

Overview

Most growers have started transitioning to Salinas, and we should see a complete transition by next week. There is heavy rain forecasted and we will more than likely see quality issues from these adverse weather conditions. Berries are improving and most commodities are steady.

Market Alert








- Asparagus – **ESCALATED**
- Avocado – **ESCALATED**
- Limes – **ESCALATED**
- Mushrooms – **ESCALATED**

Transportation








Rates, although higher than expected, have eased as overall demand is lower. However, we do expect to see rates begin to increase as we approach the summer months as there is still an overall shortage of drivers. ELD's will be creating longer transit times which, as demand increases, will force rates to firm.

Weather








SOUTHEAST: The forecast is mixed with scattered clouds and showers over the next few days. Mild temps will continue.

Thu 04/05	Fri 04/06	Sat 04/07	Sun 04/08	Mon 04/09	Tue 04/10	Wed 04/11
82° 62°	84° 67°	80° 68°	80° 68°	83° 70°	78° 62°	81° 61°
						
Clear	Clear	Chance of a Thunderstorm	Chance of Rain	Clear	Chance of a Thunderstorm	Clear








HERMOSILLO: Typical spring weather patterns are developing showing plenty of sunshine with very warm days and mild evenings.

Thu 04/05	Fri 04/06	Sat 04/07	Sun 04/08	Mon 04/09	Tue 04/10	Wed 04/11
96° 61°	93° 61°	92° 61°	92° 62°	95° 62°	97° 62°	95° 63°
						
Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear







CULIACAN: Typical spring weather patterns are developing showing plenty of sunshine with very warm days and mild evenings.

Thu 04/05	Fri 04/06	Sat 04/07	Sun 04/08	Mon 04/09	Tue 04/10	Wed 04/11
97° 61°	95° 57°	96° 54°	95° 55°	94° 57°	97° 61°	97° 59°
						
Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear

YUMA: Typical spring weather patterns are developing showing plenty of sunshine with very warm days and mild evenings.

Thu 04/05	Fri 04/06	Sat 04/07	Sun 04/08	Mon 04/09	Tue 04/10	Wed 04/11
93° 66°	94° 69°	94° 67°	93° 65°	97° 67°	97° 68°	95° 63°
						
Partly Cloudy	Clear	Clear	Clear	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Clear

HURON: Mild days are ahead. A pineapple express is expected on Saturday bringing up to 1" of precipitation to the valley floor followed by more mild and cloudy days through next Wednesday.

Thu 04/05	Fri 04/06	Sat 04/07	Sun 04/08	Mon 04/09	Tue 04/10	Wed 04/11
81° 55°	72° 59°	72° 46°	74° 47°	81° 51°	73° 48°	76° 48°
						
Partly Cloudy	Overcast	Rain	Clear	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy

Good Buys

Mangos!

You know what they say, it takes two to mango! This sweet sign of spring is a personal Produce Alliance good buy favorite. Their fruit flavors may be available all year long because of our hardworking growers, but they are definitely at their sweetest this time of year.

Though thousands of varieties grow all over the world, get ready to encounter the most popular of mangoes this spring: Tommy Atkins (green, purple, red-ish skins) and Ataulfo (yellow, orange-ish skins).

Slightly more fibrous and less sweet, Tommy Atkins are larger with an impressively long shelf life. The Ataulfo, though a little more sensitive to the touch, offers a touch more sweetness.

Be gentle with these precious golden gems, they bruise easily. Want to really differentiate your menu for the start of the season? Take your customers on a tropical trip and try slipping mango into healthy, fresh sides, desserts, or even the main course. They'll dig the sunshine vibes and tangy-sweet flavors.

Fruits & Vegetables

Avocados: ESCALATED Sizes in escalation include: 48 #1 and #2, 60 and 70 #1's. Weekly volumes are expected to dip slightly due to Holy Week in Mexico, while harvest levels increase in California. Premium grade fruit has become short and remains heavy on grade 2 and small fruit. In California, volumes are expected to increase this month; however, heavy rain last week and the predicted forecast calling for additional rain this week will limit local harvesting.

Bananas: Demand on this item remains firm; however, prices will continue to ease. Quality will remain inconsistent due to weather that has impacted the growing regions in Guatemala, Mexico, and Costa Rica. This only further complicates an already short banana market across the country due to virus impacts. Due to improving inventories, we should no longer see ripening issues.

Pineapples: Demand remains firm, and quality and supplies are gradually improving. FOB quotes at the port are mostly unchanged.

Grapes: Good quality continues on the offshore programs, and pricing is normal for this time of year (mid 20's for premium sizing and deals being made on small fruit). Quality continues to be good. Pearlettes out of Mexico should begin crossing mid-May with the desert to follow. Thompsons are now available, pricing in the upper 20's to low 30's. Other varieties available include: Crimsons, Globes, and Autumn Royals.

Kiwi: California supplies are very limited; lighter supplies are also expected on Italian fruit coming through the East Coast. Markets continue to firm up.

Berries

Blueberries: Availability is good, Georgia blues will start up soon adding more availability to this commodity.

