

Weather Report:



A cut-off low-pressure system forming off the West Coast will bring cooler temperatures, gusty winds, along with a coastal marine layer and drizzle to California fields Friday into early next week. This will cool the entire region through mid next week when high pressure and a warming trend takes place. Scattered showers and generally above average temperatures continue across Central Mexico with warm temperatures and dry conditions expected to the north. A weak cold front moves into Florida late this week with a chance of showers followed by dry conditions and warmer temperatures through next week.

Apples:



Washington still has a good amount of most varieties of Apples available. Honeycrisp, Braeburn, and Jonagold will be the first to finish up for the season with these varieties down to 20% or less. Red Delicious movement has been great due to export causing the lower end prices to firm up as availability get tighter. Sizing is peaking on 88 -113s. Gold Delicious movement is steady with sizing peaking on Prem/ Wax #1 80-100s. Pricing is steady on these sizes. 125 count Golds and smaller have seen a slight increase in pricing due to limited availability. Regional shippers (Michigan, Pennsylvania, and New York) are winding down for the season which is putting more presser on retail bags that take 125 and smaller. Granny Smith movement is strong with most pricing steady except for the 100 count and smaller which have a soft market due to large volumes left in storages. The Gala market continues to be good. Look for this market increase on the smaller sizes in coming weeks. Fiji demand & markets are steady with sizing peaking on 88-100 counts. Quality on all flavors has been good.

Avocado:



California:

California harvested good volume last week and will also this week in preparation for Cinco de Mayo pulls. Volumes are expected to back off some as we get into May. Export demand is strong. The crop is currently peaking on 48s & 60s. Fruit is ripening well and has good flavor

Mexican:

Mexico's harvest volumes are expected to start to decline some this week and continue to taper off in the coming weeks. They still are reporting good supplies, but we are in the last couple of months of their main crop. Demand is strong, and we are still seeing tighter supply situation on 48s & 60s #1 fruit.

Berries:



Blackberries:

Blackberry production has really slowed down. Mexico is now past the spring peak production period, and the volume did not meet expectations. Supplies will begin slowly down trending until we start domestic harvest. We do not expect to see any major disruption in coverage through mid-May, but we may see some shortages late May as we wait for the transition between Mexico and California to take place. Depending on the weather, shippers are expecting Salinas, Watsonville and Santa Maria areas to ramp up mid to late May. Supplies are not expected to fully rebound until June.

Blueberries:

Blueberry supplies are improving this week as California and Florida harvest volumes gradually increase. Florida has seen a bigger jump in production this week than California, but we expect CA to gradually ramp up over the next 2 weeks. Mexican harvest is winding down and most of the Chilean import fruit is finished. Shippers do have some Peruvian fruit available. Market prices have been higher as we transition into all domestic production, but will start coming down quickly as volumes increase.

Raspberries:

Raspberry supplies continue to be very limited this week. With recent weather conditions in California, domestic harvest has yet to really ramp up. Mexico remains the primary source of production, and they have passed their peak. Demand continues to exceed supply. Market prices are higher. This shortage will continue until Santa Maria, Salinas and Watsonville areas start up. We expect production to start with light volume late next week and gradually improve as we move into May.

Strawberries:

Supplies are improving. The weather looks to be ideal for the next week in all growing regions. Oxnard will be trending down as we move forward, but Santa Maria, Salinas and Watsonville will be increasing. The transition between growing regions has been slower this year due to late season cold weather, but we expect things to change rapidly over the next two weeks. More shippers are ramping up harvest in Salinas/Watsonville this week, and we will see good availability by next week. Santa Maria harvest will continue to increase, and the quality is expected to be good. Market prices have been up and down over the last two weeks, but will level out this week and we will see aggressive volume opportunities by the weekend.

Grapes:



Green:

We are at the tail end of Chilean green grapes with Mexico starting in the next two weeks. Supply is low, but there is not much demand, so shippers are trying to make what they have left, last until Mexico can fill orders. The quality is generally good, but everything is expensive at the moment, with premium green grapes going in the \$50.00 range. Make sure to check all green grapes upon arrival, especially at the stems for any decay.

Red:

The red grape market is stable with available product. Volume is stable with product available in storage. There are a wide variety of sizes and varieties available. Quality is slowly getting better & more consistent as low-quality red grapes have finally moved out of the market place. Quality will be good the remainder of the Chilean season.

