

Commodity Updates

APPLES/PEARS

Fuji Apples in Washington are all but finished for the season. There are imported Fuji apples available loading in L.A. or the East Coast. CA Fuji Apples will not start until September. CA Gala Apples continue in a light way again this week. Red Delicious apples continue to come out of CA storage in high color and peaking on 100's and smaller and supplies of all reds are very tight! Gold Delicious apples are also in light supply, and finishing the storage crop very quickly with supplies peaking on 88's. The Wenatchee district is finishing on what little they have left on Braeburn. Washington Pears will go through this week with the Anjou and Red Anjou varieties only. California Pears are going strong with the Bartlett variety and are looking to promote with volume on the smaller sizes. California Bosc Pears are going and there are a few Asian pears now available.

ASPARAGUS

This market is steady. Supplies have picked up on standard sizing from Mexico compared to the previous week. Small and extra large also have good availability. Peruvian grass continues to be available shipping out of Miami or California. Jumbo Asparagus supplies are still short. Most of the California shippers have Mexican asparagus to offer.

AVOCADO

Demand Exceeds Supplies

Mexican Fruit: We are seeing some new crop crossing, but supplies are very light and deliveries are running late. This will be this way until mid August. Please note that early new crop oil content will be low and require additional time for ripening.

California Fruit: California growers continue to pack fair volume and growers are picking fruit that would normally be picked in August. We will see a big decline in supply as we move into August.

Chilean Fruit: There are some light supplies of Chilean fruit coming in now, but no volume until the large vessels arrive mid-August.

BELL PEPPERS

Western Green Bells and Colored Bells:

Supplies of green bells are continuing to improve as we move into new growing areas that are beginning in Stockton, Huron and the coastal areas. Red and yellow bells from

Commodities at a glance...

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

Legend

Quality
Excellent
Good
Fair
Poor

Market
Steady
Higher
Lower

Commodity Updates *continued*

Bakersfield are finishing up over the next week. Huron and Oxnard has started in a light way and will increase over the next two weeks.

Eastern Bells: Michigan and Ohio are slowly coming into pepper supplies. Their volume on top of the northeast means the market should continue to ease off through the weekend. Off grade sizes continue to be the most difficult to come by in the upper Midwest growing regions. Quality overall is good.

BERRIES

Strawberries: Production continues with lower than normal supplies. Most to all shippers continue to be very snug on supplies, walking in sold out or only taking regular biz. The plants in the Salinas / Watsonville growing area are now past their "peak" production window. We are starting to see a lot more overripe and bruised berries with many shippers quoting such defects at shipping point. Heavy volume looks to be not as abundant as the weeks previous. Santa Maria continues to produce moderate to low volume with good to fair quality. The weather has been on the cooler side accompanied with moist nights which are contributing to the bruising we are currently seeing.

Raspberries: Raspberry production has picked up a bit with a light push from the recent warm weather. There is not an abundance of fruit but supplies are better than weeks previous and more shippers are currently moving them. Quality has been good.

Blackberries: We are seeing decent local California production in the Salinas and Watsonville areas but are expecting a bit of a decline, possibly until Mexico begins shipping again. Production is lightening up a bit as we are seeing current availability lessen and fobs slightly increase. The Northwest is producing decent volume with good quality.

Blueberries: Production In the Northwest is steady as we are starting to see more volume coming out of there. We have had last week triple digit temps in the Northwest and this could thin out the volume we are currently seeing.

BROCCOLI

This market is a little stronger to start the week. Demand is light overall, but supplies are lighter with most suppliers. Broccoli crowns are now less in supply compared to the previous weeks.

Sharper pricing continues to be seen out of the Santa Maria region. Expect the availability to get tighter throughout the week. The quality overall continues to be good.

CARROTS

California carrots are coming out of Bakersfield with good supplies and quality.

CAULIFLOWER

This market is steady. Most suppliers have started out the week with light availability. The quality continues to be fair at best. There continues to be issues of yellowing and brown spotting upon arrivals with different suppliers. Santa Maria and Salinas continue to be the main areas of production. Early forecasts indicate this commodity will be tight throughout the week.

CELERY

This market is flat. The availability continues to be stronger on larger sizes, 18s and 24s in particular. Deals can be made on 24s in particular on load volume orders. Overall, there is still an abundance of product available to fill all of the orders. Michigan continues to have production. The supplies from this region should be good for the week. The 24 count is the best availability in this region. The quality continues to be strong in all growing regions.

CITRUS

Lemons: Supplies of large sizes continue on the tight side. Availability continues to look good on 140's and smaller. Summer demand is keeping prices firm.

Limes: Supplies are somewhat tight due to weather and strong demand from all export markets. Quality remains good, with lighter color which is a characteristic of the summer crop.

Oranges: Valencia crop estimates now look lower than first projected. Demand is strong and shippers are pacing their harvest to ensure steady supplies through October. Quality remains very good.

CUCUMBERS

Western Cucumber: Baja's production is starting to drop. Fresno will be out until late August. Washington has started and will have good production by mid next week.

Commodity Updates continued

Eastern Cucumbers: This market continues to hold at the lower levels with Michigan and Ohio producing good volume now, alongside of the Northeast. The quality has been excellent from these regions and supplies should be sufficient to keep this market soft through the weekend, weather permitting.

