



September 21, 2022

## TOMATOES

### Beefsteak Tomatoes

**Conventional:** Good production out of Mexico for now. Mexico has had heavy production for over a month and we should see things level out soon. Demand back East has helped pricing move upwards. With that said, the market in the West continues to drag a bit. There is probably a \$2.00 - \$3.00 price difference between areas. Like the TOVs, Canadian production has been pretty light. Weather and Brown Rugose virus issues have hurt production. Hearing quotes in the \$15.00 - \$16.00 delivered range going back East due to the lack of availability.

**Organic:** There is better production available out of Mexico at this time. Pricing has eased a bit but sales are still in the high teens - low twenties. Overall movement has been fair to good. We should see good production out of Mexico through September. Expect production to level off or slow a bit as we approach October. Eastern Canada pricing was in the low to mid-twenties earlier in the week. Not sure what the current market situation is as of now.

### Organic Roma

There is a wide range of quality available at this time out of Mexico/Baja. Baja has new crop production starting up and we are seeing FOB quotes in the high teens - low twenties. Availability is limited and things will probably stay like this for a couple of weeks. As we move into October we will have to wait and see if new production starts up and helps availability. Product out of Mexico is into older crops and the quality is reflecting this. It has been fair at best, and that is a pretty generous opinion.

### Grape

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.

### Heirlooms

**Conventional:** California crops are gapping until the week of October 3rd against new winter plants. Very limited volume, if any, out of Canada. Demand exceeds supply.

**Organic:** Baja crops remain limited. New crop harvest should improve by the week of October 3rd. Central Mexico is currently in a crop transition gap. New crop winter plantings will begin the week of October 3rd. California harvest is down with demand exceeding supply. Most growers will be finishing up soon.



### Medley

Medley tomatoes both conventional and organic, are steady with supplies out of Baja and Central Mexico.

### Organic Cherry

California crops have finished. Mexico remains on gap until late October.

### Organic Purple Crush

Organic Purple Crush tomatoes are still light in supplies due to new crop still 1-2 weeks away.

### Organic Sweet King

Organic Sweet King tomatoes and organic round tomatoes are also still short in supply due to a crop transition.

### Round, Roma and 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.

## **Tomato on the Vine**

**Conventional:** Not much change from last week. Production out of Mexico is very good. We will have very good supplies for the rest of September. We are hearing conflicting information from California and Canada. Canada production has been light. Weather issues (high temps) along with continuing problems due to the Brown Rugose virus have hurt production. Expect things to stay this way through September. October should see things improve as new greenhouses start up production. Not sure about California production for now.

**Organic:** Very heavy supplies out of Mexico and should continue through September. Quality has been very good, but movement overall has been really slow. This is a great time to promote and we can offer very aggressive pricing through September and the beginning of October.

## **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.

### **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.

## **CITRUS**

### **Navel**

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

### **Grapefruit**

**Conventional:** 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.

**Organic:** California grapefruit D2 is winding down and will be finishing up in the next two weeks. California D3 Rio Grapefruit will start the first week of

### **Valencia**

**Conventional:** 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.

**Organic:** California is the primary orange option. Sizing is peaking on 88/113/72ct and volume will be steady.

### **Limes**

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

October. Sizing will be towards the smaller sizes peaking on 56s/64s/48s/40s.

## Lemons

**Conventional:** 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.

**Organic:** Mexico volume will pick up in September as the season progresses. New crop California D3 has started in light volumes and will be steady throughout September. Peak sizes are 140/165/200ct out of all areas at this time. Larger sizes, 115ct and larger, will be limited over the next few weeks as the industry transitions to new crop out of Mexico and California.



## BERRIES



### 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.

### Blackberries

The blackberry situation has improved as Central Mexico continues to increase production. Seeing some quality issues but overall quality is good. Quantities are at promotional levels.

### Raspberries

Raspberry production is steady out of Baja and Central Mexico has also begun to cross out of Texas. Quality continues to be good and prices are steady.

### 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 for volume and pricing information!*

## BELL PEPPERS

### Green Bells

**Conventional:** 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

### Colored Bells

**Conventional:** 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.

should be stabilized in the beginning of October.

**Organic:** Good volume and quality on Organic Green bell peppers.

## APPLES

New crop Organic Gala and Organic Honeycrisp available out of Washington. Limited Organic Granny Smith apples starting from the Northwest. California grannys are done for the season. Organic Fuji apples will be very limited until new crop starts out of Washington in late September. Limited availability on New Zealand fujis with high costs.

**Organic:** Organic Colored Bells are currently gapping out of Mexico.

## MINI SWEET PEPPERS

Good volume available from Mexico.

## CUCUMBERS

### Organic Hot House

Organic Hot House cucumbers from Baja are limited.

### Organic Slicer

Organic slicer cucumbers have been affected by the weather in Mexico. Currently gapping.

### 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.

### Persian

Persian cucumbers continue to be very short and very expensive for both conventional and organic. Market will remain short until the end of October.



## BRUSSELS SPROUTS

**Conventional:** Currently harvesting in California and Mexico.

**Organic:** Limited volume on Organic Brussels from Mexico due to quality concerns.

## 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.

## GREEN BEANS

Currently gapping on product from Mexico due to weather.

## TROPICALS

## Pineapples

**Conventional:** The pineapple market still remains high in the mid-teens as the rains are not allowing the fruit to color and ripen up. Less than 40 loads of Mexican pineapple are still crossing into the USA as reported by the USDA. Storms in Mexico are hampering the volumes coming out of there.

**Organic:** Good supplies on Good-Life Organic Pineapple size 7/8ct for the next few weeks. Market is good. Very few Organic Mexican pineapples crossing this week.



## Mango

Mostly real big sizes on Keitt mango varieties now. Peak sizing is 5/6/7s with very few 9/10/12s. This could be the last week packing Mexican mangos out of Los Mochis, Sinaloa. The recent tropical storms have affected the quality as they are showing more external scarring and pitting. Brazilian mangos now coming into the East Coast only.

## SNAP PEAS

We are seeing quality issues at the moment on organic snap peas.

## SQUASH

### Organic Soft Squash

Currently gapping on soft squash from Mexico due to weather issues.

### Organic Hard Squash

Great supplies and quality on all new crop Organic Squash out of Central California. Other new varieties this season include the Organic Black Futsu and Organic Tetsukabuto. This is an excellent time to promote!

## SEASONAL

### Organic Melons

Currently harvesting Organic Mini Watermelons out of California Central Valley. Should be finishing up the season around the end of September.



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