



The Source

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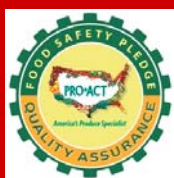
THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW:

Small oranges are very tight in supplies

Blueberry market is very active with light supplies due to weather and Northwest season slowing down

Hailstorms in Mexico have damaged the green onion market.

Small stone fruit is very limited with fruit peaking to the larger sizes



Weather: *Tim Lynch*

California's Central Coast is forecast to receive another drastic warm up over the next few days as a strong high pressure ridge builds over California. This mini heat wave (the second in the last 10 days) will be short lived however as the region is forecast to return to the unseasonably cool and moist weather pattern by weeks end. Temperatures in the 80s along the coast and triple digits inland will be the norm over the next few days. Record high temperatures are possible the latter half of the week throughout the region, especially in the coastal growing regions. Extended long range forecasts expect the cool, moist conditions we have seen this summer to return to the Central Coast next week.



Freight: *Mike McIntire*

Trucks in California and Idaho remain extremely tight due to the lack of westbound freight. Washington trucks have started to tighten up as well as school starts across the country. Crude oil continues to stay above 70.00 per barrel and is currently at 73.94. The national average dropped slightly this past week and is currently at \$2.938.



Commodity Updates

APPLES/PEARS *John Tole*

Washington, CA Red Delicious and Granny-Smith apples remain heavy to larger fruit and the higher grades. Smaller fruit and the lower grades remain short in all varieties. Other than small fruit the markets on CA reds and Granny's are mostly steady due to light demand. Pack schedules allow fewer days for reds and granny's now that the Gala's and Gingergolds are going so allow extra time to load. Gingergolds are available but supplies are still low and the demand remains strong. Galas continue and are still heavier to the higher grades and 88/100 sizes although there is some smaller fruit. Bartlett pears are going in Washington as well and are peaking on the US#1 grade and the larger sizes. California continues to pack Gala's and is still heavy to small fruit although supplies are getting lighter. The color continues to be good. California Green Bartlett's and Stark Crimson red pears are also heavier to the smaller sizes and prices are lower. California Bosc pears are also available and peaking on the smaller sizes. Bosc prices are slowly dropping. Comice, Seckel, and Forelle varietal pears are also available in California.

ASPARAGUS *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*

This market is stable. Supplies will continue to be very light on jumbo sizing throughout this week. Mexico and Peruvian production has picked up with all the other sizing compared to previous weeks. Continue to place orders as early as possible to assure coverage of orders.

AVOCADO *Tim Kelley*

California harvest is expected to go into September. Demand remains very strong. Mexico has started crossing limited volume with increased volume as we move in mid September.

California Fruit: The California harvest is still peaking on 48's, with supplies of smaller sizes light. Growers are still slowing harvest to spread fruit supplies out through September when export fruit volumes are expected. Demand remains very strong.

Mexican Fruit: Rains in Mexico has slowed the limited harvest by the Mexican growers. The rains are needed, but crossing will be very limited going into next week.

Commodities at a glance...

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

Commodity Updates *continued*

BELL PEPPERS *Tim Kelley*

Western Green Bells and Colored Bells:

The Santa Maria, Oxnard, Stockton and Gilroy areas are going with good volume on green bells. Red bell supplies are very light for the end of the week. New field will begin next week, but it looks like about two weeks for production to get back to full production. Yellow bells remain very limited, with slowly increasing supplies over the next week.

Eastern Bells: *Janine Baird*

Strong demand coupled with good volume and good quality on the East should keep the market steady for several more days. The growing regions of Michigan, the Carolinas and New Jersey will be in good production into the first week of September, barring any weather related issue. By mid September, there should be light volume on pepper out of South Georgia.

BERRIES *Mike Gorczyca*

Strawberries: Light demand and moderate supplies is causing a slightly weaker market the middle of this week. Strawberry quality is slowing improving this week. The forecast is calling for temperatures to warm up into the mid 80's over the next few days. The Northern strawberry growing areas will go till the first major rain event hits which is typically some time in October. Only Mother Nature knows when this will happen. The Oxnard fall crop will be the next area to come into play some time in September followed by Mexico in the middle of October. Florida starts up the first part of November.

