

Overview

Lettuce is stable and we are seeing great prices. Due to a gap in supply, broccoli is now in an EXTREME MARKET. We saw another spike in cauliflower, it is back down. Celery, lemons and oranges are still in a very EXTREME MARKET and we are seeing a shortage in supply.

Market Alert

- Avocados – **EXTREME**
- Asparagus – **LARGER SIZES**
- Broccoli- **EXTREME**
- Celery- **EXTREME**
- Cilantro - **ESCALATED**
- Garlic - **EXTREME**
- Lemons- **EXTREME**
- Oranges- **EXTREME**
- Parsley- **EXTREME**
- Tomatoes-**EXTREME**

Good Buy

Cone cabbage is a variation of cabbage that is fairly new to the market. Cone cabbage originated in Germany where it is very popular as it's used often for sauerkraut. The flavor of cone cabbage is more mild and sweeter than other cabbage varieties. It's also an excellent source of antioxidants and vitamin C like other varieties. Cone cabbage is typically harvested earlier than other varieties which makes now the perfect time to buy! Cone cabbage can be eaten raw, grilled or roasted.

Jicama is an under the radar vegetable but has many nutritional benefits and can be used in a wide variety of ways. Jicama is a root vegetable that is native to Central and South America and has a large amount of vitamin C (roughly 40% of your daily requirement). Due to high level of dietary fiber in jicama it is great for digestion and digestive conditions. Jicama is unique with its juicy but sweet and nutty flavor, with an added crunch. Check out the recipe below for jicama chips for an easy, delicious snack.

Jicama Chips:

Ingredients:

- 1lb of Jicama
- Olive Oil
- Salt & Pepper as desired

1. Peel a 1-pound jicama in half lengthwise
2. Slice the jicama on a mandolin or with a knife
3. Spread the slices out over two to three parchment-lined, rimmed baking sheets to fit the jicama in single layers
4. Brush the jicama on both sides with a thin coating of olive oil and sprinkle with salt and freshly ground black pepper
5. Bake at 200°F, turning the jicama every 20 minutes or so, until crisp, 90 to 100 minutes.

Transportation

Trucks are in good supply in California, Arizona, Washington and Texas. Freight rates are firm. Availability has tightened in Florida; also Eastern Oregon.

Weather

SOUTHEAST: Increase in cloud cover with thunderstorms in the forecast for Sunday through Wednesday.



COACHELLA: Plenty of sunshine with optimal growing conditions this week. Heat is coming on!



CENTRAL COAST: Extended forecast calls for plenty of Sunshine, mild days and normal evening low temperatures.



Fruits & Vegetables

Avocados: EXTREME - On the immediate horizon, we expect to see an active markets continue. Long term market forecasts are still for the Winter Mexican crop to slow down faster than expected while Peru and California are slow to ramp up making a very active avocado market for the foreseeable future.

Bananas: Demand and quality are good and inventories are lighter this week.

Grapes: Supplies are unchanged and demand is light. Sugaone and Flame pricing are down this week with larger sizes getting a premium. Expect to see the first crossing through Nogales early next week.

Kiwi: Supplies are good. We are still seeing slightly higher prices with quality being average.

Berries

Blueberries: Market is improving. - Production is increasing in Baja California and Oxnard; prices have come down. High prices and tight supply continue for new blueberry crop in Georgia and North Carolina. The season is winding down in Central Mexico.

Blackberries: Blackberries will be in tight supply through this month as late-season production is on the decline in Central Mexico. The blackberry harvest in Salinas-Watsonville will begin in June.

Raspberries: Raspberries are in peak season production in Central Mexico and Southern California with plentiful availability through mid-May. Central California growers are now harvesting as well.

Strawberries: Strawberries from Central and Southern California will be in good supply all month. The size profile has increased with fields now yielding larger-sized berries. Stem strawberries have become available although supplies remain tight. Availability will be plentiful through this month.

California / Arizona Citrus

Navels: EXTREME Navels, 88S and smaller will be very limited and very light in supply until late MAY. Late season variety, 72/56/88 Quality is okay, expect some creasing and puff.

