



# Commodity Updates

## APPLES/PEARS

California Gala Apples are finished packing for the season. Washington is going with better supplies of Galas this week and will be increasing in supply in the coming weeks. California Granny Smith apples continue to be packed in California in a light way and gearing up for better supplies this week. Red Delicious supplies continue tight in Washington, and will remain so until new crop starts next week. There are many other areas going on red 'typed' apples, and demand for those is only moderate at best. Gold apples continue packing in the Ginger Gold and Early Gold varieties but sizes are peaking on 100's and larger. Bartlett Pears are going with better supplies in Washington this week. California Bartlett Pears are finishing their pack out and will be light in supply this week.

## ASPARAGUS

The market for Mexican product currently is stable. Jumbo sizing will continue to be extremely tight. Peruvian grass has picked up production, jumbos in particular. The transition to the Southern region is producing stronger numbers compared to the previous weeks in Peru.

## AVOCADO

California's season is over. Mexico and Chile are going, but rains have slowed harvest. As things start to dry out we will have good steady supplies. We are at early-season maturity levels from both countries, so ripening will take longer and checked boarding will be a problem. This will improve as maturity levels get higher over the next two months.

**Mexican Fruit:** Heavy rains disrupted harvest last week and crossing remain light this week. Volumes will be lighter going into next week. Crop is still sizing to 48's and smaller, with larger fruit very limited. Please note that early new crop oil content will be low and require additional time for ripening.

**California Fruit:** California is done for this season. Next years crop looks much larger than this year's, and should be ready to begin late December / early January.

**Chilean Fruit:** Chilean fruit supplies are good; with smaller sizes still the peak volumes and larger sizes are improving slowly. Fruit has early season characteristics, but will steadily improve in eating quality as we get further into the season.

## Commodities at a glance...

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

## Legend

Quality  
Excellent  
Good  
Fair  
Poor

Market  
Steady  
Higher  
Lower

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## **BELL PEPPERS**

### **Western Green Bells and Colored Bells:**

Supplies of green bells are slowly improving, with Stockton and Lodi area into new fields and will continue to increase supplies. Santa Maria area will also increase over the next couple of weeks. The Gilroy and Hollister area will remain steady in production through the month. The red and yellow bell production remains steady with production out of Gilroy / Hollister and the Oxnard areas.

### **Eastern Bells:**

As the Northern most growing regions begin to wind down the quality will begin to suffer and the supplies will diminish. Pepper will remain steady for the next few days but will begin to creep up by the front part of next week.

## **BERRIES**

**Strawberries:** production at the start of this week is stronger than weeks previous, most likely due to the past holiday weekend giving the plants an extra day of growth. We can expect supplies to tighten back up as this week progresses. We are experiencing somewhat cooler nights, and this is contributing to less bruising and a firmer berry, although quality will not be diamonds (the plants are past peak).

**Raspberries:** Raspberry production remains steady with the exception of Driscolls. Most to all shippers have good supplies. There are no major happenings with production, but there has been a slight increase in the fob's.

**Blackberries:** We are continuing to see irregular local California production in the Salinas and Watsonville areas, but are expecting a bit of a decline, Mexico and Guatemala are not sending enough fruit up to ease the demand. . All growing areas have slowed and shippers are cutting back orders...

**Blueberries:** Oregon and Washington are done harvesting a bit early due to excessive heat, so production in the Northwest has been disrupted. Shippers will start using Controlled Atmosphere fruit starting this week. There are still good quality and supplies in Michigan. Things are becoming tight and we can expect this trend until we start to see the offshore fruit arrive around mid to late September. We can expect to see higher fobs.

## **BROCCOLI**

This market has gained a little strength. Production numbers are moderate with crowns

having smaller availability. This market will likely be stronger towards the end of the week. Sharper pricing out of the Santa Maria region continues. The quality overall continues to be good.

## **CARROTS**

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

## **CAULIFLOWER**

This market continues to be stable. The market never became active at the end of last week as was thought. Santa Maria and Salinas continue to be the main areas of production. Pricing is competitive in both areas. The overall availability should be moderate to good with most suppliers for the week.

## **CELERY**

This market is interesting. Some suppliers in California are better off than others and this has caused a range in pricing anywhere between three-four dollars. The 24 counts continue to have the largest volume. Production continues to exist out of the Michigan growing region. The quality continues to be strong.

## **CITRUS**

**Lemons:** Supplies of large sizes continue to tighten. Availability continues to look good on 140's and smaller. Summer demand continues to keep prices firm.

**Limes:** Supplies are tighter this week with sizing on pack outs are running to smaller and mid sizes. Large sizes (110's and 150's) still limited. Demand is good. Quality remains good, with lighter color which is a characteristic of the summer crop.

**Oranges:** Demand is continues very strong, and demand continues to exceed supplies on 113's and 138's and expect it to stay this way until navels start in November. Supplies are peaking on fancy 72/88's.

## **CUCUMBERS**

**Western Cucumber:** Baja's production remains very light and looks to start increasing next week. Fresno now looks to start next week. Washington will have steady supplies over the next 3 weeks.

**Eastern Cucumbers:** Quality on cucumbers has begun to suffer due to rain and the cooler

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weather has slowed production. The market will continue its gradual rise in the coming days as the season up north winds down.