Blackberries: The market is steady, and quality is good.

Raspberries: We are seeing a steady market with good quality.

Strawberries: Market has improved and we should start seeing better prices as we approach next week. Quality is good to fair depending on the region.

California / Arizona Citrus

Demand on oranges and lemons has improved; however, it's still a lower yield than in years past. Upcoming issues with weather may potentially create issues with supply and quality. We will keep you posted.

Navels/Valencia's: Although there has been improvement, we are still seeing a shortage in supply and high (but improving) prices. Smaller sizes are more available than larger sizes at this time.

Lemons: This is a very active market. Prices are still higher than normal, but quality is good.

Limes: **ESCALATED** This market remains high and although supplies are still very tight, they are improving.

Grapefruit: Texas grapefruit is available. Florida Star Ruby/Red is available. California grapefruit has started.

Specialties:

- Pink Lemons are available.
- Gold Nugget mandarins are available.
- Ojai Pixie Tangerines are available.
- Only a few Minneola's are left.
- Domestic Blood oranges and Cara Caras are available showing good quality.
- New Zealand Meyers are available.
- Halos and Cuties are available.
- Few Pummelos are left.

California Lettuce

Butter: Supplies are normal and quality is average.

Green and Red Leaf: Quality is good; however, there is some blistering and peel.

Iceberg Lettuce: Quality is average and the market is steady.

Romaine: Quality and prices are average. Supply is normal.

Romaine Hearts: Supplies are normal, quality is good, and prices are average.

Eastern and Western Vegetables

Coachella is expected to begin production first week of April. Squash and eggplant will start the season followed by green bells, beans, red bells and corn.

Green Bell Pepper: Supplies out of Florida are good, though supplies remain tight on medium and larger sizes. There is good volume on choice. Overall quality in the East is good despite some reports of lighter color fruit being reported in the fields. Nogales crossing are still lighter as we finish up older blocks. We anticipate breaking newer blocks over the next two weeks. Coachella has just begun to scratch easing pressure on Nogales. FOB prices will remain steady over the next two weeks.

Red Bell Pepper: Markets are easing and we should see additional numbers available this week. Quality is still very nice.

Yellow Pepper: Production is light and is pushing the market higher. Quality is still very nice.

Mini Sweet Pepper: Markets remain mixed by region. Good supplies are available in the west; supplies in the east are a hit or miss.

Eggplant: Warmer weather continues to improve availability on both coasts; FOB prices are unchanged this week and quality is very nice.

English Cucumber: There are excellent supplies crossing through Nogales and McAllen.

Cucumbers: Offshore deal is just about through and Florida continues to ramp up pushing FOB prices down. Quality is very nice. West coast supplies continue to improve through Nogales and Otay. Quality remains great.

Green Beans: There are excellent growing conditions currently in the East. Markets are steady and quality is good. In the West, volume is winding down through Mexico and prices are ticking upwards. Overall quality is outstanding.

Zucchini and Yellow Squash: Volume will continue to improve daily in the East on zucchini and yellow squash. In the West, as the transition back to Hermosillo is completed, quality and supply are excellent. Deals are there to be made!

Herbs

LAVENDER: Local frost has affected this crop and we will be out for several weeks.

OPAL BASIL: Due to weather conditions, Opal Basil will have little to no availability until May or June.

ROSEMARY: Local supplies are average.

SAVORY: Supplies should improve this week as local supplies ramp up.

All other herbs are steady in supply and quality.

HERB	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
Arugula	Light	Fair	USA
Basil	Improving	Good	USA/MEXICO
Opal Basil	Limited	Good	USA/MEXICO
Thai Basil	Good	Good	USA/MEXICO
Bay Leaves	Good	Good	COLUMBIA
Chervil	Good	Good	USA
Chives	Good	Good	USA/MEXICO
Cilantro	Light	Good	USA
Dill	Good	Good	USA/MEXICO
Episode	Good	Good	MEXICO
Lemongrass	Good	Good	USA
Marjoram	Limited	Good	USA
Mint	Limited	Good	USA
Oregano	Good	Good	USA
Italian Parsley	Good	Good	USA
Rosemary	Limited	Good	USA
Sage	Limited	Good	USA/MEXICO
Savory	Limited	Good	USA
Sorrel	Good	Good	USA
Tarragon	Good	Good	MEXICO
Thyme	Limited	Good	USA
Lemon Thyme	Good	Good	USA
Lavender	Limited	Good	USA
Lime Leaves	Good	Good	USA
Hora Santa	Good	Good	USA

Melons

Cantaloupe: The cantaloupe market is easing post-Easter and good volume is expected over the next several weeks. Currently medium-sized fruit is very short, projections are showing a return to normal availability on sizing by late next week, quality remains consistent with good brix levels (11-14%), and stronger coloring is starting to appear externally.

Honeydew: Good demand has kept the market steady. There has also been a swing back to larger sized fruit (4/5) ct. Quality has been clean with brix levels mostly in the 11-13% range. Our growers anticipate an active market for the next three weeks.

