



# The Source

June 14, 2010

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**THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW:**

**Bartlett pears are finished for the season**

**Preconditioned tree fruit is now available.**

**Tomato season has started in California.**

## **Weather:** *Tim Lynch*

The Central Coast is forecast to receive a fairly typical late spring weather pattern as the jet stream pushes most disturbances well to the North. Morning low clouds and fog, especially near the coast with clearing by mid morning. Temperatures will range from the mid 60s near the coast to high 80s in the warmest interior valleys. Mid range forecasts show a slight warming trend late this week into next week as we approach the summer season.

In the Southeast humid conditions will bring chance of showers and thunderstorms each day this week, along with warm temperatures from the mid 80s into the mid 90s through the week. Areas to the north (Georgia, Carolina's etc) will be under heat advisory conditions each afternoon this week as temperatures are expected to reach the upper 90s in these northern regions.



## **Freight:** *Mike McIntire*

The availability of eastbound trucks in Washington and Idaho has loosened up but California remains extremely tight due to the lack of westbound freight. Crude oil prices are currently at \$75.15. The diesel price for this week is down .018 cents to \$2.928. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive week we have seen fuel drop.



# Commodity Updates

## **APPLES/PEARS** *John Tole*

Washington fruit is still mostly large and heavy to the higher grades in the reds, golds, and granny-smith varieties. The smaller counts and lower grades are still in short supply in all varieties and will remain so for the rest of the storage season. The markets on all three varieties are mostly steady but deals remain on 48, 56, and 64 size fruit. Gala's and Fuji's are the only two varieties left and the Galas are very limited. Cameos, Jonagolds, Honeycrisp, Braeburns, Pink Lady's, and Romes are all finished. D'Anjou pear supplies are lighter again and the market is higher and strong as we near the end of the season. Most shippers only have large size US#1 grade fruit left and expect to have supplies for the next two weeks. The quality has been good. Expect domestic pear prices to continue to climb until the end of the season. New-crop green and Red Bartlett pears will be available in late July from California.

## **ASPARAGUS** *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*

This market continues to be steady. Supplies are better out of the California region. Peruvian product is still available on the East and West Coast but supplies have been limited due to less air shipments. Mexican product is more readily available. The quality is strong from all the growing regions.

## **AVOCADO** *Tim Kelley*

California harvest continues at a good steady pace. Mexico has entered into their light summer production.

**California Fruit:** Growers continue to harvest good supplies, and demand is very good. Most of the California fruit is still small, but with the warming weather, the size is coming.

**Mexican Fruit:** Growers continue at a much slower pace as their season is nearing the end of this year's crop.

## **BELL PEPPERS** *Tim Kelley*

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

The California desert is past their peak and will finish up by this weekend. Demand is very good. Bakersfield has one shipper that has started on green bells and others will start this week. Size will start of with extra large and jumbo peppers. Volume will still be 2 to 3 weeks out. The California desert crop for

## Commodities at a glance...

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

# Commodity Updates *continued*

colored bells is going with good supplies of red and tighter supplies on yellow. .

## **Eastern Bells:** *Janine Baird*

Georgia is going strong now on pepper and the market continues to soften. Many shippers are trying to keep the market up to take advantage of the short season, but there are deals to be found. Quality has been good but may suffer a bit in the coming days as a result of heavy rains and strong winds that occurred over the weekend.

## **BERRIES** *Mike Gorczyca*

**Strawberries:** Nice weather continues in the strawberry growing areas bringing on good volumes of nice quality strawberries. Demand is still light which is keeping the prices down. Strawberries are still being harvested out Santa Maria, Watsonville and Salinas. Some of the growers in Santa Maria have switch there fields to the freezer market due to the weak market conditions. Quality is best out of the Salinas and Watsonville growing areas at this time.

**Raspberries:** Supplies are still peaking this week with a slightly weaker market. Quality is very nice.

**Blackberries:** Supplies out of Mexico are done for the most part. California supplies are slowly building with good quality. Market has been weak but look for it to firm up over the next week.

**Blueberries:** Supplies are good out of both the east and west coasts the start of this week. Quality is good with a steady market. New Jersey growers have started with limited volume this week. The main pack size on both coasts is pints with a few 6oz being packed.