Raspberries: We are starting to see better quality raspberries being harvested. Market is still firm with light supplies.

Blackberries: The quality is slowing improving but supplies are still limited. Market is firm.

Blueberries: Supplies are still very limited out of all areas due to weather in the growing areas and the season coming to a close. Quality is fair with a few good lots. The next area to come into play will be Argentina some time in September. Followed by Chile some time in November.

BROCCOLI *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*

This market is stronger on bunched product as well as crowns. The availability is lighter compared to past weeks production, but

demand will determine how far this market will climb. With Labor Day approaching, demand may be light. Mexico supplies will be moderate to good throughout the week. The quality is expected to be strong throughout the week in all of the growing areas.

CARROTS *Tim Kelley*

California carrots are in good supply. Yield and quality are good.

CAULIFLOWER *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*

The cauliflower market is stronger as most suppliers have caught up with excess product inventories. There are ample supplies in Santa Maria and Salinas to fill contract orders, but suppliers definitely do not have the production numbers they experienced in weeks past. Expect the pricing to be competitive with most suppliers. As usual with this commodity, some suppliers will be better in availability than others. The best availability continues to be in twelve counts.

CELERY *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*

This market is firm. The smaller sizes continue to be tighter as opposed to the 24 count but overall supplies are lighter. Salinas and Santa Maria continue to be the main growing areas of production. Suppliers are expecting production numbers to be lighter but with the upcoming holiday, there should be enough product available for all orders to be filled. The weights and quality of celery continue to be strong.

CITRUS *Tim Kelley*

Lemons: Supplies are good, with very good demand. The market continues to firm on 115's and larger. Quality is good.

Limes: Supplies this week are down due to the end of old crop. We are transitioning into new crop which is peaking on 200's and 230's.

Oranges: Large size Valencia's are in good supplies, but supplies of 113's and 138's are very tight with increased demand for these sizes.

CUCUMBERS

Western Cucumber: *Tim Kelley*

Baja production will continue to increase over the next two to three weeks.

Eastern Cucumbers: *Janine Baird*

Volume has remained steady out of the mid

Commodity Updates *continued*

west but the season appears to be finishing up in the more Eastern growing regions. The market should remain steady through the weekend. The fair weather in Michigan and Ohio has resulted in excellent quality in the product. Look for Georgia and Mississippi to start up with cukes in about 7-10 days.

GRAPES *Amy Grolnick*

Red seedless Flames, Crimson and Scarlett Royal are all now available. The Flames are still peaking to med/large with the Crimson or Scarlet Royal seedless peaking to large. Ruby red seedless are just starting in a light way with more volume starting next week. Quality is very good on all varieties. Thompson green seedless are available and running to the medium large size, while the Princess Green seedless are nice and large. Summer Royal black seedless and red Globes are also available with good quality.

GREEN ONIONS *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*

This market is active. Hailstorms and heavy winds in the growing regions of Mexico have damaged this crop. Production is expected to be light for the next three weeks. Expect demand and pricing to be active all week. Pencil sizing will likely be the most available amongst all the sizes. Quality will be hit and miss due to the bad weather.

LEAF LETTUCE *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*

Romaine is stable. Production is expected to be stronger in the middle of the week, and deals on volume orders are likely to be available. Romaine hearts have better availability this week compared to previous weeks. Green leaf will be lighter in supplies with red leaf holding its own. The past high heats in the growing regions may have an adverse affect on quality upon arrivals, as this waits to be seen.

LETTUCE *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*

This market is softer. Retail ads are out and foodservice demand is uncertain. The previous high heats in the growing regions has caused for unusual growth patterns. The weights are reported to be between 39-45 lbs. on palletized. Mildew, tip burn, some decay has been seen and this will cause lighter weights as the shippers must trim back quality defects to get clean packs.

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MELONS *Amy Grolnick*

Cantaloupe: The market has flattened out as availability is better but demand is off. Quality is still very good fruit is starting to size down and peak to 12's. Mixed melons are winding down and should be cleaned up in the next couple of weeks.

