

Produce News

December 23, 2022



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Market Alerts

Apples – Apple inventories continue to be low. Overall, supplies are limited and prices remain elevated.

Asparagus –With less volume and good retail demand on the West Coast supplies are limited. On the East coast, good supplies are bringing pricing down.

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

Bell Peppers – Fairly steady markets with improved supply as both coasts continue to build on green bells. Red bell prices will remain strong through the end of the year.

Berries (Blackberries) –Blackberries continue to cross the border in lighter numbers which is causing the market to firm up. Overall, the quality is good and the pricing is higher.

Berries (Blueberries) –Central Mexico and Chilean offshore fruit constitute the bulk of the market. Overall, the quality is good and pricing is steady.

Berries (Raspberries) –Lighter crossings have been reported causing the market to increase. Overall, the quality is fair and the pricing is higher.

Berries (Strawberries) –The market has softened due to low demand and steady numbers coming out of Florida and Central Mexico. Overall, the quality is fair and the pricing is lower.

Broccoli –Supplies continue to be very limited in Yuma and Mexico due to the cold weather. Quality issues such as pin rot have been causing lower yields. Look for supplies (including florets) to continue to be limited as we approach the weekend.

Brussels Sprouts –Supplies are increasing and the market is coming off as we approach the weekend. With better supplies, the quality is improving overall.

Continued

Carrots – Carrot supplies are ample. Organic rainbow and conventional jumbo carrots are in a better spot as well. Lake Park Georgia carrots are now available for loading.

Cauliflower – Cauliflower supplies continue to be limited in Salinas, Santa Maria, Mexico and Yuma. The cold weather has stunted the growing process. Look for supplies (including florets) to remain on the tighter side going into next week.

Celery –Light supplies is the story with this commodity and this will likely continue throughout this week. Cold weather in Southern California coupled with no production in Yuma has made this commodity scarce in availability. Processors will struggle throughout the week to make sticks to pack, due to the lack of raw material. Escalations will continue with all shippers. Quality continues to be above average.

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)–Lime market is on the rise. Slight reduction in volume and decent demand are allowing for some leverage from Mexico. Quality and shelf life continue to diminish as the current production cycle winds down. Availability on U.S. #1 quality fruit has declined keeping pressure on markets. We are moving through this cycle with the next crop set to begin mid-January. The holidays will all reduce packing so this will come together resulting in higher prices.

Citrus (Oranges) - Domestic navels are now the main variety. 72ct and larger will get better as the season progresses. Current gas times are 48-72 hrs; Brix is currently 11-12. Cooler nights are upon us which will help color up the fruit naturally.

Cucumbers –The market is firm. Florida's supply is adequate. Mexico will have improved supply by next week crossing through Nogales. Overall, the quality is good and the pricing is steady.

Eggplant –There is a steady supply and good quality in all regions for this commodity.

Continued

Garlic –The garlic supplies are good. The California crop for 2022 is helping supplies. Overall, the quality is good and the price is steady.

Grapes (Green) –Domestic green grapes are nearing the end with only a week or two left in the season. Imports are going on the East coast at higher pricing. If you are East of Denver you should consider switching to the imports.

Grapes (Red) –The domestic red grape market is slightly higher as the season starts to wind down. There will be domestic reds available until after Christmas. However, inventories are declining quickly and quality from here on out is suspect. Imported reds are already going on the East Coast at higher than domestic pricing. If you are East of Denver you should consider switching to imports.

Green Onions – Green Onion supplies continue to slowly improve. The weather in Mexico does look good in the short term. Green Onion supplies will continue to improve going into the weekend.

Kale –Supplies are moderate due to the recent cold weather in Yuma. Look for this market to steadily go up going into the weekend with the warmer afternoon weather. Overall, good quality and pricing is steady.

Lettuce (Iceberg) –As the holiday approaches, demand has decreased. Due to warmer weather expected in Yuma next week, the volume is expected to be better throughout the week with multiple suppliers. Value-added escalators will be adjusted. Pricing with shippers on carton business will be more competitive throughout this week.

