

The Source

December 1, 2021

FOOD SERVICE
DiCarlo

Market Alerts

Apples – Moderate demand is still keeping this market steady.

Asparagus – Consistent good supplies from Peru and Mexico is keeping this market steady. Look for this market stay steady going into the weekend.

Avocados – Supplies out of Mexico are steady this week, we don't see any inventory issues. The size curb continue to lean towards 60's and smaller with steady markets. 48's and larger are still on the lighter side with firm markets. #2 fruit is only making up a small % of the pack.

Bell Peppers – Markets are lower to start the week. Supplies are steady on both coasts with moderate to light demand following the holiday. Overall quality is good. Promotable volume available. Expect fairly steady markets this week but demand to pick back up a bit.

Berries (Blackberries) – Good supplies are crossing from Mexico and the market is steady with some lower tones.

Berries (Blueberries) – Multiple Countries of origin are keeping the market flat.

Berries (Raspberries) – Quality is improving with numbers peaking from Mexico.

Berries (Strawberries) – Post holiday lower demand is causing markets to soften somewhat. California, Mexico, and Florida all have some fruit available.

Broccoli – Although supplies continue to be limited, market is slowly adjusting lower as Broccoli gets underway in Yuma. Look for quality and supplies to improve as we move forward.

Brussels Sprouts – Very limited supplies continue this week. Quality is fair as suppliers are battling decay from the recent wet weather. Look for this market to stay high going into the weekend.

Continued

Carrots – Quality and size are good. Bakersfield growing region is now in play and will run through the end of February. Quality and sizing are looking great in the Bakersfield region in all categories.

Cauliflower – Market slightly lower as we get through transition. Supplies coming out of Mexico continue to be very limited. Look for this market to continue to adjust going into the weekend.

Celery – There is good availability with this commodity in southern California. Yuma will not begin production until mid December. All sizing is available. The quality continue to be above average. Expect steady supplies throughout the week.

Citrus (Lemons) – Domestic supplies are steady and markets are stable. Quality has been clean. Reach out on all opportunities.

Citrus (Limes) – The market has plateaued as demand trends return to stagnancy. The Thanksgiving aftermath will slow movement, so we can expect pricing to descend over the next few weeks. Consistent rain forecasted in Veracruz region will keep crossings reserved. Overall volume will decrease towards the end of December as the new production cycle is fully activated.

Citrus (Oranges) - Navels supplies are looking good, peaking on 88's and smaller. Demand is strong and markets are steady. Current brix levels are 9-12, and quality is looking very clean.

Cucumbers – Strong supplies out of Nogales. East-coast availability is fairly steady. Promotable volume available out of Nogales. Overall quality is good.

Eggplant – Eggplant prices are steady. Quality is good. Expect good supplies for the month of December.

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

Grapes (Green) – Price continues to advance as we near the end of the domestic crop. Imports should start to arrive by mid December.

Continued

Grapes (Red) – Supplies in California continue to dwindle. It still looks like we will have domestics until the imports show up but no-one is expecting domestic supplies in January anymore. Market up about \$2 vs. last week.

Green Onions – Green Onion supplies continue to be slightly limited. 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) – Good supplies will be available throughout this week. Ideal weather in southern California as well as Yuma has produced good quantities of this commodity. Weights are averaging thirty-nine to forty three pounds with good overall quality. Shippers are flexing so promote as much as possible. There is no escalated pricing on straight value added lettuce items.

Lettuce Leaf – This market is firm on romaine and romaine hearts. Green and red leaf is softer. The overall quality continues to be above average due to excellent weather in the growing regions. Some shippers are flexing on volume type orders so please be aware. Demand has eased up. Expect steady availability throughout the week.

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.

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Melons (Cantaloupe) – Slightly lower markets to start out this week on Cantaloupe supplies as offshore fruit continues to hit the ports, along with a dip in demand coming off the holiday week. Expect pricing to stabilize towards the end of this week as demand will begin to tick upwards. Domestic melon supplies are finished. Mexican grown fruit of Cantaloupes loading in Nogales, AZ are expected to wrap up next week. Cantaloupes are available to load in Pompano, FL. Limited stocks of Cantaloupes are available to load on the West Coast, out of the Port of Hueneme, as well as Houston, TX. Size manifest on cantaloupes continue to run on the larger side; Jumbo 6s, Jumbo 9's, 9's, less on 12's and 15's.

