

# The Source

January 18, 2023

FOOD SERVICE  
**DiCarlo**

## Market Alerts

**Apples** – Small grannies and Fujis will remain scarce until the new harvest in September. Apple inventories continue to be low. Overall, supplies are limited and prices remain elevated.

**Asparagus** –In the west, due to the delayed burning of the ferns, Mexican asparagus production has been slowed last week and this week there have been lower supplies due to the cold weather, but we should see improvements in supplies over the next week or two. In the east, Peruvian asparagus is slowing down due to warmer weather that is affecting quality. There are still heavy arrivals this week with 135 containers heading to Miami and 90 more next week.

**Avocados** –Good supplies of big fruit coming into the Super Bowl pull; highly promotable. There are lighter supplies on small fruit. Overall, the quality is good and the pricing is steady.

**Bell Peppers** – The market is strong with very limited supplies in Florida and Mexico with a small production gap. Availability of red bells has improved out of Nogales. Expect this trend to continue over time, weather permitting.

**Berries (Blackberries)** –This commodity is steady but with lighter supplies. Overall, the quality is good and the pricing is higher.

**Berries (Blueberries)** –Good numbers from Chile are accompanied by lighter Central Mexico product. Overall, the quality is good and the pricing is higher.

**Berries (Raspberries)** –A small production gap will cause higher pricing and limited supplies for the next two weeks. Overall, the quality is good and the pricing is higher.

**Berries (Strawberries)** –Production has been limited out of all areas due to inclement weather including cool temperatures, freeze, and rain. We expect these shortages to carry on through the next several weeks. Overall, the quality is fair and the pricing is higher.

## Continued

**Broccoli** –Supplies continue to be good in Santa Maria and Yuma. Overall, the quality continues to be above average. Crown production is anticipated to be better than most suppliers.

**Brussels Sprouts** –There is good availability and pricing is competitive in the industry. Expect steady production with this commodity throughout the week. Good quality is being reported.

**Carrots** – Carrot supplies are tightening up due to the rain. Markets are up as well. Organic rainbow and conventional jumbo carrots are in a better spot as well.

**Cauliflower** – Cauliflower supplies continue to be abundant in Yuma and Santa Maria. With the rain no longer an issue, look for production to continue to be good with multiple shippers.

**Celery** –Better supplies are expected this week out of Oxnard, Santa Maria, and Yuma. Demand has softened. Supplies are moderate with good overall quality from most shippers. All sizes are available. Production in Florida is sufficient to cover east coast demand. Escalated pricing continues on value-added products on the west coast.

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

**Citrus (Limes)**–Good weather is expected this week and the crop is showing some early signs of improvement with fruit peaking in smaller sizes. Quality has improved and pricing is fairly steady. Expect active markets as we near February.

**Citrus (Oranges)** - Now that the rain has passed, expect markets to level off. Overall, the quality is good and the pricing is steady.

**Cucumbers** –Market remains short, however, relief is expected next week with improved offshore Honduran crops breaking new fields. Nogales supply is still very tight and is expected to improve with slightly better weather in the forecast. Quality is good with limited large sizes.

## Continued

**Eggplant** –Supplies are light on both coasts due to cold temperatures. The better weather in Florida should help supply. Quality is excellent out of Nogales, fair out of Florida.

**Garlic** –Steady California production is expected throughout the week. Good quality has been reported.

**Grapes (Green)** –Domestic green grapes are done for the season. Imports are light but there is sufficient supply on both coasts. The market is firm and the quality is excellent.

**Grapes (Red)** –Domestic red grapes will finish this week. Imports are light but there is sufficient supply on both coasts. The market is firm and the quality is excellent.

**Green Onions** –Heavy rains and cold weather in the growing regions of Mexico have made this commodity light in availability. Escalated pricing on value-added products is in effect. Expect light supplies and active markets throughout the week.

**Kale** –This market continues to be steady. Moderate to good availability is expected throughout the week. Shippers are competitive and listening to offers. Overall, the quality is good and the pricing is steady.

**Lettuce (Iceberg)** –Supplies continue to be strong out of Yuma. Demand is steady at best as schools open up again. The quality is good, with weights ranging from 39-42 pounds on liner packs. Gnats and bugs were a concern last week but this issue has been resolved for the most part. Again, all value-added items are off-escalation. No rain is in the forecast but cooler temperatures are expected in the Yuma region next week.

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**Lettuce Leaf** –There is a good supply of romaine lettuce and hearts and they will be available for the next few weeks in Yuma. Green and red leaf are readily available as well. With most suppliers, the quality is above average. There is strong production of romaine as well as green and red leaf that is being reported in Yuma this week. Shippers with value-added products are all off escalations. Aside from some slight blistering and peeling, the overall quality is good.

