

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



MARKET REPORT

TOMATOES

Mexico: demand exceeds inadequate supplies. Drastically reduced crop yields from blight and virus damage to current crops. All shippers are **Act of God** on supply contracts. Markets in the mid to high \$40s for best quality. Lower price point offerings are unusable.

Florida: all tomato growers continue in an **Act of God** supply and pricing mode. Little to nothing being harvested or packed. Orders going heavily pro-rated or unfilled altogether. Looking to begin recovering in about 3 weeks from now. Markets in the high \$40s to mid \$50s.

Organic Heirlooms: Harvest out of Mexico is down. New volume crops will begin harvest around the third week of April. At that time, volume will improve. Markets have elevated.

Heirlooms: Harvest out of Mexico is limited. New volume crops will begin harvest around the 3rd week of April. At that time volume will improve. Markets have elevated.



TOV's: Fair to good supplies out of Mexico. Canadian production should start picking up. FOB market is mostly in the \$14.00 - \$15.00 range. Good demand as other tomatoes are in the \$40s - \$50 price range.

Organic TOVs: Fair to good supplies out of Mexico. Canada is starting production. FOB costs are ranging from \$16.00 to \$20.00. Fair to good movement.

Beefsteak: lighter supplies out of Mexico. Canada should start up with volume in about 2-3 weeks. FOB costs are currently at \$22.00 - \$24.00 and will probably be higher by the weekend. 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. Heading into the high \$20s by the weekend. Very good demand due to very light supplies.

Organic Roma: still seeing light supplies out of Mexico. Production should start picking up in a week or two. FOB costs are still holding in the \$48.95 - \$50.95 range. Very good demand. It slowed down a little due to the high costs.

Snacking tomato: market on all snacking tomatoes is very high and keeps increasing. Currently in **Act of God** for all snacking tomatoes.

CUCUMBERS

Persian: better production out of Canada and Mexico on conventional and organic persian cucumbers. Markets are slowly coming down and quality is nice. Production will continue to improve over the next couple of weeks.

English: Production is still slow in Mexico but Canada is improving. Should see much better production from Canada in early April.

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

SQUASH

Organic Hard Squash: Organic hard squash is very 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 and yellow squash has good volume out of Mexico. Prices are coming down.

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:

- [Santa Maria/Oxnard](#) - growers are packing slowly to keep heat-damaged fruit from entering the pack-out. Reports are that crews are packing for processing and culling about 30 to 40 percent of the overall production. Yields will take several more days to recover from the high temperatures we received last week. Recovery will be a slow but steady process. Fruit sizing, in some cases, will increase to 26 to 28 berries per clamshell. This smaller sizing will further reduce carton counts for the shippers.
- [Salinas/Watsonville](#) - we are seeing the same type of heat-related issues in this area as well. Plants in the Watsonville area fared slightly better than those in Salinas and

South County.

- Baja MX - volume is light crossing into the USA. This area was also negatively affected by last week's heat.
- Florida - the season is nearly over in this area. Quality issues are becoming more pronounced.

Blueberries: this item remains in short in supply as Central Mexico and South America are declining past peak season. Florida is producing lighter-than-normal numbers due to the recent freezes it experienced last month. 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 early April.

Raspberries: Central Mexico production is past peak and availability is extremely limited. We will be in a 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: prices are slightly higher.

Green & Black Kale: steady supply.

Onion Leeks: steady prices and good volume.

Italian & Curly Parsley: steady on the curly, slightly higher price on the Italian.

Broccoli Crowns: steady prices with good volume out of the desert and coast.

Jicama: New crop good supply - La Paz MX.

Brussels: slightly firmer quotes as more demand enters the market 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.

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

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.

Corn: high prices on all 3 still - white, yellow & bicolor. California shippers are starting up in the desert.



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. Price is starting to climb.

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. Demand is strong on 56s and smaller now. Look for pricing to increase next week.

Organic Navels: Organic can offer special buys on 36 and 40s. Market is getting very tight on bulk and bag sizes.

Valencia - conventional valencia oranges will start next week. Small sizes will be very

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)

Also, with current situations with the middle east fuel cost has been rising and with the already limited availability of truck drivers the cost from McAllen to California is \$5 additional cost per case.

Offshore fruit out of Colombia have also declined. Recent rainfall both in Colombia and Peru have impacted quality, increasing oil spotting and skin breakdown. We will continue to update as conditions change.

strong for foodservice business.



BELL PEPPERS

Organic Green: Mexico has limited product; prices are going up. Please call first.

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



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