

Overview

Oranges, green onions, broccoli florets, and carrots continue to be in a very EXTREME MARKET. We are also experiencing very extreme supply issues with broccoli, cauliflower, oranges, and some lettuce and leaf items. There is heat damage in almost all leaf and tender leaf products, including broccoli florets. Strawberries and asparagus have improved.

Market Alert

- Apples – **EXTREME**
- Broccoli – **ESCALATED/EXTREME**
- Broccoli florets – **ESCALATED**
- Carrots – **EXTREME**
- Cauliflower – **EXTREME**
- Cilantro – **ESCALATED**
- Garlic – **EXTREME**
- Green Onions – **ESCALATED**
- Lemons – **EXTREME**
- Lettuce (Iceberg and Romaine, Romaine Hearts) – **ESCALATED/EXTREME**
- Mushrooms - **ESCALATED**
- Oranges – **EXTREME**
- Onions – **ESCALATED**
- Potatoes – **ESCALATED**
- Cherry Tomatoes – **ESCALATED**
- Round Tomatoes – **ESCALATED**

Watch List

**Keep an eye on these items and situations. It may be too early to make a call one way or another, but they are forecasted to go up in price and hit extreme markets.*

- Roma Tomatoes

Good Buy

Hello October! We missed you and the colors and crisp breeze you bring. To ring in the new month, this week's Market Report good buy is, naturally, a boo-tiful fall item: pumpkins!

Whether you are celebrating with pumpkin spice lattes or trying your hand at new orange squash dishes, pumpkins are an autumn staple, coming in more than 50 varieties. Did you know they have lower calories than sweet potatoes, more fiber than kale, and more potassium than bananas?

So this year, on trips to the pumpkin patch, snag a couple that are built for cooking (thick-walled, sporting a lot of flesh that is vividly colored in light to deep hues of orange or orange-red) and trick or treat yourself to these savory oven-baked Pumpkin Fries!

Pumpkin Fries

Ingredients

- 1 cooking pumpkin (approximately 4 cups flesh)
- 1 teaspoon curry powder
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil

Directions


Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Prepare the pumpkin for cooking by cutting it up, either in half lengthwise if not too large, or in quarters. Remove seeds and inner fibers. Peel off the skin. Cut the flesh into 1/4- to 1/2-inch thick strips that resemble French fries.

Put seasonings and olive oil in a large bowl and mix well. With your hands, toss and coat well the pumpkin strips. Arrange the fries in a single layer on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Bake for 30 minutes or until cooked through, turning once if desired. Note: The fries may not be crisp-skinned depending on the initial moisture level of the sort of pumpkin. But they will be delicious!








[Source.](#)

Weather




SOUTHEAST: We will start to see a cooling trend over the weekend with increased chances of precipitation on Sunday. Overnight lows in the east will slow down the last of the summer production areas. South Georgia continues to ramp up.

Thu 10/05	Fri 10/06	Sat 10/07	Sun 10/08	Mon 10/09	Tue 10/10	Wed 10/11
81° 48°	81° 55°	75° 65°	75° 67°	77° 64°	81° 60°	74° 54°
						
Clear	Clear	Mostly Cloudy	Rain	Rain	Chance of a Thunderstorm	Chance of Rain

BAKERSFIELD/ CENTRAL VALLEY: No major changes this week. Plenty of sunshine and mild temps the next 7 to 10 days

Thu 10/05	Fri 10/06	Sat 10/07	Sun 10/08	Mon 10/09	Tue 10/10	Wed 10/11
83° 52°	86° 55°	89° 56°	85° 54°	84° 53°	85° 54°	85° 54°
						
Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear

CENTRAL COAST: No major changes this week. Plenty of sunshine and mild temps the next 7 to 10 days.

Thu 10/05	Fri 10/06	Sat 10/07	Sun 10/08	Mon 10/09	Tue 10/10	Wed 10/11
79° 52°	84° 54°	78° 50°	79° 52°	80° 52°	79° 51°	76° 51°
						
Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear

Transportation

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

Fruits & Vegetables

Avocados: PROMOTIONAL VOLUME We have finally turned the corner and are seeing numbers ramp up. Last week was the first week in some time we have seen over 40 million pounds of fruit cross the border. Quality continues to improve, as well as dry matter, and harvest yields are expected to trend upward. However, this current week we did see a drop in expectations with regards to volume, but this should not affect the overall market. The FOB markets are off substantially and there is good availability in all regions of the country.

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

Grapes: Weather has started to cool down, so the days are longer and volume is picking up. Quality is good. Red varieties available- Scarlet Royals, Red Globes, Autumn Kings, Autumn Royals and Scarlet Royals. Greens are winding down and quality is off. We are seeing a bit more waterberry and as well as amber.