## **BROCCOLI** *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*

This market is softer. Supplies are expected to be good the entire week. Volume orders on crowns are available and shippers are willing to deal. Good weather continues to exist in all growing regions. Mexico supplies will be moderate throughout the week. The quality is expected to be strong throughout the week in all of the growing areas.

## **CARROTS** *Tim Kelley*

California carrots coming out of Bakersfield with good supplies. Yield and quality are good and there should not be any gaps for the next couple of months.

## **CAULIFLOWER** *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*

The cauliflower market is slightly higher. Some suppliers continue to have better availability and this has caused variations among the different growers in respect to pricing. The warm weather this past week has made supplies more readily available. The unusual plantings amongst the growers will keep this market going up and down throughout the season.

## **CELERY** *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*

This market is softer with better supplies of all sizes of celery. There have been some seeder in a few lots. Other than that, the overall quality has been very nice with good weights. Salinas's production has started and this will allow trucks to avoid Oxnard if the need arises. More suppliers will come on towards the end of the week in Salinas as well. Oxnard will wind down the first to second week of July.

## **CITRUS** *Tim Kelley*

**Lemons:** Supplies are good. Demand continues to get stronger as we get into summer time usages. Quality is very good.

**Limes:** Good supplies on smaller fruit, with larger fruit still remaining limited.

**Oranges:** Demand for late Navels are slow as more users switch into Valencia's. Valencia's are in good supplies. Valencia quality is good and eating well.

## **CUCUMBERS**

### **Western Cucumber:** *Tim Kelley*

Mainland Mexico production is starting to drop as they begin their seasonal decline. Baja growers are going at a steady pace this week with very good demand.

### **Eastern Cucumbers:** *Janine Baird*

Georgia is into good volume on cucumbers now and the demand is sufficient enough to hold the prices where they are. Quality has been good and the market should remain steady through the end of the week. Volume continues to increase farther north up to Virginia and over to through Tennessee. By the weekend, we could be looking at a two tiered market as even more growing regions to the north get going.

## **GRAPES** *Amy Grolnick*

Very limited Mexican Perlettes still available with most green grapes being shipped now

# Commodity Updates continued

Sugarones. California Sugarones are in better supply also but prices are remaining at a higher level with less volume coming out of the Coachella area. Chilean Crimsons are cleaned up for the season but Chilean Red Globes are still available. Mexican flames are plentiful and the market has leveled off. The California flames are going with good volume and quality. The market remains steady this week with volume deals available.

**GREEN ONIONS** *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*  
This market continues to be stable. Production is steady out of the Mexico region. Pencil sizing continues to have the best availability followed by mediums. The issues of yellowing are still showing up upon arrival with some lots. Supplies are good on iceless product if there is a need.

**LEAF LETTUCE** *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*  
The romaine market continues to be steady with good supplies and competitive pricing. Green leaf is softer as production has increased in Salinas. Mildew and tip burn are still seen upon arrival sporadically. Warm temperatures, mixed in with past rains have made this commodity vulnerable to mildew and tip burn. Many growers have also planted less green leaf compared to romaine. We are still seeing red discoloration in all leaf items due to the previous rains that we had here in Salinas.

**LETTUCE** *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*  
This market is firm to start the week. Availability varies amongst all the suppliers and this has caused a slight variance in pricing. Suppliers continue to report overall that production is light to moderate at best, which will keep this market steady. Warm weather and past rains has caused for irregular growth patterns. Mildew and burn are going to be seen randomly. Suppliers are cleaning up product as best they can, but expect some defects upon arrival. Other quality issues include pink ribbing, discoloration, and mechanical damage.

**MELONS** *Amy Grolnick*

**Cantaloupe:** Mexico has cleaned up for the season and desert melons are in full swing. The sizing is still peaking to 9's for most shippers and sugar levels are very good. There is availability in Arizona as well as the

Brawley area of California.

**Honeydew:** Mexico is still going strong with good quality and good supplies crossing into Nogales. California and Arizona are getting more volume and peaking to 5 and 6ct. Quality is good and the market is lower.

