

# The Source

November 23, 2022

FOOD SERVICE  
**DiCarlo**

## Market Alerts

**Apples** – Overall, the market is slightly higher as shippers try to extend the season on a small crop. This will continue until next season.

**Asparagus** – Supplies continue to remain tight on the West Coast. East coast has good supplies and better pricing. Both coasts are struggling with a limited supply of XL and JBO sizing.

**Avocados** – There is a good supply on all sizes. Overall, good quality and pricing is steady. Suppliers dealing on volume.

**Bell Peppers** – Markets are steady and the quality is good. More Nogales shippers have started on green bells and slowly building volume. Eastern supply has been slowed due to cold temperatures. Red bell supply remains short prices are high; do not expect any relief till late December.

**Berries (Blackberries)** – Good numbers of blackberries are available in McAllen Texas and Oxnard California. Overall, good quality and pricing is lower.

**Berries (Blueberries)** – Product is arriving from Central Mexico in McAllen Texas with transfers available on the West Coast as well. The Peruvian season is coming to an end while Chile is just beginning to fill that void. Overall, good quality and pricing is lower.

**Berries (Raspberries)** – Fruit is crossing into the US from Central Mexico through the Texas border for distribution to all points East and West. Overall, quality is fair and pricing is lower.

**Berries (Strawberries)** – We expect production from Baja, and Florida to begin in the coming weeks. This and an increase in Central Mexican numbers should provide some market relief in mid to late December.

**Broccoli** – Supplies continue to be very limited as we transition to Yuma. Quality issues such as pin rot have been causing extremely lower yields. Look for supplies to continue to be limited as we approach the weekend.

## Continued

**Brussels Sprouts** – Supplies continue to be on the tighter side. Expect good quality and the market to be steadily going up as we approach the weekend. Overall, quality is fair and pricing is higher.

**Carrots** – Carrot supplies are ample besides organic rainbows and conventional jumbos. Organic rainbow and conventional jumbo carrots will be in a better spot in a couple weeks.

**Cauliflower** – Cauliflower supplies continue to be extremely limited in Salinas and Santa Maria. The cold weather has stunted the growing process. Look for supplies to remain tight going into next week.

**Celery** – Overall, the market is firm. Oxnard/Santa Maria continues to be the main growing area for this commodity. Salinas is finished and Yuma will begin production in late December. All sizing continues to have availability. Escalated pricing on value added product is triggered to second tier pricing. The quality continues to be reported above average.

**Citrus (Lemons)** – California Desert/ Arizona Region and San Joaquin Region are the main growing regions. Overall, good quality and pricing is steady.

**Citrus (Limes)** – The markets are steady with good supply. Expect prices to start to rise again in January. Overall, good quality and pricing is steady.

**Citrus (Oranges)** - Domestic navels are now the main variety. 72ct and larger are tight to start off the season. Current gas times are 72 hrs; Brix is currently 11-12. Cooler nights are upon us which will help color up the fruit naturally.

**Cucumbers** – Markets are steady to slightly lower. Volume is light out of Baja as Nogales supplies are improving. Expect much better supplies in early December.

**Eggplant** – Nogales supply is good; demand is light. Georgia is about finished due to cold weather. Florida has started in a light way. Overall, the quality is fair and pricing is steady.

## Continued

**Garlic** – The garlic supplies have improved. The new California crop for 2022 is helping supplies. Overall, the quality is good and the price is higher.

**Grapes (Green)** – Domestic green grapes are slightly higher as a split market develops between stronger larger grapes and weaker fruit that needs to be moved. Imports are already being quoted on the East coast at much higher pricing.

**Grapes (Red)** – The domestic red grape market continues to advance as the season starts to wind down. There will be domestic reds available into December. Imported reds are already being quoted on the East Coast at much higher pricing.

**Green Onions** – Green Onion supplies continue to be somewhat limited. The weather in Mexico does look good in the short term. Green Onion supplies will continue to be moderate going into the weekend.

**Kale** – Steady supplies are keeping this market level. Look for this market to stay steady going into the weekend. Overall, good quality and pricing is steady.

**Lettuce (Iceberg)** – In November and into December, demand will exceed supply. All processors continue to escalate value-added items. Production in Huron is finished. Yuma has moderate availability. There will be light harvesting throughout the week in Santa Maria. Light weights, ranging from 24-34 pounds, are the story with this commodity due to cool temperatures in the Yuma region. This will continue for another two-three weeks minimum.

