

The Source

December 22, 2021

FOOD SERVICE
DiCarlo

Market Alerts

Apples – Market still steady. The crop is light on our favored sizes and grades but mediocre demand is keeping the market from taking off. Expect this market to perk up after the first of the year.

Asparagus – Steady on lighter supplies and good quality continue to come out of Mexico and Peru. Larger sizing are very limited. Look for the market to adjust lower going into next week as the Holiday pull starts to come off.

Avocados – Supplies out of Mexico will be light these next two weeks due limited harvest crews for the holidays. Markets are strengthening on 60's, 40's and larger are still on the lighter side with firm markets. #2 fruit is only making up a small % of the pack but should improve in the next couple of weeks. Supplies on 48's and 70's look to be in better shape.

Bell Peppers – Supplies are plentiful out of Nogales and Florida on green bells. Red bells remain firm but volume expected to pick up over the next few weeks. Quality is good. Promotable volume available. Bell peppers also available to load out of South Texas.

Berries (Blackberries) – The market is flat with good numbers available.

Berries (Blueberries) – Supplies are leaner with offshore fruit delays and the holiday affecting Mexican crossings.

Berries (Raspberries) – Good numbers of product are available.

Berries (Strawberries) – Multiple areas of production are going in California, Texas, Florida and Baja.

Broccoli – Steady lighter supplies is keeping this market elevated. Although the market is coming off slowly, the cold weather will slow down growth. Look for this market to catch and start to move back up with the cold weather next week.

Brussels Sprouts – Extreme limited supplies continue this week. Quality is fair as suppliers are battling decay from the recent wet and cold weather. Look for this market to stay high and supplies limited for the next couple of weeks.

Continued

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

Cauliflower – Market steady as supplies coming out of Mexico, Santa Maria and Yuma continue to improve. Given the cold weather in the forecast, look for this market to start going up as the growth process will slow.

Celery – Supplies on value added celery will be light for the entire week. The product used to do value added items has been affected in production due to cold weather and rain in the growing regions. Carton celery will be more readily available if needed. The quality continues to report light seeder. This market is active, overall.

Citrus (Lemons) – Domestic supplies are steady and markets are stable. Quality has been clean. Rain is expected to hit the growing regions and brings uncertainty of the markets for the last week of December.

Citrus (Limes) – The market has gained some momentum heading into the holidays. Overall volume will decrease the last two weeks of December as the new production cycle is fully activated.

Citrus (Oranges) - Navel supplies will be tight the last week of December. The Central Valley is expected to get rain for the next ten days that will limit harvest. Markets are starting to firm up, and demand will pick up to start the new school year. We advise to send orders in advance to help secure orders.

Cucumbers – Harvesting in Florida and Mexico. Florida supplies are steady and Honduran imports into Florida have begun. Some areas in Florida have ample supply of Super Selects while others are limited. Markets remain low this week. Cucos also available to load out of South Texas.

Eggplant – Good supplies of eggplants. Markets remain low this week.

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

Continued

Grapes (Green) – Domestic grapes are on their last lap. Quality on domestic greens fair to poor. Plenty of imported greens now at about a \$10 premium vs. domestic.

Grapes (Red) – Quality on domestic reds falling fast. Price up sharply on grapes that will make arrival. Expect California to be done before New Years. Some imported reds have landed. Mostly extra large premium varieties that are looking for big dollars. Smaller less toney reds should start to trickle in next week.

Green Onions – Green Onions supplies are starting to get very tight. Cold weather and lack of labor are contributing to the shorter supplies. Look for this market to go higher going into the weekend.

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 the week with this commodity. Shippers are flexing. The weights are averaging 38-44 pounds with good, overall quality being reported. There has been some ice delays last week and this week as well so harvesting has been delayed with most shippers. The market is steady.

