



veg  
fresh  
— farms —



# Food Service Report

November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## Tomato Update

**Florida** The Florida growing region is experiencing ideal weather conditions and tomato supplies are ramping up. Markets are currently in the high teens for best quality.

**Mexico** Central Mexico is still another 4-5 weeks away from significant tomato harvest volume. Only one shipper is currently harvesting and not receiving product daily. The market is in the high teens for best quality.

**Baja California** There is a wide range in roma quality coming from Baja California. Some shippers are receiving high color and smaller sizes. Rain has hit some of the growing areas and that too has impacted quality. Pricing remains in the high teens. Vine Ripe Tomato volume remains extremely low and producing more smaller sizes.

**California** All fresh tomato harvest in California has finished for the 2019 season.

**Grape/Cherry Tomatoes** Supplies are widely available from Mexico though slightly higher than their Florida grown counterparts.

## Weather Outlook

**California** A series of cold fronts bring cooler temperatures and return of marine layer to much of California into next week. Warm and dry conditions across the southwestern desert regions with strong gusty winds expected early next week due to a passing cold front.

**Mexico** Cooler temperatures and a chance of isolated showers through Central Mexico with seasonal temperatures to the north.

**Florida** A cold front moves into Florida with rain and showers throughout the week.

## Lettuce

**Iceberg Lettuce** Demand exceeds supply. Production in Yuma and Santa Maria is moderate to light. Huron and Salinas are winding down for the season as next week may be the last days of production. Common defects reported include mechanical damage, epidermal peel, misshapen heads and lightweights. Escalated pricing on value-added lettuce items will start up this week. Expect the market to remain active for the next two weeks.

**Leaf Lettuce** The romaine market remains strong as demand exceeds supply. Volumes are forecasted to improve once Yuma is in full swing production. Quality in the desert is excellent, with occasional light weights. In the Salinas growing there are still random occurrences of fringe burn, blister, peel, twist, and light weights. Market prices continue to advance.

**Green/Red Leaf Lettuce** Production volumes are on budget this week. Occasional irregular sizing, fringe and wind burn being reported. Demand has picked up tremendously. Red leaf production volumes have slightly improved this week. We continue to see good demand, with strong market pricing.





## Cucumbers

**Eastern Supply** Colder weather has pushed production to solely a Florida deal. Plant City and areas in South Florida have supplies available, though acreage is light for this time of year. Expect volume to pick up steadily by mid-December as imports will supplement the low supply.

**Western Supply** Production is shifting from Baja to Mainland Mexico very smoothly. Deals in Mainland Mexico have started with some strong volumes and look to steadily increase as additional growers get started. With the rain slowing down production and demand remaining steady, expect to see escalated pricing this week followed by downward pressure once Sinaloa gets back into their crop's harvests.

## Yellow/Italian Squash

**Eastern Supply** Volume is strong with a slightly hiccup in production last week due to weather. Italian squash was affected more than yellow squash. Expect volume to rebound back to normal going into next week. Pricing is slightly escalated but expect downward pressure once volume picks up.

**Western Supply** Cooler temperatures and a seasonal decline out in Sonora has lightened up Western production, but our deals in Sinaloa will get started with some steady volumes to pick up the transitional slack. Volumes should experience upward pressure as Sinaloa gets into their crops.

## Citrus

**Navel Oranges** We are currently packing multiple days per week and will continue to build volume throughout the November into December. Sizing will peak on 72/88/56ct. Larger sizes are available now through the remainder of the season.

**Lemons** California production has started out of both District 3 (Coachella/Imperial) and District 1 (Central Valley). Imports out of Chile will begin to wind down as well as Mexico through the remainder of November. Our growers out of the Central Valley with limited availability and volume but will increase throughout the month and into December.

## Avocados

**Mexico** The market is relatively stable on most sizes and grades. Larger fruit continues to be slightly stronger overall with 70s being the least available size. The few weeks are expected to remain steady with slight changes, mostly because of border crossings and picking schedules around the Thanksgiving holiday. Supplies for #2 fruit should start to increase as we move into December and pricing should remain stable.

## Bell Peppers

**Yellow/Red Bells** Prices are high, and supplies are tightening. California growers are transitioning to the Coachella Valley. The Mexican season will not start until early December. East Coast growers have transitioned to Florida.

**Green Bells** The market is stable to slightly above last week's levels and domestic volume is high. West Coast growers are focused in California's Coachella Valley and Mexico. East Coast production has transitioned to South Florida. There have been some early harvest challenges on quality. The heat last week in Florida has affected fruit sizing. Volume has been low for the most of November with an expected upward pressure to normal levels by the first of December.

## Onions

**Midwest** The market remains flat as supplies meet demand. At this point, the market has not reacted to the freeze in Idaho. Growers are maintaining some product will be lost, though uncertain how much volume. We will have a better idea to the extent of damage as onions sit in storage. There is potential for a spike in the market later in the season if long term supplies are affected. The Idaho and Oregon regions are currently slowing down by over six million sacks.