

Weather:



The wet pattern continues out west this week as a final slow moving system rolls through California. This system will bring significant precipitation especially to Southern California into Friday before exiting the region. A final weak system moves into Northern California with light showers possible in the Salinas Valley into the weekend. The pattern shifts to dry conditions and a steady warming trend next week. High pressure over Central Mexico continues with above average temperatures ranging into Northern Mexico. The Southwestern Deserts will see a slight chance of rain along with strong gusty winds and cooler temperatures as these systems pass to the north.

Apples:



Washington, Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, Galas, and Fuji's are all fairly steady with good volume of 113 size and smaller. Some suppliers are dealing for volume. Honeycrisp are steady and firm due to light supplies. The rising star varieties are mostly steady with a few volume deals on 125/138s. quality is good. varieties are mostly steady with a few volume deals on 125/138s. The quality has been good for all. Idaho, Golden Delicious, Red Delicious, Granny Smith, and Pink Ladies are steady. Granny's are still peaking on 72/80/88s, Reds are peaking on 113/125s, and the Pinks and Golden's are peaking 13/125/138s. The availability is very light as the end of their season is approaching. The quality has been good. Michigan, Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, and Galas are slightly higher. McIntosh, Jonathans, Jonamacs, Empires, Fuji's, red Romes, Ida Reds, and Jonagolds are all steady. Supplies are still fairly good, but they are still anticipating an early finish to their season. Some shippers are managing how many red delicious they pack so they won't run out early. The quality has been good. Pennsylvania, Fuji's, Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, Cameos, Empires, Red Romes, and Pink Ladies are mostly steady. There has been some flex for volume on red & golden delicious. Red Delicious and Pink Ladies are peaking on 88/100s while the Fuji's, Golds, Cameos, Empires, and Romes are peaking on 100/113s. The quality has been good. New York, Cortland's, Galas, McIntosh, Red Delicious, Fuji's, Golden Delicious, Red Romes, Crispin's, Pink Ladies, Empires, and Ruby Frost are all still available. Most of their fruit is large. The extra-fancy grade and the #1 grade are steady. Red Delicious, Galas, and Empires have been producing more smaller fruit than the other varieties. The quality has been good.

Avocado: **California:** California harvest continues to ramp up. Much needed rain this week will disrupt harvest for the 2 to 3 days of forecasted rains. This rain will help size up the fruit. Fruit is ripening well and tasting great. We still see a good portion of fruit being sold to overseas export, but availability for domestic use is improving.



Mexican: Mexico's harvest and shipments remain steady with good volume. There will be no harvest in Mexico this weekend and next as they will take off for Palm Sunday and Easter, causing a slight dip in the shipments. Expected to see shipments pick back up once the Holy Holidays are over. Demand is good. Eating quality is very good, and fruit is ripening evenly.

Berries: **Blackberries** Mexican production is finally starting to increase into the Spring Peak. Transfers continue to be the challenge with Mexican holidays affecting border crossings, but supplies are improving. Quality is much better than the past several weeks and flavor is really starting to improve with the new varieties. California production will continue to be delayed by the cooler wet weather. We expect domestic harvest to start mid-April. Georgia is expected to start by May. Market prices have stayed steady.



Blueberries: Chile is expected to finish in the next two weeks, Mexico is over their peak and is gradually declining, while Baja, California and Florida ramp up. Availability may become limited for the next couple of weeks as we transition production areas, then we will recover quickly the first part of April. Pint availability will be minimal during this time. Georgia production is expected to start in the next 4-5 weeks. Quality has been good, with some instances of small and soft fruit from Chile. Market prices have been increasing on the Mexican harvest as the quality is stronger, but has remained steady on Chilean fruit. We expect to see a jump in prices as we transition into domestic harvest over the next couple weeks, then gradually taper off.

Raspberries: The heavy rain and cold weather in California will further delay new harvest from starting in Oxnard, Santa Maria, and Watsonville. We will continue to rely on Mexican production as the main source for raspberries. We do not expect to see any major disruption in availability, but we will continue to see light supplies. Quality has been consistent and good. Market prices have been high but have remained steady over the last week. Harvest begins by mid-April.

Strawberries: The rain that hit the California growing regions over the weekend was not as severe as anticipated. Yields were better than expected and fruit was readily available in the front part of the week. However, the forecast is calling for more rain as the week moves forward. We do expect supplies to possibly get snug by the weekend. Florida also did not get affected by weather this weekend, and growing conditions have improved this week. Most shippers are expecting harvest to come to an end over the next week, but we may see some try to push through the end of the month. Mexico harvest is done for all but Driscoll's, as they are in higher elevation land. Expect supplies to be available through April. Overall, quality has been fair in all regions.

Grapes:



Green: The green grape market is stable with moderate supply. Volume is stable with product available in storage. There are a wide variety of sizes and varieties available. Quality will be constantly good for the remainder of the Chilean season.

