

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



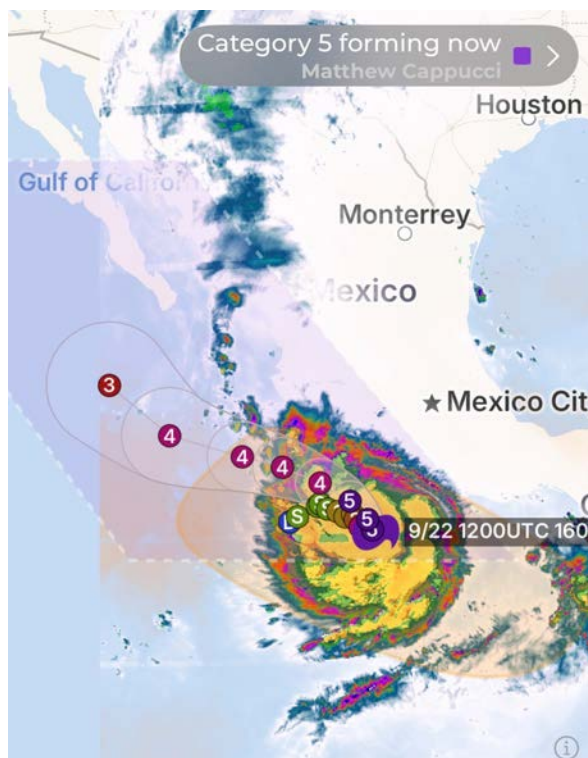
MARKET REPORT

TOMATOES

Tennessee: this area will be beginning a seasonal decline in harvest over the next 2 to 3 weeks as Eastern receivers look forward to the North Florida tomato season beginning in October.

California: weather permitting - California will continue harvesting tomatoes into early November.

Outlook: Hurricane Polo is churning just below Baja California at 150 MPH. It could dissipate before land or bring wind and rain into the Baja Peninsula and the coast of Mexico which are both key tomato growing regions. October, November and December is the time frame where weather has everything to do with fresh tomato supply outlook.



Snacking tomato

- grape tomatoes have become very short both on the organic and the conventional side
- organic medley tomatoes are short but good supply on conventional

Purple Crush: will start soon. Reach out to your sales rep for more info.

Heirloom Tomatoes

- **Organic Heirlooms:** Harvest out of Mexico remains mostly crop transition gap. Very limited pallet volume. Markets continue very strong. California crops mostly non-

existent due to extreme heat. Limited harvest against California crops is marginal due to extreme heat.

- **Heirlooms:** Harvest against “California grown” remains on crop gap. Extreme heat has created a 3 week gap. Origin of Mexico new crops remain on crop transition gap until approximately week of October 12th.

LETTUCE

- current Salinas lettuce market is elevated and expected to remain elevated until Yuma, AZ beings. Predictions are over \$50.00 this week.
- INSV is in fields and causing quality issues, lettuce shippers have no excess product to sell. INSV is common at the tail end of the Salinas season.
- lettuce shippers are reporting not only quality issues, but lighter boxes for the remainder of the season. Reason - field cews are attempting to pack before INSV takes hold of the product.
- Huron, California will begin October - November hopefully helping with both supply and quality issues out of Salinas.

BERRIES

Strawberries

Salinas/Watsonville

- many growers are transitioning out of these areas over the next several days as we reach the tail end of the season. The shippers that remain are hoping to reach as far into October as they can. Mixed berry transfers from Mexico will begin sending more fruit into the new crop Santa Maria and Oxnard locations for distribution. Labor may become a concern for some ranches as growers begin to focus more resources on field preparations for next year's crop.

Santa Maria

- this area is beginning to ramp up. Growing conditions have been ideal with moderate daytime temperatures followed by cooler overnight highs. Quality has been very good.

Central Mexico/Baja

- production has begun in both regions. Full production is not expected until the end of September. Product is coming in through McAllen, Texas and Otay Mesa, California.

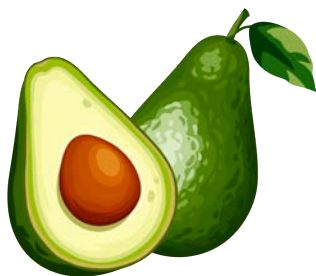
Oxnard

- volumes are expected to increase gradually week over week as we move into October adding more product to the supply chain. Ideal conditions in this area are producing nice quality

Blueberries: Central Mexico and Peruvian imports are now the main source of product. We are loading in California, New Jersey, Texas and Florida.