Lemons: EXTREME- Supplies of 140S, 165S and 200S continue to be EXTREMELY tight and prices are very high. Meyer lemons are available. Mostly large fruit available, 75/95/115. South American lemons are expected to start arriving late June and we will not see much improvement with lemons until June.

Limes: Limes are available, packing in Texas. Great quality and color.

Grapefruit: The California grapefruit market is increasing. Texas grapefruit is finishing up. California Star Ruby and White grapefruit is available.

Specialties: Minneola season is winding down with few small sizes available. Blood Oranges are in good supply and great color. Cara Caras will be finishing up first week of May. Ojai Pixie tangerines and Golden Nuggets are available. Halos will be available through May.

PINEAPPLE: Supply continues to be tight. Vessel delays have caused orders to be pushed back.

California Lettuce

Butter: Prices are down and supply is good.

Green and Red Leaf: Quality is improving. Prices are down and supply is much better.

Iceberg Lettuce: Supplies are good. Quality is much better and prices have come down considerably.

Romaine: Good supply. Quality has improved.

Romaine Hearts: Supplies are good, prices are down. Quality is good.

Eastern and Western Vegetables

Green Bell Peppers: Pepper supplies are down in Florida and Georgia as result of the cool weather slowing overall crop growth. Coachella production is ramping up and markets have been active. Nogales is done for the season. Occasional bruising is present in the Florida/Georgia product. Demand is strong for late-season red bells in Nogales and Coachella; tight availability will continue through mid-May.

Red Bell Pepper: Nogales are done for the season. Coachella ramping up-- expect to see Bakersfield production mid-June.

Cucumbers: Recent hot weather has resulted in occasional quality issues for late-season cucumbers in Florida. The new crop harvest is well underway in Georgia. Nogales will continue through the third week of May. Baja California is expected to be in full production by the end of next week. Prices are slightly increased across all growing regions.

English Cucumber: Supplies from Eastern Canada are plentiful. Nogales shippers will have English Cucumbers through mid-May.

Green Beans: Supplies are ramping up out of Georgia and are beginning to pressure FOB quotes down slightly compared to last week. Unfortunately, no major relief is expected until the middle of the month when production is expected to begin out of Coachella and the Central Valley.

Zucchini & Yellow Squash: There have been some unexpected pressure on the squash market as Mexican Production has dipped dramatically due to heat related impacts. Domestic supplies are down slightly in the Southeast due to cooler weather and have driven FOB prices up. Product quality is good in the east while in the west there are noticeable heat related issues. Fresno has begun cleaning up fields this week and expect full production by late next week.

Herbs

Fresh herbs are very steady. Supplies are looking good on all herbs except **SAVORY** is still limited as it rebounds from the cold and heat we had over the past several weeks.

BASIL continues form our fields in Mexico and our local fields in California. We should be in full local production by the end of the month. The heavy rain this past winter did delay our planting.

HERB	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
Arugula	Good	Good	USA
Basil	Good	Good	USA/MEXICO
Opal Basil	Good	Good	USA/MEXICO
Thai Basil	Good	Good	USA/MEXICO
Bay Leaves	Good	Good	COLUMBIA
Chervil	Good	Good	USA
Chives	Good	Good	USA/MEXICO
Cilantro	Good	Good	USA
Dill	Good	Good	USA/MEXICO
Episode	Good	Good	MEXICO
Lemongrass	Good	Good	USA
Marjoram	Steady	Good	USA
Mint	Good	Good	USA

Oregano	Good	Good	USA
Italian Parsley	Good	Good	USA
Rosemary	Limited	Good	USA
Sage	Good	Good	USA/MEXICO
Savory	Good	Good	USA
Sorrel	Good	Good	USA
Tarragon	Good	Good	MEXICO
Thyme	Good	Good	USA
Lemon Thyme	Good	Good	USA
Lavender	Good	Good	USA
Lime Leaves	Good	Good	USA
Hora Santa	Good	Good	USA

