

The Source

January 5, 2022

FOOD SERVICE
DiCarlo

Market Alerts

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

Asparagus – Market continues to be steady with lighter supplies and good quality coming out of Mexico and Peru. Larger sizing continues to be limited. Look for the market to adjust lower going into next week.

Avocados – Supplies out of Mexico continue to be light due to limited harvest crews for the holidays. Markets are strong 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 – Markets higher this week. Cool weather in both FL and MX slowing production. Supplies are lighter this week as demand has ticked up a bit following the holidays. Overall quality is good. Please send orders in advance for coverage.

Berries (Blackberries) – Steady numbers out of Mexico with some transfer delays occurring.

Berries (Blueberries) – South American production is gapping with container delays. Mexican product crossings are down.

Berries (Raspberries) – Steady numbers out of Mexico with some transfer delays occurring.

Berries (Strawberries) – Very short supplies out West due to cold weather on the local crop and Mexico transfer delays. Texas has light volume, Florida as well. The market is demand exceeds in all areas.

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

Continued

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.

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. Snack pack will get tight as demand picks up with schools coming back into play.

Cauliflower – Extremely limited supplies are the result of the cold weather in the forecast. Look for this market to stay high as the cold weather is slowing the growth process. Santa Maria and Yuma are both seeing cold and wet weather this week.

Celery – Limited production due to wet and cool temperatures has caused for slow growth with this commodity. Large sizing has the tightest availability. Southern California as well as Yuma is expected to be moderate to light in availability throughout the week. The overall quality continues to be above average with slight pith and seeder being reported.

Citrus (Lemons) – Domestic supplies are steady and markets are stable. Quality has been clean.

Citrus (Limes) – Markets remain elevated. Crossings continue to be light out of South Texas. Expect a bit better crossings towards the end of the week but pricing to stay fairly steady this week.

Citrus (Oranges) - Navels supplies will continue to be tight due to the rain events in the Central Valley. Harvest has been significantly reduced due to the rain and holidays. 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 – Prices are slightly higher. FL wrapping up their cucumber crop. Honduran imports continue to ramp up their season. Nogales production has slowed due to cooler weather in the Mexican growing regions. Expect slightly below normal temperatures over the next few weeks.

Eggplant – Markets slightly higher due to cooler temperatures slowing production in Mexico and FL. Demand has ticked up a bit following the holiday.

Continued

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

Grapes (Green) – It's all about the Imports now. Supplies remain the tightest anyone has ever seen. Lack of containers in the exporting countries continue to hamstring supplies. Shippers are hoping they will get some relief once Chile starts around the middle of January. Quality on the fruit that is landing is very nice.

Grapes (Red) – It's all about the Imports now. Supplies remain the tightest anyone has ever seen. Lack of containers in the exporting countries continue to hamstring supplies. Shippers are hoping they will get some relief once Chile starts around the middle of January. Quality on the fruit that is landing is very nice.

Green Onions – Green Onions supplies continues to be extremely 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) – This market is flat and shippers are flexing on this commodity. Good supplies are expected in Yuma throughout the week. The weights are averaging 35-42 pounds with outer leaf discoloration and misshapen heads being reported. Santa Maria will have production as well if needed.

Lettuce Leaf – Romaine as well as romaine hearts are active. Green and red leaf is firming up as well as production has slowed down. This is due to cool weather in the growing regions. Common defects being reported include blister and peel caused by the cool temperatures, discoloration on the ribs, and faster breakdown of romaine value added products. The overall product has a shorter shelf life so order more closely to the normal business. Expect fair quality throughout the week.

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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.

Melons (Cantaloupe) – Market on lope 9s steady. Some dealing available on 12's and 15s.

Melons (Honeydew) – Dew supplies are lightening up as Guatemala changes growing districts. Market should stay tight for the next two weeks.

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

Mushrooms – Market remains extreme with limited volume available.

Onions – Red onions are trending higher. Quality is not holding up to expected shelf lives; keep red onion stocks limited. Market remains elevated on Supers, Colossals, and Jumbos.

Pears – Market still steady. 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 workers taking vacation during the holidays. Volumes are expected to increase 2nd week of January. Fruit quality is good right now with no issues forecasted for the near future.

Potatoes – Transportation difficulties have slowed movements and increased availability of 40s, 50s, and #2s.

Continued

Squash – Prices are higher; zucchini supplies are lighter with better availability on yellow. Nogales production has slowed due to cooler weather in the Mexican growing regions. Expect lighter supplies with slightly below normal temperatures over the next few weeks. Good quality, larger sizes are more prevalent.

Stone Fruit – Small amounts of imported peaches and apricots now landing on both coasts. More availability on the east coast as the west coast ports continue to be back logged.

Tomatoes – Markets fairly steady. Some cold temps slowing things down in Mexico this week. Season continues to ramp up. Florida is tapering off as Mexico will be the primary player on tomatoes over the next few months.

Weather

California – High pressure causes morning lows in the low 30s to 50 and daytime highs in the mid 60s to low 70s. A low pressure passing to the north Friday will cool temps across southern California, but no rainfall is expected.

Mexico – Temps should near normal over most fields across Central Mexico. A few isolated showers or sprinkles are possible through the weekend.

Florida – Light rain showers along the southern tip today. Expect light winds overnight Thursday and Friday with sunny skies and mostly clear nights through the state. High temps in the upper 60s to low 70s to the north, into the upper 70s further south.

Arizona – Widespread light to moderate-heavy lettuce ice continues this morning, becoming light to moderate ice in most Yuma area valleys as temps continue warming gradually. Afternoon highs today mid 60s to low 70s warming up 5 degrees above normal on Thursday.

A Peek at Peak Seasons

Apples








Freight

Trucks remain tight in the Northwest and Idaho. Truck in California and Arizona are steady. The national average remained steady and is currently at 3.613 per gallon.

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Commodities at a Glance

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|  APPLES | Quality is good, pricing is higher |  CITRUS (LEMONS) | Quality is good, pricing is steady |  MELON (CANTALOUPE) | Quality is good, pricing is steady |
|  ASPARAGUS | Quality is good, pricing is steady |  CITRUS (LIMES) | Quality is good, pricing is higher |  MELON (HONEYDEW) | Quality is good, pricing is higher |
|  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 higher |  CUCUMBERS | Quality is good, pricing is higher |  MUSHROOM | Quality is fair, pricing is higher |
|  BERRIES (BLACKBERRIES) | Quality is good, pricing is steady |  EGGPLANT | Quality is good, pricing is higher |  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 steady |
|  BERRIES (RASPBERRIES) | Quality is good, pricing is higher |  GRAPES (GREEN) | Quality is good, pricing is higher |  PINEAPPLES | Quality is good, pricing is steady |
|  BERRIES (STRAWBERRIES) | Quality is fair, pricing is higher |  GRAPES (RED) | Quality is good, 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 higher |
|  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 fair, pricing is steady |  TOMATOES | Quality is good, pricing is steady |
|  CAULIFLOWER | Quality is fair, pricing is higher |  LETTUCE LEAF | Quality is fair, pricing is higher | | |
|  CELERY | Quality is good, pricing is higher |  LETTUCE TENDER LEAF | Quality is fair, pricing is steady | | |

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