

The Source

September 21, 2022

FOOD SERVICE
DiCarlo

Market Alerts

Apples – The new crop of Gold Dels and Fujis are starting in a light way this week. More than ample supplies of Gala's are available.

Asparagus – The asparagus market is lower out in Mexico and Peru. Overall, good supply on all sizes.

Avocados – There is a good supply coming out of Mexico. Overall, good quality and pricing is lower.

Bell Peppers – Markets are slightly higher on both coasts as northern regions are winding down. Georgia is starting the first week of October and Coachella starting in mid-October. Reds and yellows are still holding firm on both field pack and hot house items.

Berries (Blackberries) – Quality has suffered due to the heat and rain. Availability is low. Mexican imports will begin to pick up in numbers towards mid October.

Berries (Blueberries) – Availability is good on Chilean fruit. Mexican product is just beginning to produce. Overall, good quality and steady pricing.

Berries (Raspberries) – Steady numbers are coming out of Central Mexico, Baja, and Central Coast California. Overall, quality is fair and pricing is steady.

Berries (Strawberries) – There are drastically lower yields due to the recent rain as shippers opt to strip fruit and prepare the fields for better quality next week. Expect markets to firm up throughout this week.

Broccoli – Supplies are starting to become limited as a result of the heat wave. Look for the market to rise steadily moving into the weekend.

Brussels Sprouts – Supplies continue to be good. Expect better quality and a steady market going into the weekend.

Carrots – Carrot supplies are ample with Bakersfield growing region under way. Snack pack carrot demand is increasing due to schools back in session.

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Continued

Cauliflower – Supplies are mostly steady in both Salinas and Santa Maria despite the heat wave last week. Look for the market to slightly move up as a result of the heat wave and recent rain.

Celery – Overall, this market remains steady. A few suppliers in Salinas have increased pricing and availability in this area is moderate to light. Southern California continues to be the best area in terms of quality and price. Slight seeder is being reported.

Citrus (Lemons) – Oxnard/Ventura County is nearing its end. In early October, harvesting will begin in the California Desert/Arizona Region. The San Joaquin Region will get started in a light way starting in October. Supplies across the board will be tight for the next couple of weeks.

Citrus (Limes) – Lime prices firmed up last week due to rain and the Mexican holiday. Good quality limes are increasing prices, expect markets to hold fairly steady at these levels.

Citrus (Oranges) - Supplies of all sizes are extremely tight throughout the season. Expect good quality and pricing to be steady.

Cucumbers – Markets are steady. Northern regions are winding down out of Michigan and Ohio and will start their transition to Georgia. The Northwest is wrapping up its deal. Baja supply is adequate. There is some scarring due to high winds from Hurricane Kay last week. Expect to see this defect for the next several weeks. Baja will be the primary region in the west until Nogales starts in mid-October.

Eggplant – The supply is steady and the quality is good.

Garlic – The garlic supply remains tight and China's imports will help offset it in a minor way. The new California crop for 2022 will help supplies. Overall, the quality is good and the price is higher.

Grapes (Green) – Grapes are still in good supply with good quality. Expect this trend to last several more weeks.

Grapes (Red) – Grapes are still in good supply with good quality. Expect this trend to last several more weeks.

Continued

Green Onions – Extremely limited supplies due to the heat the last couple of months in Mexico. The rain last weekend has caused even lower yields. Look for this market to continue to be strong over the next several weeks.

Kale – Steady supplies are keeping this market level. Look for this market to go up slightly as we move through the current heat wave.

Lettuce (Iceberg) – Light supplies are expected for the next two weeks as yields continue to suffer with all suppliers. This is an industry-wide issue. Demand exceeds supplies. High temperatures, rain, INSV, and fusarium in the soil are all contributing variables that are hurting production of this crop. The quality is fair. Pinking, lightweights, discoloration, puffiness, and internal burn are common defects being reported. Value-added lettuce items are on second-tier escalation.

Lettuce Leaf – Romaine, red and green leaf lettuce as well as butter will be available throughout the week. Like lettuce, erratic weather conditions as well as INSV and fusarium in the soil are the cause for low yields. Demand clearly exceeds supplies. There is an increase in pricing on romaine and green leaf value added items. A common defect seen upon arrival is light weight, tip and fringe burn, as well as discoloration. Romaine heart supplies are also limited.

