

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



TOMATOES

Outlook: after 3 to 4 months of severely impacted tomato supply, we are finally into dependable day to day supplies at reasonable prices.

Florida/Georgia/South Carolina: these tomato producing harvest areas are all online or coming online this week. There has been a significant amount of rain along the Florida/Georgia border which has made harvest days a bit uneven but hopefully we will see some dry days ahead. Markets are in the low \$20s with good availability after Memorial Day.

Mexico: several tomato shippers with late supplies continue production on both vine ripe and roma tomatoes. Quality is very good. Markets in the mid to high teens for the best quality.

California: one California tomato producer has begun summer tomato harvest this week with more shippers coming online over the next few weeks.

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

- grape tomatoes same as last week - ample supplies on conventional grapes and light supplies on organic grapes
- medley tomatoes are in good supply on organic as well as conventional
- cherry tomatoes still remain short in supply with good demand

CUCUMBERS

Persian: strong volume continues 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 remains strong, with prices continuing to stay elevated out of Nogales. Baja growers have started harvesting; however volume is very light.



SQUASH

Organic Hard Squash: good supplies on butternut squash out of Mexico. Organic honeynut is finishing this week and will be out until September. Acorn and Spaghetti squash are very tight; will be gaps until California starts later in June.

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

June 1st.

Italian Squash: Availability remains plentiful. Santa Maria and Selma are in full production, while Nogales continues to wind down. Baja growers also began harvesting this week, with light volume.

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: Very limited on 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: Oaxaca growing area is done for the season. Michoacan and Nayarit area is packing both reds and Ataulfo, mostly 14-16ct. Market is off slightly this week on size 10ct and 12ct. Bigger sizes more expensive. Quality is good.

Organic Mango: the Mexican organic mango market remains steady as volumes are down versus typical years. Quality is good. Season will go through July, into early August.

Pineapple: The pineapple market is off again this week. There is some extra fruit available out West on mostly 6ct fruit. Not much crossing at all on Mexican fruit as market is down.

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

Onion Leeks: good supply with steady prices

Italian & Curly Parsley: Mostly steady on both Italian and Curly, but still seeing a few higher quotes on the Italian.

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

Jicama: 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, red is higher and limited

Corn: Price higher with Coachella growers coming to an end and not much volume out of Central Valley yet.

Onions: the onion market is coming down slightly on reds and yellows with Mexico, the desert deal and Central California crop now going all at the same time. Seems to be more Mexican White onions available lately. Quality is good. Demand is good as well.

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: Coachella and Thermal continue with light volume. The market remains extremely limited on #1s, with prices in the high 30s. Availability remains day to day as supplies stay tight.

POTATOES

Russet: Russet cartons are moving up in price this week as the pack outs are not great.

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 A's and B's are a little shorter and more expensive right now. Idaho is finishing up on yellow, so California will be the main supply.

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 is primary out of D2 now. The fruit looks to be heavier to choice grade and peaking on medium to large sizing.

Organic Lemon: remains very limited as D1 is finished and D2 is very light. We are running some fruit in Riverside, but availability is day to day.

Grapefruit: Packing conventional Star Rubys. Blush and interior color are excellent. Have good volume all sizes and peaking on fancy grade.

Organic Grapefruit: Organic sizing is now flipped. We have good volume on 36's and smaller. Large fruit is limited.

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 remains stable, not expected to strengthen due to softer demand following Memorial Day Holiday. Large fruit 110s, 150s continue to be limited and prices remain higher end of market. Best value and peak sizing continue to be in the smaller sizes 230s and 200s. Quality is expecting to gradually decline due to the weather - high heat and limited rainfall.

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: starting to see Jalisco, Mexico growing region with lower prices. Some product is coming in now. Canada production is back in swing. 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: steady volume from Mexico. Canadian bells are looking better. Starting to see more volume.

Organic Mini Sweet Peppers: Mexico and Coachella both with excellent quality. Expecting pricing to decrease soon.

CHILI PEPPERS

Current growing regions:

- Chihuahua, Mexico
- Baja, Mexico
- Coachella, USA
- Florida, USA

Stable supply on most chili peppers.

- Jalapeño - [Good supply](#)
- Serrano - [Good supply](#)
- Anaheim - improving supply
- Caribe - improving supply
- Red Fresno - Domestic crop begins
- Habanero - [good supply](#)
- Pasilla - improving supply
- Thai chili - Limited Supply
- Shishito - Limited Supply
- Tomatillo - [Good supply](#)



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