

The Source

Commodity of the Month - Strawberries

Driscoll's
Only the Finest Berries™

MARKET ALERTS

Blackberries - Supply is steady and the quality is fair.

Strawberries - Supply is steady and the quality is fair.

Onions - Limited supply and the quality is fair.

JANUARY 31, 2024

CROP UPDATES

The West Coast is preparing for a series of powerful storm systems, triggered by subtropical moisture from the Pacific Ocean near Hawaii, causing substantial rainfall and strong winds to California, the Southwestern Desert, Baja and Northern Mexico, posing significant threats to crops. [Read more](#)

WEATHER

Arizona - This week's ideal growing conditions include showers on Thursday evening, slow harvest on Friday due to muddy fields, and partly cloudy skies after next week's rain.

California - Starting Wednesday night through the weekend, the recent warm weather will transition to intermittent rain.

Florida - Temperatures in central and southern Florida are expected to moderate, with highs in the mid-60s to mid-70s and lows in the upper 40s to upper 50s.

Mexico - Central Mexico fields are expected to experience normal temperatures and primarily dry weather.

FREIGHT

California is expected to experience incoming weather through February, potentially bringing snow to low-lying interstate passes and causing potential shipping delays.

PRO*FRESH
LOGISTICS

AT PEAK SEASON



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Commodity Updates



Apples

We continue to have good supplies of most varieties and sizes. Overall the market is slightly higher as some of the cheapest deals are starting to clean up.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Hudson, New York (September - June)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good



Asparagus

Mexican supplies are picking up. It is going to be sunny and warm in Caborca for the next three to four days. With this optimal growing weather, supplies and yields will really increase. For the foreseeable future, we can expect this market to trend downward as Caborca will continue to supply good supplies.

Peruvian supplies continue to wind down. There are only 26 containers coming in this week which is a 44% drop compared to last week. Peruvian supplies will remain tight.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Caborca (Year Round)	High	\$\$\$	Good
Ciudad Obregon (Year Round)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair
Peru (Year Round)	Light	\$\$\$	Good



Avocados

There are no triggers in effect: markets are steady. The main crop is adventajada. There is a steady supply of 48ct and larger. There is an increase in 60ct and smaller markets.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Mexico (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good



Bell Peppers

Markets are fairly steady. Nogales has better supplies than FL. Sinaloa temperatures have been much warmer, so production will increase. Colored bells are still tight, but slowly increasing.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Florida (November - May)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
Mexico (November - May)	Light	\$\$\$	Good

Price Key: \$\$\$ -Low, \$\$\$ -Steady, \$\$\$ -High

Key Partners



Commodity Updates



Berries (Blackberries)

ALERT

"There is light local production coupled with larger numbers of fruit coming in from Central Mexico and Baja. Markets are expected to remain steady with lower undertones as production in Mexico begins to increase in volume.

Good numbers of fruit are crossing in daily out of Central Mexico. Compared to the transferred fruit out west, in McAllen, TX has cheaper prices.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
California (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Fair
McAllen, Texas (October-May)	Steady	\$\$\$	Fair



Berries (Blueberries)

Product is currently arriving at the DCs from Chile, CMEX, and Baja in steadily increasing numbers. The main offering out of Dover, FL is product from Chile. Central Mexico is ramping up and should continue to do so through the end of February.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
California (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
Dover, Florida (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
McAllen, Texas (October-May)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good



Berries (Raspberries)

There should be a good amount of fruit transferred from Baja and Central Mexico over the next few weeks. The market is steady with lower undertones. McAllen, TX is expected to see a slight increase in volume coming out of Central Mexico over the next few weeks.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
California (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
Dover, Florida (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
McAllen, Texas (October - May)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good



Berries (Strawberries)

ALERT

As we move into the Valentine's Day pull period, volume out of Central Mexico is increasing. Due to the inclement weather forecast in California and Florida, we will see increased demand out of this area this week and next.

Production will continue to struggle due to multiple rain events projected over the next few weeks in the Oxnard and Santa Maria growing regions. Markets are firm with higher overtones.