Melons

Import volume has started to decline and there has been a noticeable shift in sizing towards bigger fruit. Final arrivals are expected the week of 5/22. Quality remains at optimal levels with good color and netting. Brix levels are in the 11-14% range. Offering will be available next week out of the desert. Load volume anticipated by the week of Memorial Day

Honeydew production still leans more to the 5s and larger but enough 6/8s are finding their way in to take care of regular business. Heavier volumes will also begin to taper off beginning next week. Final arrivals are expected the week of 5/22. Offering will be available next week out of the desert. Load volume anticipated by the week of Memorial Day

Watermelon: Seedless varieties remain steady with regards to supply and pricing. We will begin to see a decline in supply next week as the offshore melon season begins to wind down. We anticipate about three more weeks of arrivals.

Mixed Vegetables

Artichokes: We are seeing very high prices and very short supply. Quality is good.

Arugula: Supplies of both baby and wild arugula are light but increasing.

Asparagus: EXTREME - Peru is currently experiencing rain and unusually high temperatures which have combined to slow the production of large caliber spears. The vast majority of product being harvested is in the STANDARD caliber measurements and production of LARGE, XL, AND JUMBO has declined dramatically. It is expected that this condition will persist at least until May 15th. Due to this unforeseen production problem, we will be forced to REDUCE program shipments of LARGE asparagus by 10% in hopes that this will enable us to cover the majority of program requirements.

Bok Choy: Quality is good and we are seeing some higher quotes on WGA cartons.

Broccoli: EXTREME Due to a gap in supply we are seeing escalated prices and a shortage in supply.

Brussels Sprouts: Higher prices and tighter supplies remain but are leveling out. Quality is improving.

Carrots: There is a good supply with solid quality.

Cauliflower: Market has improved, quality is good and prices are down.

Celery: EXTREME unfortunately, we have not seen much improvement in this market. Prorates have been ranging between 35 %-50% this week. We are done in Yuma and the Oxnard crop is behind schedule. Quality is just fair. There will be issues for another 4-6 weeks.

Corn: Florida Sweet Corn is plentiful with promotional pricing available. Supplies are light out of Coachella on yellow, bi and while. Quality is outstanding and no major changes are expected through Memorial Day.

Cilantro: ESCALATED Quality is variable as there is still yellowing with some decay. Price are high and we are seeing shortages.

Fennel: Supplies for the week will be light.

Garlic: EXTREME MARKET The overall supply of garlic is very, very tight.

Concerning Chinese imports, in February US Customs placed a hefty import duty (\$4.71/Kg) on one of the few Chinese shippers who historically had little to no duty. The 2016 Chinese crop was already less than normal. This additional factor has further lessened the amount of Chinese product available in the US market.

The new 2017 Chinese supply should be available in the US around late June. In regards to our domestic supply, we are certainly tighter than we would like to be. As expected, the peeling recoveries are a percentage or two lower as the crop is getting a little older. We are still a few months off from the new 2017 California crop. Two weeks ago, we did start to see some initial cloves forming in the heads, which is normal. However, in general the crop looks to be a little behind schedule. Yesterday and today the weather in our area (Bakersfield, CA) is around 100°F. If it continues to stay this hot it will help speed up the development of the garlic.

Ginger: Chinese ginger is in good supply. It is being offered at a substantial discount compared to ginger from Brazil.

Green Cabbage: Green cabbage has improved, supplies are good and quality is good in the east as well as the west. Volume incentives are available out of Georgia.

Green Onions:

Iced: This market has leveled off with steady crossings last week. The crossings should remain at current levels with good supplies.

Iceless: This market has leveled off and should remain steady. Contracts and pre-commitments are holding the market firm.

JICAMA: Normal prices and quality is good.

Kale (Green): Demand is steady and quality is better.

Mache: Availability is adequate.

Napa: Supplies are light but much better than last week. We will continue to see improvement.

Parsley (Curly, Italian): EXTREME- We are seeing prices that are very high and in escalation. Quality is average.

