

Dec 7, 2015

the source

Weather Update

High pressure builds out west this week behind the exiting storm system with warming temperatures into mid week. breezy conditions in Southern California and the desert regions as the system moves east. Desert temperatures will be above average to start the week with light lettuce ice in only the coldest interior valleys.

A lingering frontal boundary will bring rain to the southern half of Florida early this week clearing midweek.



Market Alerts

- Asparagus:** Extremely Limited Supplies and the Market is extremely Active
- Broccoli:** Broccoli supplies continue to be limited.
- Brussels Sprouts:** Supplies Extremely Limited with the Market remaining Active
- Cauliflower:** Extreme shortage of cauliflower supplies continues.
- Celery:** Drop in supplies drives celery market higher.
- Citrus (Lemons):** Demand exceeds supply on the smaller sized fruit 165s/200s/235s. Expect shortages to go through January.
- Grapes (Green):** Domestic green seedless storage grapes showing quality issues.
- Grapes (Red):** Domestic red seedless showing quality issues
- Lettuce Iceberg:** Supplies on lettuce are better compared to last week.
- Lettuce Leaf:** Romaine supplies are more readily available.
- Melon (Cantaloupe):** The peak size is 9ct and 6ct with very few 12ct, fewer 15ct and zero 18ct. This trend will continue for the month of December. Please be able to substitute into 9ct.





Truckin' Along

California and Arizona trucks look to be steady for the week. Washington and Idaho trucks remain be tighter than normal and should stay that way for the next few weeks. The National Average on diesel fuel dropped slightly and is now \$2.379 per gallon. A difference of \$1.156 from this time last year. California prices remained steady and are currently at 2.704 per gallon. Crude oil dropped slightly and is at \$37.73 per barrel.

U.S. On-Highway Diesel Fuel Prices* (dollars per gallon)

[full history](#)

	Change from				
	11/23/15	11/30/15	12/07/15	week ago	year ago
U.S.	2.445	2.421	2.379	↓ -0.042	↓ -1.156
East Coast (PADD1)	2.469	2.455	2.413	↓ -0.042	↓ -1.047
New England (PADD1A)	2.524	2.527	2.515	↓ -0.012	↓ -1.010
Central Atlantic (PADD1B)	2.585	2.567	2.542	↓ -0.025	↓ -0.997
Lower Atlantic (PADD1C)	2.370	2.355	2.295	↓ -0.060	↓ -1.091
Midwest (PADD2)	2.441	2.411	2.348	↓ -0.063	↓ -1.275
Gulf Coast (PADD3)	2.280	2.254	2.232	↓ -0.022	↓ -1.202
Rocky Mountain (PADD4)	2.474	2.451	2.410	↓ -0.041	↓ -1.245
West Coast (PADD5)	2.653	2.624	2.603	↓ -0.021	↓ -0.990
West Coast less California	2.555	2.510	2.477	↓ -0.033	↓ -1.042
California	2.733	2.717	2.704	↓ -0.013	↓ -0.951

A Peek at Peak Seasons

Cherries: Chilean cherries coming up in volume.

Transitions & Temperatures

Berries (Blueberries): Chilean production is increasing and we anticipate adequate supplies of fresh blueberries for the remainder of 2015!

Berries (Strawberries): Oxnard is harvesting new crop strawberries!

Grapes (Green): Peruvian grapes available with Chilean grapes starting soon.

Grapes (Red): Peruvian Flames available on the East Coast with early Chilean one to two weeks away.

Commodity Updates



APPLES

Washington - the red delicious remain large and most packers continue to peak on 72/80/88s with only light supplies of 113s and smaller. The red market is steady on all sizes but the market remains strong. Washington's red delicious volume is down by 30% from last year so expect a season-long strong market. Golden delicious are steady and still producing mostly Wash-Ex grade 100/113s. Large Golden's are still very short! Washington's golden delicious volume is down by 25% from last year so expect them to stay strong all season as well. The Granny-smith market is steady to higher on all sizes and they are peaking on 88/100/113s. Most Granny shippers don't have much larger than an 88 and they are still short on 125's and smaller. Galas are steady on all sizes. Most Gala shippers are still peaking on 100/113s and don't have much available on 88's or larger. Fujis are steady and are peaking on extra-fancy 80/88/100's. Honeycrisp are steady to higher and the market is strong due to light supplies. Honeycrisp are peaking on 64/72s. Lower grade Honeycrisp are still relatively cheaper but supplies are short. Jonagolds and Braeburns are both steady and continue to peak on 72/80/88's. The quality for all varieties has been good.