We have been seeing unseasonably cooler weather accompanied by sporadic rain in Dover, FL. It is expected that markets will firm with higher overtones.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
California (Year Round)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair
Dover, Florida (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Fair
McAllen, Texas (October-May)	High	\$\$\$	Fair

Price Key: \$\$\$ -Low, \$\$\$ -Steady, \$\$\$ -High

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PRO*ACT

Commodity Updates



Broccoli

As the weather has warmed up in Yuma, broccoli supplies have improved this week. This market should remain steady this week. There are also good supplies coming out of Santa Maria. Look for this market to remain steady going into next week.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Mexico (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Fair
Santa Maria, California (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Fair
Yuma, Arizona (November-May)	Steady	\$\$\$	Fair



Brussel Sprouts

There is a good supply of Brussels sprouts. Mexico and Oxnard have grown in size and production. Next week, this market is expected to remain steady.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Mexico (December-August)	Steady	\$\$\$	Fair
Salinas, California (July-December)	Steady	\$\$\$	Fair



Carrots

Market prices on whole carrots are steady at a higher level, but availability is improving as suppliers return to the Bakersfield growing region by the end of February. Grimmway has also started shipping out of their Lake Park, GA facility.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Kern County, California (May-July) (October-February)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
Lake Park, Georgia (December - May)	Light	\$\$\$	Good



Cauliflower

Due to the warmer weather in Yuma, cauliflower supplies are very good this week. There are also good supplies coming out of Santa Maria. Going into next week, this market should remain steady.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Mexico (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
Yuma (November - May)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
Santa Maria, California (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good



Celery

The demand is moderate to light. As shippers continue to make attractive offers for this commodity, pricing remains very competitive. Southern CA continues to have the best availability and pricing. All sizes are available so promote as much as possible. Shippers are flexing. Yuma's harvest is moderate at best. Good quality continues industry wide.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Oxnard, California (Year Round)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
Yuma, Arizona (December - April)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good

Price Key: \$\$\$ -Low, \$\$\$ -Steady, \$\$\$ -High

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Commodity Updates



Citrus (Lemons)

Currently, all three districts are shipping, with peak sizes of 140/165ct. The market is steady. Early-February is expected to be the end of District 3. There will be a tightening of 165ct and smaller as District 3 approaches its end, making District 1 the main growing region with larger fruit.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
CA Desert/Yuma (October - February)	Steady	\$\$\$	Fair



Citrus (Limes)

As demand is light, markets are lower. Fruit is peaking on 175/200ct, and the larger sizes will become more limited in February. New crop has started but yields will be light and markets are expected to rise for superbowl pull.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Veracruz (Year Round)	Light	\$\$\$	Good



Citrus (Oranges)

As of now, 72ct and larger fruit are in peak demand; 88/113/138ct are extremely scarce and will remain so throughout the navel season. Fruit will continue to size up as the season progresses due to low fruit set and rain events. As we navigate our way through this shorter navel season, please be flexible with size and grade. Lead time is very important; please send orders 5-7 days in advance. Brix are between 12-14; quality is good. Zero gassing at this time.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
San Joaquin Valley (Year Round)	Light	\$\$\$	Good



Cucumber

Supplies remain short. Honduran offshore supplies are light. Until Florida gets going in March, supplies on the Eastcoast won't increase much. MX supplies are in a skip but we should see more supplies coming on with better weather over the next week.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Florida (November - May)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
Mexico (November - May)	Light	\$\$\$	Good



Eggplant

There is a limited supply. FL will remain light until spring crops begin. The supply in Nogales is expected to improve by the end of next week.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Florida (November - May)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
Mexico (November - May)	Light	\$\$\$	Good

Price Key: \$\$\$ -Low, \$\$\$ -Steady, \$\$\$ -High

Key Partners



Commodity Updates



Garlic

Overall, garlic supplies are tightening. There has been a good harvest of Argentinian garlic in South America over the past few months. Nonetheless, it is estimated that it won't be enough to fill the overall supply gap. In the coming months, the garlic market will become tighter and more volatile.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
East Coast (Year Round)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
Bakersfield, California (Year Round)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
Gilroy, California (Year Round)	Light	\$\$\$	Good



Grapes (Green)

