

Produce News

August 12, 2022



Market Alerts

Apples – As Washington is nearing the end of the current crop on several varieties, galas and golds are done and Fuji's and pinks are in short supply. California galas are the only crop currently until the new gala crop that will start in 10 days..

Asparagus – The market is steady and supplies continue to be on the lighter side on both coasts. It will continue throughout the week.

Avocados – The market has reached the bottom. Flora crop is in full production with supplies peaking. Overall, good quality and the market is steady.

Bell Peppers – The colored bell pepper supply is still short and prices have been steady at elevated levels. Prices are reasonably steady on green bell peppers due to moderate demand. There has been some rain in the Eastcoast regions, but the overall quality is good. Westcoast supplies are steady out of California.

Berries (Blackberries) – Blackberries continue to be light for most shippers and quality is good with large-sized berries prevalent out of the central coast California areas. Expect a slight increase in production as temperatures heat up moving into the weekend.

Berries (Blueberries) – With several areas producing blueberries, there is a good supply of promotable fruit in all districts including the Pacific Northwest, California, Michigan, and New Jersey.

Berries (Raspberries) – Shippers are reporting good numbers on raspberries and it is predicted to move into late August and into September.

Berries (Strawberries) – Very little open market. Strawberries are available with shippers concentrating on contract coverage and previous commitments. Supplies will remain limited until the fall crop begins. Santa Maria begins in early September, the new crop in Oxnard begins in October, and in central Mexico will begin in mid to late October weather permitting.

Broccoli – Salinas and Santa Maria supplies are plentiful. Expect the market to be steady.

Continued

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

Carrots – Supplies are plentiful with Bakersfield's growing region underway. The demand for carrot snack packs is increasing as schools start back up.

Cauliflower – Salinas and Santa Maria supplies continue to be good. However, Mexico continues to experience pest pressures due to the heat and humidity causing lower yields. Expect market to stay steady going into the weekend.

Celery – The market is steady, although schools have started up and demand is moderate at best. The overall quality continues to be above average. Expect steady supplies in Salinas and Southern California for the week.

Citrus (Lemons) – Central Valley is finished and Oxnard/Ventura County is now the main growing region. A gap is expected between growing regions. Harvesting will end early-June and new crop production will start in early November. Expect good quality and supplies steady.

Citrus (Limes) – Rain in Veracruz has tightened supplies and prices went up on Friday. Shippers are picking aggressively between rain breaks, but if they can't get fruit out for the end of the week, we will see higher prices. Expect prices to remain elevated.

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

Cucumbers – Overall supplies are good on both coasts, more so out west with product coming from Santa Maria and strong supplies from Baja.

Eggplant – Supplies are moderate on both coasts and the market is steady. The heat out west is contributing to adequate supply. On the East coast, eggplant is transitioning to northern areas.

Continued

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

Grapes (Green) – Excellent quality and good volume on green grapes. The market is steady.

Grapes (Red) – The market is steady with excellent quality and a good volume of red grapes. Flames are finishing as Krissy's and Scarlets start to come into production.

Green Onions – Green Onion supplies continue to get slightly limited with the incremental weather in Mexico. Look for this market to be up slightly going into next week.

Kale – Steady supplies are keeping this market level. Look for this market to continue to stay steady going into the weekend.

Lettuce (Iceberg) – The market is active in the marketplace. A soil-borne fungus, Fusarium, is creating problems for growers which is an industry-wide issue. Yields are down and the shelf life has been shortened on carton products as well as value-added items. Warm temperatures in the growing regions are causing internal burns, seeder, mildew on outer leaves, and discoloration. Overall, suppliers are working through the fields with the goal to pack the best quality possible.

Lettuce Leaf – Demand is stronger for romaine and all leaf items. Common defects that are being reported are caused by high temperatures in growing regions. Overall, the supply of romaine and all leaf items will be moderate at best for the rest of the week.

Lettuce Tender Leaf – Supply is good with fair quality with size and texture. Expect the market to continue to stay steady on all items except for cilantro going into the weekend.

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Melons (Cantaloupe) – The market is steady and supply is good.

Melons (Honeydew) – Demand is good, light supplies, and pricing is steady.

Melons (Watermelon) – Supplies throughout the nation are light. Mexico is off to a slow start as southeastern states continue having weather issues. California has some available supplies.

Mushrooms – Pricing and availability remain steady.

Onions – Idaho and Washington are ramping up production. California and New Mexico seasons are ending.

Pears – Good supplies and excellent quality on California bartletts. Washington will start harvest in a week to 10 days.

Pineapples – Due to the storm season in the tropics, there is a light volume of pineapples.

Potatoes – Demand exceeds supply. Most suppliers are in “Act of God” situation. Limited new crop, Idaho and Washington available.

Squash – Eastcoast supplies are ample. Rain will slow production a bit, but availability in a number of regions will keep prices fairly steady. Santa Maria is on the lighter side, but they will be in new fields next week. Good supplies out of Baja.

Stone Fruit – Good quality and availability on California stone fruit.

Tomatoes – Rain in Tennessee and North Carolina has lightened up round tomato supply, rain is affecting sizing and quality. Western supply is steady out of California with strong supplies in Baja and Eastern Mexico on romas and grapes.

A Peek at Peak Seasons

Blueberries
Green Grapes
Red Grapes
Pears
Stone Fruits

Strawberries (Past Peak Season)

Weather

California – Clouds will move into the Santa Clara and Salinas valleys, but temperatures will remain mostly sunny with highs in the 70s and 80s. Coastal fields will see overnight and morning fog, before the marine layer lifts above 1000 feet throughout the day, allowing daytime highs to reach the upper 60s and 70s.

Mexico – There will be isolated showers through Friday. There should be less than 0.10” of rainfall when showers do occur. There is a possibility of higher totals where t-storms develop. During the weekend, shower activity will become more isolated and scattered. Rain totals for this period are expected to range from 0.10” to 0.35”, but 1” to 2” is possible within some t-storms.

Florida – The Gulf of Mexico continues to produce scattered showers and thunderstorms, mostly north of I-4, Wednesday-Thursday afternoons. This weekend, a weak front will move in from the north, bringing rain chances to all of the forecast area, but cooling high temperatures by several degrees. Expect highs in the low-mid 90s from Wednesday to Friday, then upper 80s to low 90s on Saturday and Sunday. The morning lows will remain in the 70s throughout the period.



















Arizona – As a result of monsoon moisture and an inverted system passing through, scattered thunderstorms are possible through the weekend. Thursday through Saturday morning have the best chance of rain and thunderstorms. There will be rainfall amounts ranging from 0.25” to 0.50”. Stronger storms will produce heavier rainfall amounts (1.50”-2.00”+) and flash flooding.

Freight

Trucks remain steady in the Northwest, Idaho, and California. The national average for diesel dropped to 4.993 per gallon while California pricing is down to 6.097 per gallon.

Commodities at a Glance



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