Blackberries: supplies remain limited and are expected to stay tight until October, when Mexican production begins to increase. The current supply gap is easing up.

Raspberries: supplies are adequate. Mexican production is expected to increase steadily week over week as we move into October.



AVOCADO

Mexico's avocado shipments are running normally this week to close the late-summer window. California remains in the market with good-quality fruit and harvest is still underway and expected to continue into October. Weekly California volume is winding down as the season advances and overall supply looks steady and adequate, with no major disruptions on the horizon.

VEGGIES

Green & Black Kale: green kale is steady

Onion Leeks: higher prices with shortages out of Mexico these past 2 weeks

Broccoli Crowns: higher and active in several areas right now including California and Texas. Have heard of some limited supplies out East as well.

Jicama: Good supply.

Italian & Curly Parsley: still seeing higher prices on both

Cilantro: steady price

Slicer: cucumbers out of Baja have become more plentiful. Increased availability has helped bring the market back to normal levels. Jalisco is also starting up on Super Selects, with product beginning to cross through Nogales.

Yellow Squash: good quality yellow squash remains extremely limited out of Santa Maria and Fresno, keeping the market elevated. Supplies expected to remain tight for the next couple of weeks.

Brussels: steady at the elevated levels here. Some shippers in better shape than others.

Corn: higher and limited on all three out of California.

Onions: prices remain high due to very high freight rates out of Idaho and Washington. White onions are still very tight and higher priced as many loads are being exported to Mexico. Freight won't be going lower any time soon, so expect high prices all season.

Italian Squash: Italian squash has become extremely limited across all sizes in both Santa Maria and Fresno. Weather has impacted field production, with the season starting off hot, followed by rain and now cooler temperatures. Rain is anticipated again, which could further affect availability. The market is expected to remain elevated for the next couple of weeks.

Eggplant: California production has become more plentiful, improving overall availability. Market has come down and pricing has softened.

POTATOES

Russet: potatoes remain very high. The 5 and 10 lb Russet bags have stayed the same this week. Historic water shortages in the growing areas are going to keep things like this for 26/27. All larger sized Russet carton potatoes are high priced. Carton 80s-100s are lower.

White: all white potatoes are extremely short - especially A's and C's.

Chipping: new crop Washington and Idaho is going now so quality is improving

Red & Gold: CA and Texas Reds, yellow potatoes have come down slightly lower as new crop Idaho/WA starts up. Red size C's are still very short.

CITRUS

Lemon: domestic availability is increasing with fresh district 3 harvest underway. Peaking on fancy 140s.

Grapefruit: good availability on 36s and larger. Small fruit limited.

Navels: fresh California navels should start shipping the week of October 5th. Sugar is there, just need more color. May have to push out a week.

Valencia: good volume on 88's and larger. Packing out heavier to choice grade.

Limes: pricing is rising very quickly for this week and into next. Mexican supply is expected to remain below the July production peak. The past two months limes have experienced significant quality issues. The amount of fruit available in the fields has not represented the amount of US quality specification; these conditions have required heavier grading. Limes remain in transition period between the old and new crop.

Old crop availability will be increasingly limited, while newer production becomes a larger part of the available supply. New crops 230s/200s/175s quality and shelf life are better than the old crop 150s/110s, although quality and shelf life remain a concern. 150s through 250s are readily available while 110s remain limited. Weather will continue to be the variable risk through September and early October. The persistent rainfall has already accelerated fruit growth in some growing areas, rainfall and high humidity in Veracruz will continue to increase the risk of oil spotting, style-end issues, light color, discoloration and breakdown has reduced shelf life.

BELL PEPPERS

Bell Peppers: California has good volume on green, red and yellow bells. Green price is starting to go up on the larger sizes.

HH Bells: good volume out of Mexico. Price is steady.

CHILI PEPPERS

Current growing regions:

- Chihuahua, MX
- Baja, MX
- Coachella, USA

Moderate supply on all chili peppers.

Jalapeño - Good Supply
Serrano - light Supply
Anaheim - moderate Supply
Caribe - Good Supply
Red Fresno - Good Supply
Habanero - Good Supply
Pasilla - light Supply

Thai Chili - light Supply
Shishito - light Supply
Tomatillo - light Supply



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