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Crop Update

December 31, 2025

January Starts Quiet, but a Few Items Still Feel the Pinch

The holidays are behind us, demand has cooled off, and for the most part the market has taken a breath. That said, a few items are still working through some real challenges as we settle into January. Celery, green onions, and asparagus continue to feel the effects of recent weather, lighter holiday labor, and normal seasonal transitions.

Celery remains the most stressed of the three. Oxnard took a hit from heavy rain and strong winds, which knocked over mature fields and slowed harvests. Some younger acreage also dealt with flooding, and growers are still sorting through what that means longer term. Santa Maria continues to produce, desert harvests are ramping up, and Florida is starting to contribute more volume, but Oxnard will need some time to get back on its feet. Until then, availability is expected to stay snug.

Green onions are facing a similar mix of issues. Holiday labor shortages reduced harvest and packing activity, and intermittent border delays added another layer of friction. Rain in the Mexicali region created muddy conditions and increased the risk of softness and early decay in some lots. Crews are returning and conditions are improving, but supplies may remain uneven over the next couple of weeks.

Asparagus is less about overall volume and more about size. Jumbo and extra-large spears remain limited out of Mexico due to lingering weather effects and aging crowns, leaving most of the supply skewed toward small and standard sizes. New-crop Mexicali fields are expected to start helping soon, with additional relief later this month as the Caborca season comes online. Peru continues to be a steady source, particularly for larger sizes, and is helping balance the market.

None of these situations feel permanent. As fields recover, labor levels normalize, and new acreage comes into production, conditions should gradually improve. In the meantime, a little flexibility on size and a bit of extra lead time will go a long way.

