

**APPLES/PEARS**

Washington reds, golds, and Granny-Smith apples are still heavy large fruit and the premium grade. The smaller sizes and lower grades remain extremely tight and once the school business comes back they will be even shorter. Besides the small counts the markets on all three colors are mostly steady. Galas & Fuji's are the only two varieties left and the markets on both are very active as they are almost finished for the season. Many shippers are looking to clean-up their remaining inventories of both varieties. D'Anjou pear supplies are extremely light and should only last a couple more days. Green Bartletts and stark-crimson red pears are available for loading in Northern California.

ASPARAGUS

This market is extremely active on all sizes. Thunderstorms and heavy rains have been occurring in Mexico. Harvesting crews have been held out of fields in Central Mexico. We will not see any relief for at least 2 weeks. Peru is experiencing very cold weather also and hence production is down as well. Jumbos will be extremely difficult to purchase throughout this week. Pre-booking orders as early as possible is highly recommended.

AVOCADO

California harvest remains at a good steady pace with good demand. Mexico has entered into their light summer production.

California Fruit: Growers continue to harvest good supplies, with 48's being the peak size and 70's becoming short. Demand is very strong and keeping shippers clean.

Mexican Fruit: Growers have very little fruit to cross into the states as their season is at the end.

BELL PEPPERS**Western Colored Bells:**

Bakersfield harvest on greens is finishing. Other districts in California are starting this week. Demand is good. Bakersfield crop for colored bells is in its second week of production and volume will be increasing.

Eastern Green Bells:

Bell peppers are still shipping primarily out of Tennessee with Michigan set to start late next

week. Demand is staying strong and the supply is limited due to minimal regions right now. The market should stay steady but probably jump a bit late next week as Tennessee finishes up and Michigan starts their crown picking. Quality is good.

BERRIES

Strawberries: Strawberry quality is fair due to the wet cool mornings the strawberry growing areas have been receiving the last few weeks. Weather this week should be mild between 55-75 degrees, which should help quality. Strawberries have hit their peak production in the Watsonville/Salinas growing areas about two weeks ago. Harvest numbers will continue to go down each week; this should keep the markets from dropping to the floor with an upward trend when we go into the month August. It is that time to keep your inventories down and only order what you need. Demand is still good. Sizing is medium with counts in the mid teens. Stem Strawberries are limited out of all areas.

Raspberries: Good demand with light supplies is keeping this market firm. Supplies look to improve in the near future. Quality is good with a few fair lots.

Blackberries: The wet cool mornings in the blackberry growing areas is keeping the quality of the fruit to be just fair. California supplies are coming out of Watsonville at this time. Demand is moderate with a steady market.

Blueberries: Supplies continue to improve out of Oregon, BC and Michigan with good quality fruit being harvested in all areas. California supplies are finished. The main pack size on both coasts is pints with a few 6oz being packed.

BROCCOLI

This market is soft. The availability of supplies is plentiful with all suppliers. Mexico supplies will be moderate throughout the week. The quality is expected to be strong throughout the week in all of the growing areas. Suppliers are willing to deal on sharp pricing for volume orders on both bunched and crown business. This commodity is a good product to promote this week.

CARROTS

California carrots are in good supply. Yield and quality are good and there should not be any gaps for the next couple of months.

CAULIFLOWER The cauliflower market is steady. Supplies are moderate but gaps are in the forecast. This week should not be a problem, with the best availability being on the twelve counts. The price fluctuations will continue to be seen throughout the summer amongst our different suppliers. Santa Maria and Salinas continue to be the two big growing regions at this time.

CELERY

This market is steady. Oxnard is finished and Salinas and Santa Maria are now the main growing areas of production. Overall, smaller sizes continue to demand a higher price. Twenty-four count sizing continues to have the best price available. The weights and quality of celery continue to be strong.

CITRUS

Lemons: Supplies are good and demand is at summer time highs. The market continues to firm on 140's and larger. Quality is very good.

Limes: Good supplies on all sizes of fruit. Fruit is peaking on 175's, 150's. Smaller sizes beginning to shorted up a little as fruit sizes up.

Oranges: Demand for late Navels are slow and mostly large sizes are available. Valencia's are in good supplies and demand is increasing as most have made the switch from Navels to Valencia's.

CUCUMBERS

Cucumbers are in ample supply out of Michigan, Ohio and New Jersey. The market is just about on the floor up in Michigan but could mump a bit by the middle of next week, as wet weather has hit the area pretty heavily. Currently, the quality out of that region is excellent.