Pears/Pineapples:



Pears:

Washington, D'Anjou pears are peaking on 90's and larger in the fancy grades then 80/90 in the us#1 grades. Shippers are having to repack all pears before shipping due to quality issues. Small pears will continue to be extremely tight with price increase coming on 120s and smaller. Finish date will be mid to end of July. Red Anjou's are down to the last 20% left in storages. Small sizes are very limited. Supplies will finish around the middle to end of May. Bosc pears are done for the season.

Red pears supplies have limited availability and are only in a few hands with a firm market.

Pineapples:

Pineapple volume coming from the tropics remains good and looks to be so into May. Size continues to peak on 5 / 6's.

Citrus:



Lemons:

Good availability in both the Central Valley and the Ventura/ Oxnard areas. Central Valley is peaking on 140s and larger sizes; heavier to fancy grade. Ventura/Oxnard is peaking 140s/165s/200s: heavy to the choice grade.

Limes:

Lime supplies have started to recover from the rain delays late last week. We expect supplies to improve moving forward. Sizes are still running in the smaller range as we wait for new blossoms to mature. Quality has been good with occasional reports of discoloration. However, as the weather warms up, we will quality improve as well. Prices have been fairly consistent with gradual declines on the smaller sizes.

Oranges:

We are now in the late varieties of navels and eating quality is some of the best of the season. Size structure remains 72s/56s/48s. Small fruit supplies are limited and pricing is starting to increase as availability tightens. California Valencia harvest looks the begin toward the end of April.

Melons:



Cantaloupe:

We continue to see better supplies from the import fruit from Honduras and Guatemala.

Also, we have started cantaloupes out of Mexico. This will keep the market competitive.

The quality is really nice with decent sugar / brix levels, no soft spots, or decay.

Honeydew:

Honeydew supplies remain limited on both the east and west coasts. This has kept the market at higher levels. This is mainly due to a whitefly issue in the growing regions as the suppliers sort through their current acreage. Even with the insect pressure, quality has been really good with decent sugar levels and little soft spotting or brown spotting as well.

Watermelons:

Seedless watermelon production from Mexico is lower from the Southern growing regions. The market remains strong; demand is high. Quality is good, sugar (brix) is just fair. Lighter supplies are available from Southern areas. The spring crop is expected to produce high volume. Promotional opportunities are available.

Vegetable:



Asparagus:

Ciudad Obregon, Mexico has heavy volume due to warm weather in the region, this trend will continue for at least the next ten days. Gonzales, CA has good volume with better weather this week. Washington State should start harvesting at the end of this week. Volume has increased in both Ica, and Trujillo, Peru with the weather remaining unchanged from last week. Markets are still overall lower to steady with all regions experiencing great growing weather.

Bell Peppers:

Green Bell Peppers, good supplies in Nogales, from Mexico, and also in Coachella. The market is lower, supply exceeds at the moment, deals on choice grade. Quality in Nogales is fair to good, with some labels showing quality defects from high heat and humidity in the growing areas. Quality of the fruit in Coachella has been good to this point. Red Bells, lower supplies in Nogales as the season winds down. Some field-grown peppers available, mostly hothouse varieties being offered. Quality is fair to good; sizing is down on choice grade as the crop produces smaller fruit. Some labels, affected by high heat and humidity in the growing areas, are arriving with quality and condition defects. The market is very strong. Coachella is late to start, harvest to begin this weekend with light supplies. Yellow Bell Peppers, light supply in Nogales as season winds down. Mostly hothouse varieties are available. Quality is mostly good, some labels showing quality defects due to high heat in the growing area. Coachella to begin harvest in 10 – 14 days.

Broccoli:

Broccoli supplies are slowly decreasing as they enter the seasonal supply gap. The market has already firmed up and looks to increase into next week. The quality of broccoli has been really nice here in Salinas as well as Santa Maria. We have seen minimal yellowing, normal crown size, and little dehydration.

Brussels Sprouts :

Brussel sprout supplies are steady for this week. The market has also corrected itself after a brief trend higher. The quality is very nice with little decay and a full line of sizes.

Cauliflower :

We continue to see good supplies of cauliflower out of Salinas and Santa Maria. The market is steady at competitive levels. Quality has been really nice with weights in the 26 to 30-pound range, minimal brown spotting, or yellow to cream color.

Celery:

This market remains steady like the previous week. All sizing is available, with the best quantities coming in large sizing, twenty-four counts in particular. All reports indicate the overall quality continues to be strong. This commodity is an excellent commodity to promote. Supplies and pricing will be steady.

Cilantro:

Cilantro supplies are steady form all growing regions. The market although varies from supplier to supplier. There are more competitive prices in Oxnard and Santa Maria. Quality has been really nice with full bunches, minimal yellow to brown leaves, and little dehydration.