**Lettuce Tender Leaf** –Good supplies of baby leaf items like spring mix, parsley, spinach, and arugula are available in the desert. Due to the rains, light supplies are anticipated in Southern California, so availability will be moderate at best. Expect some shortages going through the weekend. Overall, the quality is expected to be fair.

**Melons (Cantaloupe)** – The melons offshore fruit volume is starting to improve after the delays from late vessels and the holiday schedule at the ports. Cold weather in the growing region could slow up production for the next week. Overall, the quality is good and the pricing is steady.

**Melons (Honeydew)** –Fruit volume is starting to improve after the delays from late vessels and the holiday schedule at the ports. Cold weather in the growing region could slow production for the next week. Overall, the quality is good and the pricing is steady.

**Melons (Watermelon)** – Watermelon supplies are slowly improving. Overall, the quality is good and the pricing is steady.

**Mushrooms** –Mushroom supplies are good and prices are steady.

**Onions** –The market is steady to lower. There are excellent supplies of medium and jumbo onions from the Northwest. Limited supplies of Mexican-grown onions that are crossing into South Texas.

## Continued

**Pears** –Market prices are steady at higher levels. Inventory continues to be light. Most shippers are done with Bartletts.

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

**Potatoes** –There is a good supply of 40-70 CT. Norkotahs are the primary variety and there are limited Burbanks and #2s. Overall, the quality is good and the pricing is higher.

**Squash** –Supplies are light on both coasts due to cold temperatures, but there is better weather in Florida that should help the supply. The quality is excellent out of Nogales and it is fair out of Florida.

**Stone Fruit** –Imported peaches, plums, and nectarines have started on both coasts; the quality is very nice. California Kiwi is peaking on smaller sizes and is nearing the end of their season. Greek and Italian imported kiwi have started in a light way. Pomegranates are nearly done in the Central Valley and Persimmons are nearly done as well.

**Tomatoes** – The market is active on rounds due to near freezing temperatures over the weekend. Romas are lower due to increased volume from Mexico; sizing runs large with mainly Jumbo and XL. Cherry grapes are stable.

## A Peek at Peak Seasons

**Blackberries (Past Peak Season)**

**Raspberries (Past Peak Season)**

## Weather

**California** –Clearing skies bring morning lows in the mid-30s to mid-40s today with daytime highs in the mid-50s to low-60s. A low-pressure system passes through the region tonight bringing light rain of less than a tenth of an inch through midday Thursday. Conditions will dry out later Thursday with sunny skies and near to below-average temperatures through the end of the week.

**Mexico** – Cool mornings through midweek, followed by warming temperatures, will reduce the risk of frost. The highest chance of frost will be today into Thursday and mainly at higher elevations in wind-sheltered fields. Dry weather will also continue through January 22nd. Highs in the low 70s to near 80 through the weekend. Lows in the upper 30s to mid-40s today over most fields, upper 30s to upper 40s tomorrow, and low to upper 40s Friday through Sunday.

**Florida** –Steady warming under increasing southerly winds through Friday, before the arrival of a frontal band that will stall out of north-central Florida this weekend. Look for morning lows to climb from the low-mid 50s today, to the 50s to mid-60s by Friday morning, with afternoon highs warming from the 70s today to the upper 70s to low 80s Thursday and Friday.

**Arizona** – Ice on lettuce today through Saturday after yesterday's cold trough. Due to another cold trough passing late this week, winds will increase in some areas Friday. The lows today will be in the low-upper 30s, Thursday will be in the low-mid 30s, and Saturday and Sunday will be in the upper 20s to mid-30s. Over the next five days, temperatures will be unseasonably cool. Low 50s to low 60s today with a slight cooling Friday. The mid-50s to mid-60s Saturday/Sunday. Strong gusty winds up to 40 mph are expected Friday.






















## Freight

Trucks are steady in the Northwest, Idaho, and California. The national diesel average remains steady and is currently at 4.524 per gallon. California prices are also steady at 5.430.

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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 steady
 ASPARAGUS	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 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 higher	 EGGPLANT	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 ONIONS	Quality is good, pricing is lower
 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 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 good, pricing is lower	 GREEN ONIONS	Quality is fair, pricing is higher	 SQUASH	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 BRUSSELS SPROUTS	Quality is fair, pricing is lower	 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 good, pricing is lower	 TOMATOES	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 CAULIFLOWER	Quality is fair, pricing is steady	 LETTUCE LEAF	Quality is good, pricing is lower		
 CELERY	Quality is good, pricing is lower	 LETTUCE TENDER LEAF	Quality is fair, pricing is steady		

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