

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



MARKET REPORT

TOMATOES

Florida: has crossed over the peak of the spring tomato volume. There will be fewer tomatoes packed week over week until growers start the new harvesting in South Carolina and Georgia early June. Markets in the mid \$20s on the best roma and round tomatoes.

Mexico: light roma and vine-ripe volumes crossing into the USA now in Nogales, McAllen and San Diego. Markets in the mid to high \$20s for the best quality.

California: set to begin summer tomato harvest the first week of June.

Organic Heirlooms: Harvest out of Mexico finished. Extremely limited harvest out of Baja. New volume crops will not begin until late June. Demand exceeds supply. Markets continue to elevate.

Heirlooms: Harvest out of Mexico is officially finished for the season. Due to extreme weather conditions, crops are finished 6 weeks premature. All growing regions are experiencing crop transition gap. No relief in sight until end of June - early July. Only limited harvest available out of Guatemala. Demand exceeds supply. Markets continue to elevate.



TOV's: fair to good supplies continue out of Mexico. We should see Canadian production picking up next week. FOB pricing is \$16.00 - \$18.00. We should see FOBs in the low teens by the weekend. Demand will ease as we near the weekend. We'll see if lower pricing will keep TOV demand good after Memorial Day.

Organic TOVs: fair supplies out of Mexico and Canada. FOB cost is \$20.95 with a few deals being made to move extra volume. Movement has been steady to good.

Beefsteak: fair supplies out of Mexico continue. Canada has better availability and should continue through the summer. FOB cost is mostly in the high teens. Like TOVs, we should see lower cost by the weekend. Demand has been good. Expect things to slow down with the holiday pull being over.

Organic Beefsteak: not seeing any improvements on availability on organic beefsteak tomatoes. Our growers will not start new production until mid-July. FOB cost is probably in the \$40s but not seeing anything available to receive quotes on. Demand exceeds availability.

Organic Roma: fair to good supplies. Availability has dropped a bit and will slow as we enter June. FOB cost is mostly in the mid to \$20.00. Fair demand. The big movement is on conventional roma tomatoes and big beefsteaks/vine-ripes.

Snacking tomato

- conventional grape tomatoes - still plenty around. Organic grape tomatoes are a bit less supply with better demand
- cherry tomatoes have increased in volume and will continue to increase as Florida ramps up
- medley tomatoes are in good supply

CUCUMBERS

Persian: strong volume on both organic and conventional mini cucumbers out of Mexico and Canada. Quality is excellent and it's a good time to promote!

English: heavy volume out of Canada and Mexico on organic and conventional euro cucumbers. Costs are friendly and it's a good time to promote.

Organic Slicer: limited supplies coming out of Mexico, with high prices.

Slicer: market has become extremely limited with prices on super selects now in the high 30s. The market continues to trend upward as we approach a transition period. Baja production is expected to start early to mid June.



SQUASH

Organic Hard Squash: good supplies on butternut squash out of Mexico. Spaghetti squash is very tight and may gap for about a week. California squash coming in late June.

Organic Soft Squash: zucchini has limited volume out of Mexico, slowly coming to and end of the season. Yellow squash is gapping or very limited supplies. California should start around June 1st.

Italian Squash: Santa Maria has started production with quality improving and better volume expected over the next week. Selma production continues to ramp up. Nogales is winding down for the season.

Yellow Squash: remains extremely limited, keeping prices elevated across the market. Santa Maria has started production. Selma volume remains light. Availability continues to be day to day.

FRUIT

Organic Melons: limited supplies on all organic melons out of the desert.

Organic Apples: storage apples out of the Northwest at the moment and costs are high. Imported apples coming in from New Zealand.

Mango: decent volumes on red mangos crossing right now. Market is stable this week as volume looks to be off this year. Prices are way higher than typical years. Quality is good.

Organic Mango: the Mexican organic mango market is steady this week but volumes are off from normal. We have 9ct and 10ct in house right now.

Pineapple: the pineapple market is a little softer this week. There is some extra fruit available out West on mostly larger sizes: 5's and 6's. Decent supplies from Mexico right now though.

Strawberries

markets are still elevated with very limited availability for open market product. Despite a looming gap in production, shippers had continued to promote aggressively for the post Mother's Day period. Expecting higher yields and lower market demand. That scenario did not happen.

- Santa Maria - this area was hit hard by the record heat we had in March which was followed by rain. They lost a good portion of what was supposed to be their peak production over the last 3 to 4 weeks. This area will be dealing with the same cold snap we will see in the North.
- Salinas/Watsonville - after increases in harvest and an early start to the season in late March, we are seeing cold weather with overcast skies impeding plant growth and new berry production. This has caused a gap in expected harvest volumes leaving supplies short again this week. After enjoying a few days of clear warmer weather, we are expecting another cold snap beginning tomorrow which will last into next week.

