

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



MARKET REPORT

TOMATOES

Mexico: demand exceeds supplies on all tomato categories, now including grape tomatoes. Markets are in the mid to high \$30s on short supplies. Looking to recover back to normal supplies mid to late April.

Florida: is in a virtual no supply situation this week and next on fresh tomatoes. The plants that will begin to recover from the freeze are 3 to 4 weeks away from normal supplies again. Markets in the high \$30s.

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. There is some product out of the USA. Canada product should start soon. FOB market is ranging mostly in the \$13.00 - \$14.00 range. Good demand. TOV's movement has picked up a bit due to shortages on romas and vine ripers.

Organic TOVs: Fair to good supplies out of Mexico. Canada will have product starting up in April. FOB costs are ranging from \$16.00 to \$20.00. Demand is fair to good.

Beefsteak: fair supplies out of Mexico. Canada should be starting soon. FOB costs are currently at \$22.00 - \$24.00. We could see higher prices next week. Good demand due to lighter than normal availability out of Mexico on vine ripe tomatoes.

Organic Beefsteak: Light supplies continue out of Mexico. FOB costs are \$24.00 - \$26.00. Very good demand due to very light supplies.

Organic Roma: still not much production out of Mexico. Hopefully we'll have better supplies starting in April. FOB costs ranging from \$48.95 to \$50.95. Demand exceeds availability

still.

Snacking tomato: market on all snacking tomatoes is way up and on-existent.

CUCUMBERS

Persian: production continues to improve on the organic and conventional persian cucumbers, but the markets are still high. Production should continue to improve over the next couple of weeks.

English: Production is light in Mexico but slightly improving in Canada. Costs are still high but slowly getting better with the improved production out of Canada. Volume should increase in early April.

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

SQUASH

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

Organic Soft Squash: Zucchini is steady. Prices are coming down. Yellow squash is still limited with high price.

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 available 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 mango season is done. Quality is good. Mexican Tommy Atkins coming in now. Market is down slightly.

Pineapple: Market is up again this week on Costa Rican and Ecuadorian pineapples. Freight increases causing higher markets. Not much extra fruit coming in.

Strawberries: we currently have 6 districts producing simultaneously.

- Santa Maria/Oxnard - Ideal growing conditions with warmer temperatures have stimulated production in both areas. Quality is strong.
- Salinas/Watsonville - we are already seeing light production coming out of this area. Some shippers are reporting that they are 4 to 6 weeks ahead of schedule in this area due to heavy winter rain saturation followed by ideal growing conditions.
- Baja MX - good volume is expected to continue crossing into the U.S through the Otay Mesa and San Diego areas.
- Central Mexico - this area is finished for the season.

- Florida - some growers are still very active in this area, while others are seeing lighter numbers due to crop loss resulting from the recent frost events in February. We should see some shippers begin to pull out of this area due to quality issues and late plant cycles. This will occur over the next several days

Blueberries: this item remains somewhat short in supply as Central Mexico and South America are declining past peak season. Florida crops were hurt badly by winter freezes. Some estimates of crop loss are as high as 80%. California harvests are underway and will be increasing slightly week over week.

Blackberries: Central Mexico production is past peak volume, reducing availability. This situation should improve moving into late March and early April.

Raspberries: Central Mexico production is past peak and availability is extremely limited. Delayed transfers and cartel activities continue to adversely affect numbers. We will be in demand exceeds-supply-situation through the end of March.

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.

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.

Green & Black Kale: limited but some available out of Mexico. Gapping locally for 12 days.

Onion Leeks: Mexico good volume.

Italian & Curly Parsley: Steady supply on both Mexico and USA.

Broccoli Crowns: mostly steady prices, desert supplies are a bit light as everyone shifts to Salinas/the coast.

Jicama: New crop good supply - La Paz MX.

Brussels: steady volume still and looking good with availability for Easter pull.

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.

Onions: some of the Northwest shippers are winding down on some of their varieties. Nevada is winding down in about 3 weeks. The desert deal should start in a month. Not a lot of good white onions left up North, but yellow and reds are still going for another month or so before the desert onion deal starts up. Mexican white onions are still showing some slight greening. Market has come off a bit. Nevada still has good white onions, but they are still very expensive. Some Mexico red, yellow and white onions are crossing through Texas.

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.

Green & Red Cabbage: steady on both with good volume out of the desert and coast.

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



POTATOES

Russet: Very good supplies on all the Russet potatoes. Market remains very low still and will probably continue.

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: good supplies and quality out of California now.

White: call for availability.

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. Fruit is peaking on large sizes. Smaller fruit market is stronger. Best value is large choice.

Organic Lemon: Organic demand will continue to increase and supplies will get tighter as we head into Spring/Summer.

Grapefruit: Packing conventional Star Rubys have excellent volume 23s thru 56s. Great internal color and blush.

Organic Grapefruit: Organic peaking on 32/36s with good availability on all sizes. Quality is excellent.

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

Organic Navels: Organic can offer special buys on 36/40/48s with good availability through 88s. Season will finish early. Valencia's could start next month.

Limes: the lime market currently still remains elevated. The crop has now transitioned into the new production cycle. Higher percentage is smaller fruit, 60-70% small sizing 250, 230, and 200s. Large fruit and small fruit will remain scarce. Market direction will be dictated by demand (with \$70 plus expect demand to slow)

Offshore fruit out of Colombia have also declined. Recent rainfall both in Colombia and Peru has impacted quality, increase oil spotting and skin breakdown.

We will continue to keep updated as conditions change appreciate everyone's understanding and patience as we navigate this challenging market.



BELL PEPPERS

Organic Green: Mexico has steady limited; prices are going up.

Organic HH Color: Mexico is gapping. Please call.

Bell Peppers: very limited volume on Green Bells and Red. Price on Green is going up quick. Red is very tight with higher prices.

HH Bells: Steady volume from Mexico. Price on HH is going up on all colors.

Organic Mini Sweet Peppers: Good volume from Mexico.



CHILI PEPPERS

Current growing regions: Sinaloa & Sonora, Mexico

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

- Jalapeño - Limited supply
- Serrano - Limited supply
- Anaheim - Limited supply
- Caribe - Extremely limited supply
- Red Fresno - Limited supply
- Habanero - Limited supply
- Pasilla - Limited supply
- Thai chili - Extremely limited supply
- Shishito - Extremely limited supply
- Tomatillo - Extremely limited supply



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