Kiwi: Shipments are for the most part finished out of Chile. What is in storage will be it for the season. Still looking for California to begin harvesting over the next several weeks. Markets remain very active with limited availability on the horizon. Quality is still very nice.

Berries

Blueberries: Blueberry availability will be getting better with imports and other markets starting up.

Blackberries: Blackberries are average in volume. Quality is average due to the heat, but seems to be improving.

Raspberries: Volume is light, quality is average but seems to be improving.

Strawberries: The market is getting very active. We are seeing prices vary due to quality.

California / Arizona Citrus

The gap in the Valencia/Navel season has started. Very few large size Valencia's remain. The CA navel crop will not be ready until the 2nd-3rd week in October. This will be a tough year for Navels, as projections are much lower than this previous year. There will be very little opportunity for extra market business on smaller sizes the entire year.

Navels/Valencia's: **EXTREME** Texas navels are available, light in color, and early season quality. Recent weather has pushed back picking and we are seeing very light supplies. There will be a gap between Valencia/CA Navel season. Import Navels are available, few larger sizes left, 56S and larger. Few organics are available. Domestic Navels are expected to be ready mid-October. Expect a tough year. Florida Early Gold variety is available.

Lemons: **EXTREME** New crop desert lemons are available. Mexican lemons are available, good quality. New Zealand/Meyer lemons are available.

Limes: Limes are available.

Grapefruit: California grapefruit is wrapping up. Mostly choice grade. Some early Texas grapefruit is available, more coming by mid-October. Florida Star Ruby is available.

Specialties: California satsumas will get started mid-October.

California Lettuce

Butter: Prices are stable. Quality is average due to the heat.

Green and Red Leaf: Quality is not good, we are seeing fringe burn. Demand is steady. Supply is below normal.

Iceberg Lettuce: ESCALATED/EXTREME Supplies are very light this week. Quality is starting to show signs of heat issues. We are seeing lighter weights and yields in the fields. We expect this market to get very limited in supply and see prices rise fast.

Romaine: ESCALATED/EXTREME Average supply. Quality is overall fair to poor. We are still seeing fringe burn and yellowing on the outer leaves and other heat-related issues.

Romaine Hearts: ESCALATED/EXTREME Supplies are average and prices are up. Quality is average to poor; however, growers are able to control some of the quality issues by peeling off some of the outer layers.

Eastern and Western Vegetables

HURRICANE IRMA UPDATE: We will see a very active market and potential supply interruptions on all east coast vegetable items due to the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. Several of our partner growers have sustained severe damage to infrastructure, as well as crops. Fortunately, the forecast calls for favorable weather in the region over the next several days, which will assist in the recovery process. We expect to see very active markets over the next two to three months due to the damage of the fall crops in North Florida and South Georgia. We are anticipating a bold recovery in the Immokalee and Naples area in the next 4 to 6 weeks barring no additional severe weather events.

Green Bell Pepper: Pepper supplies and quality remain favorable; however, we still anticipate a shift in sizing and lighter production due to cooler overnight lows in all growing regions. South Georgia is expected to start harvesting within the next 1-2 weeks. Weather impacts from Hurricane Irma are expected to harm quality and supply over the next few weeks and will diminish inventories in the east. California / Central Coast production is very good and expected to continue through the month of October.

Red Bell Pepper: Red Pepper Supplies will remain lighter this week. Expect good quality through the rest of the month due to a more favorable weather impacting Central California in the extended forecast. FOB quotes are mostly unchanged this week.

Yellow Pepper: Supplies have been manageable and expect good quality over the next week. FOB prices are mostly unchanged.

Mini Sweet Pepper: Supplies are tighter as heat has affected supplies in the west and crops in the east have been damaged by Irma. Markets are firming up.

Eggplant: Supplies are available out of South Georgia; however, we expect to see some quality issues due to flooding and wind damage from Hurricane Irma. We are still seeing good supply in the west and expect to see new crop product out of Nogales mid-October. Markets are mostly unchanged.

English Cucumber: Supplies are mostly unchanged. We should see some improvement as greenhouse production in Mexico is anticipated to ramp up over the next 10 to 14 days. Markets remain mostly unchanged.

Cucumbers: Michigan is now done for the season and Georgia continues to ramp up. Quality out of Georgia remains fair. In contrast, volume continues to increase out of McAllen, Nogales and Baja. Prices are adjusting and FOB process are down this week. Pole Cucumber quality out of the shade houses in Mexico is gorgeous; dark green fruit with very little blemish or defect. We still expect to see a potentially escalated market through November due to Hurricane Irma.

Green Beans: Supplies are good out of Virginia this week and quality is good. Supplies in the west are mostly unchanged. However, we'll need to watch as there are some heat-related issues which are expected to be ongoing through the remainder of the California season. FOB prices are mostly unchanged for next week.