Radishes: Quality is good and supply is slowing down.

Red Cabbage: Quality and sizing have been great, with good color. Overall, the market is strong.

Snow and Sugar Snap Peas: Snow and sugar snap peas are in high demand with good quality.

Spinach (Bunched): Supply is good, quality has improved.

Spinach (Baby): Baby and clipped spinach supplies are good. Quality is good, with good prices. There are some reports of mildew.

Spring Mix: There is plenty of product with good quality.

Onions

Pricing has started to drop on yellow and red onions out of all growing regions. The Imperial Valley growing area in California has continued to increase volume this week and more growers will continue to start next week. Onions remain in Idaho, Washington, and Texas. Texas continues to yield a small size profile heavy to mediums and small jumbos due to diseased fields. White onions have become more available which we anticipate will decrease prices as well.

Potatoes

The demand on large Idaho cartons continues for the foreseeable future. You can expect pricing to continue on the upside, hopefully in an orderly fashion. The demand on smaller cartons 80's thru 100's is fair. Prices have remained steady with deals on these sizes with different operators. The demand on consumer packs are poor, with some operations unable to run full shifts. This also factors into larger cartons being hard to find.

The growers are working very hard to get the new Idaho crop in the ground for the upcoming growing season. We still see a small delay in plantings, but expect the grower will close this gap with good weather.

There was news last week of a major French fry processor making a 200 million dollar expansion into their Burley plant. It is expected that they will need an additional 15,000 acres of potatoes per season.

No major transportation issues to report.

TOMATOES:

EXTREME

East:

- **Rounds –EXTREME** Supplies in the east continue to drop due to extremely low production. With the transition from Southern Florida to the Ruskin/ Palmetto now complete, we expect a very tight market now through the first week of June once Quincy and Carolina tomato production begins. Pricing will be triggered this week and most likely hit lids on several pack sizes
- **Roma-EXTREME** – Supplies are very tight on romas due to the same issues we are seeing on the rounds. In addition to the lower yields with lighter production on the rounds we expect to see higher roma demand.
- **Grapes -EXTREME**– Supplies are extremely tight and demand will continue to increase due to lighter volume on other varieties of snacking tomatoes continues.
- **Cherries- EXTREME** – Demand is up as quality product is difficult to find in the west. FOB prices are mostly unchanged, but quality is outstanding.

West/Mexico: EXTREME

- **Rounds- EXTREME** – Vine-ripe production is lighter this week through Nogales and quality is poor. McAllen and Otay will continue to see improvement in volume. FOB prices are up significantly from last week. Not only will we continue to see normal regional demand but now we will see additional demand pull for the east.
- **Romas -EXTREME**– Supplies and quality are good through Otay and are expected to remain unchanged over the next several weeks. Nogales is done for the season this week. McAllen crossing are down and expected to be light through June 1. FOB prices are significantly higher this week.
- **Grapes-EXTREME** – Crossings are lighter this week from Baja and quality is very inconsistent depending on the growing region. FOB Prices are higher this week.
- **Cherries -EXTREME**– Supplies are very tight and quality is good. We are still seeing FOB prices raise weekly.

APPLES, PEARS, & TREEFRUIT

Apples: Demand and movement is steady on the larger sized fruit across all grades. Golds and Grannys remain extremely short with the industry still seeing better yields on 100s and smaller for all other varieties. We expect to see this continue through the rest of the season. Offshore deal remains steady; Galas are plentiful and the Granny volume is ramping up.

Pears: Bosc and Anjou are readily available domestically out of Washington. We expect to see California begin in July. Offshore Bosc and Packham supplies are steady.

Stone Fruit: Offshore

Peaches: Done

Nectarines: Done

Plums: Done

Stone Fruit: Domestic Loading Reedley, CA

Cherries: 9-12 row now available. Aggressive FOB prices on 12's and Spurs/Doubles

Nectarines: Yellow and White available TP 48-64's

Peaches: Yellow and White available

TP 56-64's

Plums: Available next week.

Apricots: TP 64-80's available