There has been no improvement in the supply of imported grapes. It's only going to get worse before it gets better. Central Chile is starting late, Peru finished early, and Northern Chile (1st district) is down 20% on production. Vessels are continuing to experience arrival delays due to a bottleneck in the Panama Canal for east coast arrivals, or heavy seas for west coast arrivals. During the middle of February, shippers expect a gap of about 10 days on arrivals on the east coast. The fruit arriving is mostly extra large with almost zero medium large coming off the boats.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
San Joaquin Valley (June-November)	Light	\$\$\$	Good



Grapes (Red)

There has been no improvement in the supply of imported grapes. It's only going to get worse before it gets better. Central Chile is starting late, Peru finished early, and Northern Chile (1st district) is down 20% on production. Vessels are continuing to experience arrival delays due to a bottleneck in the Panama Canal for east coast arrivals, or heavy seas for west coast arrivals. During the middle of February, shippers expect a gap of about 10 days on arrivals on the east coast. The fruit arriving is mostly extra large with almost zero medium large coming off the boats.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
San Joaquin Valley (June-December)	Light	\$\$\$	Good



Green Onions

Supplies are still limited as we begin this week. Due to last week's rain, harvesters are still trying to catch up in the fields. This week, supplies should improve as Mexico's weather improves.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Mexico (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good



Kale

This week, supplies are steady. Quality is also good despite the recent freeze and rain.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Mexico (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
Oxnard, California (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
Yuma, Arizona (November- May)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good

Price Key: \$\$\$ -Low, \$\$\$ -Steady, \$\$\$ -High

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Commodity Updates



Lettuce Iceberg

Despite unfavorable weather conditions, there is moderate to good availability of supplies in the Yuma region. The cold weather mixed in with the rain has created some pink ribbing, epidermal peel as well as blister. When packing, damaged outer leaves are kept on to protect the quality of the head. Simply peel off the outer leaf coverage and the product is fine. Average weights are 40-44 pounds, depending on the shipper. Some suppliers are flexing so promote this item this week. The market is expected to get stronger next week.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Mexico (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Fair
Santa Maria, California (March-December)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair
Yuma, Arizona (November-May)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good



Lettuce Leaf

Romaine as well as red and green leaf will be plentiful throughout the week with most suppliers. There will be good availability of Romaine hearts throughout the week as well. Shippers are flexing. Demand is down due mainly to poor weather currently throughout the country. Yuma's cold and rain have affected quality, industry-wide. Defects include blisters, peels, and discoloration on all leaf items. Throughout the week, pricing and availability are expected to remain stable.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Mexico (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
Oxnard, California (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
Yuma, Arizona (November-May)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good



Lettuce Tender Leaf

There is a shortage of spinach and arugula due to yellowing and poor quality. Supplies are expected to remain tight this week. Suppliers hope next week will be better for supplies.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Mexico (Year Round)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair
Oxnard, California (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
Yuma, Arizona (November-May)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair



Melon (Cantaloupe)

As of now, supply is meeting demand, and it is expected to remain steady until the end of February.

As a result of weather delays in Guatemala and Honduras, yields have decreased. Cantaloupes peak at 9s and Jumbo 9s. With a higher shell color, external and internal quality characteristics remain good to great. Occasional bruising and soft fruit. The Brix level is between 12-14%.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Central America (December - May)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good

Price Key: \$\$\$ -Low, \$\$\$ -Steady, \$\$\$ -High

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Commodity Updates



Melon (Honeydew)

For the remainder of the month, supply is expected to meet demand. Yields have been lowered in Guatemala and Honduras due to weather delays. Heavy impact on honeydews. This week, Nogales has better sizes and availability. Sizing from Guatemala is expected to peak on 5s for the remainder of the month. The quality has been fair, with some bruising, spotting, and discoloration.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Arizona (June-July) (October-November)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
Central America (December - May)	Light	\$\$\$	Good



Melon (Watermelon)

The domestic season is coming to an end, and Honduran product is now available. The product is available for processing and has a great color. There is a shortage of Mexican watermelons only on the west coast. Rains in Northern Mexico have impacted the supply of fruit, and fruit is slowly becoming available in Southern Mexico. Within the next two weeks, additional inventory will be available.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Arizona (June-July) (October-November)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair
Central America (December-May)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair



