



The Source

April 20, 2009

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THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW:

No Food Safety Alerts at this time.



No Commodity alerts at this time

Weather:

The heat wave on the West Coast today, providing record highs in many regions, will moderate slightly on Tuesday before a drastic cool down expected mid week. Mid-range forecasts, unclear at the moment, show the possibility of rain in the latter part of the week along with the cooler temperatures. In the Southeast scattered showers today will give way to clearing and much needed drying throughout the region recently inundated with precipitation and flooding.



Freight:

Trucks in California have tightened up due to lack of freight coming off the East Coast. Washington and Idaho remain steady. Crude oil remains around 50.00 and is currently at 45.78. The National Average on diesel has dropped slightly by .008 cents this week to \$2.221 per gallon.

Commodity Updates

APPLES/PEARS

Lower grade (lighter colored)* Red Delicious apples remain tight and there are only LIGHT supplies. Shippers are having to sub up in grade to get orders fulfilled and are quickly running out of those. Although that is the case on the Red Delicious keep promoting apples! Small sized Granny Smith and small sized varietal red apples are good choices and there are still plenty of deals available. Washington and Oregon Pears continue light production from storage including mainly the Anjou and Bosc varieties. Be aware, the Fancy pears are drying up and coming from storage now are mainly #1 fruit for suitable shipping condition.

ASPARAGUS

This market has remained tight with all suppliers. Domestic production is on the light side. Mexican product is finished. With the warm temperatures this past weekend, suppliers expect production to increase by next week. Washington production has now started as well, with supplies on the light side.

AVOCADO

Mexican fruit – Mexican supplies are starting to increase this week. The supply pipe line looks to stay hand to mouth as demand is very good and is keeping shippers clean.

California Fruit - California growers are continuing to increase their harvest.

BELL PEPPERS

Western Green Bells and Colored Bells:

Nogales volume is very light the few small spring deals that are producing in the northern growing areas in Mexico are very light. Size and quality continue to be a problem. The California desert is now in their 2nd week of harvest with some growers and we are seeing some steady production of very nice bells. It still looks like the first week of May for pick volumes. Red and yellow bell supplies remain light out of Nogales. One grower out of Baja is going with new crop. The California desert looks to start mid May.

Eastern Bells: As post holiday demand drops off, the bell pepper market has weakened. Most of the dealing is in the smaller sizes and off grades, but by the end of the week, the market on all sizes should be softer. Central Florida will be into volume in another week or so.

Commodities at a glance...

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Quality</u>	<u>Market</u>
Apples	Excellent	Steady
Asparagus	Good	Steady
Avocado (Mexican)	Excellent	Steady
Avocado (California)	Excellent	Steady
Bell Peppers (Western)	Good	Lower
Bell Peppers (Eastern)	Good	Lower
Berries: Strawberries	Good	Lower
Berries: Raspberries	Fair / Good	Steady
Berries: Blackberries	Good	Steady
Berries: Blueberries	Fair / Good	Steady
Broccoli	Good	Steady
Carrots	Good	Steady
Cauliflower	Fair	Lower
Celery	Good	Steady
Citrus: Lemons	Good	Higher
Citrus: Oranges	Good	Higher
Cucumbers (Western)	Good	Lower
Cucumbers (Eastern)	Good	Lower
Grapes	Good	Higher
Green Onions	Good	Steady
Kiwi	Good	Steady
Lettuce: Leaf	Fair	Steady
Lettuce: Iceberg	Fair	Lower
Melons: Cantaloupes	Good	Steady
Melons: Honeydews	Good	Steady
Onions	Good	Steady
Pears	Good	Steady
Potatoes	Good	Steady
Squash (Western)	Good	Lower
Squash (Eastern)	Good	Steady
Stone Fruit	Good	Steady
Tomatoes (Western)	Good	Higher
Tomatoes (Eastern)	Good	Higher
Watermelons	Good	Lower

Legend

Quality
Excellent
Good
Fair
Poor

Market
Steady
Higher
Lower

Commodity Updates *continued*

BERRIES

Strawberries: Strawberry production in California is starting a bit rough this week due to record breaking temperatures. This is producing over ripe and softer berries and small due to the heat and the plants responding by producing more fruit faster. We will see better volume and availability at the front of this week than we will at the end, due to growers picking heavy to keep up with all of the rapidly ripening fruit. The size in Oxnard is down with approx. Clam count in the high 20's.