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Lettuce Leaf –Warmer weather in the growing regions, along with falling demand, has created a surplus of products with multiple shippers. Value-added escalators have adjusted downward in the market. Romaine hearts will continue to be limited. Romaine as well as green and red leaf will be available to meet demand. Weights are expected to be better, but blisters and peels have been reported due to the frigid temperatures.

Lettuce Tender Leaf – All spring mix, parsleys, spinach and arugula continue to be 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 inventories are increasing. Good supplies of all sizes and lighter demand for this commodity. Overall, the quality is good and the pricing is dropping.

Melons (Honeydew) – Light supplies coming out of Nogales/Mexico. Overall, the quality is fair and the pricing is steady. The offshore supplies are improving with better quality than Mexico.

Melons (Watermelon) – There have been better volume out of Mexico this week, as well as offshore building inventory. Overall, the quality is good and the pricing is steady.

Mushrooms –Supplies are good and prices are steady for this commodity.

Onions – Through the holidays, the market is steady, but after New Year's, it is expected to rise. Peaking on medium yellows.

Pears –The market is higher on light inventories. Most shippers are done with Bartletts.

Continued

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

Potatoes – Cold weather is disrupting loading in Eastern Idaho. Temperatures need to be above 18°F for 5 hours for potatoes to be packed. Shippers utilize onsite storages, but are dependent on warmer temperatures to supplement when those supplies run out.

Squash – The market is steady. There is a good supply on Zuke, a bit lighter on yellow. The quality is good. Expect good overall supplies the next few weeks.

Stone Fruit –California Kiwi is peaking on smaller sizes. Pomegranates are starting to wind down in the Central Valley and persimmons are nearly done. Imported peaches and nectarines are expected to start the week after Christmas

Tomatoes – With the combination of less demand and improved supply, the tomato market continues to decline. This will continue through the remainder of the year as new fields come online with more consistent supply and quality out of Florida and Mexico.

A Peek at Peak Seasons

Weather

California –As high pressure strengthens, low temperatures in the morning fall into the mid-30s to mid-40s, but daytime highs warm to the 60s and low 70s. The morning temperatures will gradually warm as winds turn onshore and the marine layer strengthens by Friday, reaching the upper 30s to upper 40s.

Mexico – A cold front is expected to impact the region on Friday and over the weekend, bringing cooler temperatures and morning frost. Expect highs in the upper 60s to mid-70s through Thursday and mid-60s to mid-70s through Friday and Sunday. By Thursday morning, the temperature will be in the upper 30s to upper 40s, on Friday morning it will be in the low 40s to low 50s, and over the weekend it will be in the mid-30s to mid-40s. Some wind-sheltered areas may experience light icing over the weekend.

Florida – Another Gulf low impacts the Florida peninsula Thursday around noon with light to moderate showers, heaviest near Ocala / Brooksville. This is in advance of a strong cold front that will usher in an Arctic air mass over the southeast, bringing Florida's Saturday and Sunday morning lows to the 20s-mid 30s north of Brooksville and Hwy 50, and into the 40s to the south of there.

Arizona – Over the weekend, temperatures rose above seasonal averages due to a building high-pressure ridge, moderated morning lows, and lettuce ice conditions. Temperatures today are in the mid-60s to low 70s, warming Saturday to the upper 60s to upper 70s. Morning lows today and tomorrow mid-upper 30s, mid-30s to low 40s Friday, this weekend expect upper 30s-low 40s.

Freight

Trucks remain steady in California/Arizona. Truck in the Northwest and Idaho remain tight. The national diesel average continues to fall and is currently at 4.596 per gallon. California diesel price also dropped and is now at 5.437 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 lower	CITRUS (LIMES)	Quality is good, pricing is higher	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 steady
BERRIES (BLUEBERRIES)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	GARLIC	Quality is good, pricing is steady	PEARS	Quality is good, pricing is higher
BERRIES (RASPBERRIES)	Quality is fair, 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 lower	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 lower	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 fair, pricing is steady	TOMATOES	Quality is good, pricing is lower
CAULIFLOWER	Quality is fair, pricing is steady	LETTUCE LEAF	Quality is fair, pricing is steady		
CELERY	Quality is good, pricing is higher	LETTUCE TENDER LEAF	Quality is fair, pricing is higher		