Cucumbers:

Cucumber supplies remain steady in Nogales. Some varieties are not holding up well with high heat in the growing areas; quality ranges from mostly fair to good. Supplies available in Nogales through May. Cucumbers also available in San Diego, from Baja California. The San Diego crop will produce through the summer. High volume expected from Baja. The market is lower on the west coast, Holidays in May could drive market on retail sizes.

Eggplant:

Eggplant volume has decreased in Nogales, from Mexico. Sinaloa is now producing lighter volume. Production from the state of Sonora remains light. Quality is mostly good but ranges with heat affecting quality on older fields. The market has strengthened with fewer supplies available. Coachella is expected to start in late April / early May. Light volume is expected out of Coachella.

Lettuce:



Iceberg:

Production in Huron is finished. Salinas has moderate to good production, depending on the supplier. There is a gap in the marketplace. Production will continue to exist out of Santa Maria, & Salinas. Demand is up. The overall quality is good with some occasional puffiness, insect damage, and ribbing. Weights are to averaging e 42-45 pounds. This market is expected to gain in strength towards the end of the week.

Leaf:

Romaine has softened in the marketplace, unlike green and red leaf which is stronger. Production is finished in Huron on all leaf items. Romaine hearts have softened as well and will likely be off of escalated pricing in the next few days. Expect light availability on green and red leaf for the entire week. Production in Santa Maria is light as well. Slight mechanical and a little twisting is all to talk about regarding defects.

Tender Leaf:

We are now fully transitioned to Salinas and supplies are plentiful on both organic and conventional spring mix, baby spinach, and arugulas. Quality is also very nice with minimal bruising, excessive wetness, or that slimy decay we see from time to time. The market is steady from all suppliers.

Onions:



Green Onions:

There continues to be a steady supply of green onions crossing from Mexico. This has kept the market competitive. The quality has been really nice with green tops that have minimal yellow to brown discoloration. Also, we have seen a steady supply of all size profiles from small to jumbo.

Onions:

The transition from storage crop to new crop shipping out of Southern California and Texas is here. Quality is being reported good. Sizing is good on both yellow and reds out of California with Texas peaking on Jumbos and smaller. Idaho will finish for the season with flying colors by next week. They had a good run with quality and pricing most of their storage season. Washington still has a handful of shippers that will ship into the middle of May. Quality is good peaking on jumbo in both yellow and reds.

Squash:



Very light supplies available in Nogales. Low markets in late-March / early-April caused several growers to stop harvesting their spring crop in Mexico. Some growers breaking new fields which will supply the market for May. However, the newer fields were not ready for harvest, and this has caused a severe shortage for the last 7-10 days. Volume should increase heading into this weekend; markets should remain strong to finish the Nogales season. Quality remains good, yellow squash showing light scarring from windy conditions the last week or so. Santa Maria is set to begin summer crop on approximately June 1st. Volume expected to be the same as last year from the Santa Maria.

Potatoes:



Potatoes:

Storage supplies are still being packed out of Idaho, Washington, Colorado, & Wisconsin. Markets on most size cartons have firmed slightly over last week with retail bags steady. This trend should continue into May. Quality is good with very few quality issues being reported upon arrival.

Color Potatoes:

Western/Eastern Washington, Red and gold potatoes supplies are winding down. Markets are steady with sizing peaking on A-Size on both. Availability on Yellows are good. Quality is still being reported as good. Bakersfield, California, Reds, golds, and white are steady on all sizes and are peaking on A's. Growing areas are switching but we should not see any interruption in supplies. Quality is good. Idaho, Supplies are steady on but reds and gold, Both colors are peaking on A-size. Quality is good. Supplies will go into May. Wisconsin/Colorado, Supplies are winding down for the season. The market is steady. Quality is still being reported as good. North Dakota, Market steady on both reds and golds, Quality is good. Supplies will go into June maybe longer. South Florida, Market steady with good supplies. Gold A and Premium potatoes are limited Quality is very nice.

Tomatoes:



Tomatoes from Mexico are back to minimums where prices are forecasted to remain for April. Both gas green and vine-ripe round varieties are nearing peak production and expected to harvest through Mid April together. From then on, ripe vine tomatoes will lead the category through the end of May. Similarly, Roma tomatoes are expected to harvest all the way through May with no supply interruption pending a significant weather event. Grape and cherry tomatoes are also widely available and offered at minimums where they are forecasted to remain for the immediate future. As production tapers from mainland Mexico in mid-May, Baja will begin operations to offset any interruption in supply helping to keep western offerings even through much of the 2nd quarter.