Raspberries: Raspberry production is very low and will continue to be snug with Mexico and California just not being up to speed. Overall production is close to nothing out of Mexico and just getting started in California. California is producing very small quantities but is increasing.

Blackberries: Blackberry production is steady with respectfully consistent transfers arriving from Mexico. There continue to be shippers in much better shape than others. We are now looking at local production to increase but are currently dealing with predominantly transferred fruit from Mexico. There are some shippers currently putting out some aggressive pricing in anticipation of a big push in volume over the next couple of months.

Blueberries: Blueberry transfers are slowing down tremendously from Chile and some shippers are getting higher prices due to Chile being all but finished. There are small quantities of local Californian blues with great size and quality. The Californian production should start to increase in the first two weeks of May. There are reports of Floridian Blueberries (new crop) now available, but commanding a premium price. We can expect a gap as the Eastern early varieties were affected by early frost damage.

BROCCOLI

This commodity continues to have heavy supplies. Broccoli crowns are at the bottom of pricing and availability should be good for the entire week. In the Santa Maria region, production is also strong. Pricing should remain competitive throughout the week. The quality on all broccoli items is strong.

CARROTS

California carrots from the new fields in the Imperial Valley are starting to gain some size with the warmer weather. Look for better supplies of jumbo carrots in the upcoming weeks. Quality remains good. Georgia has good availability and quality on the East Coast.

CAULIFLOWER

Demand is low on this commodity. Many suppliers are looking to move some volume orders to alleviate inventory. Needless to say, the market is very soft. This market will continue to be soft throughout most of the week. Santa Maria and Salinas both will have good volumes throughout the week.

CELERY

This market continues to be steady. Although a few suppliers are up slightly, celery continues to be in good supplies on most sizing. Smaller sizing continues to be less in production compared to the larger sizing. The quality is still very clean with good weights. Demand is also steady. Shippers are still promoting deals for large orders containing the 18-24 counts.

CITRUS

Lemon: The Central Valley is 90% picked. Most of the volume is coming out of Ventura County. Supplies are peaking on 140's. There are good supplies of 165's.

Oranges: There will be good supplies of large Navels available into May, but the smaller sizes of 88's, 113's and 138's are finishing up. Valencia's will be available in the small sizing.

CUCUMBERS

Western Cucumber: Northern Mexico is getting good supplies from their new fields. Volume should continue to increase over the next couple of weeks. Baja is going with some light production.

Eastern Cucumbers: The cucumber market is dropping fast in Florida as domestic supplies become more readily available. Central Florida should be in decent supply in another few days and we can continue to see a declining cucumber market in that time. Quality has improved from fair to good.

Commodity Updates *continued*

GRAPES

Thompson green seedless grapes have switched into long term storage fruit, supplies are lighter and prices are stronger. Red Seedless (Crimson) grape supplies are lighter as well and there are only about 3-4 weeks left of Chilean red grape arrivals. Red Globe and Black Seedless grape prices will continue steady into next week with light supplies and only limited movement. Overall grape quality remains very good especially in the long term storage green seedless and there are some excellent lots out there!

GREEN ONIONS

This market has remained steady. There was a possibility that onions were going to be a little tighter in availability but this never happened. Although supplies in Mexico are lighter, there is plenty of product to cover all orders. The quality continues to be good.

KIWI

Kiwi quality remains excellent and movement is steady. The market will remain steady again this week.

LEAF LETTUCE

This market has some suppliers heavy on romaine. Deals can be made on volume orders. Extreme heats in the Salinas valley has made liner product a risk to purchase. Attempt to use naked product for all leaf items at least the next few days until temperatures subside. This will insure orders to arrive in the best possible condition. Some quality defects that continue to surface include insects, fringe burn, tip burn, and wind burn.

