

{{ time_now|date:"January 2, 2006" }}



MARKET REPORT

TOMATOES

Florida: cool weather has substantially reduced harvest volume last week & this week. Markets continue to be in the mid to high teens for best quality on both romas and round tomatoes.

Mexico: finally regular supply volumes of both roma and vine ripe tomatoes are crossing daily. Markets in the mid-teens for best quality.



LETTUCE

Green Leaf: quality and weights are good. Pricing has come down.

Romaine: quality is good but weights are a little light.

Cabbage: red, green & napa cabbage continue to be in good supply. Quality is looking very nice.

Iceberg: lettuce market has stabilized. Quality is good. Product is available and supply looks to be on budget.

BERRIES

Strawberries: the strawberry market is strengthening. We are seeing fewer volume deals being offered. Central Mexico has the largest portion of the open market volume we are seeing amongst the five active growing regions.

- Santa Maria - crews are moving slowly after the recent rain events, cleaning up the fields while they strip fruit & pack. Volumes are very low.
- Oxnard - as is the situation in Santa Maria, crews are moving slowly, stripping and packing as they go. There is a lot of fruit being thrown down, but yields are expected to slowly improve as we move into the weekend.

- Central Mexico - good volume is coming in from this area, with much of it being transferred to California to cover orders due to the rain.
- Baja - the same weather that affected California also reached the Baja Peninsula to lesser extent. Crews are also moving through the ranches at a slow pace, cleaning and culling as they pack.
- Florida - product is still coming off at a steady pace. Shippers are reporting numbers are much more manageable due to better demand and Ad participation at the retail level.

Blueberries - we are seeing a short gap in availability resulting from the Chilean transition. Offshore Chilean containers have been delayed at the ports. Central Mexico production is low due to the weather. We expect this situation to change over the next 10 days.

Blackberries - no real change on this item coming out of Central Mexico. There is good availability in Texas and California on the transferred fruit.

Raspberries - supplies are still light due to weather and early pruning in Mexico.



AVOCADO

Avocados are in good supply as Mexico continues to harvest. Smaller sizes are more prevalent resulting in a disparity between the larger and smaller fruit.

VEGGIES

Organic Eggplant: steady volume out of Mexico with good pricing.

Cilantro: higher pricing with rain on the coast.

Green & Black Kale: good supply

Onion Leeks: available, quality has improved.

Italian & Curly Parsley: back into good supply

Broccoli Crowns: higher prices due to past rain that has limited supplies.

Jicama: new crop good supply out of Morelos, Mexico.

Brussels: very high prices with short supplies. Going to be short until new crops get started. Mexico growers still do not have supply.

Organic Brussels: limited volume due to rain and insect damage. New crop starts in Mexicali 2nd/3rd week January. Need cooler weather in Mexicali.

Green & Red Cabbage: steady with mixed pricing; seeing firm availability.

Corn: all corn available out of Nogales! We are seeing more supply and quality is improving.

Onions: good storage volumes and good quality on red and yellow onions. Yellow onion market is moving up slightly this week. Very limited supply on good quality white onions right now. Market is very high right now. Quality is varying with some slight greening



and some water staining present. Mexico is scratching on white onions so we could see some in the next week or two.

POTATOES

Russet: very good supplies on all russet potatoes. Market remains cheap still. Demand is off slightly in the New Year.

Red & Gold: all areas are shipping red and gold potatoes. Market remains steady. Quality is very good.

White: decent supplies are available. Demand is fair and market steady.

Chipping: we are shipping chipper potatoes daily!



CITRUS

Lemon: market is getting stronger. Peaking on large sizes (75-115) and heavier to choice grade. Small lemons are limited.

Grapefruit: will increase harvest of California fresh crop next week. We have all sizes available.

Navels: demand is steady. Fruit size has shifted to larger (peak 56/48s). Small navels are limited.

Limes: volume limited for 2-3 weeks in January. Prices continue to rise. Shipments have been significantly limited due to rainy weather in Mexico and compounded by back to back holidays. Currently, transitioning to the new crop which will consist toward smaller sized fruit. We are seeing increased oil spotting on the smaller sizes due to immature rinds. Expecting market prices to continue to be high into January. February/March tend to be difficult times for limes from Mexico.

BELL PEPPERS

Bell Peppers: good volume on all. Steady prices.

HH Bells: good volume from Mexico. Prices on all HH are coming down.

CHILI PEPPERS

- Jalapeño - good supply

Current growing regions: Sinaloa & Sonora, Mexico

Harvest from both regions on most chili peppers and low volume on tomatillo. Supply will stabilize into February.

Active peppers this week:

Pasilla | Habanero | Tomatillo | Red Fresno

- Serrano - good supply
- Anaheim - good supply
- Caribe - good supply
- Red Fresno - **extremely limited**
- Habanero - limited
- Pasilla - limited
- Tomatillo - limited

mostly all due to holiday from the fields, packing shed, drivers - should see stability into next week.



Veg-Fresh Farms

1400 West Rincon Street, Corona, CA 92878

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