**Lettuce Leaf** – All leaf items are firm in the marketplace. Some suppliers have eased up on prices for romaine, but demand continues to exceed supplies as an industry norm. Romaine hearts continue to be scarce as well. Inventories are expected to be light through November into December. Lighter weights due to early harvesting and cold evenings is occurring with most shippers.

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**Lettuce Tender Leaf** – All spring mix, parsleys and arugula are extremely limited due to the cold overnight lows. Expect shortages going through the weekend. The cooler weather in Yuma and Mexico is causing slow growth and causing fields to be behind. Overall, quality is fair and pricing is higher.

**Melons (Cantaloupe)** – The offshore season is in full swing on Florida ports with good demand, Texas and California ports start next week, and Nogales/Mexico's supplies and quality are fair. The market is down 2 dollars.

**Melons (Honeydew)** – Nogales/Mexico is going strong with plenty of fruit. Overall, fair quality and pricing is steady. Offshore imports have started at better quality and higher pricing than Mexico.

**Melons (Watermelon)** – Supplies continue to stay tight in Mexico. Low sugar readings offshore imports will start mid-December. Overall, the quality is fair.

**Mushrooms** – Supplies are limited through the holiday season. Pricing is elevated. Overall, quality is good.

**Onions** – Promotable volumes on red and yellow onions. Pricing is slightly higher on white onions.

**Pears** – Market mostly steady. Wide range in prices on mostly US#1 fruit.

**Pineapples** – Steady open market volume. Overall, quality is good and pricing is steady.

**Potatoes** – Pricing has remained at historical highs. Quality is excellent, but availability is limited.

**Squash** – Markets are level with yellow a bit tighter out of Nogales and Florida. Last week's frost in Georgia pulled the plug on their season. Better supply is expected in about 2 weeks once new regions get going. Overall, quality is good and pricing is steady.

## Continued

**Stone Fruit** – Peaches and Nectarines are done for the season. Plums are mostly done except for a few small inventories of utility grade fruit. All of the remaining plums are red. New crop California kiwi is in full swing. Pomegranates and persimmons are in full production in the central valley. Imported peaches and Nectarines should start mid-December.

**Tomatoes** – Demand exceeds supply; supply is extremely short. Quality is fair. Several growers are still and will be under force majeure through the end of the year due to past hurricane events. Prices are expected to remain high until January once Mexico ramps up.

## A Peek at Peak Seasons

### Blueberries

## Weather

**California** – Below-average lows and near-average highs continue to be caused by high pressure and offshore flow. There will be morning lows in the mid-20s and mid-30s south of Soledad, Gilroy, and Hollister, and upper 30s and mid-40s elsewhere. The daytime highs will range from 60 to low 70s

**Mexico** – Temperatures will remain seasonal and steady through Friday. Over the weekend, cooler morning temperatures will be caused by drier conditions pushing into the north behind a cold front. Some patchy frost is possible on Sunday morning, with temperatures near freezing at ground level in wind-sheltered areas. South/Central Mexico may see a few light isolated showers through Saturday but overall expect mostly dry conditions.

**Florida** – Over central Florida, a system continues to produce scattered showers this afternoon, followed by mostly dry conditions through Thursday. As another weak front passes through northern Florida Friday, some isolated light showers will return, spreading southward until Saturday evening, then returning to dry weather on Sunday.

**Arizona** – Through the weekend, afternoon highs will remain near normal (upper 60s to mid 70s). Low temperatures in the mid-30s to mid-40s will cause light to moderate lettuce ice through Saturday. On Thursday, expect gusty winds up to 40-45 mph.












## Freight

Trucks remain steady in California. Trucks in the Northwest and Idaho remain tight. The national average on diesel fuel dropped to 5.233 per gallon. California price also dropped and is currently at 6.105 per gallon.

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# Commodities at a Glance

 APPLES	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 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 steady
 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 good, pricing is higher
 BERRIES (BLACKBERRIES)	Quality is good, pricing is lower	 EGGPLANT	Quality is fair, pricing is steady	 ONIONS	Quality is good, pricing is lower
 BERRIES (BLUEBERRIES)	Quality is good, pricing is lower	 GARLIC	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 PEARS	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 BERRIES (RASPBERRIES)	Quality is fair, pricing is lower	 GRAPES (GREEN)	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 PINEAPPLES	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 BERRIES (STRAWBERRIES)	Quality is fair, pricing is steady	 GRAPES (RED)	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 POTATOES	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 BROCCOLI	Quality is fair, pricing is higher	 GREEN ONIONS	Quality is fair, pricing is steady	 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 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 steady		
 CELERY	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 LETTUCE TENDER LEAF	Quality is fair, pricing is higher		

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