Michigan - Red delicious are steady on all sizes and are peaking on 80/88s. Empires are steady on all sizes and still peaking on 125/138s but Empire supplies are limited. Most suppliers will finish with Empires in late November or early December. McIntosh are steady and they are heavier to 125/138s. Galas are steady on all sizes and are peaking on 125/138s. Golden delicious are steady and they are still peaking on 125/138s. Honeycrisp are nearly finished for the season. Jonathans are steady on all sizes and they are still peaking on 150/138/125s. Fujis are steady to lower and they are also peaking on 125/138s. Red Romes, Ida-reds, and Jonamacs, are all still available.

New York - Red delicious, Macs, Galas, Macouns, Romes, Cortlands, and Golden delicious are all steady. Macoun and red delicious volume is good and some shippers will flex on certain sizes and grades, all other varieties have only limited supplies available. The Gala volume is light on all sizes. The quality has been good on all varieties.



ASPARAGUS

Asparagus supplies from Mexico and Peru are extremely limited. Christmas Ads coupled by very good demand have caused this market to react very quickly. Prices have jumped by double digits. Mexico does not have enough supplies to cover the West Coast demand. Peruvian supplies are also limited with increased demand off of the East Coast. The market will remain extremely active with limited supplies for the next few weeks. Also during these times quality tends to be fair to marginal at best. Look for some spreading of the tips and dehydration upon arrival.



AVOCADO (MEXICAN)

Movement is slightly sluggish from the Thanksgiving hangover. Good promotions have been set December. Mexican shipments to the U.S. was up a slight amount last week and look to be consistent for the next few weeks. Supply and demand should hold fairly steady until Super Bowl ramp up begins in early January. We are seeing peak sizes range on 36s/ 40s/48s, but availability on 60s/70s continues to be an issue for some shippers. This new crop fruit is lower in maturity and will take longer to ripen and not darken as much when ripen. Ripe fruit could still be green in color as the skin isn't mature enough for it to darken. Color is not an indication of ripeness, pressure is.



BELL PEPPERS (EASTERN)

Green pepper quality is good from Florida; look for availability to increase on all sizing. Markets should remain steady for beginning of the week loading with possibility of weakening by end-of-week.



BELL PEPPERS (WESTERN)

Green Bells - Supply slowing increasing as Sinaloa district begins to produce. Quality is good.

Red Bells - Increasing supply continues at strong market

Orange Bells - Decreasing in volume

Gold Bells - Demand exceeds supply. Should see better supplies within the next 1- 2 weeks as new district kicks in.



Commodity Updates



BERRIES (BLACKBERRIES)

The CA blackberry crop continues to decline in volume and should end major production by early-mid December. Mexico is ramping up production weekly as we move further into their growing season. There are volume and pricing deals available for fruit crossing in McAllen and San Diego. Quality issues with soft fruit, red cell and juicing have been reported in both CA and MX fruit.



BERRIES (BLUEBERRIES)

Good availability with increased volume arriving on both the East and West coasts. Chile is shipping more blueberries as other areas of South America are declining toward the end of their seasonal production. Mexico is still shipping good volumes as well. Demand has been moderate and supply has been adequate to cover.



BERRIES (RASPBERRIES)

The CA raspberry crop continues to decline in production volume out of all growing districts but central Mexico is ramping up production. Between all production areas, we have adequate supply. CA quality has suffered some with wet, leaky fruit being reported but current reports do show improvements over recent weeks. MX quality has improved and reported with good remarks.



BERRIES (STRAWBERRIES)

Production remains limited on the west coast as Santa Maria declines toward their seasonal end and Oxnard is just beginning to ramp up production volume with their new crop. Sizing in Santa Maria remains small with 25-30 strawberries per 1 pound clamshell. Oxnard strawberries should begin to increase in size, 18-20 count for new crop. Mexico and Florida production are both increasing in volume. Mexican strawberries are increasing in size, between 24-26 count and Florida counts are a little smaller with 26-28 per 1 pound clamshell. Quality is fair to good overall. Demand is moderate but should strengthen as we move closer into the holiday product pull.