Melons (Honeydew) – Very minimal Mexican supplies of Honeydews will remain available in Nogales, AZ through the winter season. Offshore fruit is available to load in Pompano, FL. Honeydews are running on the larger side; Jumbo 4's, Jumbo 5's, and 5's.

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

Mushrooms – Supplies are extremely limited.

Onions – Super, Colossal, and Jumbo onion stocks remain elevated.

Pears – Pretty much the same as the apples. The crop is light on our favored sizes and grade but mediocre demand is keeping the market from taking off.

Pineapples – Steady volume on the pineapple front, but not a ton available on the open market due to retail contracts pulling heavy for ads this time of the year. Fruit quality is really good right now with no issues forecasted for the near future.

Continued

Potatoes – Shippers are cutting back production hours to extend their shipping season. Increased order lead time is recommended to ensure timely loading of requested cartons.

Squash – Supplies are in full swing in both FL and Nogales. Quality is great. Demand is light following the Thanksgiving holiday. Depressed markets. Promotable volume available. Expect slightly higher prices into next week as demand picks up.

Stone Fruit – Peaches, Plums, and Nectarines are done for the season. Fall fruits are in full production. Pomegranates, and Persimmons are nearing the end of their season. Kiwi remain in good volume.

Tomatoes – Overall prices are lower to start the week mainly due to light demand following the holiday. Overall quality is good. Expect moderate supply of tomatoes thru December which is normal for this time of year. Sinaloa is expected to begin in January.

Weather

California – High pressure and weak offshore flow keep morning lows in the low 30s to low 50s and daytime highs in the mid 60s to mid 80s through tomorrow.

Mexico – The next five days should see seasonal temps with light variations. High temps in the upper 60s to upper 70s through Friday and low 70s to near 80 over the weekend. No rain through the weekend.

Florida – High pressure dominates the weather pattern for the week, with continued light north to northeasterly winds, becoming light and variable in the early evening to early morning times over inland areas through the week. Expect sunny skies and clear to partly cloudy nights this week.

Arizona – Near record high temps today (low to mid 80s) due to unseasonably strong high pressure ridge overhead. Gradual cooling tomorrow into Sunday.

A Peek at Peak Seasons

Apples
Blackberries
Blueberries
Raspberries
Lemons
Oranges

Pears
Green Grapes (Past Peak Season)
Red Grapes (Past Peak Season)
Stone Fruits (Past Peak Season)

Freight

Trucks remain tight in the Northwest, Idaho, and California. The national average remained at 3.720 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 higher
 ASPARAGUS	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 CITRUS (LIMES)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 MELON (HONEYDEW)	Quality is good, pricing is lower
 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 lower	 CUCUMBERS	Quality is good, pricing is lower	 MUSHROOM	Quality is fair, pricing is higher
 BERRIES (BLACKBERRIES)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 EGGPLANT	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 ONIONS	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 BERRIES (BLUEBERRIES)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 GARLIC	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 PEARS	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 BERRIES (RASPBERRIES)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 GRAPES (GREEN)	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 PINEAPPLES	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 BERRIES (STRAWBERRIES)	Quality is fair, pricing is lower	 GRAPES (RED)	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 POTATOES	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 BROCCOLI	Quality is fair, pricing is lower	 GREEN ONIONS	Quality is fair, pricing is steady	 SQUASH	Quality is good, pricing is lower
 BRUSSELS SPROUTS	Quality is fair, pricing is higher	 KALE	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 STONE FRUIT	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 CARROTS	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 LETTUCE ICEBERG	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 TOMATOES	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 CAULIFLOWER	Quality is fair, pricing is steady	 LETTUCE LEAF	Quality is good, pricing is steady		
 CELERY	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 LETTUCE TENDER LEAF	Quality is fair, pricing is steady		

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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