Zucchini and Yellow Squash: Domestic supplies have made a slight turn as South Georgia ramps up driving FOB prices go down slightly this week. We are seeing fair quality and expect this market to remain tight through November. In the west, conditions have improved and availability is good. Quality is also much better out of California. The new crop crossing out of Nogales continues to ramp up daily and quality is outstanding. FOB prices are down this week.

Herbs

All Herbs are steady this week.

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	Fair	Fair	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

The cantaloupe market remains steady in the Westside region of California. Some growers have finished already, but lower demand has stalled the market. Classic Fruit's program in California will run another 3-4 weeks. Arizona production started in a very small way this week with higher pricing being quoted in the desert. Harper variety melons are being grown, so we do not anticipate any issues with quality the rest of the way through as this variety can withstand cooler temperatures and even a little rain. Internal quality is consistent at 11-14%.

Honeydews ran higher last week, but have settled down so far this week. Larger sizes are tougher to come by with smaller sizes being readily available from some fields that are mostly finished. Nogales production should begin to pick up along with desert production so we do not anticipate much more of a run on the dewes. The fruit remains very clean with internal quality ranging from 10-13%.

Offshore update: Our summer is their rainy season and this year they have seen steady amounts and accumulation. Early fields were planted on schedule but production crews have battled, being able to properly prepare the fields (laying plastic, land prep, etc.) of fields due to come off in December and January. This has delayed planting which may produce some holes in production around the holidays and after.

Watermelon: The Westside region will continue to have supply through the middle of October while production in the Midwest is winding down. Seed varieties used in the fall for the past few seasons have been expanded, as they proved to be resistant to cooler weather that hits that region in October. Central Arizona should be ready in early October. Markets have firmed up due to lighter volume this week. Guatemala started planting last week with an early to mid-November start expected.

Mixed Vegetables

Artichokes: Steady market with higher prices. Quality is good.

Arugula: Supplies are low for baby and wild. Quality is fair. Prices are rising.

Asparagus: Good supply, prices are back to normal and quality is good.

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

Broccoli: ESCALATED/EXTREME Prices are high and in escalation. Supplies are on the lighter side due to the heat and being pro-rated. Quality is average. **Broccoli florets are ESCALATED** and we are seeing a shortage in supply.

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

Carrots: EXTREME Due to the heat and rain, we are seeing some quality issues and a shortage on jumbo supplies as well as tables and cellos.

Cauliflower: EXTREME We are experiencing a shortage in supply, very high prices and average quality.

Celery: Oxnard is done and we are now in Salinas for 100% of supply. Prices are stable and quality is good.

Corn: Volumes are declining in all markets; however, demand is flat. The market is mostly unchanged, and quality is still good on yellow, white and bicolor.

Cilantro: ESCALATED Quality is poor; there is still yellowing with some decay. Prices are high.

Fennel: Supplies for the week will be good and quality is good.

Garlic: EXTREME We just finished our 2017 harvest this week. We have fortunately harvested our most normal crop since 2014. Our yields were pretty much as expected, nothing extraordinary, but a good crop of garlic. Presently, demand for domestic garlic still exceeds supply.

Ginger: Chinese ginger supplies have tightened up putting upward pressure on prices across the country. This is still a better dollar value than ginger from Hawaii, Brazil, Thailand and Costa Rica.

Green Cabbage: Supply is good on both coasts, quality is good.

Green Onions: ESCALATED

Iced: Prices are up, quality is poor with heat related damage.

Iceless: This market is steady and we are seeing heat related quality issues.

JICAMA: Normal prices and quality is good.

Kale (Green): Demand is steady and quality is just fair. Supplies are starting to lighten up with product being affected by heat damage.

Mache: Availability is adequate.

Mushrooms: ESCALATED Mushroom growers have suffered damage in the South and Southeast, as well as Puerto Rico. Hurricane Harvey and Irma have resulted in a tightening market, and the American Mushroom Institute said it expects supply to be affected for several months.

Napa: Supplies are normal. Quality is good.

Parsley (Curly, Italian): We are seeing prices that are still higher, the warm temperatures have caused quality issues.

Radishes: Quality is good and supply is slowing down. Expect to see stronger markets through the summer.

Red Cabbage: Quality and sizing have been great with good color. Market is stable.

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

Spinach (Bunched): Supply is average and quality is poor due to heat-related issues. We are seeing prices rise.

Spinach (Baby): Baby and clipped spinach supplies are low. Quality is poor due to heat-related issues and occasional reports of mildew. Prices are somewhat up.

Spring Mix: Supplies are average with fair quality.

Onions ESCALATED

All supplies are shipping from the northwest and all indications are showing that supplies are significantly shorter than previous seasons. It is likely we will see pricing remain elevated as demand exceeds supplies. While sizing continues to be a challenge, we are starting to see some improvement. Sizing is peaking mostly on mediums and jumbos with much fewer big onions. We can expect that this will continue to get better as we transition from the harvest onions into storage onions, but even with this, it is likely that we will see pricing on large onions remain elevated this season and supplies to remain tight.

