



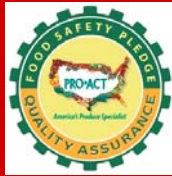
The Source

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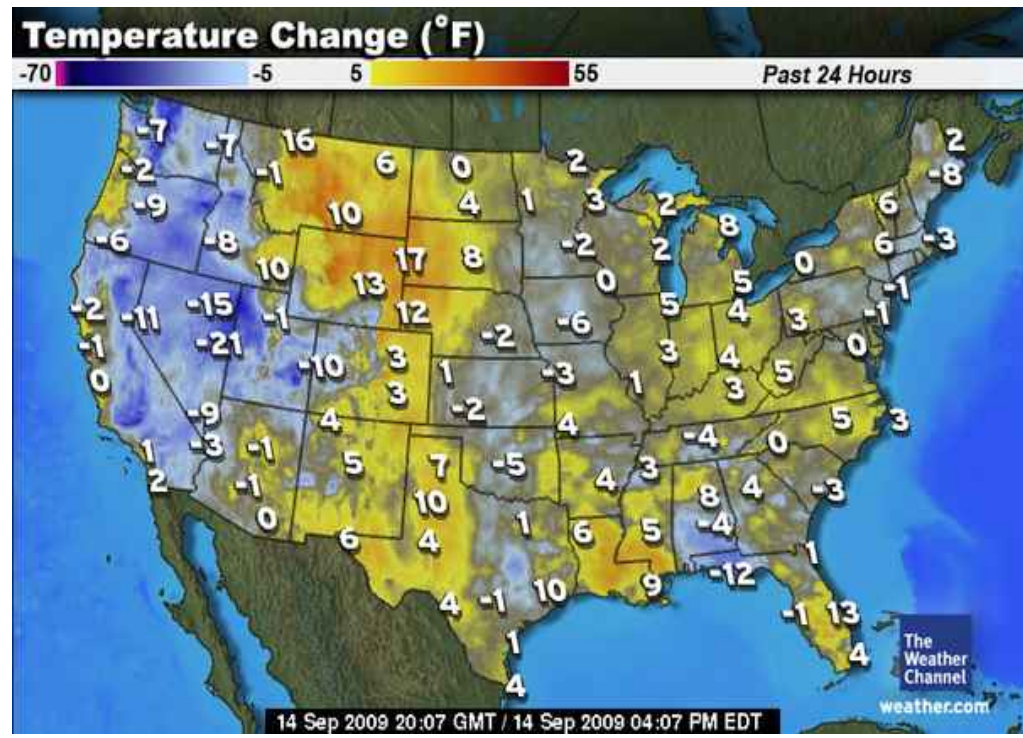
THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW:



Weather:

Gradually warming temperatures are on tap this week in Central California as high pressure builds out west. Temperatures in the Salinas Valley will range from the mid 70s along the coast to the mid 90s inland. Triple digit temperatures may once again be possible in the San Joaquin Valley over the weekend. These warm temperatures will continue through the week into early next week.

An active weather pattern in the eastern growing regions will continue this week in the various areas with showers and thunderstorms expected (heavy at times) throughout this week. Temperatures in the high 70s to the north to mid 80s in the southern regions with lows in the 60s will be the norm this week.



Freight:

The availability of eastbound trucks in California is fairly tight. Washington and Idaho trucks remain steady. Crude oil has decreased slightly and is currently at \$68.83 per barrel. The National Average on diesel is currently at \$2.634, down .013 cents since last Monday.

Commodity Updates

APPLES/PEARS

Small sized apples in ALL varieties are in a demand exceeds supply situation right now as the new crop apples are coming off LARGE (peaking on 100's and larger). Washington is packing a few more of the famed Honeycrisp apples this week. California Granny Smith apples continue to be packed decent supplies are available again this week. Red Delicious supplies continue tight in Washington, and will remain so until more of the new crop fruit starts to be packed. There are 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 and Anjou pears are going in a light way. California Bartlett Pears are finishing this week on their last pack numbers from the northern districts.

ASPARAGUS

The market for Mexican product continues to be stable on all sizes except jumbos. Jumbo sizing has jumped a few dollars higher compared to the previous week. Peruvian production out of the southern region has strong numbers on most sizing. Jumbos are moderate in availability.

AVOCADO

California's season is over. Mexico and Chile are going, but rains and market conditions have slowed what is coming in. Up coming, we are still looking at 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: Crossing remains lighter this week as growers wait for fruit to gain size and maturity. Volumes will be lighter going through the week and 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.

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	Higher
Bell Peppers (Western)	Good	Steady
Bell Peppers (Eastern)	Good	Steady
Berries: Strawberries	Fair	Steady
Berries: Raspberries	Good	Higher
Berries: Blackberries	Good	Higher
Berries: Blueberries	Good / Fair	Higher
Broccoli	Good	Steady
Carrots	Good	Steady
Cauliflower	Good	Steady
Celery	Good	Steady
Citrus: Lemons	Good	Steady
Citrus: Oranges	Good	Steady
Cucumbers (Western)	Good	Higher
Cucumbers (Eastern)	Fair	Higher
Grapes	Good	Higher
Green Onions	Good	Steady
Kiwi	Good	Higher
Lettuce: Leaf	Fair	Steady
Lettuce: Iceberg	Fair	Steady
Melons: Cantaloupes	Good	Steady
Melons: Honeydews	Good	Steady
Onions	Good	Steady
Pears	Good	Steady
Potatoes	Good	Steady
Squash (Western)	Good	Higher
Squash (Eastern)	Fair	Lower
Stone Fruit	Good	Higher
Tomatoes (Western)	Good	Steady
Tomatoes (Eastern)	Good	Steady
Watermelons	Good	Higher

Legend

Quality
Excellent
Good
Fair
Poor

Market
Steady
Higher
Lower

Commodity Updates *continued*

Chilean Fruit: Chilean fruit supplies are lighter; 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.

