

Overview

Most commodities are steady. Oranges have hit an **EXTREME** market with higher prices and shortages in supply. Lemons are also experiencing some similar issues. The markets have improved on Green Leaf and Iceberg. Squash is **ESCALATED**, and Green Peppers are experiencing a GAP in supply. Strawberries continue to be a great buy.

Market Alert

- Cauliflower – **ESCALATED**
- Cucumber – **ESCALATED**
- Grape Tomatoes – **ESCALATED**
- Green Bell Pepper – **EXTREME**
- Lemons – **ESCALATED**
- Limes – **ESCALATED**
- Mushrooms – **ESCALATED**
- Oranges – **EXTREME**
- Zucchini and Yellow Squash – **ESCALATED**

Watch List

Southeastern Veg: Tomatoes, Zucchini, Yellow Squash, Bell Pepper, Eggplant, and Cucumber grown in Florida and South Georgia this time of year have all been severely impacted by heavy rain over the past two weeks. Due to a persistent sub-tropical flow, up to 5 inches of rain has accrued in some isolated areas of the growing regions. This weather is not damaging to the point of a hurricane; however, it has caused the tail end to the Florida programs to end early on some commodities while delaying the spring harvest in South Georgia. We do expect the conditions to improve this week as our growers will gradually begin harvesting cucumber and soft squash. We expect to ramp production up on those items next week with green bell pepper to follow. Tomatoes have also been affected in the southeast causing the markets to spike. There will be plenty of supply on fresh tomatoes crossing through McAllen, TX and Otay Mesa, CA to substitute. We will keep you posted of the crop updates.

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

MOULTRIE:

| Thu 05/17 | Fri 05/18 | Sat 05/19 | Sun 05/20 | Mon 05/21 | Tue 05/22 | Wed 05/23 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 83° 70° | 86° 69° | 87° 69° | 83° 67° | 82° 67° | 82° 68° | 84° 69° |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Overcast | Chance of a Thunderstorm | Partly Cloudy | Thunderstorm | Chance of a Thunderstorm | Chance of a Thunderstorm | Chance of a Thunderstorm |
| 0.03 in | 0.1 in | 0.04 in | 0.16 in | 0.07 in | 0.11 in | 0.17 in |

HERMOSILLO:

| Thu 05/17 | Fri 05/18 | Sat 05/19 | Sun 05/20 | Mon 05/21 | Tue 05/22 | Wed 05/23 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| 101° 64° | 96° 61° | 94° 59° | 95° 62° | 96° 63° | 95° 62° | 96° 64° |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Clear |
| 0 in |

CULIACAN:

| Thu 05/17 | Fri 05/18 | Sat 05/19 | Sun 05/20 | Mon 05/21 | Tue 05/22 | Wed 05/23 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 104° 71° | 104° 64° | 102° 60° | 103° 60° | 101° 62° | 102° 62° | 102° 64° |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Clear |
| 0 in |

SALINAS:

| Thu 05/17 | Fri 05/18 | Sat 05/19 | Sun 05/20 | Mon 05/21 | Tue 05/22 | Wed 05/23 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 64° 53° | 63° 53° | 62° 52° | 63° 52° | 64° 52° | 64° 53° | 66° 53° |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Partly Cloudy |
| 0 in |

COACHELLA:

| Thu 05/17 | Fri 05/18 | Sat 05/19 | Sun 05/20 | Mon 05/21 | Tue 05/22 | Wed 05/23 |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| 96° 68° | 97° 71° | 98° 70° | 99° 69° | 95° 65° | 95° 67° | 97° 68° |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Clear | Clear | Clear | Clear | Partly Cloudy | Clear | Clear |
| 0 in |

Good Buys

Fresh Spring Herbs!

Whether you are cooking' up an appetizer, entrée, or dessert, fresh herbs are always a great way to add a little extra hint of freshness to any dish. In fact, herbs also pair nicely with fresh fruit, and with National Wine Day (May 23rd) right around the corner, *wine* not celebrate by making a refreshing summer sangria? This strawberry and fresh rosemary sangria recipe will surely kick your summer spread up a notch with mix of sweet, savory, and tangy on your taste buds. Plus, strawberries are still a great buy. Enjoy!