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 and more consistent, as low-quality red grapes have finally moved out of the Market place. Quality should remain good for the remainder of the Chilean season

Citrus:

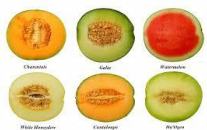


Lemons: The Central Valley crop is in full production and sizing is large, peaking 1 115s/95s/140s, mostly fancy grade. Ventura crop continues to pick up the pace with better production and peaking on 140s and smaller fruit, heavy to choice grade.

Limes: Lime supplies continue to be limited. We will see shippers begin to break new harvest this week. As we transition into new crop, we will see the younger fruit get picked first. This will yield higher volumes of smaller sizes, whereas the large fruit will be more scarce. Although supplies will be light during transition, we can expect to see quality start to improve moving forward. Next week, production will be minimal due to the Easter holiday, but as we begin April we can expect to see supplies really begin to improve, barring any further weather events in Veracruz.

Oranges: Rains in growing region mid last week and forecasted this week through Thursday has really disrupted harvest. Navel volume is cleaning up. Next expected harvest is Friday or Saturday. We are moving into the late varieties and size structure will be heavier to the 48s/56s/ 72s. Small fruit supplies will be limited and expect pricing to increase. Overall appearance and eating quality are some of the best of the season.

Melons:



Cantaloupe: The honeydew market is trending higher as supplies are limited on 8 count honeydews. This is putting pressure on the supplies of 6 count and 5 count to fill the void. The market will trend higher into next week as the imports are heavier in supplies of 4 count and 5 count. Quality has been really good.

Honeydew: Honeydews are more steady on the 5/6s while 8's vary widely. Most shippers are peaking on large fruit right now, but some have smaller size. Most packers are peaking on 5s & 6s with only a few 8s. The quality has been good.

Watermelons: Seedless watermelon production from Mexico is lower from the Southern growing regions. The market remains fairly strong; demand is high. Quality is good, sugar (brix) is just fair. Lighter supplies expected until the start of the spring crop, which is expected to start the first week of April. The spring crop is expected to produce high volume, promotional opportunities are available

Pears/Pineapples: **Pears:** Washington. D'Anjou pears are steady to lower on 90s and



larger, steady on 100 / 110s and steady to higher on 120/138/150s. D'Anjou remain at large and so small fruit is short. Bosc pears are steady higher on all varieties Red continues to peak on US#1 80/90s. The Bosc pear season should last through April.

D'Anjou are steady on all sizes, and they are still peaking on 40/45/50 half cartons. The red pear season should also last through April. The quality for all has been good. Offshore. The Chilean Bartlett market is steady to lower, and they continue to peak on 90/100s. Eastern supplies are down while western supplies are steady. Chilean fruit is still the bargain. The Argentinian Bartlett pear market is slightly lower as the availability is better on both sides of the country. The Argentine fruit is higher priced than the Chilean. The fruit is peaking on 100s and larger. The quality has been good.

Pineapples: Volume from the tropics is good. Easter pull begins next week and will see fruit start to tighten a bit. Size peaking 6s/7s

Vegetables: **Asparagus:** The weather has improved in Caborca, and the San Luis Mexico



regions but volumes remain lower than expected. These 2 regions should be wrapping up the first 2 weeks in April. Rain is expected the next 2 days in Gonzales, CA which will slow production down. Peru has started slowly, but we should see volume increase in the next 2 weeks. Overall markets are steady with all 4 regions in the mix.

Bell Peppers: Green Bell Pepper available out of Nogales. Quality is mostly good. The market is steady, more medium and small sizes available. Lighter supplies on the larger sizes. Green bell peppers also scheduled for harvest in Coachella in 14 - 21 days. High volume expected out of Coachella in late April / early May. Red and Yellow Bell Pepper supplies are still available to load in Nogales, from Mexico. Field grown colored bell peppers (elongated) are available, but mostly greenhouse varieties being offered. The market is strong; quality is mostly good. Volume is increasing slightly as we move into the growing area in Sonora, Mexico for additional supply. Coachella is due to begin harvesting red and yellow bell peppers mid to late April

Broccoli: The broccoli market is finally showing some relief. The severe weather in the northeast and increased supplies from the Salinas growing region has created a downward trend in the market. Quality has also improved in all growing regions with minimal yellowing or dehydration.

Brussels Sprouts: As supplies decrease from Mexico, supplies out of Oxnard are not enough to fill the void. The market is trending higher but at a slow pace. Quality is excellent with vibrant green color, a full range of sizes, and minimal decay.

Cauliflower: The cauliflower market is finally declining after weeks of extremely higher than normal prices. Supplies are increasing out of Salinas, while Yuma finishes their season. This has been coupled with extreme weather in the northeast curtailing demand as well. Quality has improved in the Salinas growing region with good weights, minimal bruising / brown spotting.

Celery: Steady supplies continue to be the story with this commodity. Production in Yuma is moderate but in southern California, supplies are good, overall. Large sizing has the best availability, and the best deals continue out of Oxnard. Demand is moderate. Slight mechanical has been reported, but the overall quality is good. Rain is in the forecast in Oxnard/Santa Maria over the next three days so production may be limited. Expect all orders, however, to be filled to its entirety.