Mushroom

There is an excellent supply and availability. Specialty varieties are available with a little lead time.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Nationwide	Steady	\$\$\$	Good



Onions



Despite limited supplies of white onions, the market remains extreme. There is an increase in the price of yellow and red onions.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
South Texas (July-April)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair
Tri-Cities, Washington (July-April)	High	\$\$\$	Excellent
Eastern Oregon/Parma, ID (August-April)	Steady	\$\$\$	Excellent
San Joaquin Valley (May-August)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair
Hatch, New Mexico (July-April)	Light	\$\$\$	Fair



Pears

Washington's Bartlett pear season is winding down, but the pears are still available. Anjou are running large and smaller foodservice sizes are becoming scarce. There is a good supply of Bosc, and the market is steady.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
Hood River, Oregon (August-July)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
Yakima, Washington (August-July)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good

Price Key: \$\$\$ -Low, \$\$\$ -Steady, \$\$\$ -High

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Commodity Updates



Pineapples

Supply meets demand and growers are fulfilling their contract with limited transactional volume available.

6ct crowned pineapples have been in short supply and being able to sub will ensure product. Mexican volume have dropped and growers are limiting the exported product. In Costa Rica, rains and thunderstorms are expected this week, which may limit product availability. Due to the short harvest during the holidays, high markets are expected. There are a limited number of Pink Pineapples available during the holiday.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
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Costa Rica (Year round)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
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Potatoes

We have abundant supplies of 90 - 120 CT as well as 6 ounce #2s. The most limited availability remains the 40 CT burbanks

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
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Bancroft, Wisconsin (August-July)	Steady	\$\$\$	Excellent
Idaho Falls, Idaho (August-July)	High	\$\$\$	Excellent
Monte Vista, Colorado (August-July)	Steady	\$\$\$	Excellent
Pasco, Washington (August-July)	High	\$\$\$	Excellent



Squash

With warmer temperatures in Sinaloa this week, markets will be easier. The quality is good in Nogales, fair out of Florida, but Florida is still struggling to build momentum with the intermittent rains.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
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Florida (November - May)	Light	\$\$\$	Good
Mexico (November-May)	Light	\$\$\$	Good



Stone Fruit

Imported plums have started. Peaches and nectarines are now arriving in small quantities on both coasts. Domestic pomegranates and persimmons are done for the season. In February, the domestic Kiwi market is expected to remain steady.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
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San Joaquin Valley (May-October)	Steady	\$\$\$	Fair
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Tomatoes

The tomato market has peaked and is on a downward trend. MX supplies are increasing, especially for Romas. Rounds are also coming off. For now, grape tomatoes are limited. Good weather in the forecast should bring more fruit and color.

Commodity/Region	Supply	Price	Quality
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Mexico (Year Round)	Steady	\$\$\$	Good
Florida (November-May)	Light	\$\$\$	Good

Price Key: \$\$\$ -Low, \$\$\$ -Steady, \$\$\$ -High

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Weather Updates



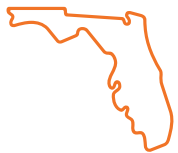
CALIFORNIA

Starting Wednesday night through the weekend, the recent warm weather will give way to intermittent rain.



MEXICO

Fields in Central Mexico can expect normal temperatures and mostly dry weather.



FLORIDA

By the first of the month, temperatures should gradually moderate with dry conditions. Central and southern Florida can expect highs in the mid-60s to mid-70s and lows in the upper 40s to upper 50s. Expect highs in the low-upper 60s and lows in the low-mid 40s in northern Florida.



ARIZONA

Ideal growing conditions this week will lead to showers Thursday evening. Due to the muddy fields, harvest will be slow on Friday. Look for partly cloudy skies after the rain going into next week.