Lettuce Leaf – Romaine as well as butter, and green and red leaf will have good supplies available throughout the week in Yuma. Although there has been ice delays in the morning that has slowed harvesting, the quality continues to be above average and plenty to sell. Pricing is competitive. There is romaine in Oxnard as well if the need arises.

Lettuce Tender Leaf – Quality is battling light mechanical damage from the rain and cooler weather but overall fair to good quality with texture and size within spec. Look for this market to stay steady.

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Melons (Cantaloupe) – Cantaloupe supplies continue to arrive into all ports; markets are expected to remain steady. Mexican grown Cantaloupes loading in Nogales, AZ will finish up this week. Cantaloupes are available to load in Pompano, FL. 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. Markets remain elevated on smaller sizes due to less availability. Offshore fruit is available to load in Pompano, FL, as well as limited supplies available on the West Coast and Houston, TX. 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 – Industry wide issues with labor and peat moss is still keeping the market elevated. Relief in supply is expected in January. Costs are expected to remain high.

Onions – Market remains escalated. Large onions are limited. Red onions are starting to become active.

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. Expect this market to perk up after New Years.

Pineapples – Lower volume on the pineapple front, due to recent rains in Costa Rica. Volumes are expected to increase 2nd week of January. Fruit quality is good right now with no issues forecasted for the near future.

Potatoes – Packing sheds are operating at limited hours due to the holidays. Market remains elevated.

Continued

Squash – Supply available in both Florida and Mexico. Mexican product transferring to Florida to load together with Florida product. Market is somewhat higher in Florida and moderate from Nogales. Squash also available out of South Texas.

Stone Fruit – Imported stone fruit will start late January.

Tomatoes – Prices slightly down on all varieties. Florida producing steady supplies of rounds. Culiacan has started rounds in a light way. Mexico is now the primary region for romas. Good supply of grapes from both FL and Mexico. Florida will continue with moderate supply through end of the month then volume will taper off as Mexican production increases.

Weather

California – A series of slow-moving low pressure systems affect the area through the weekend bring regular chances of light to moderate rain. The strongest of systems arrives late tonight into Thursday bringing the heaviest rain of the week.

Mexico – Dry air may allow for cool conditions and spotty frost today and Thursday morning. By Friday through the weekend slightly warmer temps should reduce the risk over most but not all locations.

Florida – High pressure builds in over the southeast, with light northerly flow over the peninsula through the week, with a benign weather pattern expected, with light and variable overnight winds with clear nights and sunny days.

Arizona – Chance for rain late tonight becoming more favorable late Thursday through Friday due to a low pressure system tapping into tropical moisture that will be slow to move out of the area. Chance for rain decreases over the weekend but could bring another 0.10" of rain as due to another cold system.

A Peek at Peak Seasons

Apples
Blackberries
Blueberries
Strawberries
Lemons
Oranges

Pears
Raspberries (Past Peak Season)
Green Grapes (Past Peak Season)
Red Grapes (Past Peak Season)
Stone Fruit (Past Peak Season)

Freight

Trucks remain tight in all areas thru the Christmas and New Year holidays. The national average remained steady and is currently at 3.626 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 steady	 CUCUMBERS	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 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 higher	 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 fair, pricing is higher	 PINEAPPLES	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 BERRIES (STRAWBERRIES)	Quality is fair, pricing is lower	 GRAPES (RED)	Quality is fair, pricing is higher	 POTATOES	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 BROCCOLI	Quality is fair, pricing is steady	 GREEN ONIONS	Quality is fair, pricing is higher	 SQUASH	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 BRUSSELS SPROUTS	Quality is fair, pricing is higher	 KALE	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 STONE FRUIT	Quality is fair, pricing is higher
 CARROTS	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 LETTUCE ICEBERG	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 TOMATOES	Quality is good, pricing is lower
 CAULIFLOWER	Quality is fair, pricing is steady	 LETTUCE LEAF	Quality is good, pricing is steady		
 CELERY	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 LETTUCE TENDER LEAF	Quality is fair, pricing is steady		

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