Strawberry Rosemary Sangria

Strawberry Syrup:

- 1 cup diced strawberries
- 1 tablespoon agave
- Pinch of salt
- 1 tablespoon water
- 2 twigs of rosemary

Sangria:

- 1 750-ml bottle dry white wine
- 1/2 cups sliced strawberries

- 1/4 cup triple sec
- 2 peaches, each cut into 12 slices
- 1 lime, cut crosswise into 6 slices

Strawberry syrup

1. Dice up strawberries
2. In a small saucepan add strawberries, agave, salt, water and rosemary
3. Place over medium heat for 5-7 minutes, or until strawberries are totally broken down
4. Remove from heat and strain through a sieve, removing rosemary and strawberry piece

*You should have about 2 tablespoons of strawberry syrup

Sangria

1. In a pitcher, mix white wine, triple sec, sliced peaches, strawberries, and limes
2. Smash the citrus slightly
3. Add the strawberry syrup and stir
4. Let stand at room temperature at least 2 hours or chill up to 4 hours
5. Serve sangria over ice

Source

Fruits & Vegetables

Avocados: Volumes are slightly below normal as Mexico begins to slow down. California and Peru are slightly higher offsetting the deficit in Mexico. We are seeing high quality fruit from Peru and California. Mexico's late season fruit quality is rough.

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, quality is good, and supplies are stable. FOB quotes at the port are mostly unchanged.

Grapes: This is a mixed market at the moment. The Chilean fruit is priced to move as quality begins to diminish while new crop from Nogales calls for a premium. Perlette and flame quality crossing through Nogales is good with the desert to follow. Offshore greens are very limited; flames and globes are all that are available for the offshore deal.

Kiwi: New Crop, Chilean fruit is available. Supply and quality are both good.

Berries

Blueberries: Availability is steady, Georgia blues started last week in a very small way, they are a few weeks behind due to the rain which is causing some shortages in supplies. Prices are higher.

Blackberries: The market is steady, and quality is good. Driscoll's new proprietary blackberry plant varieties will produce sweeter fruit all summer from Northern CA.

Raspberries: We are seeing some shortages in supply in this market, quality is good.

Strawberries: The market is great. We are still seeing lower prices, plenty of supply, and good quality.

California / Arizona Citrus

The lemon market is getting tighter. Upcoming issues with weather may potentially create issues with supply and quality. We will keep you posted. The demand for CA navels has far exceeded supply. Markets will remain high until the domestic Valencia market kicks in.

Navels/Valencia's: EXTREME We are still seeing a shortage in supply and higher prices. This market may become even shorter in supply and will last until the domestic Valencia market takes over.

Lemons: ESCALATED This is a very active market. Prices are still higher than normal, but quality is good. Imports start in June.

Limes: ESCALATED Bigger fruit continues to remain tight and we are having to grade the fruit to obtain quality needed for shipping which is making this market remain steady. However, this has caused some tighter supplies on the 175-200ct and pricing remains elevated (though it has improved). We expect to see this market improve weekly.

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.

California Lettuce

Butter: Demand is good, and quality is average.

Green and Red Leaf: Quality is good, and supplies are steady. Green leaf is very active due to the past situation with romaine; but the market is leveling out.

Iceberg Lettuce: The market is active but has improved. Quality has been all over the board between growers.

Romaine: Produce Alliance continues to purchase CA product only. Supplies have returned to normal. Quality is good with occasional fringe burn.

Romaine Hearts: Supplies are normal. Demand and quality are good.

Eastern and Western Vegetables

Green Bell Pepper: EXTREME The Green Bell Pepper market is experiencing a GAP in supply. We do not expect conditions to improve for the next 10 to 14 days. The reasons for this gap is mostly weather-related as Florida continues to be impacted by heavy rain and flooding that will further delay any harvests of the remaining crops in that region. South Georgia is approximately 10 days behind in the harvest of the early summer crop which is a result of the heavy rain that they experienced in April. This has caused a GAP in overall supply on the East Coast. The last major contributing factor is that Nogales is done for the season, leaving Coachella covering the entire country which they simply cannot do. Please note that shortages in supply are inevitable. We apologize for this disruption and recommend moving to red and yellow bells during this time or removing green peppers from your menu temporarily. We are monitoring this situation closely and will update you with more information regarding Green Bell Peppers as the week continues.

