

The Source

November 3, 2021

FOOD SERVICE
DiCarlo

Market Alerts

Apples – Market steady on moderate supplies. Retail bag movement keeping the price up on smaller lower grades.

Asparagus – Very good supplies and quality continue to come out of Peru and Mexico at this time. Market has adjusted lower and will continue through the weekend.

Avocados – Harvest will be limited this week due to All Souls Day & All Saints Day being celebrated the 1st & 2nd. The dip in supply should help keep pricing steady and keep the market in line with demand. Supplies on 48's and larger remain light this week, markets are on the strong side. Supplies on smaller sized fruit look to be in better shape this week.

Bell Peppers – Oxnard started a small run of red bell peppers as they wind down their season, and it is much needed product. Coachella is producing their green bells and with quality and volume, but is still a week from starting on their colored peppers. As such, availability is very limited on colored bells for the next few weeks and markets firm and strong. With transitions on east coast, Georgia winding down and Florida starting, we may see some active markets.

Berries (Blackberries) – Good numbers are expected through the end of this month.

Berries (Blueberries) – Availability from all South American growing regions has caused flat markets.

Berries (Raspberries) – Good Numbers are expected through the end of this month.

Berries (Strawberries) – Reduced yields after last weeks rain event has caused a higher market and reduced availability.

Broccoli – Although still limited, supplies are slowly improving out of the Salinas Valley and Santa Maria. Fields have been lost due to quality issues such as pin rot, brown bead and cat eye. Look for this market to continue to adjust going into the weekend.

Continued

Brussels Sprouts – Supplies and quality continue to stay steady. Look for the market to continue to stay steady going into next weekend.

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 are starting to improve slightly. Quality is fair with minor discoloration. Expect supplies to be limited going into next week.

Celery – This market is stronger with most suppliers. As we get closer to the holiday, demand will get stronger daily. The best availability continues on large sizing with most shippers. The quality continues to be above average with the best quality and pricing continuing in Santa Maria/Oxnard.

Citrus (Lemons) – Domestic supplies out of the desert are steady and markets are stable. Imports are winding down for the season, lots of deals out there to move them out. Supplies out of Mexico are steady and we have options to load out of Texas.

Citrus (Limes) – Production is expected to decline as supplies begin to wind down. Markets are expected to strengthen in the weeks to come when new production starts, but will start out light on supplies due to lower pack outs. We have availability out of Texas, and also have cross dock options out west and east coast.

Citrus (Oranges) - We are at the tail end of the season on Valencia's. The shippers who still have them should conclude this week. **Navels** have started in a light way, and will gradually improve weekly on supplies. We're currently peaking on 88's & 113's. Markets are stable, but should stabilize in a couple weeks when everyone is in full swing. Current brix levels are 9-12, and quality is looking very clean.

Continued

Cucumbers – Baja is still crossing some cucumbers, but is showing some soft and lighter color. While pricing is very attractive out of here, the product is short legged and not eye candy. Nogales has been crossing good volumes and excellent product. Market has been soft with volume pricing. Production from east coast in Georgia is winding down, but central Florida has already started. We aren't seeing any affects at this time from the eastern production.

Eggplant – Fresno has winding down on their eggplant crop with very light inventories. Nogales has started crossing a few, but may be next week before any inventories are seen. Markets are strong. Quality out of Fresno is fair as the season winds down.

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

Grapes (Green) – Market slightly higher due to seasonal volume decline. Expect adequate supplies thru November.

Grapes (Red) – Market slightly higher on good supplies. Wide ranges in quality and price.

Green Onions – Green Onion supplies continue to be steady. Look for this market and quality to continue to stay steady as we move into next week.

Kale – Steady supplies are keeping this market level. Watch this market closely with this past rain storm.

Lettuce (Iceberg) – Demand continues to exceed supply with this commodity. Second tier escalators are in effect on all value added items. Common defects on this item has been lightweights, decay, misshapen heads, and discoloration. INSV that has plagued growers, industrywide. Salinas production is winding down and Yuma will begin next week with some suppliers. Huron will have light production as well this week and next. Supplies will be light for the next 2-3 weeks minimum.

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Lettuce Leaf – Romaine, green and red leaf as well as romaine hearts continues to be light in availability. Demand exceeds supplies. The common defects being reported are fringe and tip burn, lightweights, and pink ribbing. Again, INSV has caused havoc for all suppliers, industry wide. Salinas production looks to continue for another two weeks but in a light way. Huron has light production and Yuma will begin in the next few days. Santa Maria will have light production as well. Expect active markets for two to three weeks minimum. Escalated pricing is in effect with all leaf items.

