

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



TOMATOES

Outlook: anticipate erratic tomato supplies and elevated pricing on tomatoes for much of March and all of April until the Spring tomato crops come back into production in May.

Roma tomatoes: roma tomato supplies will remain tight over the next 10 weeks after last week's freeze/frost event in Florida. Many various vegetable categories are impacted. There will be salvage harvest for the next few weeks then supplies will drop off for the months of March and April. Damage assessment is ongoing. North of Immokalee and Ruskin Palmetto is where damage is the worst. Expect return to normal supplies in early May.

Round tomatoes: the round tomato crops that froze in Florida will be replanted to be harvested in May. Until then, for the next 4-5 weeks there will be salvage level supplies from what plants survived last week's freeze.

Mexico: Extremely wet weather during the growing cycle has impacted Mexican vegetable crops across the board. Disease caused by wet weather presents as drastically reduced pack out yields, which in turn affects cost.

Organic Heirlooms: harvest out of Mexico is steady. Forecasting steady harvest through most of February, barring any unforeseen weather. Markets are up slightly.

Heirlooms: harvest out of Mexico is steady. Forecasting harvest to remain steady for most of February, barring any unforeseen weather. Markets remain steady.



TOV's: we are finally seeing better supplies out of Mexico and Canada. FOB's have settled in the mid-teens. We are still seeing good demand.

Organic TOV's: good supplies out of Mexico and the USA. FOB costs have settled in the \$16.00 - \$17.00 range. Deals were being made on smaller sized fruit. Overall fair to good demand.

Beefsteak: good supplies out of Canada and Mexico. FOB cost range from \$10.00 - \$13.00. Demand is fair to good.

Organic Beefsteak: fair to good supplies out of Mexico. FOB cost is mostly in the mid to high teens. Demand has been fair to good.

Organic Roma: very limited supplies out of Mexico. Weather issues earlier in the year have hampered production and quality. Expect light supplies through March. Due to limited supplies, pricing is being set daily. We can expect higher quotes next week as we are currently in a demand exceeds availability situation.

Snacking tomato: organic and conventional grape tomatoes are extremely short this week. Cold weather in Florida has caused a massive gap in supply and increase in prices. Medley costs have also increased. Cherry tomatoes remain very short as well. Market is in the low to mid 20s.

All snacking tomatoes remain in very short supply.

CUCUMBERS



Persian: remain very short and very expensive due to cold temps in the growing areas. Conditions will likely stay this way for a couple more weeks.

English: continue to be short and expensive. It will be a couple more weeks before supplies improve.

Organic Slicer: very limited. Supplies coming out of Mexico with prices still very high.

SQUASH & YAMS

Organic Hard Squash: organic spaghetti squash is very short and it will remain like this for about 3 weeks until new fields start up. Organic honeynut supplies improving a bit but costs remain high.

Organic Soft Squash: zucchini is very tight. Prices have climbed up into the 40s. [Call for availability.](#)

Yams: the quality and supply remain steady on conventional and organic yams.

FRUIT

Organic Apples: steady volume continues on most varieties out of the Northwest. Honeycrisp apples will remain tight with high costs.

Mango: Peruvian mango market remains higher than typical years. Quality in the fields have been varying. Some Mexico Ataulfos have started up in a small way. Volume will pick up later this month.

Organic Mango: the Peruvian organic kent mango market is steady but remains higher than normal due to a shorter crop.

Pineapple: market and supply is steady this week on Costa Rican pineapples. Lower volumes have been reported out of Mexico.



Strawberries: we are in the last days of the Valentine's Day berry pull period. Overall demand will begin to diminish moving into the weekend. Markets remain firm.

- Santa Maria/Oxnard - these areas will also continue to receive rain up to Thursday. Rain totals will be light which most forecasts predicting .75" to 1.00" over the three-day period. Growers will be packing heavy today trying to stay ahead of the weather. There is another sizable front which will move into the area on Monday 2/16 which is drawing more concern from the growers because of the more intense nature of the forecasts, some calling for 1.00" per day over a 2-to-3-day period.
- Baja MX - this area will see increasing production over the next several weeks. Rain in this area will not happen this week. The second storm next Monday could dip low enough to affect this area in a minor way.
- Central Mexico - there are lighter quantities of product crossing into the U.S. through McAllen and Laredo, Texas. Central Mexico is currently on a declining production curve as we move into March.
- Florida - we are seeing the slow process of recovery beginning in this area after the multiple hard freeze events from last week. Quality and quantities have taken a big hit. Only very small amount of production is coming out of this area.