BROCCOLI

The broccoli market continues to be demand exceeds supply. Although we are seeing a little bit of supply from all regions we still do not have enough to meet demand. Quality has improved from all growing areas and supply shows some early signs of improvement out of Mexico and the desert regions. That being said, we are still looking at a strong market for the near term.



BRUSSELS SPROUTS

Brussel Sprouts in the Salinas Valley are still extremely limited. Sizing is still a big problem, Mostly small sizes. Quality problems have also varied from black spotting to worm damage. The market will remain strong this week due to supplies being limited.



CARROTS

Cooler weather in Bakersfield is still slowing growth and the sizing and tonnage is off. The percentage of jumbo size carrots is lower than normal and market is firm.



CAULIFLOWER

The cauliflower market is in an extreme demand exceeds supply situation. The current gap in supplies throughout all growing areas continues. We see little relief for the remainder of the month as the cool weather slows growth on the new crop. With light supplies and little improvement in sight we expect this historically short market to remain strong through the month of December. Quality is generally reported as fair to good.



Commodity Updates



CELERY

Celery production in the Salinas Valley is done for the season. This, coupled with the losses to production caused by the Fusarium Wilt outbreak in Oxnard; is pushing the market much higher. Indications by most suppliers are for this market to continue in a demand exceeds supply situation well into the new year. Quality is reported as fair to good with sizing and weight currently the main challenges to the industry as a whole.



CHERRIES

Chilean cherries are arriving on both coasts with excellent quality on the 9.5 - 10.5 row. This market is about steady but should ease off over the coming weeks as volumes increase.



CHILI PEPPERS

Jalapenos - Improving supplies out of Nogales as season is just underway. Quality and sizing is good. Increased supply over next 2 weeks expected.

Anaheim - Market remains relatively high, and supplies are slowly increasing. Overall quality is fair to good, but will expect improvement over the next 2 weeks.

Poblano - Quality is generally good, sizing in the medium, large range. Supplies currently light with better production expected over next 2 weeks.

Tomatillo - Has increased in supply, adequate for present demand. Quality is good, and are sizing medium and large.



CILANTRO

Cilantro supplies are limited this week. There was limited product harvested out of Mexico over the weekend creating a firm market. Supplies remain limited out of Oxnard. The market will remain firm to active for the rest of the week. The quality issues we are seeing upon arrival remain the same, yellowing in packs to slimy black decay.



CITRUS (LEMONS)

Demand remains very good. The Desert crop is 50% harvested. This crop is producing a larger proportion of fancy grade and is peaking on 140s and larger fruit, which is in good availability, but still leaving us in a demand exceed supplies on 165s and smaller fruit. Expect this shortage on smaller fruit to continue through January.



CITRUS (LIMES)

The lime market is up on the smaller sizes and steady on the larger sizes. Previous rains caused the size profile to go towards larger sizes but the crop has now found equilibrium across the range of sizes. The overall quality is very good on the new crop. Demand is currently a little better than last week which is pulling up some prices.



CITRUS (ORANGES)

Navel crop is peaking on 88s/113s/72s. Cooler night time temps are bring on better natural color to the oranges and growers are able to drop gas times on the fruit down to 48 hours or less for some. This will help both quality and turn around of fruit. Volumes will continue to be steady.



CUCUMBERS (EASTERN)

Offshore cucumbers are moving into Florida; Look for markets to improve for beginning of the week loading. Quality is good out of Florida and imports.



CUCUMBERS (WESTERN)

Low volume continues to keep the market very high. Crossing through Nogales are still very light, Market continues to be demand exceed. Production expected to increase over the next 2 weeks as new fields begin harvest. Euro cukes are at very low levels with load volume deals being offered.



Commodity Updates



EGGPLANT (EASTERN)

Florida quality on eggplant remains good; markets still remain on the lower side. Look for this to remain steady for beginning of the week loading.



EGGPLANT (WESTERN)

Quality is improving as more product is being offered. All sizes are available with volume deals being offered.



