



The Source

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THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW:

No Commodity Alerts at this time



Weather:

A low pressure system to the north will bring high clouds to the Central California region early this week. High pressure builds later this week bringing a substantial warm up to the region by the weekend. Temperatures in the low 70s early this week will climb to the low 90s over the weekend.

In the southeast a chance of thundershowers through the week remains the norm with fairly seasonal temperatures in the mid 80s to 90s in the southern most regions (Florida) are expected this week.



Freight:

Trucks in California have tightened up due to the lack of freight coming off the East Coast. Washington and Idaho remain steady. Crude oil is creeping up close to \$60.00 per barrel and is currently at \$58.38. The National Average on diesel has rose by 3.1 cents this week to \$2.216 per gallon.



Commodity Updates

APPLES/PEARS

New Zealand is increasing their import supplies of Gala Apples, but they are still tight from there and also in Washington. Red Delicious Apples in the lower grades (lighter color) continue to be tight as controlled atmosphere storage fruit is coming out high in color and grade. Small sized Granny Smith and small sized varietal red colored apples continue to be excellent choices for someone looking for a 'deal' on apples and there are still plenty available. Washington and Oregon Pears continue light production from storage and now only Anjou pears are available to finish the storage pear season. Both Washington and Oregon are shipping all #1 fruit from here until the end of the storage season due to quality concerns.

ASPARAGUS

This market has softened. Although supplies are heavier on standard sizes out of California, suppliers have ample supplies on all sizing to fill orders. Product out of Peru continues to be strong on the East Coast. Washington is in full swing production and pricing is competitive.

AVOCADO

Mexican fruit – Mexican supplies remain light, but steady coming into the states. The supply pipe line is slowly starting to catch up with demand.

California Fruit - California growers are packing good volume, but still lighter than years past, due to the much smaller crop this year.

BELL PEPPERS

Western Green Bells and Colored Bells:

Mexico's volume is very light as they finish for their season and quality is only fair. The California desert is harvesting good volume. Quality is very good. Red and yellow bell supplies coming out of Nogales are dwindling as their season comes to the end. The one grower out of Baja is going with good volume of new crop colored bells. Demand is very good. The California desert looks to start with limited production by the first of next week.

Eastern Bells: Central Florida is seeing very good supplies and quality but not much in demand, keeping the market at the lower levels. The market should start to gather some

Commodities at a glance...

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

Legend

Quality
Excellent
Good
Fair
Poor

Market
Steady
Higher
Lower

Commodity Updates continued

strength at the beginning of the week in preparation for the Memorial Day pull and continue strengthening up through the holiday. At that point in time, pepper will be starting in South Georgia and Mississippi where the market is expected to start off on the higher end due to recent flooding.

BERRIES

Strawberries California production has started this week steady with no major issues to contend with. The weather has been ideal for berry production, warm days with cool nights. The only factor that will currently be taking from production is that some shippers are sending fruit into the freezer to keep their numbers a bit cleaner than last week. Oxnard is getting very close to the end of their deal; we can expect Oxnard to be finished up by June. Quality and size will be found from Santa Maria north to Salinas. The forecasted weather is to be warm for the remainder of the week, which is great for Strawberry production.

Raspberries: Californian production continues to increase. Both Oxnard and Salinas / Watsonville are producing and we are seeing much better availability as more shippers are coming on line with new fruit and fob are reflecting this. New crop quality is good.

Blackberries: Blackberry production is steady with consistent transfers arriving from Mexico. We are currently getting reports that Mexico is coming close to the end of their season. There continue to be shippers in much better shape than others. We continue looking at local production to increase but are currently dealing with predominantly transferred fruit from Mexico. Watsonville is producing small quantities, but is inconsistent at this point.

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 production continues to slowly increase in California and will slowly increase over the next two weeks. The Central Valley will be the primary area of production and we are seeing some better production in Oxnard and Watsonville. This week the Central Valley probably will only harvest minimal volume with one day of harvest, then one day sitting out etc. The initial assessment of the crop was a bit premature; we are seeing a lot of green fruit and are slowly coloring up. Florida

has a good jump on the west and has much better volume and availability.

