

Produce News

September 9, 2022



Market Alerts

Apples – Good supplies of Gala and Honey Crisp in Yakima, Washington. Overall, quality is good.

Asparagus – Good demand and light supplies on both coasts. Supplies will continue to be light through next week.

Avocados – Good supplies of large fruit. Overall, good quality and steady pricing.

Bell Peppers – The markets are holding steady on both coasts. There is a major heat wave currently hitting the California Central Valley; harvesting has been curtailed and there may be some heat-related issues with soft and shrivel coming out of this area. We may see issues in October due to this heat wave that may affect supply. Moderate supply out of Ohio, Michigan, and North Carolina. Georgia green bells will start in early October.

Berries (Blackberries) – The severe heat will affect quality and reduce yields coming in from the fields.

Berries (Blueberries) – The Pacific Northwest product is looking weak as we move past peak production in those areas. Peruvian, Mexican, and Argentinian imports are beginning to dominate the market.

Berries (Raspberries) – The severe heat will affect the quality and reduce yields coming in from the fields. However, we should still see adequate supplies.

Berries (Strawberries) – Continued high temperatures and unusually high humidity have combined over the past few days to increase yields and compromise quality in both the North and South.

Broccoli – Supplies are starting to become tighter as we move through the current heat wave. Look for the market to rise moving into the weekend.

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

Continued

Carrots – Carrot supplies are ample with Bakersfield's growing region underway. Snack pack carrot demand is increasing due to schools being back in session.

Cauliflower – Recently, cauliflower supplies in both Santa Maria and Salinas have been good. Supplies are getting tighter as we move through the current heat wave. Look for the market to go up moving into the weekend.

Celery – Although other commodity crops are active in the marketplace, celery remains steady with good, overall quality. Expect steady supplies for the rest of 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) – The lime market remains active. Mexico is expected to continue to experience rain. Growers are getting more cutting from the upcoming crop, which means the majority of the crop will be small fruit. If the rain gets heavier it will hold everything back and prices will increase.

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

Cucumbers – Markets remain firm. Cucumbers out of Mexico are very light as supply has been affected due to rain; availability is adequate loading out of Otay and McAllen. Eastcoast supply remains moderate out of the Midwest, Georgia is expected to start in a light way in about 10 days.

Eggplant – The eggplant market is steady on both coasts. Overall, quality is fair and pricing is steady.

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

Continued

Grapes (Green) – Lots of very fresh, well-priced, green grapes are available. A good choice for truck filling.

Grapes (Red) – Lots of very fresh, well-priced, red grapes are available. A good choice for truck filling.

Green Onions – Extremely limited supplies due to the heat the last couple of months in Mexico. Experiencing shorter harvest times and trucks being held up at the border. Expect the market to continue to be strong in the next couple of weeks.

Kale – Steady supplies are keeping this market level. Look for this market to go up slightly as we move through the current heat wave.

Lettuce (Iceberg) – In this commodity, the market eased up slightly at the end of last week, but it is now active again. Triple-digit temperatures in all of the growing regions as well as minimal labor have created a shortage of availability for all iceberg items. Expect lighter weights throughout the week. Puffiness, internal burn, tip burn, and discoloration will also be seen upon arrivals. These issues are industry wide and will continue throughout the week. Supplies in southern California have tightened severely. Value-added lettuce items continue to increase.

Lettuce Leaf – Light supplies are available for romaine, industry-wide. Green leaf is active and red leaf is steady. Extremely warm temperatures in the growing regions have affected the growth of these plants. Yields and quality are suffering. Tip and fringe burn, lightweights and shorter lengths are all characteristics of romaine and leaf items. Demand is up. Value-added green leaf, as well as romaine items, continue to rise. This will continue throughout the week at a minimum.

Lettuce Tender Leaf – Supply has been good with fair quality with size and texture. Expect the market to go up slightly with the current heat wave.

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**FOODSERVICE
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Melons (Cantaloupe) – Supply and quality is good with steady pricing.

Melons (Honeydew) – Supply is light and quality is good.

Melons (Watermelon) – Supply is light and quality is good.

Mushrooms – Good supplies and steady prices.

Onions – Onion supply is increasing. Limited supplies of super colossal onions.

Pears – The California pear deal is winding down as Washington picks up volume. Overall, the market is steady and the quality is good.

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

Potatoes – The market remains extreme on large cartons. Prices are easing on 100 CT and smaller.

Squash – Supplies remain light on both coasts. California is transitioning and Nogales is about 3 weeks away from getting started in a light way. East coast supply is light but Georgia has started.

Stone Fruit – Large sizing coming out of the field combined with lighter harvests due to heat is putting a strain on small nectarines and peaches. In the next 10 days, nectarines will finish with very light volumes. Peaches are also peaking in much larger sizes than usual. Throughout the month, peaches will be available.

Tomatoes – Volume remains very light in the east as local programs report low supplies from weather issues these past several weeks. Demand has shifted to Mexico where supplies have been adequate, driving up prices. California crops are light this week, and extreme heat will affect production and quality. Expect tight supplies over the next 3-4 weeks.

A Peek at Peak Seasons

Raspberries
Green Grapes
Red Grapes

Blackberries (Past Peak Season)
Squash (Past Peak Season)

Weather

California – The strong heat wave continues through Friday with lows in the mid-50s to low 70s, coastal highs in the 80s to mid-90s, 90s to 107 in the Santa Clara and Salinas Valleys, and 107-112 south of Soledad. This weekend, daytime highs will range from the mid-70s at the coast to the upper 90s inland.

Mexico – There will be isolated to scattered showers and thunderstorms through Friday. There is a possibility of 1" of rain or more within a few thunderstorms, with showers expected to be between 0.05" and 0.30". Showers will become more isolated over the weekend, as drier weather is more likely. Through Friday, temperatures will remain a few degrees below average and will be slightly warmer over the weekend due to fewer clouds.

Florida – Tropical moisture will be pulled into Florida by a low-pressure system south of Mobile Bay, increasing the chance of showers and thunderstorms Thursday afternoon and evening, heaviest north of I-4. Showers decrease Saturday, then increase overnight into Sunday. By Friday, high temperatures will be in the upper 80s and low 90s, and lows will remain above normal.

Arizona – Due to Hurricane Kay tracking along the western edge of the Baja Peninsula, scattered to widespread rain and thunderstorms are possible along the Lower Colorado River valleys and westward. There is a possibility of up to 2 inches of rainfall.

Freight

Truck remain steady in California. Trucks in the Northwest and Idaho continue to tighten up. The national average for diesel dropped slightly and is currently at 5.084 per gallon. California prices remained steady at 6.174 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 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 fair, pricing is higher	 EGGPLANT	Quality is fair, pricing is steady	 ONIONS	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 BERRIES (BLUEBERRIES)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 GARLIC	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 PEARS	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 BERRIES (RASPBERRIES)	Quality is fair, pricing is steady	 GRAPES (GREEN)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 PINEAPPLES	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 BERRIES (STRAWBERRIES)	Quality is poor, pricing is steady	 GRAPES (RED)	Quality is good, pricing is lower	 POTATOES	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 BROCCOLI	Quality is fair, pricing is higher	 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 higher
 CAULIFLOWER	Quality is fair, pricing is higher	 LETTUCE LEAF	Quality is fair, pricing is higher		
 CELERY	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 LETTUCE TENDER LEAF	Quality is fair, pricing is steady		