## GRAPES

Keep pushing on the Grape Promotion! Red Seedless are going strong with the Crimson, Ruby and Un-named Red seedless varieties. Green seedless varieties (few Princess and mainly Thompson) continue to produce very good supplies and quality is excellent. There are also beautiful Black Seedless and Red Globe Seeded grapes available. Temperatures were cooler over the weekend, but look to be warmer again as the week progresses. Cooler nights again this week will keep quality in very good shape. Demand remains strong for both red and green seedless, but supplies remain strong as well. The markets look to remain steady through the week.

## GREEN ONIONS

This market remains stable with pricing in the double digits for bunched product. With constant regulations and product being held by custom officials, suppliers simply are not getting the raw product needed to fill orders completely. Pencil sizes are still the largest volume available. The quality continues to be good with no significant problems to report.

## KIWI

New Zealand Kiwi is still going strong and they are in good quality and supply. Chilean Kiwi remains available but in light supply as we start September. The market will remain steady again this week.

## LEAF LETTUCE

The same story exists with suppliers on romaine and romaine hearts. Supplies are light. Expect supplies to be short throughout the week on this commodity. Romaine hearts will continue to be tight in availability, especially forty-eight counts. Green leaf is up from last week as supplies have lightened. Red leaf and butter has remained stable.

## LETTUCE

This market continues to be stable to start the week. While some suppliers are heavier in production than others, overall pricing is competitive. Supplies look to be moderate

throughout the week. Product availability will tighten up with a big push but for now the market is stable. Some puffiness will be seen to lettuce out of certain lots. Expect some tip burn issues to surface.

## MELONS

**Cantaloupes:** Warm weather patterns as of late have moved the size spectrum back to smaller sizes. Cantaloupes this week look to be peaking on 12's and 15's with only light supplies of 9ct. There continues to be regional melons available, but only in light supply and not in demand like the Westside deal. The market has eased off on the smaller sizes, but is now active on the large sizes through this week. Fruit quality remains very good with high sugar levels.

**Honeydews:** Honeydew supplies look to remain steady again this week and demand is only light. There is a wide range of sizes available this week and there are deals available. Quality continues to be very good in honeydews.

## ONIONS

Idaho/Oregon continues with very good availability this week on red, yellow and whites. Quality is good and the skins have already begun to have better color. Huron is done for the season. Washington supplies are very good with good quality as well. There are supplies available out of Colorado and Utah.

## POTATOES

New crop Norkotahs are going strong with very good quality. Burbanks are done until new crop gets through the sweat, there should be availability at the end of October or November. Norkotahs have a much larger size profile than the old crop Burbanks so there will be much better availability on the larger cartons and the small sizes will hold steady prices. However, with the new crop being so nice the 2's will be limited. All new crop will be Norkotahs. Washington new crop Norkotahs are going strong with good quality and good availability. Colorado has started with new crop as well. California colored potatoes are finishing up still with good quality out of Stockton. Southern Washington is going with good availability on reds and yellows. Mount Vernon, Washington

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will have better availability this week, product quality as usual is stellar.

## **SQUASH**

**Western Squash:** Baja has good supplies and will continue in supplies over the next few weeks. Santa Maria has begun to transition into new fields on both colors. Supplies are lighter as they make this transition and there are some quality issues in the older fields. Fresno should remain steady over the next few weeks.

**Eastern Squash:** As Michigan and the Northeast wind down, supplies are becoming limited and product is getting tired. South Georgia has started but the volume is still too light down South to compensate for lack of supply up north. The market should stay steady through the week and then start to come off by the beginning of next week.

## **STONE FRUIT**

Red Plums are finishing their supplies and volume is now concentrated to only the large sized fruit (60's and Larger)\*. Black Angeleno Plums are now dominating the Black Plum market and there seems to be a good size range available this week. The market on all plums remains active. Peaches remain in a light supply situation this week. Demand is still very strong and the market continues at the higher levels this week. Nectarines are steady this week, but there are deals available on the large sized tray packed fall varieties. Washington is still only producing light volume on Peaches and Nectarines with only light production scheduled this week.

## **TOMATOES**

**Western:** San Diego continues crossing decent volume now but demand is eating up most open fruit. Reports of Baja quality have been good. The round market is active, as we are currently seeing a drop in the smaller sizes (bloom drop) due to recent excessive heat. With the lack of smaller sized tomatoes we can expect some reaction to the pricing. Most growers have to skip picking days from the fields to allow the fruit to mature. Roma tomatoes have eased up a bit with lower FOB's.

**Eastern:** Demand remains steady and is keeping the market fairly stable despite the shortages we have encountered across the

country. Weather has improved in the east allowing the fields to dry out. TN, NC, and VA are back harvesting crown fruit, so smaller sizes will be snug for another week or so.

## **WATERMELONS**

Regional Watermelons are still available, but supplies continue to drop off. The Bakersfield district of CA is all but done for the season. Other central California volume will drop off again over the next 10 days. Mexico is slated to start in mid-October. Markets remain strong and demand strength continues as well. Quality is very good for all available regular and personal sized watermelons.

## **VALUE ADDED**

The high heats in all the growing in past weeks will likely make lettuce and romaine weaker. Fringe burn is the biggest issue. 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, and production numbers should increase this week.