LETTUCE

The lettuce market has eased up a bit. Sizing continues to be an issue as some suppliers continue to substitute 30 counts for 24s. Las Cruces, Mexico will begin production on the 23rd of April for those interested. Growers continue to be behind in scheduled harvesting in Salinas from anywhere between 7-10 days. This is due to cold temperatures and windy conditions in the Salinas Valley. The Salinas valley over this past weekend had extremely

warm temperatures are expected in the 90s to start the week. We will need to see what effect this has on this commodity in terms of quality. In the Huron growing region, most suppliers are finished with production. Yields continue to be low on this commodity.

MELONS

Cantaloupes: Offshore cantaloupe supplies from both Guatemala and Honduras are somewhat light to start this week, but fairly slow demand is keeping the market at lower levels.. There is still only sporadic size availability from shipper to shipper and this will continue through the week. Mexico Cantaloupes are going strong now and crossing through both Nogales, AZ and McAllen, TX. There will be lighter supplies over the next 10-14 days for offshore Cantaloupes, but Mexico production looks to be increasing. The offshore fruit could be lighter in supply than originally anticipated and the finish of the deal could prove to be short. The East Coast (Florida) ports continue to dominate the supply line and the West (L.A.) supplies remain low with very little direct vessel shipments. Sugar levels and eating quality remain high.

Honeydews: The market remains steady on Honeydews and Nogales continues light production. Similar to the cantaloupes, offshore supplies will remain light over the next 7-14 days, but Mexico honeydews coming into Nogales will steadily increase. Overall, this should keep the market conditions in check, but demand pressure could change things in the short term. Quality remains very good!

ONIONS

Most Idaho/Oregon shippers are finished up. We will have a couple of shippers with product available out of the Oregon area through the end of May. Washington looks like they will go through the middle to end of May with supplies as well. The quality is still good, with several shippers now pulling out of their cold storage, although some translucency is showing. Mexican product is still available out of Texas along with Texas grown onions. Good supplies of carton Texas 1015's. Vidalias are set to get started this week.

Commodity Updates *continued*

POTATOES

Burbanks are now the only varietal available and are running small. The quality is still very good. Wisconsin and Colorado have good supplies and quality. Colored potatoes are loading out of North Dakota and Wisconsin with Washington still with some light supplies. California with good quality but light supplies on some varieties which are getting filled with product out of Washington or Florida.

SQUASH

Western Squash: Mainland Mexico is still coming with good volume from new fields in the North. Look for volume and quality to continue through the week on Italian and Yellow.

Eastern Squash: The squash market overall is declining as Plant City is beginning to see decent volume. There is plenty of dealing on the medium sized squash as the warm, sunny weather is causing the crops to size up quickly. Quality overall has been good.



STONE FRUIT

The Chilean fruit deal continues to wind down. There are still supplies available of the Chilean Angelino Black Plum, but that is all. New Crop, domestic, California tree fruit could start as early as next week. Early projections are for large sized fruit right out of the gate, and fair eating quality only. We'll keep you posted as we get closer to harvest!

TOMATOES

Western: Mexican production is steady with supplies of larger sized tomatoes but lacking 6x6 & smaller sizes but we are seeing size and availability stabilize. Pricing has been very inconsistent and has varied from day to day. Color has been a bit of a challenge, but pre-

ordering helps avoid issues. Shippers are looking to take fobs up. Roma tomatoes are very tight and look to continue to be for the near future and Grape tomatoes are active and tight. **Eastern:** Tomato production in Florida is lower than Mexico but demand is keeping the playing field level. There has been no major upswing to pricing even with lower production. Early cooler weather had slowed production and growth. There is a greater quantity of the bigger fruit than smaller. Roma tomatoes are becoming more available. Grape tomatoes are continuing to be a bit tight.

WATERMELONS

Watermelon supplies continue to increase and demand continues only fair. More fruit from Northern Mexico continues to arrive into Nogales and South Texas. Demand looks to remain light and that will continue to ease the market off on both seeded and seedless watermelons. Warmer weather trends continue and should prevail through the week.

VALUE ADDED

The lettuce supplies are still on the light side. Processors continue to acquire larger amounts of acreage due to the smaller heads of lettuce being harvested. This will have a direct affect on the quality of finished product. Harvesting crews are way ahead of fields harvesting younger lettuce. Good quality continues to be reported on chopped Romaine. Complaints have been minimal on green onions also.