Watermelon: Seedless watermelons remain steady with a decent demand on larger sizes (4/5s). Movement on smaller sizes has been limited. Growers of seedless melons from Central America are done for the season.

Mixed Vegetables

Artichokes: We are seeing much higher prices and poor quality.

Arugula: Product is tightening up and quality is fair.

Asparagus: **ESCALATED** Production from Mexico is slowing down and Peru doesn't have enough volume to cover the demand. Lack of supplies is driving prices up. We are also seeing a shortage in supply on larger sizes. We do not expect to see product improve for some time.

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

Broccoli / Broccoli Florets: Supplies are normal and quality is good.

Brussels Sprouts: Supplies are light and quality is average.

Carrots: We are seeing both good quality and volume.

Cauliflower: Supplies are normal. We are seeing steady prices and good quality.

Celery: This market is steady, both quality and price are good.

Corn: This market has firmed up due to the cooler weather. We anticipate improved volume over the next week.

Cilantro: Supplies are very light and quality is fair due to the colder weather.

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

Garlic: **EXTREME** We are about 50% done with the 2017 crop. Supplies will remain tight between now and July. Prices remain high.

Ginger: Chinese ginger markets are mixed, but quality is good. Also, product is available at higher costs from Brazil, Costa Rica and Honduras and Peru with no major quality issues being reported.

Green Cabbage: Supplies have improved in the southeast as well as in the West. FOB calls are down and quality remains very nice.

Green Onions: Market is steady with good quality and supplies.

JICAMA: Markets remain firm due to ongoing short supplies and will continue to see some quality and shelf life issues.

Kale (Green): Quality and supplies are fair.

Mache: Availability is adequate.

Mushrooms: ESCALATED Mushroom growers are still recovering from the severe 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 has said it expects supply to be affected for several months. We are starting to see some improvement of supply and will keep you informed of any changes.

Napa: Supplies and prices are steady. Quality is good.

Parsley: (Curly, Italian) Quality and supplies are fair.

Rapini: Supplies have improved and markets are steady. Quality has improved.

Radishes: Supplies are steady and quality is good shipping through Arizona and Florida.

Red Cabbage: Quality has been hit and miss while sizing remains good. We are seeing some external quality and color issues causing markets to remain firm in the East as well as Texas. West Coast volume is improving.

Snow and Sugar Snap Peas: Snow and sugar snap peas supplies are steady through Miami.

Spinach (Bunched): Supplies are available and quality is fair due rain.

Spinach (Baby): Baby and clipped spinach supplies are good, but showing some quality issues due to rain.

Spring Mix: Supplies are available and quality is fair due to weather.

Onions:

Pricing has firmed as sheds in the northwest are starting to finish for the season. Texas has started in a small way and will start to really ramp up in volume next week. The Imperial Valley will start around the 15th of April and will likely cause unstable pricing while several regions overlap. Quality and supplies look to be very good out of both Texas and California, and sizing is peaking on Jumbos.

Potatoes:

Demand has continued to increase and we are seeing strength across the board on all cartons, especially on the larger sizes. Some of the Burbank crop appears to be rougher due to the cold weather during harvest. There appears to be no transportation issues as trucks are plentiful and rail cars are available. Most growers are still running Norkotahs and Burbanks, and we will see the Norkotah supply last until the end of April to early part of May.

TOMATOES - EAST

- **Rounds:** With the spring harvest now in production, we are seeing supplies continue to improve out of Florida on all sizes; quality is outstanding.
- **Romas:** Volume remains light, but demand has caused the market to remain flat this week. Quality remains nice throughout Florida on Romas.
- **Grapes:** Volume is good and demand is flat. We are seeing a flush of fruit right now and expect this to maintain course through the next few weeks. Quality is still very nice.
- **Cherries:** Supplies are good and quality is outstanding.

TOMATOES - WEST AND MEXICO

- **Rounds:** Overall volume has improved from Sonora and is expected remain that way through the end of the month. FOB prices remain steady, but we are seeing some quality and color issues. FOB prices will be erratic depending on quality. There are also reports of checkerboard and scarring.
- **Romas:** Volume is ramping up and demand is down which is causing downward pressure on pricing. Quality is hit or miss.
- **Grapes:** Grape FOBs are dropping due to lack of demand. Transition to spring production has already begun as well. Quality remains nice on the last bit of production out of Sinaloa. New crop quality is very nice, though very large fruit sizes are being reported.
- **Cherries:** Markets remain mostly unchanged despite lighter supplies. Quality is very nice.

APPLES & PEARS

Apples: PROMOTIONAL VOLUME AVAILABLE ON FOOD SERVICE/SMALL SIZED FRUIT New crop now available we are seeing the pressure on the market decrease and shortages diminish. Excellent quality available on all varieties; however, we are seeing less production of Golden Delicious as the trees are being pulled and replaced with more favorable varieties. Please make note that volume orders on food service grade apples must be pre-booked to ensure they are not packed with PLU stickers.

Pears: Bosc, Bartlett and D'Anjou are available out of Yakima and Wenatchee Districts.