Lettuce Tender Leaf – Steady supplies on spinach, arugula and cilantro. Quality is fair with the recent rains. Look for these markets to stay steady going into the weekend.

Melons (Cantaloupe) – Cantaloupe supply remains very limited. Very few cantaloupes coming out of Nogales. Desert supplies are much lighter than normal. Quality is good. Mexican markets are tight and most cants are staying south of the border. A limited supply of offshore cantaloupes are available out of Florida this week; size is ranging on Jmbo6s, Jmbo9s, and 9s.

Melons (Honeydew) – Ample supplies of honeydews coming out of Nogales; quality is good. Desert supplies are adequate. Offshore honeydews will be available out of Florida in a light way end of next week.

Melons (Watermelon) – Markets steady with good supplies and quality.

Onions – Market is steady with super, colossal and jumbo sized onions elevated.

Pears – Tight supplies on small lower grade pears in all varieties. Market slightly higher.

Continued

Pineapples – Supplies are steady and markets are stable. Quality is good on whole and crownless fruit. Plenty of product on both coasts.

Potatoes – Burbanks remain extremely limited, most shippers are saving their burbanks for the Spring. Potatoes are peaking on 60 CT, with smaller cartons tight.

Squash – Large inventories in Nogales has caused some growers in Sonora to reduce harvest to help move through the existing numbers. Everyone is dealing on volume orders on zucchini across all sizes and packs. **Yellow squash** seems to be a little stronger on their markets with lesser inventories to pull from, but no shortages by any means. Eastern production from Georgia are winding down, but Florida has already started. Overall, markets are soft out of the west but quality has been very good. Nogales will start this week with Grey Squash, Butternut, Acorn and Spaghetti on their hard squash. Markets are better out of Nogales than what is left out of California and quality has been very nice.

Stone Fruit – Still plenty of plums for November and maybe past that. Market steady.

Tomatoes – Availability still light in all regions. However new growing regions on both coasts are slowly increasing production on round tomatoes. **Romas** supply is limited in the east with better volume late in November. California roma production is on the decline with volume increasing out of Eastern Mexico. Baja roma is also on the lighter side. **Grape** supply has improved on both coasts expect steady flow of supply for the balance of November.

Weather

California – Temps will stay warm under high pressure today, but the tail end of a weak low pressure system arrives tonight with isolated light showers. Rain totals will be only a few hundredths of an inch, while temps remain near normal.

Mexico – Mostly dry weather through November 7th across the region as a relatively dry air mass remains. Cool dry air will descend into the region on Thursday through Sunday.

Florida – High pressure will ridge over the peninsula today with light winds. Moisture will increase throughout the region tomorrow with isolated to scattered showers.

Arizona – High pressure ridge strengthens late week allowing afternoon highs to warm up to 8 degrees above normal. Cooler temps this weekend as high pressure ridge weakens allowing temps to cool closer to normal.

A Peek at Peak Seasons

Apples
Lemons

Stone Fruits (Past Peak Season)





































Freight

Trucks remain tight and expensive in the Northwest, Idaho, and California. The national average remained steady and is currently at 3.727 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 lower |  CITRUS (LEMONS) | Quality is good, pricing is steady |  LETTUCE TENDER LEAF | Quality is fair, 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 higher |
|  BELL PEPPERS | Quality is good, pricing is higher |  CITRUS (ORANGES) | Quality is good, pricing is steady |  MELON (HONEYDEW) | Quality is good, pricing is lower |
|  BERRIES (BLACKBERRIES) | Quality is fair, pricing is steady |  CUCUMBERS | Quality is good, pricing is steady |  MELON (WATERMELON) | Quality is good, pricing is steady |
|  BERRIES (BLUEBERRIES) | Quality is good, pricing is lower |  EGGPLANT | Quality is good, pricing is higher |  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 higher |
|  BERRIES (STRAWBERRIES) | Quality is good, pricing is higher |  GRAPES (GREEN) | Quality is good, pricing is higher |  PINEAPPLES | Quality is good, pricing is steady |
|  BROCCOLI | Quality is fair, pricing is steady |  GRAPES (RED) | Quality is good, pricing is higher |  POTATOES | Quality is good, pricing is higher |
|  BRUSSELS SPROUTS | Quality is fair, pricing is steady |  GREEN ONIONS | Quality is fair, pricing is steady |  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 lower |  LETTUCE ICEBERG | Quality is fair, pricing is higher |  TOMATOES | Quality is good, pricing is lower |



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