GRAPES (GREEN)

The green seedless grape market is about steady as supplies out of Peru continue to improve. The early Chilean green seedless are about a week away from the East Coast; with good volume still several weeks away. The domestic storage crop is cleaning up but showing some quality issues with the last of the fruit (mold, wet)



GRAPES (RED)

The last of the domestic red grape crop is showing some quality and condition issues. The late Crimson's were left on the vine late in an attempt to let them color up. This resulted in heavy sugar and still only 75% color on average. This combined with the intermittent rains of the last month has lead us to sweet, poorly colored fruit with little storage or shelf life. We expect the market to continue to strengthen as shippers move out their remaining domestic fruit as quickly as possible and have only limited supplies of the better quality Peruvian and Chilean fruit. We should see a strong market on red grapes well into January when volumes of the Chilean grapes increase.



GREEN ONIONS

Supplies remain limited on Medium, Large, Jumbo, and Iceless green onions. Better supplies of Small/Pencil green onions are creating a 2 tiered market. Your more aggressive deals have been with small green onions. The quality has been hit and miss for arrivals. Some of the arrival issues have been yellowing / Browning of the tops.



KALE

The current market is stable with stable supplies from Oxnard to Yuma. Dark Green color and excellent quality are being reported out of both loading areas. Look for supplies and the market to remain steady for the week.



LETTUCE ICEBERG

Although the market has softened compared to last week, product availability is up and down depending on the shipper. The high pricing is slowly starting to take its toll on demand. Expect to see blister and peel upon arrivals throughout the month of December. The temperatures are going to be better this week in the Yuma region, but damage is going to be seen on this commodity. Demand continues to exceed supply. There will be pricing gaps all week ranging from six to eight dollars. The lower yields suppliers are experiencing is widespread. Escalated pricing is in effect on contract cartons as well as value added items. Yuma lettuce is reported to have seeder, light weights, small and irregular head size, puffiness, and insect damage. These defects are industry wide. The weights on palletized lettuce are ranging from 33-39 pounds



LETTUCE LEAF

Supplies on romaine have picked up as demand has fallen off. The romaine supplies are moderate, overall. Romaine hearts continue to have less bleaching than desired. This is directly due to the cold weather and the shorter daylight hours currently in the growing areas. Escalated pricing is in effect on contract cartons and value added items. Blister and peel expect to see all of this month. Other defects include seeder, light weights, small and irregular head size, puffiness, and insect damage. These defects are industry wide. Green and red leaf are softer as well as butter. These commodities are having issues very similar to romaine. This is industry wide. There will continue to be gaps in pricing among the different shippers on all leaf items throughout the week.



Commodity Updates



MELON (CANTALOUPE)

Offshore melons are very short in supply currently. Offshore melons are trickling in on the west coast and supplies will build slowly. The quality is good overall with some lots arriving with bruising and scarring. The peak size is 9ct and 6ct with very few 12ct and even less 15ct. The 18ct sizes will not be available for several more days. The large size fruit trend will continue throughout December. We are experiencing very good demand for the cantaloupes that are arriving. Supplies will be lighter than normal for the month of December and the peak size will be 9ct to 6ct. The current market is up on all sizes and looks to continue the upward trend.



MELON (HONEYDEW)

The peak size is currently 6ct with more of all sizes coming in than previously. Mexican dewes continue to ship out of Nogales AZ however many growers have finished and soon the volume will be very light. Demand is good on all sizes. Decent volumes are arriving in Florida with the peak size being 5ct. Offshore dewes are set to arrive on the west coast mid December. The market is steady on both Mexican and offshore dewes.



MELON (WATERMELON)

Seedless watermelons continue increase in supplies Peak sizes are mostly 60s followed by 45s. Market is easier and pricing is also. Both cartons and bins are being offered. personal seedless are at promotable levels with all sizes available.



ONIONS

Washington - the market is steady on all sizes and all colors. Medium yellows are still on the short side. The quality is good on all colors.

Idaho/Oregon - the market is steady on all sizes and colors. Demand has been fair. The quality has been good on all colors.



PEARS

Washington - Bartletts are steady on all sizes. The market remains strong due to lighter storage supplies. The fruit continues to peak on 110/120s and large sizes remain short. Bosc are steady and continue to peak on 90/100/110s. D'anjou pears are also steady and continue to peak on 90/100s. Most shippers are short of D'anjou 80s and larger. Red pears are steady on all sizes and are still producing mostly half carton 45/50s and full carton 90/100s. The quality has ranged on the bartletts as some suppliers are between regular storage and C.A. The D'anjou, Bosc, and red pear quality is good.