For more information: <https://www.ventusky.com/?p=31.4;-89.7;3&l=rain-3h>

Freight Updates



Incoming weather to California is expected to last through the first week of February and has potential to bring snow to low lying interstate passes creating potential for shipping delays



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

[full history](#) [XLS](#)

	01/15/24	01/22/24	01/29/24	Change from	
				week ago	year ago
U.S.	3.863	3.838	3.867	↑ 0.029	↓ -0.755
East Coast (PADD1)	3.992	3.979	4.043	↑ 0.064	↓ -0.792
New England (PADD1A)	4.296	4.288	4.289	↑ 0.001	↓ -0.840
Central Atlantic (PADD1B)	4.249	4.232	4.228	↓ -0.004	↓ -0.829
Lower Atlantic (PADD1C)	3.865	3.853	3.949	↑ 0.096	↓ -0.774
Midwest (PADD2)	3.729	3.704	3.704	0.000	↓ -0.770
Gulf Coast (PADD3)	3.592	3.584	3.644	↑ 0.060	↓ -0.707
Rocky Mountain (PADD4)	3.755	3.696	3.645	↓ -0.051	↓ -1.097
West Coast (PADD5)	4.576	4.504	4.508	↑ 0.004	↓ -0.618
West Coast less California	4.083	3.992	4.011	↑ 0.019	↓ -0.783
California	5.142	5.092	5.078	↓ -0.014	↓ -0.430

*prices include all taxes

For more information: <https://www.eia.gov/petroleum/gasdiesel/>

Crop Updates



The West Coast is bracing for a series of powerful storm systems set to impact the entire region beginning today and into late next week. These systems will tap into subtropical moisture from the Pacific Ocean stretching back near Hawaii creating an atmospheric river event (Pineapple Express) that will bring substantial rainfall and strong winds to California, the Southwestern Desert, Baja and Northern Mexico. The first system expected late Wednesday through Friday will be followed by a brief break over the weekend before the next stronger system expected early next week. Many crops will be in the line of fire across the Southwest as these systems roll through.

Citrus harvests in Central California will be delayed as the wet conditions will limit harvest crews' access to the groves. This rain may also increase the size structure of the remaining fruit on the trees, already very light on smaller sized fruit.

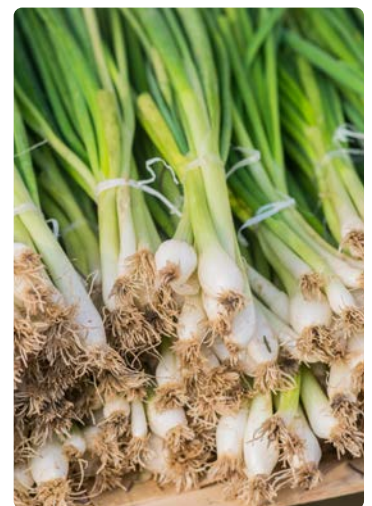
Strawberry fields in Southern California will see significant rainfall and possible flooding through early next week at a minimum. Baja will also likely see substantial precipitation especially to the north impacting production from this region.

Green onion harvests from Northern Mexico will again see a good shot of rain following last week's storms that will once again severely limit harvesting in the region.

The desert growing regions look to receive up to ½ inch with this first system late this week followed by a stronger, colder system early next week. These desert stands do not handle rain well and can take days to recover, not to mention delayed harvests in the wet conditions. The region has seen its share of inclement weather in the past couple of weeks. Previous very cold temperatures in the region caused widespread blistering and epidermal peeling in many leafy green stands. Add to this significant rain last week and vastly fluctuating temperatures recently. We will continue to see some epidermal peeling, and blistering with discoloration along the ribs of whole leaf items, especially romaine. With more rain on the way we will continue to see premature pinking in the iceberg, romaine and leafy green supplies. This condition many times is not evident at pack out and tends to show up during transit and storage. Processed leafy green items are in a similar position and will also likely see an increase in pinking showing up in the bag. As mentioned above pinking will not be evident during processing and tends to show up during storage.

The tender spring mix and baby leaf items will likely see an increase in yellowing and discoloration in upcoming supplies. Water saturation from excess precipitation will cause weaker texture in these crops which can result in increased mechanical damage during harvest and processing. While all tender leaf items will take a hit arugula is especially sensitive to these growing conditions.

It is important to keep your rotations in check moving forward as the shelf life of all products will be challenged. We will be watching these storm systems closely and will keep you up to date as to supplies and quality as we gather more information from the various regions.



TIM LYNCH
QUALITY ASSURANCE