GRAPES

Nogales is finished up with the Mexican fruit this week and central California product is starting out slow. The reds are flame seedless with some Scarlet Royals going as well, volume is limited as shippers are struggling a bit with the heat in the valley. Sugar ones and Thompson's are available and limited as well but with good size and eating very well. Black seedless are available with good size. Globes are available with good quality and size as well.

GREEN ONIONS

This market is stronger. Heavy storms are in the forecast in the Mexico growing regions throughout the week. This has hurt the production numbers. Pencil sizing continues to have the best availability followed by mediums. Quality issues have been minimal. Supplies will be lighter on iceless product as well.

LEAF LETTUCE *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*

Supplies are a lighter compared to past weeks on romaine this week. This market is getting stronger. Green leaf is steady. Some mildew and tip burn continue to be seen upon arrival sporadically. Foggy, overcast mornings continue to be in the Salinas growing region. This will cause some mildew issues. Red discoloration will be seen in certain lots. Most shippers are having these issues.

LETTUCE

This market is firm. The availability will continue to vary among all the suppliers. The warm afternoon weather, coupled with foggy mornings has caused for irregular growth patterns. Mildew and burn are going to be seen randomly. Suppliers are cleaning up product as best they can, but expect some defects upon arrival. Other quality issues include pink ribbing, discoloration, and mechanical damage. The availability of this commodity will be light throughout this week.

MELONS

Cantaloupe: The Westside melons continue to be a struggle for availability this week. The sizing is still peaking to 9's for most shippers and sugar levels are very good on the fruit that is coming out of the field. Unfortunately, there is very little fruit available to pack. We are again being told next week should see better availability. Be prepared to have trucks wait at the sheds when loading.

Honeydew: Mexican and Arizona fruit is all but

done for the season. The West side fruit is available but peaking to 5's leaving minimal 8's available.

ONIONS

All colors of onions are available in California and New Mexico while Washington continues with wintered-over yellows. Both California and New Mexico still have average size yellows. The demand for reds and yellows has been lighter so volume deals are more prevalent and the markets for both are down slightly. New Mexico reds are steady to slightly lower but supplies are relatively light. Whites supplies are light in both areas and will remain steady for now.

POTATOES

Idaho continues to peak on smaller size cartons but the market is higher due to stronger demand. The market is also slightly higher on the larger counts and up on number-twos. The Idaho market will remain strong until new-crop potatoes start. Idaho's quality has been mostly good but there has been some peeper-sprouts and internal black-spotting. The Colorado market is still in a demand-exceeds supplies situation. Many packers were expecting storage supplies to last into early August if not longer but quality issues have affected a lot of them. They are still heavier to 60/70's but supplies are extremely light and the smaller shippers have finished packing. California continues packing new crop Norkotahs and is heaviest to 70/80's. California also continues to pack colored potatoes but the demand has been very strong! Most Bakersfield packers have finished. The Stockton, California shippers have the nicest quality and more volume right now. They expect to have supplies through September. North Carolina, Virginia, and Alabama have reds and a few golds, with some round whites, but the temperatures have been so hot that they aren't holding up after harvest which has pushed much of the business to California.

SQUASH

Michigan's wet weather is starting to affect the squash market as supplies have tightened up considerably lately. The market should continue to rise going into the weekend but steady out for the better part of next week. Watch for weather related quality issues such as soft spots and light color.

STONE FRUIT

Domestic peaches are readily available with good volume to promote and excellent quality. Nectarines are a little more limited but quality is very good. Both red and black plums have very good availability this week. Tree ripe or preconditioned peaches, nectarines and plums are now available. Apricots are available for loading out of California and Washington. Washington cherries are available but still very limited.

TOMATOES

Several growers are packing rounds, grape and some cherry tomatoes in the new growing regions. Roma tomatoes continue to be behind on production compared to the other crops, and we are seeing higher fobs on the Romas compared to weeks previous. Growers are saying they should have better production for roma tomatoes next week. Although the heat that the east has experienced will keep sizing on the smaller side with more fruit coming on faster than usual, compounded by heavy rainfall. Harvests have been delayed and pickings are staggered in North Carolina and Tennessee due to the weather. Michigan and Ohio should be going by the end of this month.

Western: Supplies out of San Diego continue inconsistent with transition into the northern growing areas, and predominantly bigger sized fruit. There are fewer round and roma tomatoes than in weeks previous. We can expect the remainder of the week to be short in short supply but increasing into next week. Grape production is down but Cherry and Grape tomato production is strong with low FOB's and shippers making deals to keep things moving. Weather has been favorable in Baja with no major issues. Central California continues going strong with production and plenty of good quality fruit behind it.

WATERMELON

Domestic fruit is going strong with very good quality. Prices are steady.