

Commodity Updates

APPLES/PEARS

Supply shortages continue on small sized fruit and the market remains strong. Beware of 'low priced' fruit as it could be core frozen and will not see the affects until well after arrival. Small sized apples in all varieties remain extremely tight and pre-sized bins are coming in peaking 88's and larger. This looks to continue throughout the entire season with carton counts expected to be down at least 5 million boxes total from last year out of Washington State. California is still packing mainly Pink Lady Apples with a few light supplies of Granny Smith also available. There are other areas in the Northeast (including the Carolina's, Virginia, Michigan and New York) going on red 'typed' apples, and demand for those is very good as well, especially with the limited supply of small sizes. Anjou Pears are going with better supplies in Washington this week and Bartlett pears are still going strong. There are also now varietal pears including Bosc, Seckel, Concorde, Comice and Red Pears.

ASPARAGUS

This market continues to be stable. Peruvian product continues to be loaded out of Miami or Los Angeles at a sharper price compared to Mexican product. Good production numbers continue to be had on jumbo sizing out of Peru.

AVOCADO

Mexico and Chile is going with good steady supplies. We are seeing higher maturity levels from both countries.

Mexican Fruit: Supplies are good, but still peaking on 48's and 60's. Larger sizes are starting to pick up slowly.

California Fruit: 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 steady with sizes peaking on 50's and 60's.

BELL PEPPERS

Western Green Bells and Colored Bells:

Supplies of green bells from central California are becoming limited as they are on their seasonal decline. The Coachella Valley has start in a light way with their new crop green bells, more shippers coming on line later this week. The red and yellow bell production is also in their seasonal decline. New Crop Reds from Baja shipping from Chula Vista by the end of the week.

PRO*ACT The Source

Commodities at a glance...

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

Legend

Quality
Excellent
Good
Fair
Poor

Market
Steady
Higher
Lower

Commodity Updates continued

Eastern Bells: Market remains very strong with Georgia and Florida having limited volume. Larger size is mostly available. Volume should increase in the next few weeks, but it is very limited right now.

BERRIES

Strawberries: We are going to be in a very tight supply situation on Strawberries now thru the month of November. The Salinas/Watsonville growing area is on its last legs. The next major storm that comes thru this area will put this area to bed for the season. Quality is fair. The Oxnard fall crop growing area is only 10% of the volume compared to the Northern growing areas which will not be able to handle the demand. The next area to come into production will be Mexico which has started in a small way but will not be in full production till the middle of November. Florida strawberry production will not start up till the first part of December. Once Florida gets started we should slowly see supplies start to meet the demand. Look for the market to be high with limited supplies thru November. All shippers will be in a fill rate situation due to the limited supplies. Rain is in the forecast for Friday/Saturday.

Raspberries: Raspberry production remains consistent and quality remains good. There is some California production in Watsonville and some of the southern areas. We can expect continued light production in Oxnard. Mexico has started in a light way. Quality is good.

Blackberries: Blackberries supplies limited due to weather that went thru the growing areas last week. Quality is fair with a firm market.

Blueberries: The supplies are still very limited the start of this week with a firm market. Supplies should slowly build later this week into next. The main pack size will be 4.4oz and will move into the bigger packs as production increases. Market very firm

BROCCOLI

Suppliers have started out the week on the light side on both bunched broccoli and crowns. This market will be active throughout the week as supplies will be on the light side. Santa Maria has tightened up its availability as well as the Salinas Valley. Broccoli crowns have sized up better due to warm temperatures over this

past weekend. Yuma will not begin production until approximately the second week in November.

CARROTS

California carrots coming out of Bakersfield are sizing slower due to cooler weather. Jumbo market is firming up.

CAULIFLOWER

Supplies have started the week on the light side with many suppliers. Expect the availability on this commodity to be sporadic over the next month as we make the transition to Yuma. Pricing will be stronger. Santa Maria and Salinas are the growing regions expected to cover orders through the month of October and most of November.

CELERY

This market continues to be active. Demand exceeds supplies on all sizes. Santa Maria continues to comparative to Salinas pricing. The Oxnard region will not begin production until the first week of November. Suppliers are closing the gap on the sizing available as most sizes are close to each other in production numbers. The quality continues to be strong with no major issues to report.

CITRUS

Lemons: Supplies of 95's are limited. Availability continues to be good on 115's and smaller.

Limes: Supplies are good. Sizing on pack outs are good on all sizes. Demand is good. Quality remains good.

Oranges: Valencia season has come to the end. Numerous shippers have begun packing Navel's this week. More will begin by the weeks end and next week. Supplies are limited this week, and demand is strong.

CUCUMBERS

Western Cucumber: Baja will have steady supplies for the next 2 to 3 weeks, weather permitting. Mainland Mexico will have steady production and looks to increase in 7 to 10 days.

Eastern Cucumbers: Market is very strong. Limited supplies in both Georgia and Florida is generating good demand and keeping the prices high.