PINEAPPLES

Supplies look good for December. Exports to Europe has backed off and this is helping our supply issues we have seen over the last month.



POTATOES

Washington - all sizes and colors are steady. The norkotah quality has been good.

Idaho - the market is steady on all sizes and in both varieties. Demand has been steady but light. The quality for both varieties has been good.

Colorado - the carton market is steady to slightly lower depending on the supplier. The norkotah quality has been good.

Wisconsin - the carton market is steady on all sizes. The norkotah quality has been good.



Commodity Updates



POTATOES (COLORED)

Bakersfield, California - red and golds and whites are steady and they all continue to peak on size A. Whites are limited. Premium/Baker size reds and golds remain limited. The quality has been good.

Western Washington - reds and golds are steady and they continue to peak on A size. The quality has been good on all colors.

Idaho - Reds and golds are mostly steady on all sizes. All colors continue to peak on A-size. The quality has been good.

Wisconsin - Reds and golds are steady and both colors are peaking on A-size. Premium and baker reds, premium and baker golds, and gold Cs are still short. The quality has been good.

North Dakota - Reds and golds are steady and still peaking on size A. US#1 and 2 Red B volume remain limited along with premiums and bakers in both colors. The quality has been good.

SQUASH (EASTERN)

Both color squash will be very tight this week due to heavy rains in Homestead, FL for the last few days. Look for markets to rise during this week loading.

SQUASH (WESTERN)

Good availability in hard squash. Spaghetti, Butternut, Acorn, High volume in Kabocha. more product being offered every week.

Italian continues with light supply, but is expected to increase over the next 2 weeks as new districts start production. This should help ease the market.

TOMATOES (EASTERN)

Rounds - The market is higher. Supplies continue to be short, due to weather. Availability and harvest still tight. Sizing continues to be a struggle. Weather out west continues to be raining and colder. Quality is Good.

Roma - The market is steady. Roma market continues to be steady, with supplies on the tighter side. Mexico continues to be lighter due to weather. Quality is Good.

Cherry - The market is steady. Florida continues to see good supplies, however, weather slowed up harvest a bit. Quality is Good.

Grape - The market is higher. Florida continues to see lower production due to weather. Mexico also struggling due to weather conditions out west. Quality is good.

TOMATOES (WESTERN)

Rounds - The market is higher. Mexico still struggling due to weather conditions. Supplies a little better back east, but, weather conditions to shorten up supplies. Quality is Good.

Roma - The market is higher. Supplies still lower out west. Weather continues to be an issue. Florida also up in market with lower supplies available. Quality is Good.

Cherry - The market is steady. Mexico supplies steady, but rains slowing things up a bit. Florida also continues to see steady supplies. Quality is Good.

Grape - The market is steady/higher. Weather continues to slow up supplies. East also a bit slower due to weather. Quality is Good.



Commodities at a Glance



Commodity / Region	Market	Quality
Apples		
Coopersville/Belding/Sparta, MI	Steady	Good
Hudson/Pleasant Valley/Red Hook, NY	Steady	Good
Wenatchee/Yakima, WA and Hood River, OR	Steady	Good
Asparagus		
Ica, Peru to Trujillo	Higher	Fair
Southern Baja, MX	Higher	Fair
Avocado (Mexican)		
Michoacan, Mexico	Lower/Steady	Good
Bell Peppers (Eastern)		
Hillsborough / Western Collier County, FL	Steady/Higher	Good
Bell Peppers (Western)		
Northern Sonora, Mexico	Steady/Higher	Good
Berries (Blackberries)		
Santa Maria, CA	Steady	Fair
Oxnard, CA	Steady	Fair
Central Mexico	Steady	Fair
Berries (Blueberries)		
Trujillo, Peru	Steady	Fair
Concordia, Argentina	Steady	Fair
Salto, Uruguay	Steady	Fair
Central Mexico	Steady	Good
Southern Chile	Steady	Excellent
Berries (Raspberries)		
Santa Maria, CA	Steady/Higher	Fair
Oxnard, CA	Steady/Higher	Good
Central Mexico	Steady/Higher	Good
Berries (Strawberries)		
Santa Maria, CA	Steady	Fair
Oxnard, CA	Steady	Good
Central Florida	Steady	Fair
Central Mexico	Steady	Fair