BROCCOLI

This commodity is softer in the marketplace on both crown and bunched product. With the Mothers Day holiday past us, suppliers have good supplies to start the week. Broccoli crown production as well as bunched product will be good throughout the week. In the Santa Maria region, production also has become stronger. The quality on all broccoli items continue to be good.

CARROTS

California carrots are now coming out of the new fields in Bakersfield. Size and quality is much better than the ones from the Imperial Valley. Georgia has good availability and quality on the East Coast.

CAULIFLOWER

Supplies to start the week are very tight with all suppliers. Although pricing is down, supplies are light and this will continue to be light for most of the week. Demand will definitely fall off this week and pricing should be competitive for the most part. Some suppliers are purchasing outside product to cover orders. The overall quality of this commodity has been average. Santa Maria and Salinas both have product available.

CELERY

This market has softened. The best sizing seems to be in the 24 count. Overall, Oxnard has ample supplies to fill all orders. The quality continues to be good with little cedar to report. This market should be steady for most of the week. Suppliers expect moderate to good production throughout the week.

CITRUS

Lemons: The Central Valley is 90% picked. Ventura County is supplying the bulk of the volume. Supplies are peaking on 140's, and followed by 165's. Larger fruit will tighten up in the coming weeks.

Limes: Supplies are running heavy to smaller fruit. Larger fruit is limited, but looks to start improving in a couple of weeks. Quality is good.

Commodity Updates continued

Oranges: Navel supplies continue to tighten as growers begin to finish for the season. Late navel varieties will continue into June. Valencia production is increasing. Quality is very good, with brix levels in the 11-12 range. Sizes are running 88's, 113's, and 138's.

CUCUMBERS

Western Cucumber: Mexico remains in good volume and quality is very good. Baja is getting into good production and looks like good supplies through May.

Eastern Cucumbers: Georgia will not be starting cucumbers until the end of the week and Plant City is beginning to experience weather related quality issues. Later this week we could see the cucumber market take a jump up and continue to climb until after the Memorial Day push is over and Georgia is into decent volume.

GRAPES

Thompson green seedless grapes are all but finished from Chile with the exception of a few lots left to ship. New crop Perlette Seedless grapes are being packed in Mexico and shipped out of Nogales this week as well as light supplies out of Coachella. Crimson red seedless from Chile are still shipping from both the East and West Coasts, but supplies are significantly lighter this week as we approach the end of the deal. Mexico has started on a few Flame red seedless already, but will a few more shippers will start packing at the end of this week. Coachella Flames will start toward the end of this week, as well as some Sugarone green seedless. Overall grape supplies remain light this week but will ramp up over the next 7-10 days with the cooperation of the weather. There are a few Chilean Red Globes still available, but Chilean Black seedless is all but finished for the season. Overall grape quality is very good.

GREEN ONIONS

This market has remained steady. There are no changes to report. Supplies continue to be strong from the Mexican region. Expect this market to be stable throughout the week. The quality continues to be good, with little to no problems reported.

KIWI

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

LEAF LETTUCE

The romaine supplies are the best of all the leaf items. The Warm weather this weekend has suppliers interested in moving volume orders of romaine at sharp pricing. Other leaf items are lighter in availability. The quality on leaf has been average at best. Some quality defects that continue to surface include insects, fringe burn, tip burn, and wind burn.

LETTUCE

The lettuce market has eased up to start the week. Most suppliers have good production numbers and are looking to move quantity. The weights for palletized lettuce have become much better with 45-47#s being reported on cartons. Suppliers will not have to substitute to 30 count lettuce to fill orders like in the previous weeks. Las Cruces, Mexico is in full production now for those interested. Yields are reported to be stronger to start the week for production in Salinas.