Red Bell Pepper: Deals are being made on choice; FOB prices are unchanged this week on all other sizes. Quality is good through Nogales as the seasonal winds down, and we are seeing excellent quality out of Coachella. Red or Yellow Bells are great substitutes while we go through the shortages on Green Pepper.

Yellow Pepper: Production is good loading through Otay on block greenhouse, markets are mostly unchanged, and quality is very nice. These are a good substitute while we go through the shortages on green pepper.

Mini Sweet Pepper: Good supplies are available and can be a good substitute while we go through the shortages on green pepper—an excellent for fajitas and stir fry!

Eggplant: WATCH LIST Market is fair as we transition from winter crops to summer crops. Marginal quality is predominantly available and FOB prices are unchanged this week. We should see Georgia and Central Valley of California ramp up over the next 7 to 14 days.

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

Cucumbers: ESCALATED Cucumber markets have eased back as Florida ramps back up and South Georgia scratches new crop production. Quality is good and FOB prices are down. West coast supplies are now stable, and we are seeing beautiful quality.

Green Beans: Markets are firming in the east as we transition from Florida to Georgia. Excellent supply in the west thanks to supply coming from Mexico, Baja and the desert. Markets are split based on quality.

Zucchini and Yellow Squash: ESCALATED FOB prices are down slightly in the East; the overall market is escalated, but growers were able to do some cleanup in Moultrie adding more volume to the market which helped to lower the FOB prices. Florida is still harvesting squash; however, the quality is fair. Mexico has made a turn and markets in the West are active. We should see the last of Hermosillo product this week. In California, our growers cleaned up picks on the Central Coast and we expect volume to ramp up next week followed by the Central Valley by end of month. We expect this to be short term with the overall market drop next week on yellow and green.

Herbs

Fresh Herbs are very steady this week. Supplies are good, and quality and shelf life have been very good. We anticipate no change going into the next few weeks.

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

OPAL BASIL: This commodity is back and there should be a steady supply now as a result.

ROSEMARY: Local supplies are average.

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

OREGANO: This commodity started to flower early this year.

Supplies continue to look steady and quality has been very good. We do not for see any supply issues for the next two weeks.

| HERB | SUPPLIES | QUALITY | COUNTRY OF ORIGIN |
|-----------------|----------|---------|-------------------|
| Arugula | Steady | Good | USA |
| Basil | Steady | Good | USA/MEXICO |
| Opal Basil | Limited | Good | USA |
| Thai Basil | Limited | Fair | USA/MEXICO |
| Bay Leaves | Steady | Good | USA |
| Chervil | Steady | Good | USA |
| Chives | Steady | Good | MEXICO |
| Cilantro | Steady | Good | USA |
| Dill | Steady | Good | USA |
| Epazote | Steady | Good | MEXICO |
| Lemongrass | Steady | Good | USA |
| Marjoram | Steady | Good | USA |
| Mint | Steady | Good | USA |
| Oregano | Steady | Good | USA |
| Italian Parsley | Steady | Good | USA |
| Rosemary | Steady | Good | USA |
| Sage | Steady | Good | USA |
| Savory | Steady | Good | USA |
| Sorrel | Steady | Good | USA |
| Tarragon | Limited | Good | MEXICO |
| Thyme | Steady | Good | USA/MEXICO |
| Lemon Thyme | Limited | Fair | USA |

| | | | |
|-------------|---------|------|-----|
| Lavender | Limited | Good | USA |
| Lime Leaves | Limited | Good | USA |

Melons

Cantaloupe: The cantaloupe market is mostly stable with the last arrivals of offshore fruit landing this week. We will transition to the desert next week. Overall market has shifted, smaller sized fruit is plentiful, and larger sized fruit is drawing a premium. Markets should see an overall spike up this week as retail pull for Memorial Day begins. Quality remains very nice and we continue to see brix levels (12-14%) with occasional higher levels and a good external appearance with even netting and full slips.

Honeydew: Good demand has kept the market steady; expect a steady decline of volume this week and next as the offshore season will conclude the season. We are beginning to see quality and flavor issues in this last cycle of fruit due to Whitefly and weather-related issues. Our growers anticipate an active market for the next three weeks until transition to the desert begins this coming week. Sizing is heavy to 8's and 9's, while 5's and 6's draws a premium.

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: Market is steady, and quality is good.

Arugula: Quality has improved, and supplies are good.

