



Food Service Report

May 22nd 2019

Lettuce

Iceberg Lettuce There is a possibility that we will not harvest this week due to weather. Harvest is expected to be slower than average this week with even more rain forecasted. In addition to the rain, overall temperatures are below normal. This could slow down crops for the next couple weeks. Quality is fair, and the market is anticipated to firm up with lighter supplies.

Romaine Lettuce Supplies are slightly above normal this week and will continue for the next two weeks. Quality is average, due to heavy rain in the Salinas Valley, totaling almost 1 inch. Forecasts show even more rain, which could generate additional issues on quality. Expect occasional mildew, dirty boxes and mud splatter on leaves.

Green Leaf Supplies are slightly above normal. We continue to see some mild cupping, but otherwise quality is excellent.

Weather Outlook

California A series of cold low-pressure systems are set to move into California, bringing cold temperatures, strong winds, scattered showers and thunderstorms going into early next week. This is an unusual pattern for May that looks to continue through early June.

Mexico Slightly below seasonal temperatures along with isolated showers and thunderstorms are forecasted across Central Mexico into early June. To the north, breezy conditions forecasted as the storm track passes with a gradual warming over the weekend into next week.

Florida High pressure strengthens over the Southeast with warming temperatures and dry conditions through next week.



Tomatoes

Florida The Ruskin-Palmetto harvest area will finish up by next week. Quincy Florida should see tomato production begin next week and South Carolina is projected to start harvest the following week.

Mexico Jalisco is currently in tomato production with good availability on light demand. All sizes are readily available. Baja California is also in production on round and roma tomatoes. Excellent quality reported.

California Indio has started with excellent quality and volume against light demand.

Grape Tomatoes Mexico's tomato supply remains light as production transitions from Mainland to Baja. Some western buyers have looked to Florida this week, where production has been mostly steady despite some precipitation in the growing area.

Avocados

California The market is strong as we see increased pricing this week. Crops are currently smaller, peaking on medium to larger sized fruit. Excellent eating quality and extended shelf life. Growers are anticipating production to taper off in June and finish by mid-July.

Peru The majority of volume will hit the US market by mid-June. Reports indicate fruit to peak on 48s/40s.

Mexico Rain is expected this week in the growing region of Michoacán, Mexico with temperatures in the 70s-80s. Mexico continues to control its harvest in efforts to sustain available volume through mid-July. Field prices increased dramatically last week resulting in a stronger market. The current crops are winding down and will likely finish up in June. Late season fruit has an excellent flavor profile and eats well, though has reduced shelf life and rough exterior skin. New crop fruit will ramp up in July. Growers are anticipating a 20% increase in production for the summer crop.

Cilantro

Mexico/California The market remains steady in Mexico with the recent warm weather; and production is starting in Salinas. Quality is good with an occasional yellow leaf.

Citrus

Lemons Market prices continue to elevate weekly. California's winter rains have increased fruit sizing; 165ct and smaller will remain tight through June.

Limes The market for large sized fruit will remain elevated over the next 3-5 weeks. Pricing on small fruit will continue to ease. Good quality reported with occasional issues of scarring and stylar end rod.

Cucumbers

Georgia/Baja Volume is strong throughout the country this week. Georgia farms are now in full production with good quality and sizing. In the West, Mainland Mexico and Baja are overlapping during the transition with plenty of product available.



Bell Peppers

Florida/Georgia Eastern bell peppers are making the transition from Florida to Georgia with supplies slightly tighter during the process. All of Florida's volume is coming from Plant City where quality and volume are on the decline as they move into short rows. Georgia just started in a light way and volume should increase next week as more growers get up and running. The new crops look to have excellent quality.

Mexico/California Western availability is split between Mexico and the California desert. Nogales shippers still have decent volume, but heat and tired plants are starting to take a toll on quality and shelf life. Coachella has the best quality peppers; bell peppers have thick walls, healthy stems and nice shape.

Onions

California Onions are all but finished in the Northwest, and Southern California now dominates the supply line. The Spring growing season was productive and is now providing some good quality harvested product as well as some large sizes on all 3 color varieties. The transition is projected to be smooth from the Southern districts to Central California with decent growing conditions as well.