

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



MARKET REPORT

TOMATOES

Mexico: There is WIDE VARIATION in quality. The best quality romas remain in the high \$20s. The best quality rounds are trending in the high \$30s. Cheaper prices being battling around are on smaller, less desirable sizes and “barely in condition” fruit.

Florida: This week and next week will be the two lightest volume tomato harvest weeks in Florida. Demand is “fair” on light supplies. Quality is excellent.

Organic Heirlooms: Harvest out of Mexico is steady. New volume crops will begin harvest in early-mid April. At that time, volume will improve. Markets remain steady.

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TOV's: Fair to good supplies out of Mexico. Florida production should be starting up in a few weeks. Good demand overall. We'll see how things continue.

Organic TOVs: Better supplies this week as a few growers are flushing this week on production. FOB cost is mostly in the higher teens. But quoting lower for volume orders. Demand showing fair to good movement.

Beefsteak: We are still seeing light supplies out of Mexico. Like the TOVs, Canada should start up soon. FOB cost is still holding in the low \$20s range. Good demand. We'll see how things progress into next week. Vine Ripe cost dipped this week.

Organic Beefsteak: Light supplies continue out of Mexico. FOB costs have been in the low \$20s. We could see higher costs next week due to light supplies. Very good demand due to very light supplies. Expect this to continue into next week.

Organic Roma: Very light supplies out of Mexico. Not sure when things will improve. FOB costs continues to hold in the high \$40s. Demand exceeds availability.

Snacking tomato: Grape tomatoes are up with a little better demand. Medley market is very active with short supply; pricing is high. Cherry tomatoes are in very few supply; market is still red hot.

CUCUMBERS

Persian: There is a little more production on Persian Cucumbers. Production out of Canada is improving which will help the market. Conventional and organic Persian Cucumbers are still tight. Production should continue to improve over the next couple weeks.

English: Production is still light, but improving out of Canada. Costs are still high, but slowly getting better with the improved production out of Canada.

Organic Slicer: Very Limited. Supplies coming out of Mexico, with prices holding.

Slicer: Supply on slicer cucumbers out of Nogales remains extremely limited to non-existent. Production in Sonora is past its peak, with plants declining and yields getting lighter. Demand continues to exceed supply. Market is expected to remain elevated through April.

SQUASH

Organic Hard Squash: Organic hard squash is limited and costs are high. The market will be tight for the next several week with light production out of Mexico.

Organic Soft Squash: Zucchini and Yellow squash is very tight. Prices are steady in the High \$30's.

Yellow Squash: Supplies on yellow squash out of Nogales remain limited to light as production transitions through growing region In Mexico. Cooler weather has slowed down harvesting, tightening overall availability.

FRUIT

Organic Apples: Steady storage supplies out of the Northwest on most organic apples. Honeycrisp apples will remain tight with high costs.

Mango: MX Hadens and Tommy Atkins are arriving now. Prices are higher and sizes are larger. Volume will continue to pick up later this month. Lots of Ataulfo mangos available right now out of Mexico.

Organic Mango: Peruvian Organic Kent mango production will be ending in a week or so. Quality is good. Mexico will be starting up soon and will go through September.

Pineapple: Market is up this week slightly on CR pineapples. More volume being reported out of Mexico. Should remain steady for 3 plus weeks.

Strawberries: Availability is good across all growing regions. West coast quality is excellent. Sizing is good in the 18 to 22 count range per clamshell. Florida fruit remains hit and miss, with some lots arriving fine while others have reacted to the recent freeze event adversely and are showing problems.

- Santa Maria/Oxnard - Ideal weather conditions are forecasted over the next two weeks, supporting good yields and high quality. We will see increased yields in these areas moving into next week.
- Baja MX - This area will again see increased production over the next several weeks due to ideal growing conditions.
- Central Mexico - CEMEX is nearly complete as production in the U.S. ramps up. The need for late crop transferred fruit is over. Most of what is left will be kept for the domestic national market.
- Florida - We will see steady production continue in the area as temperatures remain in the low to mid-80s through next week. Quality has been variable as varieties have reacted differently to the various cold fronts we recently experienced.

Blueberries: Most shippers are still reporting low numbers out of CEMEX, Chile, and California. CEMEX is cold; it is still a little early for California to ramp up. The Chilean product is very short as they finish up that season. We should see better availability on the West Coast in the last week of March, depending on the weather.

Blackberries: CEMEX is on their seasonal decline. The transferred product is light. California will begin in mid to late April.

Raspberries: CEMEX production is much lighter for most shippers, which is causing markets to remain elevated.

