



Food Service Market Report

September 21, 2022

LETUCE



Cabbage

Supply on Green Cabbage, Red Cabbage and Napa cabbage is looking good and available. Recent heat could cause issues.



Iceberg

Cosmetic damage will most likely be found in boxes due to recent high heat and rain. Shippers are doing their best to pack the best product. Pricing remains elevated.



Green Leaf

Green leaf remains triggered. Heat issues will be seen. Market and demand are strong.



Romaine

The heat wave caused quality issues to be found in romaine lettuce as well as insect pressure. Rain this week did not help either. Quality issues are expected to remain throughout the Salinas season. Market is elevated.

AVOCADO

Avocados have dropped a little on all sizes as we start to see more new crop of Mexican fruit enter the USA. Quality is excellent on all packs and oil content is in a good place as well. We expect to see things settle here for another week or two.



TOMATOES

Round, Roma & Vine-Ripe

Southeast

This area will be going into transition from the summer plantings in Tennessee, North Carolina and Virginia into South Georgia and Quincy, Florida. By mid-November (barring any weather) the Palmetto/Ruskin crop will kick off in South Florida. Markets are in the low to mid-teens on small round tomatoes and in the mid to high teens for the larger sizes.

California

Up to half an inch of rain over this past weekend has caused most growers to lay out from picking any tomatoes until after the fields have dried out properly. Most likely, they will resume harvest later this week or over the weekend. Markets are in the mid to high teens for best quality. Low teens on smaller sizes.

Grape Tomatoes

Grape tomatoes are finally showing some uptick on demand and downturn on supply.

Lower yields out of Mexico and short supplies on the East coast have created a better market on both conventional and organic grape tomatoes.



ONIONS

White onions are still fairly limited but the Northwest supplies are picking up. Market pricing is still high for this time of the season on whites and yellows. Yellow onion quality is also getting better out of the Northwest. Only a few growers left with yellow onions remaining out of California for another week or so and some growers have limited red onions.

POTATOES

Russet Potatoes: The market is active and will remain this way into October. Supply is very good on smaller sized potatoes, while larger sizes continue to be limited, quality is improving weekly.

Fingerling: All varieties of conventional & organic fingerlings are available.

Chipping: We have Fresh Fries available! The perfect potato to make your own signature French fries, hash browns or tater tots! Call your Veg Fresh representative today.

Red and Yellow: Good supplies and quality on conventional and organic red and yellow potatoes. Potatoes out of Stockton will continue to ship into October. Washington's Skagit valley potatoes are starting.

White Potatoes: The Skagit Valley is starting in a small way, supplies will ramp up weekly.

Sweet Potatoes: New crop sweet potatoes started shipping. Storage crop is winding down and we expect to see an overlap of old and new crop on some of the varieties through September.



BERRIES

Strawberries

Santa Maria - Demand exceeds supply. All of the new crop received over 2 inches of rain as well. Most grower/shippers are stripping juice for the same reason as the North. Many growers will get back into fresh by Friday. It will take us a week to ten days to get back into good shipping fruit quality and condition. Once we get cleaned up we will be getting right back to peak production levels.

Salinas/Watsonville - Demand exceeds supply. The market is higher. We received well over 2 inches of rain. The fruit quality was already challenged with the previous heat. Most growers/shippers are stripping fruit for juice due to rain and head damage. It will likely take a week to ten days before the quality comes back. We will see the volume go back up to pre-rain levels around the same time. The quality on what little is being harvested will be marginal and will need to stay close.

Oxnard - Demand exceeds supply. Missed the majority of the rain. Fruit quality and condition is very good with large fruit size. Still light production. We should start to see it trend up weekly.

Call your Veg-Fresh representative at (714) 446-8800 for volume and pricing information.



Blueberries

Blueberries out of Peru and the Pacific Northwest are still available with prices all over the board due to quality. We should see a downward trend in production starting next week however, prices will remain at the same level. Blueberries are still a good promotional item within all pack sizes and are readily available.

BRUSSELS

Currently harvesting in California and Mexico. Good volume in California fields.

CUCUMBERS

Conventional Cucumbers are coming out of Baja but due to the weather conditions in this area, the product remains short and high in price until the Nogales season starts in November.

CHILIES

Chilies are coming out of Baja and Northern California. Steady volume and quality is fair, except on the tomatillo husks. They have been struggling and will continue being tight until Sinaloa starts.

BELL PEPPERS

Colored Bells

The Northern California green bell pepper market is being faced with a heat challenge, which means short days for picking with most growers. Finishing up San Joaquin Valley and moving to Oxnard, Santa Maria and Gilroy. Transition from Michigan to the Southeast should be stabilized in the beginning of October.

Red bells open fill is the same situation as the green bells.

Yellow and Orange bell peppers coming out of Canada and not much out of Mexico. Steady but limited volume right now.

Green Bells

Good volume and quality on Organic Green bell peppers.

CITRUS



Nnavels

Current supplies coming from imports. Volume continues to be steady through September. California's new crop will start late October/early November.

Valencias

California is the primary juicing orange option. Demand is currently exceeding supplies. 113s/138s are extremely short with fair supplies of 88s and some 72s/56s.

Lemons

California D2 supplies have come to an end. Only remaining supplies are in storage. California D3 crop is starting this week with peak sizes 165s/140s limited on 115s and a few 95s. D3 will be the main source for California and Arizona.

Limes

Steady volume but quality not so great due to weather conditions in Veracruz, Mexico.

Grapefruit

California Star Ruby have finished and now fully transitioned into Marsh Ruby for the remainder of the season. Peak sizes 36s, 32s, 40s, 48s and 56s.



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