**ONIONS** *John Tole*

New Mexico continues packing all colors of onions. They have had very warm weather the past few weeks so their onions have sized-up nicely. They are now heavier to jumbos and larger in all three colors although there are some lots with more mediums and pre-packs. The market on all colors and sizes has remained steady due to strong demand. Transportation is the hardest thing to find in New Mexico. The San Joaquin continues packing as well and also has a larger size profile but the onions aren't quite as large as in New Mexico. California is also heavier to jumbos and larger in all colors now, while mediums and smaller are limited. The yellow market is mostly steady due to strong demand, however reds and whites are down slightly. Most packers will switch yellow varieties in the middle of this week and will have limited supplies until next week because of it. The quality in California is much better now on all colors.

**POTATOES** *John Tole*

Idaho is still heavy to the smaller counts and limited on the larger. The larger counts are still premium-priced and will be for the balance of the season although there some deals out there. The market for all counts is steady to slightly lower. Most packers are still asking for 2-3 days lead-time for large orders of the bigger sizes. The quality in Idaho has been mostly good but internal black-spot and peeper-sprouts have been seen in some lots. Washington is steady on all counts and followed Idaho up in price on 70's and larger. They continue to peak on 70/80's and still have excellent quality but are limited on the smaller sizes and consumer bags. They expect to have storage product available through June. Colorado is also steady to slightly lower on the larger counts. Their quality is still mostly good and they expect to be shipping storage potatoes into late July or longer. Wisconsin is still packing but they are very limited as they

# Commodity Updates continued

are almost finished. New crop Russets were expected to start this week in California but cooler than normal weather has pushed them back two weeks. California shippers are still packing all red, white, and Yukon-golds and have good availability from the Bakersfield area with good quality on all colors. Arizona is also packing reds and golds and still has darker colored reds. Florida continues to pack a few reds and yukons and has good quality but limited supplies as they will only ship for two more weeks. Alabama and North Carolina will begin packing at the end of June.

## **SQUASH**

**Western Squash:** *Tim Kelley*

Mexico production is sporadic and should finish up for the season this week. Both Baja and Fresno are increasing production with warmer weather.

**Eastern Squash:** *Janine Baird*

The squash market has jumped a bit as heavy rains have had an effect on Georgia's supply while regions to the North have not had the volume to cover. As the weather warms up, and volume continues to increase, the market will drop again.

## **STONE FRUIT** *Amy Grolnick*

Domestic peaches and nectarines are going strong with good volume. Product is starting to size up and the quality is excellent. Tree ripe or preconditioned peaches, nectarines and plums are now available. Apricots are limited but still available for loading out of California. California red cherries are cleaning up for the season with little to no availability. Rainier's are available out of California with very limited volume and sizes. Washington is just getting started this week with fruit running 11 row and smaller. There should be much better supplies coming on by the end of the week.

## **TOMATOES** *Ryan Frayo*

**Eastern:** Florida continues to run with pricing at the bottom of the spectrum but there are some shippers taking it up slightly on smaller sizes due to the lack of. There continues to be a lack of cherry tomatoes. The other eastern states continue to ramp up production. South Carolina is one of the growing areas picking up

speed with grape and round tomatoes and will continue increase as we progress through this and into next week. With the other eastern growing areas getting up to speed this is going to keep volume and production high, with fobs relatively low. Shippers are looking for business and are very aggressive with pricing. We can expect pricing to stay moderately low through June. Reports of quality are good as shippers have cleaned up the earlier problem fruit. The weather has been good with some light showers in the north that did not disrupt production or quality.

**Western:** Supplies out of San Diego continue to be inconsistent with a lack of smaller fruit, but production continues to increase weekly. Shippers slowly coming out of their crown picking and we are starting to see small quantities of smaller sizing, although there continues to be more of an abundance of 4x5 and larger. Weather has been favorable in Baja with no major issues. California has a couple of growers starting harvesting today and more than likely be coming out with more larger sized fruit than smaller to start due to crown picking. There will not be any fruit with color to ship until the end of this week at the earliest. Reports of quality have been good.

## **WATERMELON** *Amy Grolnick*

Domestic fruit is going strong with very good quality. Prices are steady to lower.

## **VALUE ADDED** *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*

With lettuce continuing to have moderate availability, expect processors to continue buying large lots of this product, keeping the carton business steady to start the week. The steady supplies of romaine will help processors stay ahead of orders. Availability is good. There continues to be issues upon arrival of brown to red discoloration on romaine and lettuce items. Product quality has been up and down, mainly on lettuce.