Blueberries: production is currently coming from California, Central Mexico and Georgia. Michigan and the Pacific Northwest are still a few weeks away from production.

Blackberries: this items is steady coming out of California and Central Mexico.

Raspberries: supplies are steady coming out of Central Mexico and California.

VEGGIES

Cilantro: price is steady and easy

Green & Black Kale: good volume and steady price

Onions: the onion market is coming down slightly on reds and whites now that the Central California crop is going. Some Pacific Northwest storage reds and yellows are still available.

Onion Leeks: good supply with steady prices

Italian & Curly Parsley: steady price on the curly, and still seeing higher price on the Italian

Broccoli Crowns: good volume and steady price with plenty of broccoli coming out of California this week

Jicama: New crop good supply

Brussels: steady supplies; will start firming up as we get closer to June

Organic Brussels: Mexicali – limited volume. Guaymas brussels sprouts ranch is burning out early this year. Continued high heat and lack of winter has caused increased quality issues with aphids and whitefly. Grower had transition back to Mexicali for next week and then transition to new fields in Rayon.

Green & Red Cabbage: steady price on the green and red is higher and limited

Corn: supplies will start to wind down south and pick up in the Central Valley

Organic Onions: most organic onions are now new crop out of Arizona, Texas or Southern California. Quality has been fair with pricing stable.

Organic Eggplant: limited volume out of Mexico.

Eggplant: Nogales has finished on eggplant. Coachella and Thermal continue with light volume. The market has become extremely limited on #1s with prices now in the high 30s. Availability remains day to day as supplies stay tight.

POTATOES

Russet: good supplies on all the Russet potatoes. Market is steady.

Red & Gold: New crop from California and Florida on reds, yellow and whites now available. California crop will go for another 2 months. Quality is very good. Red B's are a little short and more expensive right now.

White: new crop white potatoes coming in from Florida and California are available with very good quality. Prices are coming down.

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

Organic Potatoes: organic gold and red potatoes are in a light gap due to limited growers. The main supplier for this period is in between fields. Supply on large size potatoes is very limited however, supply on B size is more available. Organic russet potatoes continue to be out of storage out of the North West.

Sweet Potatoes: organic sweet potato market continues to elevate each week due to dwindling supply. With new crop due in mid July. Growers are worried about having enough to make it through until then. Quality has been good so far. Since this is the end of their storage crop we don't advise holding on to them any longer than needed. For

conventional sweet potatoes the market mirrors the organic market - supply is dwindling. Of the 4 colors, white flesh is the most available.

CITRUS

Lemon: Conventional demand continues to be strong - especially on fancy 140s/115s.

Organic Lemon: remain very limited as D1 just finished and D2 is very light.

Grapefruit: Packing conventional Star Rubys. Blush and interior color are excellent. Fruit sizing up peak on 23s through 40s. 48/56s are fairly limited.

Organic Grapefruit: Organic peaking on 23/27/32s.

Navels: we may pack some late varieties in early June.

Organic Navels: we are done packing organic navels and we are starting to harvest fresh crop valencias.

Limes: the lime market prices have re-gained momentum due to decreased pack out yields. Currently not expecting a sharp price spike. However, pricing could remain relatively firm. Sizing still peaking on 230s and 200s with increase availability of 175s in the next few weeks. Larger fruit 150s and 110s will remain limited until June/July depending on weather in the lime growing areas. The high temperatures and limited rainfall could increase conditional issues on future shipments. Looking ahead lime pricing could rise again toward the end of June; rather than historical late July/early August window. This is caused by accelerated early harvesting.

Valencia - we are running light volume on both conventional and organic. Need a few days lead time to pack orders.

BELL PEPPERS



Organic Green: Coachella has started with limited supply. Prices are very high.



Organic HH Color: waiting for Jalisco, Mexico growing region to be ready for harvest in about another week. Some coming in now, mostly medium and large. Canada production has started but its minimal for about 2 more weeks. Volume typically becomes more plentiful in June - September.



Bell Peppers: red and green bells out of Mexico ending very soon. Volume and quality out of Coachella is good with higher prices.

HH Bells: limited volume from Mexico. Canadian bells are looking good but very limited. Pricing going up.

Organic Mini Sweet Peppers: available out of Mexico. Prices firming up. Coachella USA has started.

CHILI PEPPERS

Current growing regions:

- Sonora, Mexico

- Jalapeño - good supply
- Serrano - good supply
- Anaheim - improving supply

- Baja, Mexico
- Coachella, USA

Stable supply on most chili peppers.

- Caribe - improving supply
- Red Fresno - **GAP**
- Habanero - **good supply**
- Pasilla - improving supply
- Thai chili - **fair supply**
- Shishito - **Good supply**
- Tomatillo - **Good supply**



Veg-Fresh Farms

1400 West Rincon Street, Corona, CA 92878

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