



freshtimes

Weekly Newsletter

for the week of January 15, 2018



cara cara orange

asparagus ALERT

The market remains active. Overall, the industry expects to see less volume for the next 4-6 weeks as the absence of Mexican production continues and until Caborca begins.

avocados

Markets have started to correct and demand is steady. Mexico continues to harvest with good supplies anticipated for Game Day. The percent of #2 fruit is starting to increase.

beans, green ALERT

Supplies will remain limited due to the FL cold temps and winds for about 2-3 weeks; expect to see some smaller and misshapen beans. Quality from Mexico is decent with some color variation.

berries—black, blue, & raspberry

There is a big range in markets between loading areas with mixed quality for each region. Blueberries: Mostly from South America, expect occasional break down and desiccation. Blackberries & Raspberries: Availability remains a concern in Mexico, where rain and high humidity are affecting both yield and quality.

berries—strawberry

FL's cold snap did affect overall supply in the East, and Oxnard remains our main western region which has received rain. Watch for QA issues such as rain damage, excess moisture, decay, and white shoulders.

broccoli & cauliflower ALERT

Broccoli/Broccolini ALERT: The market is unsettled and moving upward. Quality is good with supplies tighter due to the cold. Broccolini supplies are short. **Cauliflower:** Supplies have improved and markets have eased.

celery

Quality is fair, with defects due to yellowing. Markets are steady.

citrus

Lemons: Supplies are shorter on smaller fruit, but not to the degree of oranges. The Desert crop will wrap up early and we expect January to be tight until District 2 (CA coastal areas) is running with volume on the coast in a few weeks. **Limes:** Quality and supplies are good from Mexico. **Oranges:** Sizing will remain heavier to large fruit for the duration of the season, and 88's and smaller will be in demand exceeds supply through the end of the Navel crop. To compound the issue, the crop is currently 75 – 90% Fancy grade, which means small Choice fruit is extremely short.

cucumbers

We are into all imports now until mid-March from Honduras with good quality. Quality is fair to good from southern Sonora and Sinaloa.

eggplant

The recent cold snap will slow down current production and push harvesting schedules out 10 to 14 days later. For now, expect to see more Choice than Fancy and lower yields. Good quality from Mexico.

grapes

Chilean grapes continue to be delayed on their arrivals. Larger volume will not come until the end of January. Peru grapes are running late, and with short supply, causing a higher market.

lettuce

Iceberg: The market is unsettled and trying to make a move upward—quality is fair to good with increasing weak tip, large frame. **Leaf:** The market is steady. Quality is fair with defects due to epidermal peeling and seeder. **Romaine:** The market is down from last week; quality is poor to fair with defects due to epidermal peeling, underweight, and fringe burn.

melons

Supplies are good on both cantaloupe and honeydew. Quality is very good on cantaloupes, and honeydews are fair.



onions

Quality is very good on all colors.

peppers

West: Green bell pepper quality is fair on mostly Medium and Large. Colored bell pepper quality is good and supplies are improving from central Mexico. East: Overall, pepper supplies remain steady with good quality from South FL and demand remains flat. Cold temps increase quality issues.

potatoes

Quality is good overall.

squash

We are into the transition of new fields in Mexico with improved quality and availability. Overall, production was minimally affected by FL's cold snap and current supplies are steady but we do expect some reduction in yields due to bloom drop and miss-pollination. Recent warmer temps have jump started the plants. Zucchini is reporting better quality than yellow squash. Demand remains flat.

tomatoes—all varieties

We are continuing to see a downward trending market due to an increase of volume

out of FL and Mexico. XL sized round volume is currently not as plentiful as Large and Medium. Cherry, grape, and Roma volume is increasing. Cold temps tend to increase quality issues.

Top 5 Five

1. ASPARAGUS **ALERT!**

The market will remain active as volume will be down for 4-6 weeks.

2. BEANS—GREEN **ALERT!**

FL's cold snap has affected supplies.

3. BROCCOLI/ **ALERT!** BROCCOLINI

Supplies are short.

4. HERBS **ALERT!**

Cilantro, mint, parsley, and thyme supplies are all down in their various growing regions.

5. TENDER- **ALERT!** LEAFED ITEMS

All tender-leaf item volumes are lighter, especially arugula, kale, and spinach.

Reality Check

VEGETABLES	Supply			Price		
	HIGH	INCREASING AVG	DECREASING	HIGH	INCREASING AVG	DECREASING LOW
Asparagus						
Beans - Green						
Broccoli						
Cabbage						
Carrots						
Cauliflower						
Celery						
Corn						
Cucumbers						
Eggplant						
Herbs - Cilantro						
Lettuce - Iceberg						
Lettuce - Leaf G/R						
Lettuce - Romaine						
Lettuce - Spring Mix						
Mushrooms						
Onions - Green						
Onions - Red						
Onions - Yellow						
Peas - Snow/Snap						
Peppers - Chili						
Peppers - Green (e)						
Peppers - Green (w)						
Peppers - R/Y (e)						
Peppers - R/Y (w)						
Potatoes - Russet						
Potatoes - R/W/Yuk						
Potatoes - Yarns						
Spinach						
Squash - Yellow (w)						
Squash - Zucchini (w)						
Squash - Yellow (e)						
Squash - Zucchini (e)						
Tomatoes - Gr/Ch						
Tomatoes - Roma						
Tomatoes - Round						
FRUITS						
Apples						
Avocados						
Bananas						
Berries - Blackberry						
Berries - Blueberry						
Berries - Raspberry						
Berries - Strawberry						
Citrus - Grapefruit						
Citrus - Lemons						
Citrus - Limes						
Citrus - Oranges						
Grapes - Green						
Grapes - Red						
Kiwifruit						
Melons - C/H						
Melons - Watermelon						
Pears						
Pineapple						

e= east w=west

Item of the Week

NOW IN STOCK!

POTATO SALAD (YELLOW MUSTARD)
#8510 2/12LB

CHICKEN SALAD (WHITE MEAT)
#8511 2/5LB

CREAMY COLE SLAW
#8512 1/11.5LB

TUNA SALAD
#8513 2/5LB



Grocery Market NEWS

ITEM	PRICE CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK
Chicken WOGS	No change
Chicken Breast Fresh Sized	No change
Chicken Breast Fresh Random	No change
Chicken Breast Frozen Sized	No change
Chicken Wings	No change
Eggs - Large	Down
Eggs - XLarge	Down
Bacon	Down
Cheese Block	Down
Cheese Barrel	Down
Butter	Up