Blueberries: most shippers are reporting lower numbers out of Central Mexico, Chile and California. Off-shore fruit is coming in sparsely to the ports. Mexican production is being hindered by cold weather and California is just scratching the surface of their Central Valley season. We expect this category to remain light with firm markets as we move into March.

Blackberries: prices have been firming up on this item as demand for product has been on the rise for the Valentine's Day holiday.

Raspberries: Baja and Central Mexico production continues to be steady for the Valentine's Day pull period.

VEGGIES

Organic Eggplant: steady volume out of Mexico with pricing going up.

Cilantro: limited but available. Pricing is steady at elevated levels.

Green & Black Kale: good supply

Brussels: wide range in pricing with more supply entering the market. Quality is all over the place.

Organic Brussels: are currently out of Mexicali, Mexico with volume and availability starting to improve.

Onion Leeks: available, quality has improved.

Italian & Curly Parsley: steady pricing and availability. Product available from the coast and the desert.

Broccoli Crowns: good supply on the coast and out of Mexico. Desert shippers are still short. Pricing is all over the place.

Jicama: new crop good supply out of La Paz, Mexico.

Asparagus: new crop from Mexicali, San Luis and Caborca, Mexico harvesting daily with additional blocks coming into production. Demand exceeds supply with Valentine's ads in place. Most volume going to contracts/ads causing open market supply low with high prices.

Caborca region through April is down 20-30% this year.

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

Corn: corn out of Florida is having issues/freezing which has led to a major pull in demand of Mexican corn. Pricing has increased significantly.

Onions: good volumes on storage red and yellow onions from the Pacific Northwest area. Very limited supply on good quality white onions right now. Quality on Mexican white onions are getting better; they cut clean but are still showing some slight greening. Market remains high. Nevada has good white onions, but they are very expensive.

Organic Onions: quality & supply remain steady. Ad opportunities available.



POTATOES

Russet: very good supplies on all russet potatoes. Market remains low still.

Organic Russet: quality and supply remain steady out of the North West. Ad opportunities available.

Red & Gold: red potatoes are moving up in price as the quality has been fair out of Idaho.

White: demand is fair and market steady. Quality is decent out of Washington.

Chipping: Veg Fresh is shipping chipper potatoes daily! We have a 10/5# Fresh Fries chipper bag available.

CITRUS

Rain will affect harvest & packing through next week

Navels: excellent volume on fancy grade 56's through 88's.

Organic Navels: organic strong demand. Please pre-book bags and 72's and smaller.

Lemon: conventional supply is good. Available on fancy and choice 75 through 140s. Should tighten up due to limited harvest.

Organic Lemon: we are shipping all California fruit now. Strong demand with limited volume.

Grapefruit: currently peaking on 23's through 40's. Small are limited.

Organic Grapefruit: peaking on 23/27's then 32/36's. Small fruit limited due to bag demand.

Deals on 36's through 48's.

Limes: pricing is beginning to stabilize and quality starting to improve. We are still seeing limited shelf life. Demand for limes have fallen off as the market settles into the new year. The supply out of Mexico remains steady. The East Coast and South Florida started offshore arrivals from Colombia and Peruvian limes. Sizing peaking on 230/250 and smaller fruit.



BELL PEPPERS

Organic Green: Mexico has limited volume; prices are rising.

Organic HH Color: Mexico has limited volume; prices are high. Call for availability.



Bell Peppers: steady volume on all green and red bells. Yellow bells are limited with price going up.

HH Bells: limited volume from Mexico. Prices on HH are climbing up in the high \$20's. Limited supply on all colored bells.



Organic Mini Sweet Peppers: good volume from Mexico.

CHILI PEPPERS

Current growing regions: Sinaloa & Sonora, Mexico

Good supply from both regions on all chili peppers and tomatillo.

- Jalapeño - good supply
- Serrano - good supply
- Anaheim - good supply
- Caribe - good supply
- Red Fresno - **limited supply**
- Habanero - good supply
- Pasilla - good supply
- Thai chili - **limited supply**
- Shishito - **limited supply**
- Tomatillo - **limited supply**



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