BELL PEPPERS

Western Green Bells and Colored Bells:

Supplies of green bells are improving, with Stockton and Lodi area getting good volume from their new fields. The Santa Maria, 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. Georgia should be into volume by the first week in October.

BERRIES

Strawberries: Production this week is starting off low due to some light rain that passed through Sunday night. Most to all shippers estimates are much lower than forecasted. Growers today are stripping what fruit has been damaged and harvesting what they can. Supplies are going to be low this week trying to catch up from the rain. We can expect quality defects such as, white shoulder, soft, moderately water soaked and bruised berries. There is fruit in Santa Maria that has not been affected by the rain, but supplies are not plentiful. Oxnard looks to be on schedule for the end of September starting with light supplies.

Raspberries: Raspberry production has tightened up slightly. Production is currently inconsistent, but quality remains good. There is Californian production in Watsonville and some in the southern areas.

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 sending fruit up but are not sending enough fruit up to ease the demand,

but we may see an increase from Mexico within a week. All growing areas have slowed.

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 late September. We can expect to see higher fobs.

BROCCOLI

This market is stable. Most suppliers have moderate amounts of bunched product and crowns have also become better in supply. Sharper deals continue out of the Santa Maria region. This market looks to get stronger towards the end of the week. The quality of the product continues to be good.

CARROTS

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

CAULIFLOWER

This market is stable. There are a few suppliers that have started the week looking to move load volumes. This 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.

CELERY

This market continues to have widespread pricing. The availability continues to vary among the many suppliers in both the Salinas and Santa Maria growing regions. The quality continues to be strong with no major issues to report. The 24 counts continue to be the largest volume available. There continues to have pricing with a range of three to four dollars difference.

CITRUS

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

Commodity Updates continued

Limes: Supplies continue tighter this week as rains over the weekend has slowed harvest. Sizing on pack outs are still 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 very strong, and demand continues to exceed supplies on 88's, 113's and 138's and expect it to stay this way until navels start in November. Supplies are peaking on fancy 72's and larger.

CUCUMBERS

Western Cucumber: Baja's production remains very light. Fresno now looks to start by weeks end. Washington will have steady supplies into next week.

Eastern Cucumbers: Cooler weather up North has slowed production on fields that are already on the tail end of their season. The Southern growing regions will not kick in for several more days so we will be looking at an increasingly high market and limited supplies for that time.

GRAPES

The Central Valley received rain last night and this morning in the major grape growing districts. Temperatures have been cooler than normal as of late and red grapes are slow to color up for the fall varieties (Crimson and Ruby Red Seedless)*. Grapes have become very tight and there are ONLY light supplies available in pretty much all colors. Green seedless are on the last storage numbers for 19# cases and will soon be switching to 16# lugs of which will be more expensive. Demand looks to remain strong for both red and green seedless, and supplies will be light throughout the week. The market will also continue stronger and most likely remain strong for the balance of the storage grape season.

GREEN ONIONS

This market remains stable with pricing. There are still issues with custom officials not allowing product to pass in a timely manner. Suppliers therefore do not have the inventories available that they would normally have. This market continues to be in double-digits with all suppliers. Pencil sizes are still the largest

volume available. The quality continues to be good with no significant problems to report.

KIWI

New Zealand Kiwi light this week and the Chilean Kiwi are finishing fast. The market is up this week with stronger demand and lighter supplies.

LEAF LETTUCE

Supplies are stable on both romaine and romaine hearts. There have been some sporadic issues of fringe burn that has been reported. Green and red leaf is stable as we head into the weekend shipping. Most suppliers are expecting good availability on leaf items throughout the week.

LETTUCE

This market is stable. Pricing continues to be competitive in both the Santa Maria and Salinas growing regions. Supplies look to be moderate throughout the week. Puffiness and tip burn are issues on this product that have been reported.

MELONS

Cantaloupes: Cooler weather and rain last night/this morning have put a small delay in harvest schedules, but there are still decent supplies available of small fruit! Cantaloupes continue to peak 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 is still weak on the smaller sizes, but is now active on the large sizes, especially for the balance of the week. Fruit quality remains very good with good sugar levels.

Honeydews: Honeydew supplies look to remain steady again this week and demand remains only light. There is a wide range of sizes available going into the weekend, but heavier now to the smaller sizes. 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 it looks like there will be good supplies throughout the season. Huron is

Commodity Updates continued

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. Depending on the shipper there are some that are into larger product and some are now into smaller Norkotahs which has leveled out the prices. Washington new crop Norkotahs are going strong with good quality and good availability. Colorado has started with new crop as well. California colored potatoes will finish up this week with limited availability. Southern Washington is going with good availability on reds and yellows. Mount Vernon, Washington 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 started new fields, but fall production is lighter. Still some quality issues showing up. Fresno should remain steady over the next couple of weeks.

Eastern Squash: As Michigan and the Northeast wind down, the southern growing regions are beginning to get going. There will be a two tiered market for the next week or so as Georgia comes into good supply and Michigan and New Jersey finish up. The overall squash market should continue to decline over the next two weeks, weather permitting.

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 plum market and there seems to be a good size range available. The market on all plums remains strong. Peaches remain in light supplies. Demand is still very strong and the market continues at the higher levels. 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 again 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. has stabilized and we are seeing consistent pricing. 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. What is left for Central California volume will drop off again over the next week to 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 raw materials like lettuce and romaine continue to have fringe burn issues that have caused production to slow down with processors. There have been some issues on chopped romaine breaking down too quickly. Broccoli processors are steady with supplies and availability. Complaints have been minimal on green onions, and production numbers should increase this week.