GRAPES

Supplies remain good for Flame red seedless grapes this week, but they are winding down now as Crimson gets ready to break. Green seedless varieties (Princess and Thompson) continue to increase in supply and quality is excellent! There are also Black Seedless and Red Globe Seeded grapes available. They are all available from the Fresno, Delano, Arvin and Bakersfield districts with excellent quality. Temperatures remain mild in the major growing areas, and fruit is still thriving. Demand has strengthened, but there is plenty of fruit to supply that. The markets are off the floor and expect it to gain strength into next week.

GREEN ONIONS

This market continues to be steady to start the week. Supplies continue to be strong from the Mexican region. This market should remain steady for the entire week. The quality continues to be strong with no significant problems to report.

KIWI

Chilean Kiwi quality remains good, with the exception of a few soft lots arriving from Chile but movement is still very good. New Zealand Kiwi is also available and they are in good supply. The market will remain steady again this week.

LEAF LETTUCE

Supplies are good on romaine. The availability continues to be very light on romaine hearts. The strong heats that were seen in the south county region the previous weeks seemed to take its toll on the romaine heart crop. Low Yields have been reported from many suppliers. There continues to be reports of browning inside the internal parts of the leaf. The Romaine Hearts continue to have issues with cupping and not having the true romaine heart shape. Internal burn is also an issue. There is good availability on all other leaf items.

LETTUCE

This market has remained stable to start the week. The temperatures have lowered in the growing regions compared to previous weeks. There are indications that this commodity may gain strength towards the end of the week with some suppliers. Light weight issues are less compared to the previous week. Tip burn is being seen at harvesting time.

MELONS

Cantaloupes: Mild weather prevails in the Central Valley melon growing districts and fruit is definitely larger in size this week. With the better supplies of larger fruit, smaller sizes are light. Demand is also light across the board right now, so the market hasn't been affected. Fruit quality is excellent with high sugar levels.

Honeydews: Honeydew supplies remain very good across the board and the market remains unchanged as we start the first week of August. Quality is excellent in honeydews right now with creamy white color, solid fruit and high sugar levels. Beware of Mexico cantaloupes and the low sugar levels. Prices might be enticing there, but quality will not back it up. The market should remain steady at current levels and there are plenty of deals available so don't stop promoting both Cantaloupes and Honeydews.

ONIONS

Huron, New Mexico and Washington are now all running yellow onions. Washington has limited supplies of reds started. California will run both red and yellow until the end of the month. Idaho/Oregon will start packing at the end of this month. Quality is still good in California and New Mexico.

POTATOES

Large size Russet potatoes remain extremely limited in Idaho with 40 and 50 count very limited. Shippers still have deals available on 100ct and smaller cartons. New crop Norkotahs are set to start in a light way at the end of this week but most shippers will not start until the week of August 17. ALL NEW CROP WILL BE NORKOTAHS. Washington new crop Norkotahs have started in a light way with good quality. Colorado has limited supplies and quality is still good. California new crop colored potatoes available with very good quality.

Commodity Updates continued

There are supplies available out of Stockton and the Bakersfield area. Southern Washington is going with good availability on reds.

SQUASH

Western Squash: Baja continues with good supplies. Salinas and Santa Maria is into good steady production.

Eastern Squash: The primary volume on squash is out of the Northeast, Michigan and Ohio. The market on both green and yellow should begin to soften as warmer temperatures move through those regions.

STONE FRUIT

Mild temperatures prevail again this week in the Central Valley's major fruit growing areas but there continues to be very good production on tree fruit. Movement remains relatively slow and there are deals available in the large sized fruit especially in that of Peaches. Nectarines remain very tight, and will continue to be tight over the next 7-10 days. Yellow/White Peaches, Yellow/White Nectarines, Pluots, and Plums are available. Washington is still in light production of Apricots, and there is only about 2 weeks left. Cherry production remains excellent in Washington State and excellent quality fruit is available. Skeena, Bing and Rainier varieties remain available.

TOMATOES

Western: San Diego continues crossing good volume now and FOB are reflecting it. Reports of Baja quality have been good. Central Valley is producing good supplies of cherry tomatoes. The round market continues to remain aggressive, but we are currently seeing a drop in the smaller sizes. With the lack of smaller sized tomatoes we can expect some reaction to the pricing. Roma tomatoes are in abundance.

Eastern: There are multiple growing locations going now from AK to the Carolinas and the Eastern shore areas are now going. TN, OH, NJ, and MI are right around the corner to start harvesting. The Roma market is easing up as more areas are supporting the supply chain.

Watermelons remain in light supply again this week with cooler overall temperatures and there continues to be only light production out of Oregon. Bakersfield is remains the peak production area for both seeded and seedless watermelons. Markets remain strong and demand strength continues. Quality is very good for both seeded and seedless.

VALUE ADDED

Processors continue to deal with fringe burn issues on romaine and head lettuce. Some light bruising has also been reported on chopped romaine. Broccoli processors are steady with supplies and availability. Complaints have been minimal on green onions. Shippers continue to stress keeping the cold chain in tact with all processed items. Any temperature abuse will cause a serious drop in shelf life.

WATERMELONS