MELONS

Cantaloupes: The CA Desert deal has kicked off with Cantaloupes to start the week and quality is very good! Look for supplies to get going quickly and increase significantly by early next week. Offshore cantaloupe supplies from both Guatemala and Honduras could likely finish by the end of this week. Shippers are still looking to move fruit from the Eastern ports, and demand is only moderate. Quality is still very good for offshore fruit and sugar levels remain at decent levels, so keep the orders coming! Mexico Cantaloupes are all but finished for the season.

Honeydews: The market remains FLAT on Honeydews especially in the small sizes and there are significant deals to be had on that fruit from Mexico. The offshore supplies will continue to decline in number over the next 7 days and Mexico honeydews coming into Nogales will be steady in supply. California desert honeydews will start mid week and Arizona desert production will start next week.

Commodity Updates *continued*

The market looks to be steady for the balance of this week and into next week, all depending on demand pressure and what the California deal comes up with as far as fruit numbers. Quality remains very good and sugar levels are also very good!

ONIONS

The Washington/Idaho area still has some light supplies of storage crop product with deals available! However, these onions need to be run through quickly. Market prices are on the rise for both Texas and California product as Southern Texas is finishing up. The Wintergarden area of Texas is just starting up, but has supplies of all colors and sizes. The Imperial Valley of California is going strong with all colors of new crop onions. Huron, CA is set up to start around the first week of June.

POTATOES

Burbanks are the only varietal available and are running small. The quality is still very good on the Idaho storage crop. Wisconsin and Colorado have good supplies and quality. Colored storage potatoes are loading out of North Dakota and Wisconsin. Washington still has some light supplies available. California new crop available with very good quality. Northern and Southern Florida now with availability on new crop colored potatoes.

SQUASH

Western Squash: Mainland Mexico's volume is still going strong on Italian. There is good volume into next week. There is also good volume on Yellow, but there is a range in quality in many lots. Baja is harvesting and will continue to increase volume through the month. The Fresno area of California is going with some light production of Italian.

Eastern Squash: The squash market has gained strength as Georgia is not producing enough volume to offset the diminishing supplies in Florida. The push upwards will continue for the next couple of weeks. Quality is fair as we are seeing the results of South Georgia's recent winds and heavy rain.

STONE FRUIT

The Chilean fruit deal is done. New Crop, domestic, California tree fruit is going with better supplies this week with Yellow/White

Peaches, Yellow/White Nectarines, Apricots and Cherries. Early production is very good and color is excellent! Mild weather prevails and optimum for high colored good eating fruit. Cherry quality is very good and sizing is LARGE (peaking on 9/10 ROW). Supplies will continue to increase after this week on all fruit and will in turn put downward pressure on the currently high FOB's.

TOMATOES

Western: Mexican production is slowing as growing regions are moving north. Pricing continues very inconsistent and has varied from day to day. Color has been a bit of a challenge, but pre-ordering helps avoid issues. We are seeing tender and occasional spotting in the fruit with overall quality marginal. Roma tomatoes are more available than the previous couple of weeks but are hit and miss with quality. Some shippers have lowered fob's to keep lower quality fruit moving. San Diego is getting small shots now and will be looking to go full bore around the last week of May.

Eastern: Tomato production in Florida continues to increase as new growing areas are producing good numbers and predominately larger sizing. There has been a drop in pricing. Roma tomatoes are more available and fobs are declining. Grape tomatoes are continuing to be a bit tight.

WATERMELONS

Watermelon supplies will remain steady on seeded, but get a little light on seedless this week and into next. Demand will tell the tale on whether or not the market will jump or not. Demand is currently only moderate. Fruit continues to arrive from Northern Mexico into Nogales and South Texas. Fair weather prevails in the Northern Mexico growing regions and overall Watermelon quality is very good!

VALUE ADDED

The lettuce supplies should be better to start the week. Processors have not had to purchase extra acreage to start the week. Complaints have been minimal on green onions. The warm weather we had last weekend could create quality issues. For now, the quality has been good.