricing is higher
 ASPARAGUS	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 CITRUS (LEMONS)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 LETTUCE TENDER LEAF	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 AVOCADO	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 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 fair, pricing is higher	 MELON (HONEYDEW)	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 BERRIES (BLACKBERRIES)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 CUCUMBERS	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 MELON (WATERMELON)	Quality is fair, pricing is steady
 BERRIES (BLUEBERRIES)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 EGGPLANT	Quality is good, pricing is lower	 ONIONS	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 BERRIES (RASPBERRIES)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 GARLIC	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 PEARS	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 BERRIES (STRAWBERRIES)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 GRAPES (GREEN)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 PINEAPPLES	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 BROCCOLI	Quality is fair, 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 lower	 GREEN ONIONS	Quality is fair, pricing is lower	 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 higher
 CAULIFLOWER	Quality is fair, pricing is higher	 LETTUCE ICEBERG	Quality is fair, pricing is higher	 TOMATOES	Quality is good, pricing is higher



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