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# Retail Market Report

**May 15th, 2019**

## Tomatoes

**Florida** Production continues out of the Palmetto/Ruskin regions in Florida. Business is slow with ample supplies available. Harvest will transition to the Quincy, Florida area by the end of May. Markets are in the mid-teens for best quality.

**Mexico** Tomatoes are currently available from the Jalisco region and Baja California. Good availability on slow movement. Markets are in the low teens for best quality round and roma tomatoes.

**California** Indio, California will start tomato production this week. The market looks to open in the low teens.

**Heirloom Tomatoes** Supplies are down in Central Mexico due to crop transition. Volume in Baja expected to improve by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May.

**Outlook** Plentiful supplies available for promotions over the next several weeks.



## Weather Outlook

**California** A wet pattern returns as a series of winter type storm systems roll into California going into the weekend. Strong winds (30-40mph) along with substantial rainfall will accompany these three systems as they move through the region.

**Mexico** Seasonably warm temperatures look to continue in Mexico going into next week with a slight chance of rain across Central Mexico.

**Florida** Humid conditions along with scattered showers across the southern counties of Florida and looks to continue into early next week.

## Organic Tomatoes

**Organic Vine Ripe Tomatoes** New crop out of Central Mexico started this week which will give some relief until Baja production begins the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> week of May.

**Organic Roma Tomatoes** Volume is improving against new crop out of Central Mexico. The market is down in comparison to last week. Baja production due to begin 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> week of May.

**Organic Heirloom Tomatoes** Supplies remain steady from Central Mexico. We have good inventory allowing for promotional opportunities.

**Organic Cherry Tomatoes** Production is finished in Central Mexico. Volume out of Baja is in transition and volume remains light.

# Berries

**Strawberries** The market will firm up as we move into the weekend for the Mother's Day pull. This increase in demand will persist through next week and then subside. Production has fully transitioned from Oxnard to the Salinas/Watsonville growing area. The market is expected to remain firm with good availability through the weekend. Good quality reported from all growing regions.

**Blueberries** Steady supplies available out of Florida, Mexico, Georgia and will soon begin in California. The market is expected to remain weak for the next several days if not weeks. Quality is best out of Mexico and Georgia as the fruit in Florida is going into the last phases of production.

# Avocados

**Mexico** The market is becoming stronger with production moving up to higher elevations in Mexico causing supplies to tighten. Mexico is harvesting reduced volume to push market prices upwards. New crop fruit will hit the market in early July.

**California** The market prices are mixed this week, with 60s and 70s showing a slight price drop. All other sizes out of California are seeing a price increase for the week. Harvest will likely only go through June.

**Peru** A good amount of early season Peruvian fruit is available on the market. Peruvian fruit has thick, bumpy skin externally that may turn amber red when ripe.

# Bell Peppers

**Eastern Supply** Florida's supply is steady this week South Florida growers are starting to wind down, leaving Plant City as the primary growing region until Georgia starts in mid-May. Plant City will have excellent quality and solid volume this week but is not a major growing area and acreage is limited. Harvest is expected to continue for another few weeks, though supplies might become tight when South Florida is out of the picture. Quality out of this region is fair since the fields are older and tired.

**Western Supply** Western markets are looking to Nogales and the California desert for supplies this week, although there are few growers with new blocks, and production out of Mexico is nearing the end of the season. Quality has been good the last couple of weeks but will start to decline as more growers finish with the older fields. Coachella's new crop is generating excellent quality, though volume is light.

# Pineapple

**Costa Rica** Supplies are expected to remain tight for another two weeks. The overall pineapple market seems to be slightly tighter than estimated. Pineapple from all sources have not matured at the typical pace due to weather related issues. Pricing remains steady at \$12-\$14 depending on size.

# Onions

**Northwest/California** Northwest storage onions are finishing up for the season out of Idaho and Washington. Suppliers will have sporadic volume available for the next 7-10 days. Quality on the remaining storage yellow onions will show some translucency and sprouting, particularly on super colossal and colossal sizes. Availability on red onions is limited, while white onions remain extremely tight. Texas will have production and good volume on all color varieties through May. The California desert is also going with all three-color varieties. Supplies are improving against white onions and markets are starting to decline. New crop onions in Texas and California will exhibit thin flaky skin and reduced shelf life. The California Valley and New Mexico will get going by early June.

# Citrus

**Lemons** The food service sizes 165s and smaller sized lemons are tight, and availability is expected to remain limited moving forward. Market prices continue to climb weekly, currently in the low \$30s on choice and fancy fruit. Supplies continue to peak on larges sizes 75ct/95ct/115ct. Offshore harvest is expected to begin hitting the ports by mid-July.

**Limes** Supplies continue to peak on 200s and smaller with markets in the mid to high teens. Limited availability persists on larger fruit consisting of 110s-175s. Lack of rain in the growing regions has brought on heavy volume of small sizes. The market is expected to remain strong until supplies improve.