VEGGIES

Organic Eggplant: Steady volume out of Mexico with pricing holding.

Eggplant: Eggplant out of Nogales is limited, keeping the market firm. Demand remains steady.

Onions: Some of the Northwest shippers are winding down on some of their varieties. Not a lot of good white onions left up North, but yellows and reds are still going for another month or so before the desert onion deal starts up. Mexican White Onions are still showing some greening and not a ton of volume crossing. Market has come off a bit.

Cilantro: Market steady; most of the volume comes out of Baja, MX with a smaller percent coming out of local US production until the first week of April. NV still has good white onions, but they are still very expensive.

Green & Black Kale: Steady supply.

Onion Leeks: MX good volume.

Italian & Curly Parsley: Steady supply on both MX and US; all looks smooth for the next 6-8 weeks.

Broccoli Crowns: Steady price in all areas.

Jicama: New crop good supply - La Paz MX.

Brussels: Steady, with the long supplies starting to clean up.

Organic Brussels: Mexicali – volume and availability starting to improve. Starting to see an increase in quality issues as the weather in Mexicali begins to warm up.

Green & Red Cabbage: Mostly steady; with St. Patrick's Day kicking in we are seeing higher demand.

Corn: High prices on all 3 still - white, yellow & bicolor.

Organic Onions: We are getting near the tail end of the organic crop, with new crop out of Mexico starting. Growers usually will be carrying both depending on how well their storage crop is holding.

Org Yellow quality has been strong. Org Red quality has been struggling with early sprouting and will most likely jump into Mexico when available.

Org White has been fair, however historically Org Whites are usually the first to either run out or transition to new crop due to quality.

New crop will be sometime at the end of March or April out of Mexico.



POTATOES

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

Org Russets: Current crop is holding well, with sizing peaking in the Large with product 80/70ct and smaller going into bags. New crop out of Bakersfield will be starting in late April/May.

Red & Gold: Red potatoes are steady on demand and price as the quality has been just fair out of Idaho.

Organic Red Potatoes: Less problems with leticel, but dealing with russeting issues.

Organic Yukon/Gold: Struggling with typical late storage issues of russeting and leticel. Once new crop starts, we anticipate deals on the old crop to help get cleaned up. Much of what is shipping requires a second touch.

White: Limited supply. Quality is decent of Washington.

Organic Sweet Potatoes: California's Crop has been slightly lighter, similar to last year's volumes. Growers continue to pull from their storage. Supply on Japanese has begun to

tighten up due to supply limitations. Supply and quality remain strong. New crop isn't due till mid to late summer.

Chipping: Veg Fresh is shipping chipper potatoes daily! Shipping all varieties of conventional sweet potatoes. We have a 10/5# "Fresh Fries" Chipper bag available.

CITRUS

Lemon: Conventional steady demand and supply. Large fancy is tight.

Organic Lemon: Organic demand has picked up along with pricing. Supplies will start to tighten up.

Grapefruit: Packing Star Rubys have excellent volume 23s thru 56s.

Organic Grapefruit: Organic Peaking on 27/32s with good availability thru 40 count.

Navels: Conventional packing good volume. Run of size both grades with peak on 72s.

Organic Navels: Organic can offer special buys on 36/40/48s. With good availability thru 88s.

Limes: The lime market continues to rise rapidly and is now at levels not seen in the past 5+ years. Costs in Mexico are rising as yields decline due to colder seasonal temperatures. Cold temperatures in January caused fruit drop in the groves, which is impacting production yields. Off shore relief, primarily from Colombia and Peru, report production is also experiencing lighter yields. Expect the lime market to remain extremely tight with pricing elevated through March and into April.

Pricing and volume remain highly volatile and could change daily pending availability. Growers are beginning to cut and/or pro rate inbound by 50-60%.



BELL PEPPERS

Organic Green: Mexico has limited volume; prices are climbing near the \$50.00 #25 box.

Organic HH Color: Mexico gapping for 2 weeks.



Bell Peppers: Limited volume on Green Bells. Price on Green is still going up. Please call for availability.

HH Bells: Steady volume from Mexico. Price on HH is increasing.



Organic Mini Sweet Peppers: Good volume from Mexico.

CHILI PEPPERS

Current growing regions: Sinaloa & Sonora, Mexico

- Jalapeño - Limited supply
- Serrano - Limited supply
- Anaheim - Good supply

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

- Caribe - **Extremely limited supply**
- Red Fresno - **Limited supply**
- Habanero - **Limited supply**
- Pasilla - **Good supply**
- Thai chili - **Extremely limited supply**
- Shishito - **Extremely limited supply**
- Tomatillo - **Extremely limited supply**



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