Commodity / Region	Market	Quality
Broccoli		
Oxnard/Santa Maria, CA	Steady	Good
Salinas Valley, CA	Steady	Good
McAllen, TX	Steady	Good
Yuma, AZ	Steady	Good
Brussels Sprouts		
Salinas Valley, CA	Higher	Fair
Carrots		
Bakersfield/Santa Maria, CA	Steady	Excellent
Cauliflower		
Oxnard/Santa Maria, CA	Steady/Higher	Good
Yuma, AZ	Steady/Higher	Good
Celery		
Oxnard/Santa Maria, CA	Steady/Higher	Good
Cherries		
Coquimbo/Valaparaíso/Santiago/Rancagua, Chile	Steady	Excellent
Chili Peppers		
Northern Sonora, Mexico	Higher	Fair
Cilantro		
Baja, MX	Steady/Higher	Fair
Oxnard/Santa Maria, CA	Steady/Higher	Fair
Citrus (Lemons)		
Coachella, CA / Yuma, AZ	Steady	Good
Merced/Bakersfield, CA	Steady	Good
Citrus (Limes)		
Veracruz, Mexico	Steady/Higher	Excellent
Citrus (Oranges)		
Merced to Bakersfield, CA	Lower/Steady	Good
Riverside, CA	Lower/Steady	Good
Cucumbers (Eastern)		
Hillsborough / Western Collier County, FL	Steady/Higher	Good



Commodities at a Glance



Commodity / Region	Market	Quality
Cucumbers (Western)		
Northern Sonora, Mexico	Steady/Higher	Fair
Eggplant (Eastern)		
Hillsborough / Western Collier County, FL	Steady	Good
Eggplant (Western)		
Northern Sonora, Mexico	Higher	Fair
Grapes (Green)		
Delano, CA	Steady	Fair
Fresno, CA	Steady	Fair
Madera, CA	Steady	Fair
Grapes (Red)		
Delano, CA	Steady/Higher	Fair
Fresno, CA	Steady/Higher	Fair
Madera, CA	Steady/Higher	Fair
Green Onions		
Mexicali, Baja	Steady/Higher	Good
Kale		
Baja, MX	Steady	Excellent
Oxnard/Santa Maria, CA	Steady	Excellent
Lettuce Iceberg		
Yuma, AZ	Lower	Fair
Lettuce Leaf		
Oxnard/Santa Maria, CA	Lower	Fair
Yuma, AZ	Lower	Fair
Melon (Cantaloupe)		
Zacapa, Guatemala	Higher	Good
Melon (Honeydew)		
Hermosillo, Mexico	Steady	Excellent
Zacapa, Guatemala	Steady	Excellent
Melon (Watermelon)		
Northern Sonora, Mexico	Steady/Higher	Good

Commodity / Region	Market	Quality
Onions		
Ontario, OR to Nampa, ID	Steady	Good
Quincy/Hermiston, WA	Steady	Good
Pears		
Wenatchee/Yakima, WA and Hood River, OR	Steady	Good
Pineapples		
Alajuela, Costa Rica	Steady	Good
Heredia, Costa Rica	Steady	Good
Limon, Costa Rica	Steady	Good
La Ceiba, Honduras	Steady	Good
Retalhuleu, Guatemala	Steady	Good
Peten, Guatemala	Steady	Good
Potatoes		
Hamer/Rupert, ID	Steady	Good
Quincy/Hermiston, WA	Steady	Good
Monte Vista, CO	Steady	Good
Plover/Bancroft, WI	Steady	Good
Potatoes (colored)		
Bakersfield, CA	Steady	Good
Mount Vernon, WA	Steady	Good
Red River Valley, ND	Steady	Good
Pasco/Tri-Cities, WA	Steady	Good
Plover, WI	Steady	Good
Squash (Eastern)		
Hillsborough / Sarasota County, FL	Higher	Good
Squash (Western)		
Northern Sonora, Mexico	Steady	Good
Tomatoes (Eastern)		
Northern Florida	Steady	Good
Charleston, SC	Steady	Good
Tomatoes (Western)		
Northern Baja California Norte, Mexico	Steady/Higher	Good
Northern Sonora, Mexico	Steady/Higher	Good