Cilantro: Cilantro supplies have increased causing the market to correct itself. Quality has also improved with minimal yellow to brown leaves or decay. Although once we transition out of Yuma, this could put pressure on Mexico, Oxnard, and Santa Maria causing the market to increase.

Cucumbers: Cucumbers loading in Nogales are mostly from Sinaloa, Mexico. Volume is way down, some growers have abandoned older fields due to market oversupply. The cucumber market is very active and should continue until spring crop begins in the next few days in Northern Sonora. The spring harvest is delayed due to cooler temperatures in Sonora. Quality is still mostly good. There will also be cucumbers available this week in San Diego from Baja California, Mexico.

Eggplant: Eggplant volume has increased in Nogales, from Mexico. Sinaloa is still producing at a normal volume; demand remains steady. Quality is mostly good. Coachella is expected to start in late April / early May. Light volume is expected out of Coachella

Lettuce: **Iceberg:** Supplies are moderate with many suppliers. Demand is steady. Huron, as well as Santa Maria, is in production and better numbers are expected next week. Yuma will continue for another 2-3 weeks, pending on the shipper. Defects include puffiness, discoloration and irregular shaped heads with this commodity. Other defects include light green color and frost damage. The weights continue to range between 40 -45 pounds.

Leaf: Supplies are moderate to light. This market is firm. Shippers continue to deal with issues like blistering, epidermal peel and discoloration. Romaine continues to have the tightest availability, compared to red and green leaf. Romaine hearts are extremely tight with multiple shippers. Heavy rains and cool temperatures are expected in Salinas and Oxnard/Santa Maria for the next three days. Huron has started with moderate availability. Better production is expected next week. Salinas will begin harvesting near the end of March.

Tender Leaf: As we finish the Yuma season, supplies are limited with arugula. Baby spinach, cello spinach, baby kale, and spring mix supplies are steady on the conventional side. Although supplies of organic tender leaf items have been limited as well. Quality has improved out of the Yuma growing region with little bruising or wetness. The market is also steady.



Onions:



Green Onions: The green onion market is relatively competitive. As supplies from Mexico have been steady crossing the boarder, shippers have been willing to offer deals. Quality is much improved with minimal yellow to brow discoloration of the tops that we have been previously experiencing.

Onions: Markets on all colors and sizes out of the Northwest or New Crop Mexico have little change from last week. Quality is good out of all shipping points. Supplies out of Idaho are starting to wind down with some of the smaller growers already finishing for the season. This will have little effect on the markets but could become a factor as move growers finish as we get into the front of April. Transportation availability is good.

Potatoes:



Potatoes: Markets are stronger on 80 count and larger with 90 count and smaller steady out of all shipping points. Retail bales movement remains steady. Quality in the storages remains very good. Supplies of Russet Norkotah out of Idaho continue to wind down as they transition into 100% Russet Burbank variety by the middle to end of April. The size profile of the Russet Burbanks is slightly smaller peaking on 80 counts and smaller. Transportation is readily available with rates steady. Look for the transportation to tighten back up as we get into April and May. Lead time on placing your orders is recommended.

Color Potatoes: Western Washington, red and gold potatoes are steady. A-size is still the peak size for both colors. They expect to pack until through the first week of April. The quality has been good. Eastern Washington, red and gold potatoes are steady and are still peaking on A-size. The availability is light for both colors. The quality has been good. Bakersfield, California, reds, whites, and golds are steady to lower on A and B sizes, others are steady. All colors are still peaking on A-size. They will transition to desert product the last week of the month. The quality has been good. Idaho, reds, and golds are steady. Both colors are peaking on A-size. Some shippers will flex on volume orders of A-size reds. The quality has been good. Wisconsin, red and gold potatoes are steady. Both colors are peaking on A-size. The quality has been good. North Dakota, red and gold potatoes are steady to lower on As and Bs. They have a large storage crop and will be packing into June or longer. The quality has been good. South Florida, red potatoes are steady on all sizes. White and gold potatoes are slightly lower on A and B size. The quality has been good

Squash:



Squash is now available to load in Nogales, from Sonora, Mexico. Volume had been down significantly due to cold weather, but the start of the spring crop has produced heavy volume at the start. Supplies are increasing daily; markets have adjusted down sharply as supply now exceeds. Quality is very good, high volume expected through mid to late April.

Tomatoes:



Production in Mexico began to taper off more than 2 weeks ago with supply shrinking even further as some farmers walked away from fields after weeks of dumping surplus product. As result markets gradually took off from their mandated minimums causing eastern markets to strengthen further as they approach transition as well. Roma tomatoes remain the most coveted item from Mexico causing dollar increases at the end of last week. Grape and cherry tomato supplies similarly are also light for the end of the winter season and have also increased by dollars. Mexico's weather conditions are perfect for growing currently, but like Florida, Mexico is waiting to break ground in spring crops. In turn, prices are not expected to get back to minimums until after Easter.