Honeydew: The west side fruit is still peaking on 5's with very limited availability on 6's and smaller. Shippers are not seeing an end to the fruit running so large. 8's are very hard to come by and will remain tight.

ONIONS *John Tole*

California continues packing all colors of onions but only a few packers remain. This will be the last week of packing for all but two shippers who will continue into September or October. The demand has been light and prices are lower on yellows. Reds and whites are lower as well. Colorado continues packing yellows and reds and has average size in both colors. Their market is slightly lower on both colors. Washington and Idaho/Oregon continue packing all colors. Most shippers have small yellows but some have good size. The northwest yellow prices are down slightly due to light demand and more shippers getting in. Reds are steady since supplies are limited and whites are down slightly. Canada continues packing yellows and reds as well and they continue to be mostly small.

POTATOES *John Tole*

Idaho Burbanks are still small but they are almost gone, only a few packers still have them and those that do will finish up by the end of next week. Most of the larger shippers continue packing norkotahs. The new-crop quality has been good with only light skinning but the size remains small on the early product. Washington continues packing new-crop norkotahs and is still peaking on 80-count. They have also had good quality and maturity. Washington's market is lower on all sizes. The Colorado & Nebraska are packing new norkotahs as well and are also blessed with small sizing as the peak is between 90 & 100 count. Demand for new-crop has been strong although prices are down slightly. Minnesota is also packing russets and they have had better numbers of the larger counts. California continues to pack colored potatoes. All Colors

Commodity Updates *continued*

are available from the Stockton area and they continue with excellent quality in all colors although only for a few more weeks. Minnesota and Wisconsin both continue to pack reds and golds as well and also a few whites. The market is lower in both areas as more shippers get in. The Wisconsin quality has been fair while Minnesota has been better on all colors.

SQUASH

Western Squash: *Tim Kelley*

Baja is breaking into new fields and production looks to remain steady. The Santa Maria area has had up and down production with their changing weather, but the trend of warmer weather looks to continue, which should bring some steady production.

Eastern Squash: *Janine Baird*

The squash market will jump as we head into the weekend. Georgia has begun shipping squash but volume will be very light for the first couple of weeks. By mid September we should see considerable volume out of the south.

STONE FRUIT *Amy Grolnick*

Domestic fruit continues to have very good volume and excellent quality. Peaches are still available with good volume to promote and excellent quality. Nectarines now have good supplies as well as excellent quality. Red and black plums still very good availability this week. Tree ripe or preconditioned peaches, nectarines and plums are now available. There season will continue into September with good volume and quality on peaches and nectarines so bring on the orders. Stone fruit is all running to the larger sizes with small fruit very limited.

TOMATOES *Ryan Frayo*

Eastern: The tomato supply seems to be catching up with demand resulting in a softer market this week. Availability in the east has improved and there are multiple "local" growing deals that continue to produce good volume despite the heat or rain. Quality is good on all items but volume is tight on roma and grape tomatoes. Demand for cherry tomatoes has dropped and growers have also reduced their acreage, in turn keeping the market fairly steady.

Western: California shippers are steady with good supplies of all tomatoes with the exception of a shortage of Cherry tomatoes; fobs in all areas are up on cherry. The Central Valley is producing good volume and quality with no major issues from a couple day spike of heat. San Diego shippers have had better volume than central California with Romas. San Diego is producing good volume and lower fobs are reflecting it.

WATERMELON *Amy Grolnick*

Domestic fruit is going strong with very good quality on seedless and marginal quality on seeded product. Seeded product is becoming increasingly hard to find especially the larger fruit as most shippers are using them as pollinators. The local deals are starting to finish up which will bring focus back to the west coast. Production has slowed a bit so look for the market to increase over the next couple of weeks.

VALUE ADDED *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*

The lettuce availability is better. Processors are not buying as much acreage as the previous weeks. The supplies of romaine are better. There continues to be a few issues upon arrival of brown to red discoloration on romaine and lettuce items. Lettuce continues to have reports of pink ribbing and decay seen in certain lots. Expect the quality to be up and down throughout the week on value added items involving romaine and lettuce. Supplies on broccoli items will tighten up this week.