

The Source

September 23, 2020



Market Alerts

Apples – High volume movement as retail and the USDA Farm to Families program continues to scoop up supplies. New crop heavy to larger sizes.

Asparagus – Good steady supplies out of Peru and Mexico.

Avocados – Markets have come off on Mexican 48s and larger. Size structure has also started to shifted. Harvest crews are seeing an increase on 48s in the pack outs. Mexican growers are slowly transitioning into “Aventejada” crop. Peru has concluded their season and arrivals are quickly diminishing. California is on the decline and will have fruit available into the front part of October.

Bell Peppers – Good condition and quality at this time- there is lighter production due to previous heat in growing areas.

Berries (Blackberries) – The market is still fairly firm with numbers just beginning to pick up out of Mexico look for availability and price to get easier later this week.

Berries (Blueberries) – The pacific north west is finished and we are waiting on Peruvian arrivals to pick up in volume. Look for this market to stay firm and higher until Mexico begins in 2 to 3 weeks.

Berries (Raspberries) – Raspberries supplies are light, look for the market to remain firm with better availability later in this week.

Berries (Strawberries) – Markets are extremely tight due to the adverse weather we had several weeks ago. Look for the market to continue to be elevated and light through the end of next week.



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Continued

Broccoli – The recent heat waves have caused lower yields due to bad quality. Watch this market continue to be tight.

Brussels Sprouts – Steady supplies of quality product.

Carrots – Carrots are a very steady go on all pack styles save for the jumbos and cello carrots out of the West Coast. Look for this market to remain flat.

Cauliflower – Steady supplies continue out of the Salinas Valley and Santa Maria.

Celery – Of all the row crops, this commodity has the best availability. Better supplies are in Santa Maria/Oxnard and shippers are offering better deals on volume type orders. Large sizing as the best availability. Expect good supplies for the week - promote as much as possible.

Citrus (Lemons) – The coastal district is winding down for the season, quality is fair out of that area. D3 (Desert crop) will be starting soon. Markets are steady. Fancy grade is holding firm and choice market is holding steady. Reach out if you have any interest on imports.

Citrus (Limes) – Markets on 200's are slightly coming off. 175's and larger are still holding firm with light supplies. Quality is fair. Please place orders with lead time.

Citrus (Oranges) – Valencia supplies on 88/113/138's are getting tighter each week. Better supplies on 72's and larger. Markets are active on both grades and quality is fair. Please put orders in advance for better coverage.

Cucumbers – Cucumbers are producing well and overall good supplies continuing.

Continued

Eggplant – More production coming, anticipate lower markets.

Garlic - Steady supplies with California production continues. This market is steady.

Grapes (Green) – Autumn King greens in good production. Older varieties show some amber.

Grapes (Red) – Good supplies on red seedless.

Green Onions – Plenty of supplies coming out of Mexico is keeping the market steady.

Kale – The recent round of heat has caused some sun damage and lower shelf life.

Lettuce (Iceberg) – Demand exceeds supplies on this commodity. Common defects include light weights, discoloration, and ribby. Sclerotinia is an issue that multiple suppliers are dealing with. This disease is breaking down the plants and shorter shelf life is the result. Expect light supplies for two weeks minimum.

Lettuce Leaf – Romaine as well as hearts continue to be very light in availability. Green and red leaf has tightened up as well. Growers continue to deal with soil disease that has cut down yields and caused for shortages in product. Light supplies will continue for two weeks minimum. Demand will continue to exceed supplies.

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Lettuce Tender Leaf – Supplies are light on spinach and cilantro. This will continue for seven to ten days.

Melons (Cantaloupe) – Cantaloupe market remains active. Demand is strong and supplies are limited out of the San Joaquin Valley. Current size structure peaking on 9's. Arizona is set to start production mid-October and Mexico will ramp up around the same time period. Overall quality has been great with good sugars. Production out of the desert (Arizona) is set to start the first week of October. Import fruit out of Mexico is forecasted to start the second week of October.

