



Food Service Report

July 3, 2020

Lettuce

Romaine Lettuce Romaine supplies are limited due to weather and the markets are extremely active. Quality is fair and we expect this category to stay limited for the foreseeable future.

Iceberg Lettuce Iceberg volumes are down due to reduced plantings from COVID-19 cutbacks in March. Quality is excellent but coupled with a very active market, there is not much supply to go around. Expect light volume for the foreseeable future.

Green Leaf Good supply, size weight and quality for the foreseeable future. Markets are currently steady.

Tomato Update

Southeast South Carolina will finish tomato harvest early next week. There will be a short-lived tomato harvest in North Carolina for several weeks until Tennessee can get started on summer tomatoes. Alabama, Arkansas, Michigan and Virginia will commence summer tomato harvest in late July/early August. Markets are in the high teens to low twenties for the best qualities.

Mexico/Baja California Roma and vine-ripe production continue along and are in lighter volume. Roma tomatoes are in the high teens as well as vine-ripes.

California All seven (of what used to be 12) tomato harvesters are in production now. Weather is beautiful and there is an abundant crop coming in. Markets are in the mid to high teens for the best quality. There may be some periods where harvest hits some gaps where the growers could not plant due to rain during the growing cycle.

Outlook Wet weather in the Southeast during the summer is almost guaranteed to make the tomato supply picture more challenging than we would think it to be. Keep an eye out for this. California will always be the safe place for dry fruit throughout the summer.





Chili Peppers

Western supply has been light but will finally begin to improve this week as additional growers get started in the Bakersfield area. Quality looks to be good considering heat in the growing region, though quality on any remaining old-crop peppers from Coachella and Mexico has declined significantly. Prices will begin to stabilize as supplies reach adequate levels.

Bell Peppers

Green Bells Western supply has been light but will finally begin to improve this week as additional growers get started in the Bakersfield area. Georgia is finishing; moving up to the Carolinas. Western quality is good. Eastern quality hit and miss due to some of the earlier rain on the crops.

Onions

California/Mexico Early crops finishing in California and New Mexico. Market is ticking up a little as a short gap in supply due to the next California crop not being ready yet. The USDA box program is also putting pressure on supply.

Berries

Strawberries Prices up due to warm temps in June reducing yields. Quality has been fair to good. Demand strong as we head into the 4th.

Blueberries Volume will continue to increase out of Watsonville. We are currently in the spring peak for Santa Maria berries. Oxnard is post peak and volumes will continue to decrease moving forward. Central Mexico volume will continue to decrease rapidly. Fruit from the Northwest will add volume to the system increasing supply.

Citrus

Navel Oranges The season for Navel Oranges is now done in Redlands. The next crop will be this Fall 2020.

Valencia Oranges New California crop started in light volumes last week. The market is limited due to lack of harvest crews and unprecedented demand.

Grapefruit Harvest has started on our new California crop out of Redlands. The market is limited due to lack of harvest crews and unprecedented demand. Currently, we are filling program business with some extra volume for market business.

Lemons Coachella is finishing and Santa Paula shipping now. Imports starting from Chile. Prices are steady with no quality issues. Smaller lemons are tight. Pricing up a touch.

Avocados

Mexico/California Avocado volume is excellent as Mexico winds down their summer crop. California avocados are leading the way in the west and should keep markets steady through the end of July. Quality is excellent on fruit for both regions as well.