Lettuce Tender Leaf – Supply has been good with most tender leaf items with fair quality on size and texture. The cilantro market is climbing due to lower yields from the heat a couple weeks ago. Look for Cilantro market to continue to climb going into the weekend.

Melons (Cantaloupe) – Heavy rain over the weekend and into Monday curtailed harvest lowering volume and causing loading delays.

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Melons (Honeydew) – Heavy rain over the weekend and into Monday curtailed harvest lowering volume and causing loading delays.

Melons (Watermelon) – Heavy rain over the weekend and into Monday curtailed harvest lowering volume and causing loading delays.

Mushrooms – Availability and supply are good. Overall, good quality and pricing is higher.

Onions – The market is declining on jumbos and mediums. Super Colossals remain firm.

Pears – Washington is in good supply and California is nearly done. Good quality out of Washington with most packouts peaking on US#1. Overall, good quality and pricing is steady.

Pineapples – Better open market availability as we come out of storm season in the tropics.

Potatoes – Variability in sizing is improving. Overall, good quality and pricing is higher.

Squash – The market is steady. Currently, there is a great quality coming from Georgia. Santa Maria's supply is still steady; the volume will begin to decrease next week. Supply from Nogales has kept markets steady, but volume is expected to gradually increase from this region.

Stone Fruit – For all intents and purposes, nectarines are done. The supply of peaches is decent with a few shippers still operating. It is heavier with the red plums than with the black plums. Next month, more black plums will be available.

Tomatoes – Supply continues to be light out east as growers deal with rain in some areas. Significant supply is not expected until Florida starts in mid-October. Out west, California is also finishing up their deal in about 3 weeks. Mexico's availability out of Baja and Eastern Mexico is

A Peek at Peak Seasons

Raspberries
Onions
Apples

Blackberries (Past Peak Season)
Lemons (Past Peak Season)
Strawberries (Past Peak Season)

Weather

California – Tuesday's low remained mostly offshore, but it will finally leave the area early today, bringing a small chance of light rain. Tomorrow, high pressure will build in from the southeast, bringing mid-60s to upper 80s to the region.

Mexico – The next five days should be mostly dry, except for a few isolated showers. It is expected that most showers will produce trace amounts to 0.15" of rain. Through the weekend, temperatures should remain near normal. Over the weekend, temperatures are expected to be in the mid-70s to mid-80s. Most of Central Mexico's agricultural fields will experience morning temperatures in the low 50s and low 60s.

Florida – Throughout today and tomorrow, Tropical Storm Fiona is expected to push a few outer band showers into central and south Florida. Which will then bring dry conditions through the weekend, with slightly cooler temperatures.

Arizona – A passing upper-level low tapping into tropical moisture may lead to rain and thunderstorms today and tomorrow. There is a good chance of rain/thunderstorms this morning through tomorrow morning with rainfall amounts of 0.75". Western Maricopa and areas where stronger storms develop may experience heavy rainfall and flash flooding.















Freight

Trucks remain steady in California. Trucks in the northwest and Idaho remain tighter than normal. The national diesel average dropped slightly and is currently at 4.964 per gallon. California diesel price remained steady and is 6.149 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 lower	 CITRUS (LIMES)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 MELON (HONEYDEW)	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 AVOCADO	Quality is good, pricing is lower	 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 steady	 MUSHROOM	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 BERRIES (BLACKBERRIES)	Quality is fair, pricing is steady	 EGGPLANT	Quality is fair, pricing is steady	 ONIONS	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 BERRIES (BLUEBERRIES)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 GARLIC	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 PEARS	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 BERRIES (RASPBERRIES)	Quality is fair, pricing is steady	 GRAPES (GREEN)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 PINEAPPLES	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 BERRIES (STRAWBERRIES)	Quality is poor, pricing is higher	 GRAPES (RED)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 POTATOES	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 BROCCOLI	Quality is fair, pricing is higher	 GREEN ONIONS	Quality is fair, pricing is higher	 SQUASH	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 BRUSSELS SPROUTS	Quality is fair, pricing is steady	 KALE	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 STONE FRUIT	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 CARROTS	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 LETTUCE ICEBERG	Quality is fair, pricing is higher	 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 steady	 LETTUCE TENDER LEAF	Quality is fair, pricing is higher		

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