

# The Source

April 26, 2023

PRO\*ACT

## Market Updates

**Apples** –Granny Smiths remain scarce. Decreased demand hasn't affected prices but made them more available. Washington shippers have stepped up Gala packing as they approach the end of the storage season.

**Asparagus** –West Coast product continues to be tight. There are fewer 28/1 being packed. Volume has been helped by the majority of suppliers moving back to 11/1. Caborca is slowly finishing. The next region is still a week away. Washington asparagus has started and is helping fill the pipeline.

**Avocados** –The market is steady with good big fruit supplies. 60/70s are still scarce. Warmer weather in Mexico should bring more fruit of all sizes. California fruit supplies are increasing.

**Bell Peppers** –The markets are fairly steady. Rain in Florida results in more choice peppers. Nogales is still hanging on but volume and size are dwindling. Coachella is 2 weeks away from starting. Red bells are also holding steady as Canada is in full production.

**Berries (Blackberries)** –Very few supplies exist for this item, and the markets are firm. This current gap should close in 2 weeks.

**Berries (Blueberries)** –Florida and Georgia are in full production while Central Mexico is still light. West Coast production should begin to improve in mid-May.

**Berries (Raspberries)** –Very light numbers are coming out of Central Mexico while we wait for Central California to ramp up in late May.

**Berries (Strawberries)** –The market is experiencing a major production increase due to warmer weather. We should have good numbers for the Mother's Day pull.

**Broccoli** –Broccoli supplies including florets continue to be limited in Yuma as production starts in Salinas. Supplies in Santa Maria and Mexico are steady. Overall, the quality is above average. Look for this market to adjust lower for the weekend.

## Continued

**Brussels Sprouts** –Brussels sprout supplies continue to tighten as we transition. Expect the market to increase as we approach the weekend. Overall, good quality is reported.

**Carrots** –Whole carrot supplies are in a better position. Markets are down slightly. Georgia will be done by the end of April.

**Cauliflower** –Cauliflower supplies including florets continue to be in a demand-exceeds-supply situation as we start production in Salinas. Santa Maria and Mexico supplies are tight as well and seeing more demand. Expect this market to continue to rise as we approach the weekend.

**Celery** –This market is strong for all suppliers. Production in Yuma is finished. Oxnard/Santa Maria has moderate availability with heavier production on small sizing. There have been reports of defects such as slight pith and seeder. The overall quality continues to be above average. Expect this market to strengthen over the next few weeks.

**Citrus (Lemons)** – The main growing region is District 1 and is peaking on FCY fruit. District 2 is ramping up and will bring more choice-grade fruit into the market. Small fruit is tight due to the rain helping to increase fruit size. The market continues to climb upwards.

**Citrus (Limes)** –Prices continue to trend downward. Widespread pricing with smaller fruit 230s/250s being the cheapest. Large sizes 110s/150s remain limited. Expect better demand as Cinco de Mayo approaches but this should be followed by increased supply and lower markets.

**Citrus (Oranges)** -Supplies peak at 72/88ct. The quality is good. Markets are tightening up on the small fruit with significantly less volume. As a result of the short supply of 113/138ct navels, Valencias have started very lightly.

**Cucumbers** –Florida has a lighter volume due to rain. Georgia will start the 1st week of May. Nogales supply remains adequate as Baja continues to slowly build volume.

## Continued

**Eggplant** –There is enough supply to meet demand on both coasts. Eggplant will start at Coachella in 2 weeks.

**Garlic** -California's production is steady and expected to continue throughout the week. Good quality has been reported.

**Grapes (Green)** –The supply gap between South America and Mexico is real. It is not a total absence of grapes, but a severe shortage that will hit different shippers at different times. This tight supply period will last through May and into the first half of June.

**Grapes (Red)** –The supply gap between South America and Mexico is real. It is not a total absence of grapes, but a severe shortage that will hit different shippers at different times. This tight supply period will last through May and into the first half of June.

**Green Onions** –Mexican-grown supplies continue to improve this week. Mexico's warmer weather is helping spur growth. Overall, the quality is good.

**Kale** –This market continues to be steady. Moderate to good availability is expected throughout the week. Overall, the quality is good and the market is steady.

**Lettuce (Iceberg)** –Supplies remain moderate at best. Production in Salinas is expected to increase in the next few weeks. Huron is expected to run until the first to the second week of May. Yuma had late plantings, but the high temperatures in this region will cost growers to lose acreage. The escalation of value-added items will continue this week at a minimum. With warm temperatures in the forecast, expect lighter, puffier lettuce with multiple suppliers.

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**Lettuce Leaf** – Romaine and all leaf items are very active in the marketplace. Value-added items are on the rise. Yuma's production is mostly finished. Production in southern California is light. Huron has moderate production while supplies in Salinas will be light throughout this week. Romaine heart production has also been reduced. Some common defects being reported include tip and fringe burn, along with blistering and peeling.

**Lettuce Tender Leaf** – Italian parsley, cilantro, and arugula (baby and wild) all remain tight. The product in Salinas continues to be behind schedule for 7 days. This is due to the heavy rains we had back when the growers tried to plant the product. The product is slowly sizing up and the weights are not to spec. We hope growth improves as the weather warms up slightly in the next few days in the Salinas Valley.