Commodity Updates continued

GRAPES

Green Seedless grape supplies continue to wind down in the Central California area for storage fruit. There are 16# Thompson, very few 16# Autumn King and now 18# Brazilian Festivals (but only located on the East Coast) available. Supplies on green seedless look to remain very low and there continues to be only light supplies available compared to the demand. Looking forward, both Brazil and Chile have received rainfall and upcoming supplies, especially on green seedless in the transition period will be extremely light! Chile also looks to be pushed back about 1-2 weeks due to early season cold weather. Currently Red Seedless grapes look to remain steady again this week with Crimson being the predominant red variety available now and until the end of the domestic season. Demand remains strong for both red and green seedless, and supplies will remain light. The market will continue strong for the balance of the domestic grape season.

GREEN ONIONS

This market continues to be stable. Supplies are moderate to good on Mexican grown product. Pencil sizes are still the largest volume available. The quality continues to be good with no significant problems to report. Processors have had minimal problems with the raw product available.

KIWI

California Kiwi supplies are still very good. The market will remain steady with strong demand, and quality is very good.

LEAF LETTUCE

We are at the tail end of the Salinas deal. Pricing is ranging 3-4 dollars due to suppliers all having different availabilities. Fringe burn has been an issue on all leaf items. Suppliers have bypassed Huron for growing leaf items. Yuma will begin production the first to second week in November. This market looks to get stronger throughout the week with any kind of demand. Romaine hearts continue to be light in availability. Fringe burn is still being seen upon arrivals. Due to weather conditions, some growers are reporting that translucent water spots are seen on all leaf items. There have

also been reports that the chopped romaine is not as strong as in past months. Things have not changed with this product.

LETTUCE

This market has tightened up. Supplies are definitely lighter compared to the previous week. Light weights will be an issue with lettuce shipping out this week. Weights have been reported out of Huron to be 36-38 lbs. This will continue likely throughout the week. Yuma will begin production for some suppliers the first week in November.

MELONS

Cantaloupes: Arizona continues on a rollercoaster ride of supplies and sizing. To start this last week of October, supplies are light again! Central Arizona is already past their production peak and will now start winding down fast over the next several weeks. With cold weather in the immediate forecast for this week look for lower than normal supplies and limited sizes available. The peak sizing remains to the large side (12ct)* and will be that way through this week again. There are a few Mexico Cantaloupes crossing through the Nogales, AZ point of entry, but supplies there are somewhat limited and fruit is large. Quality on product of Mexico is only fair at best for now. The market could get very active if the supplies drop dramatically during the cold weather that is expected to start on Tuesday and go through Thursday. Fruit quality remains decent with moderate sugar levels.

Honeydews: Honeydews are in very good supply with both Arizona and Mexico production increasing and volume heavy to 5/6ct. Demand is steady which will keep the market in check.

ONIONS

Idaho/Oregon continues with very good availability this week on red, yellow and whites. The shippers have finished harvest and yields are down a bit from last year so we may see some strength in this market as the storage sheds are not filled. Quality is good. Washington supplies are very good with good quality as well. There are good supplies available out of Colorado and Utah.

Commodity Updates continued

POTATOES

Both Norkotahs and Burbanks are available this week and depending on the shipper they may only have one varietal available. Cartons are a little limited with retail demand down. This will remain the case until the Thanksgiving pull starts. Washington new crop Norkotahs are going strong with good quality and availability. Colorado is going strong with new crop supplies as well. Southern Washington is going with light availability on reds and yellows. Mount Vernon, Washington with good availability; product quality is stellar. North Dakota and Wisconsin with good supplies of red, yellow and white potatoes.

SQUASH

Western Squash: Baja supplies are dropping quickly as the begin finishing their season. California's deal is also winding down as cooler weather is upon us. Mainland Mexico will continue to increase supplies into November.

Eastern Squash: Market is still strong on zucchini. Yellow squash also available, but price has increased since last week. Demand is good, and volume is going to increase as more growers in Florida start with product in the next week to 10 days.

STONE FRUIT

Black Angeleno Plums remain available but there are only limited sizes left available and this should be the last week. There are still excellent supplies of fall fruit items available such as Persimmons, Pomegranates and Quince.

TOMATOES

Western: Production in Central California is on the decline as there only a couple of shippers going, and will be finishing this week. Some shippers are speculating about finishing by the end of the week, and others have expressed that there will be some light availability past next week but it will depend on how much damage there is in the fields from the past rain. Volume is down and demand is moderate. We can expect to see higher markets and less availability. Achieving color will be challenging as well due to the diminished supply. Roma and Grape tomatoes are tight. We can expect a small push on both Grape and Cherry tomatoes next week out of San Diego.

Eastern: Florida growers are harvesting in Quincy in a light way. Volume on Roma, Cherry, and Grape continue to be down, but we may expect to see availability increase by next week as more Florida production comes on line. Palmetto-Ruskin area is starting slowly. Some higher temps in the lower growing areas may slow the fruit from setting and we may see the results of this in about two weeks.

WATERMELONS

Watermelons are available from Mexico coming up through both Nogales, AZ and Texas shipping points. Supplies are getting better on both Seeded and Seedless as we start this last week of October. Markets look to remain steady this week.

VALUE ADDED

Processors have gone back to normal pricing. Complaints continue to be reported on the chopped romaine not having as long a shelf life as in past months. As mentioned earlier in the leaf portion, the plants are tired and this is a common problem that exists with tired product. The cauliflower and broccoli raw product will get even more snug as we wind the season down. This will inevitably cause delays in truck loading. Processors will move to Yuma in late November.