Melons (Honeydew) – Melons continue to be in high demand and supplies out of the San Joaquin Valley have tightened up. Size structure is peaking on 5's. The melon market will remain active for the balance of the month. There will be some relief and overlap as we transition into the desert growing region (Nogales/Yuma/Maricopa) mid-October. Imports from Mexico are expected to hit the US the first week of October in a light way.

Melons (Watermelon) – Market is steady on the west coast. Good availability on seedless watermelon. Mini melons however are very limited and in high demand.

Onions – Ample supplies of high quality storage onions are available from the northwest. USDA box program demand for 3 lb. bags is affecting production time at the sheds.

Market Alerts

Pears – Bartletts, Anjous, and Bosc all in new crop. Peaking on larger sizes

Pineapples – Crown fruit is improving out of both coast, with steady markets. Crown-less fruit supplies are steady on the west, but snug on the east. Organics supplies are steady. Need orders in advance. Quality overall is looking nice.

Potatoes – Harvest of new crop Norkotahs is underway. Large bakers remain elevated but market is softening. Ample supplies of cartons. USDA box program limiting 5 lb bags.

Squash – Production coming through Nogales has started in a small way, and production out of Central CA continuing- good condition as demand has been steady and no old product.

Stone Fruit – Most shippers done for the season on nectarines and peaches, plenty of plums available.

Tomatoes – Round and grape tomatoes have triggered escalators. Supplies are winding down and will continue to decline in October. Eastern regions are recovering from hurricane systems that have reduced yields. Western regions are ahead of schedule following weeks of triple digit weather. New crops in Mexico are starting to supplement the Fall season. Florida crops set for October are on track but supplies will be light. The market is up across the board. Quality is fair to good overall varying by region. Expect active markets through mid-October.

Weather

California – A strong high pressure system builds out west with dramatic warming over the weekend into early next week. Another round of record high temperatures are forecast into Tuesday. These growing conditions will only exacerbate the already rampant mold, mildew, disease, and insect pressure affecting most crops as the season winds down. Yields and overall quality will once again be impacted as another heat wave arrives.

Mexico – Seasonal temperatures with scattered showers and thunderstorms continue across Central Mexico into next week.

Florida – Scattered showers look to continue into early next week followed by cooler temperatures and dry conditions next week.

Freight

Trucks remain tight in California, Idaho, and the Northwest. The National Average remained steady this week and is currently at 2.404 per gallon.

A Peak at Peak Seasons

Apples
Carrots
Citrus (Lemons)
Citrus (Limes)

Onions
Pears
Pineapples
Potatoes



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Commodities at a Glance

 APPLES	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 CELERY	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 LETTUCE LEAF	Quality is fair, pricing is higher
 ASPARAGUS	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 CITRUS (LEMONS)	Quality is fair, pricing is steady	 LETTUCE TENDER LEAF	Quality is fair, pricing is higher
 AVOCADO	Quality is good, pricing is lower	 CITRUS (LIMES)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 MELON (CANTALOUPE)	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 BELL PEPPERS	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 CITRUS (ORANGES)	Quality is poor, pricing is higher	 MELON (HONEYDEW)	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 BERRIES (BLACKBERRIES)	Quality is fair, pricing is higher	 CUCUMBERS	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 MELON (WATERMELON)	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 BERRIES (BLUEBERRIES)	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 EGGPLANT	Quality is good, pricing is lower	 ONIONS	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 BERRIES (RASPBERRIES)	Quality is fair, pricing is steady	 GARLIC	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 PEARS	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 BERRIES (STRAWBERRIES)	Quality is fair, pricing is higher	 GRAPES (GREEN)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 PINEAPPLES	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 BROCCOLI	Quality is poor, pricing is higher	 GRAPES (RED)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 POTATOES	Quality is good, pricing lower
 BRUSSELS SPROUTS	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 GREEN ONIONS	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 SQUASH	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 CARROTS	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 KALE	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 STONE FRUIT	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 CAULIFLOWER	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 LETTUCE ICEBERG	Quality is fair, pricing is higher	 TOMATOES	Quality is fair, pricing is higher