**Melons (Cantaloupe)** – The import market still has a month to go. The cantaloupe market is steady, and fruit supplies are abundant. There are volume deals on 6's and 9's on both coasts, but very limited on 12's and 15. Strong demand in the market is on the rise.

**Melons (Honeydew)** – Four more weeks for the offshore deal. The honeydew market is steady. There are good supplies on 5/6's. Quality and demand are high.

**Melons (Watermelon)** – Offshore fruit is done. Steady supplies coming out of Mexico. Florida's numbers are improving daily. Better pricing will come soon.

**Mushrooms** – Availability and supplies are excellent.

**Onions** – California is ramping up. The Northwest season is ending. Limited supplies remain in Texas. Georgia's season has started. Overall, The quality is good and the market is high.

## Continued

**Pears** – The market is slightly higher. Expect prices to gradually rise from May to July as storage supplies reach the end. The upcoming crop of California Bartletts is projected to start the week of July 10th but could be later due to weather.

**Pineapples** – Light open market volume. Overall, the quality is good and the market is steady.

**Potatoes** – The market remains extreme. Demand exceeds available supply for 40 - 80 CT and #2s.

**Squash** – Price on the east coast firmed up due to rain, and volume is expected to rebound in about a week once Georgia begins. Out west, heavy winds caused some scarring resulting in more #2 product. Volume out of Mexico is expected to remain at current levels.

**Stone Fruit** – Imported peaches and nectarines are done on both coasts. Plum supplies are moderate. Market steady. The imported Kiwi market is higher. Supply remains light. California cherries are projected to start the week of May 8th.

**Tomatoes** – The market is reacting a bit due to the Florida rains. The Ruskin/Palmetto area is now the main region. The quality is good. Out west, Mexico is on its seasonal decline and will continue for another 4-6 weeks weather permitting. Baja has started lightly with mostly big fruit available.

## A Peek at Peak Seasons

**Blackberries (Past Peak Season)**  
**Raspberries (Past Peak Season)**

## Weather

**California** – Over the weekend, strong high pressure and offshore flow will dominate conditions in the area, resulting in a heat wave. The morning lows will be in the 40s to low 60s, while the daytime highs will be in the 60s and 70s near the coast and in the 80s to mid-90s elsewhere. There will be gusty sea breezes, but light offshore winds will dominate otherwise.

**Mexico** – Over the weekend, temperatures will remain seasonably warm to slightly above normal. Temperatures will be mostly in the upper 70s to upper 80s through Sunday. Through Sunday morning, temperatures should drop to the mid-40s to mid-50s. There will be limited rain chances until the end of May, with mostly dry conditions.



























**Florida** – Over the weekend, upper-level disturbances are expected to cause widespread showers and isolated thunderstorms across most of Florida. There will be heavy storms north of I-4 Thursday evening and Saturday evening into Sunday afternoon.

**Arizona** – The southwest US has been experiencing cool mornings and warm afternoons late this week due to a strong high-pressure ridge. Temperatures today range from the mid-80s to the upper 90s, with highs reaching 105 degrees. Morning lows today, low 50s-low 60s warming Saturday/Sunday to the upper 50s-mid 60s. Gusty northerly winds up to 25-30 mph along the Lower Colorado River are forecast for today and into Friday.

## Freight

Trucks remain steady in California, Idaho, and the Northwest. The national diesel average remains steady at 4.077 per gallon while California's diesel price remains steady at 4.960.

# Commodities at a Glance

 APPLES	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 CITRUS (LEMONS)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 MELON (CANTALOUPE)	Quality is good, pricing is lower
 ASPARAGUS	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 CITRUS (LIMES)	Quality is good, pricing is lower	 MELON (HONEYDEW)	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 AVOCADO	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 CITRUS (ORANGES)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 MELON (WATERMELON)	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 BELL PEPPERS	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 CUCUMBERS	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 MUSHROOM	Quality is good, pricing is lower
 BERRIES (BLACKBERRIES)	Quality is fair, pricing is steady	 EGGPLANT	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 ONIONS	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 BERRIES (BLUEBERRIES)	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 GARLIC	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 PEARS	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 BERRIES (RASPBERRIES)	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 GRAPES (GREEN)	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 PINEAPPLES	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 BERRIES (STRAWBERRIES)	Quality is good, pricing is lower	 GRAPES (RED)	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 POTATOES	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 BROCCOLI	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 GREEN ONIONS	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 SQUASH	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 BRUSSELS SPROUTS	Quality is fair, pricing is higher	 KALE	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 STONE FRUIT	Quality is good, pricing is higher
 CARROTS	Quality is good, pricing is steady	 LETTUCE ICEBERG	Quality is fair, pricing is higher	 TOMATOES	Quality is good, pricing is steady
 CAULIFLOWER	Quality is fair, pricing is higher	 LETTUCE LEAF	Quality is fair, pricing is higher		
 CELERY	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 LETTUCE TENDER LEAF	Quality is fair, pricing is higher		