Asparagus: Market is steady, and quality is good. Prices are a bit higher than average.

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

Broccoli / Broccoli Florets: Supplies continue to be lighter creating higher prices, but quality is good.

Brussels Sprouts: Supplies are light and quality is good. Prices are steady.

Carrots: We are seeing both good quality and volume.

Cauliflower: ESCALATED We are seeing a shortage in supply and prices are escalated; however, we are seeing improvement and expect this to normalize quickly.

Celery: Demand is steady, and suppliers are lighter than normal. Quality is good.

Corn: Good volume continues on yellow and bi-color.

Cilantro: Supplies are average, and quality is fair.

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

Garlic: 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 firm with good supply, although we are seeing some slight insect damage.

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 good.

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 are better this week and demand is steady.

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

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 and prices are higher.

Spinach (Bunched): Quality is fair with some sizing issues. Supplies are good.

Spinach (Baby): Baby and clipped spinach supplies are good, and quality is fair.

Spring Mix: Supplies and quality is fair due to the colder weather.

Onions:

Production has significantly increased in the Imperial Valley, California. This increase in volume is making up for Idaho/Oregon finishing up their crop, with much fewer supplies remaining in Washington. Please note,

Washington is susceptible to sprouting and some internal issues shortly after arrival. Texas onions remain shipping in heavy volume; however, they will begin to wind down in the next week. The size profile in Texas remains heavier to smaller onions, therefore Colossals and Supers are becoming a bit short as of late, with more availability on Medium Yellows. Uvalde, TX and Las Cruces, NM are expecting to start in the next 7-10 days and will replace the volume lost from south Texas as they finish. We are seeing much better availability of Colossal and Super Colossal in California as their onions are running much larger. We are seeing reds that are much heavier than jumbos and mediums being fairly tight in both regions. Yields have been healthy in both Texas, as well as California, and we do not anticipate any major spikes in pricing at this point.

Potatoes:

While the market remains stable on all size cartons and consumer packs, prices have continued to increase. Much of the Burbank crop does have some quality issues due to the cold temperatures during harvest. As a result, many of the growers are grading harder. There is good availability and no transportation issues right now. The Norkotah supply is about finished and most growers will be running exclusively Burbanks over the next few weeks.

TOMATOES – EAST WATCH LIST

- **Rounds:** Weather has halted production in Florida causing a spike in prices overnight, we expect this to be an active market over the next week while growers allow the fields to dry up and are able to get back in to harvest.
- **Romas:** Roma prices are firming up and expected to remain active for the next 2-3 weeks. Quality is very nice.
- **Grapes: ESCALATED** Supplies remain snug as transition continues to central and north Florida. Quality is questionable due to the rain, we expect to see heavy discoloration and splitting on the last of the Florida crops. Virginia is not expected to begin their production for another three weeks.
- **Cherries:** Supply is marginal, FOB prices are up, and quality will be hit and miss due to the recent rain

TOMATOES - WEST AND MEXICO

- **Rounds:** Sinaloa continues to wind down while Baja is ramping up, keeping FOBs stable; however, large sized fruit is short and drawing a premium. Quality is beginning to decline out of Sinaloa as the season ends, so please make sure to manage inventory levels properly. Baja quality is outstanding.
- **Romas:** Volume and quality are outstanding from all regions and expected to remain steady through Mid-May.
- **Grapes:** Supply is sharply declining this week from Central Mexico while Baja continues to produce decent numbers causing a split market. FOB prices are firming up and demand is higher due to lighter supplies in the East.
- **Cherries:** Mainland production continues to show quality issues while new crop out of Baja is outstanding.

APPLES & PEARS

Apples: We will continue to have good supply of the major varieties of apples through the spring and summer. We have finished packing some varieties of apples for the season so the emphasis for balance during the season will be on the six or seven remaining varieties. The quality, condition, and color on almost all varieties looks very good, and since we normally harvest the late storage apples first in the season I expect the condition on the remaining production to be very good.

Pears: Both Anjou and Gold Bosc pears are available especially on the larger (70's to 100's) sizes, but they are beginning to wind down for the season.

Most of the supply that is left in the Northwest will either come from the Hood River Oregon area or from the Wenatchee area in Washington.

STONE FRUIT

Stone fruit has started. Red and black plums will start mid to end of May.