

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



MARKET REPORT

TOMATOES

Mexico: The new Sonora/Obregon region has just begin producing Roma and Round tomatoes finally. The addition of this new area will take the edge off of what has been too few supplies to cover demand the past 14 days. Markets remain elevated.

Florida: Florida continues to run less volume of tomatoes week over week due to the aftereffects of the freeze event. Markets are high for what little product is available.

Organic Heirlooms: Harvest out of Mexico remains down. New volume crops will begin harvest in April. At that time volume will improve. Markets continue to elevate.

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TOV's: Supplies have tightened up out of all areas. Better demand and lighter supplies is creating a void on everyday availability. FOB market has shot back up and we could see higher cost next week. Demand has picked up to supplement shortages on roma and vine ripe tomatoes.

Organic TOV's: Fair supplies out of Mexico. FOB cost has moved up just to be in line with the conventional market. Demand is showing fair movement. We are not seeing the same demand on organics as conventional.

Beefsteak: Light to fair supplies. Production has dropped off and will not pick up until Canada starts up. FOB cost is up. We could see higher prices as we move into the weekend. Beef demand, like TOV's, has picked up significantly due to roma and vine ripe shortages.

Organic Beefsteak: Light supplies out of Mexico. We could see supplies being packed as conventional due to the stronger market. A few dollars under the conventional market. Demand has picked up due to limited supplies on the conventional side.

Organic Roma: Supplies are still very short. We are at least 2-3 weeks out from seeing things starting to improve. Demand exceeds availability. We should continue to see high demand until new production starts up.

Snacking tomato: Grape tomatoes are up with a little better demand. Medleys have better volume, but less demand. Cherry tomatoes are in very few supply; market is still red hot.

CUCUMBERS

Persian: Conventional and organic Persian Cucumbers remain tight and costs are high. Production should improve in a couple more weeks.

English: Production is still light in both Mexico and Canada. Canadian production expected to increase at the end of the month. Costs remain high on both conventional and organic euros.

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

Slicer: Market keeps rising, similar situation as the tomatoes! Product is still extremely limited to non-existent on all sizes. Shippers are saying they did not receive any product in Nogales today.

SQUASH & YAMS

Organic Hard Squash: Costs remain high on all organic squash with limited volume.

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

Yellow Squash: Remains limited and tighter than normal as squash production transitions between regions. Expect day to day availability and active pricing until production stabilizes and volumes increase.

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

FRUIT

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

Mango: Peruvian mango season is winding down, 2 more weeks. Some MX Hadens and Tommy Atkins and will start shipping in a few weeks. Volume will pick up later this month. Mostly Altaulfos coming in from Mexico now.

Organic Mango: Peruvian Organic Kent mango season still going for a few weeks. Quality is good. Market is steady.

Pineapple: Market and supply is down this week on CR and Mexican pineapples. Lower volumes 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.

Cilantro: Market steady and good supply.

Green & Black Kale: Steady price; expect a gap on supply for 10-12 days.

Onion Leeks: US and MX steady supply.

Italian & Curly Parsley: Steady price on US and MX. Smooth transition to local expected by end of April.

Broccoli Crowns: Still good supply on the coast and out of MX; price mostly steady.

Jicama: New crop, good supply.

Brussels: Easy pricing and solid availability this week as shippers continue pushing.

Organic Brussels: Mexicali - volume and availability improving; starting to see increase in quality issues.

Green & Red Cabbage: Steady on both; with St. Patrick's Day kicking in we should see pricing rise a bit.

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

Onions: Some of the PNW shippers are winding down on some of varieties. Not a lot of good white onions left, but yellows and reds are still going strong. Volume and quality on Mexican white onions is getting slightly better. They cut clean but are still showing some slight greening. Market remains high. NV still 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: Limited supply. Quality is decent of Washington.

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: Steady demand and supply. Large fancy is tight.

Organic Lemon: Packing steady volume, good run of size and both grades. Demand has increased in March.

Grapefruit: Packing good volume on all Star Rubys. Have all sizes 23s thru 64s.

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

Navels: We start harvesting gibbed Washington navels week of 3/9. Will have good run of size. Can offer ad and promos March thru May.

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

Limes: The lime market continues to rise rapidly. 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. The yield will remain through March and into April.

At this time harvesting and packing operations are continuing as scheduled. However, transportation has been impacted. Grower/Shippers are uncertain regarding outbound trucks and the timing of product crossing into the US. Expect potential loading and crossing delays over the next several days.

BELL PEPPERS



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

Organic HH Color: Mexico has limited volume; prices are climbing again.



Bell Peppers: Limited volume on Green Bells & 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 steady, all colors are available.



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 - Good supply
- 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



Veg-Fresh Farms

1400 West Rincon Street, Corona, CA 92878

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