Potatoes: ESCALATED

Demand on consumer packs is good, with demand on cartons, 40 count through 70 count is fair. The market at this time has seen prices stabilize for the most part. Weather is playing a part in the market with some operations not able to run this week or running short shifts. The growers are continuing to go into storage with their crop along with supplying fresh market potatoes. Approximately 65% of the crop will be under cover by the end of the week. We are continuing to see difficulty in securing transportation at this time. We expect this to continue for the near future.

TOMATOES-

EAST

HURRICANE IRMA UPDATE: We will see a very active market and potential supply interruptions on all east coast vegetable items due to the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. Several of our partner growers have sustained severe damage to infrastructure as well as crops. Fortunately, the forecast calls for favorable weather in the region over the next several days which will assist in the recovery process. We expect to see very active markets the next two to three months due to the damage of the fall crops in North Florida and South Georgia. We are anticipating a bold recovery in the Immokalee and Naples area in the next 4 to 6 weeks barring no additional severe weather events.

- **Rounds: ESCALATED** Supplies in the east have improved this week and markets were off. However, we will still see an active market on larger sized fruit as the plants in the current production areas weaken and produce smaller sized fruit. Sizing specifications may need to widen over the next few weeks. All sizes and quality will be hit and miss due to the weather-related impacts of Hurricane Irma. We expect a severe supply shortage over the next several months due to the damages done to the fall transition crops in North Florida.
- **Romas: WATCH LIST** Supplies will remain light this week out of Tennessee and the Carolinas. Markets are mostly unchanged and demand is also mostly unchanged. Quality remains an ongoing issue throughout the eastern growing districts due to the ongoing rain issues. We expect a severe supply shortage over the next several months due to the damages done to the fall transition crops in North Florida.
- **Grapes:** Supplies have improved considerably this week out of Virginia and North Carolina. Markets are down this week mostly due to lighter demand. Quality will remain an ongoing issue from weather and disease impacts. We expect a severe supply shortage over the next several months due to the damages done to the fall transition crops in North Florida.
- **Cherries: ESCALATED** Supplies have tightened up significantly and will continue to see quality issues. We expect a severe supply shortage over the next several months due to the damages done to the fall transition crops in North Florida.

TOMATOES- WEST AND MEXICO

WEST COAST WEATHER STATEMENT: Last week California experienced severe weather including rain, high humidity and wind. Combine these events with several heat waves over the past several weeks, and it does not impact crops in a positive manner. We are seeing heavy bloom drop and damage to fruit maturing on the plants. We expect an early completion of the tomato and squash season in the west adding additional concerns for shortages of supply over the next few months as Florida begins to recover from Irma.

- **Rounds: ESCALATED** Vine-ripe production continues through Otay and McAllen. The green market in California continues to struggle due to heat-related quality issues such as lower shelf life and soft fruit. We could see a potential GAP between the California season and the fall crop in Nogales due to a potential bloom drop as well. Markets are down this week because of lighter demand.
- **Romas:** Supplies are improving daily through Otay and McAllen as newer shade houses are open and being harvested. Volume is expected to increase this week. California production remains lighter than normal and quality remains questionable because of last month's weather impacts. We are seeing downward pressure on pricing. We continue to see tender fruit that will not have good shelf life.
- **Grapes:** Crossings continue to improve this week as does quality. Quality has improved slightly this week crossing through McAllen and Otay. FOB prices remain mixed this week.
- **Cherries: ESCALATED** Supplies are a tad better this week, however, demand and prices remain firm. Quality and sizing are good.

APPLES, PEARS, & TREEFRUIT

Apples EXTREME: Demand from retail is extreme causing shortages industry wide. Golds and Granny's remain extremely short causing a shift in demand to all other varieties. We expect to see this continue through the rest of the season. Offshore deals are also very active due to the shortages in the Pacific Northwest. Gala and Red Delicious are steady and good quality.

Pears: They started in California and we will see them in Washington soon. Anjou pears are steady and supply is good.

STONE FRUIT: DOMESTIC LOADING CENTRAL VALLEY, CA

- **Yellow Peaches:** Supplies winding down and very limited out of California.
- **White Peaches:** Done for the season

- **Yellow Nectarines:** Supplies are winding down out of California.
- **White Nectarines:** Supplies are winding down out of California.
- **Red Plums:** Done for the season
- **Black Plums:** Angelino's ramping up and good supplies available
- **Red and Black Pluots:** We will have supplies on pluots through October; sweet and juicy varieties.
- **Mottled Pluots:** Mega Dino and Dinosaur Egg varieties are available now. Supplies are winding down.