

HUDSONVILLE:

Thu 09/06	Fri 09/07	Sat 09/08	Sun 09/09	Mon 09/10	Tue 09/11	Wed 09/12
76° 52°	74° 53°	72° 52°	70° 57°	74° 54°	78° 55°	80° 58°
						
Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Overcast	Overcast	Partly Cloudy	Clear

Good Buys

Green Beans!

Football season is back! In between picking fantasy teams and passionate trade debates, consumers across the nation will find themselves seeking sports-friendly foods and different spots to catch games for the rest of the year.

This is the perfect opportunity to mix up menus and work in sporty seasonal sides! While most game food traditionally comes straight out of the fryer, there's no reason why fresh produce can't be make it on the line-up too. In fact, meet your newest game-changer: green beans.

Okay, hear us out! Green beans are not only extremely versatile and super seasonal right now, but they are loaded with fiber and are an excellent source of protein. Not to mention, the green bean East Coast market has dramatically improved lately producing top-notch, high quality product.

There are so many strategies to spicing up your green bean game. Exhibit A: bacon. Sautéed green beans with tossed bacon pieces are a savory and simple side that any football fan will adore. As we all know, fries are big staple for football season. Consider baking with bread crumbs or dry-frying green beans to provide a healthier menu alternative. You can even add gorgonzola and hazelnuts for an easy, elegant, and unexpected dish!

Either way, at the end of the day, you can count on these legumes to bring home the W.

Fruits & Vegetables

Avocados: Markets continue to ease back as inventories begin to improve and relieve pressure on the markets. Sizing is still mixed and shorter on the smaller grades. We expect this condition to continue through the first week of October. Due to the lower markets, the growers in Mexico are scaling back production to stabilize the freefall. Outlook for September remains volatile. October should return to normal supply barring no weather events or unrest.

Bananas: Demand on this item remains firm and supplies are expected to remain good through the rest of the year. Quality is good.

Pineapples: Volumes will remain light through September. Sizing has, and will continue to improve on larger sizes. We do expect good volumes for October and the remainder of the year.

Grapes: Grapes out of California continue to plug along with good supplies and quality. Green prices are expected to begin to trend upward in the coming weeks as the supplies will begin to be limited.

Kiwi: Good supplies available on Chilean product.

Berries

Blueberries: Quality is good and supplies are plentiful.

Blackberries: Supplies are good; however, the heat in the northern growing area of California is causing the berries to mature faster causing some issues with quality.

Raspberries: Supplies are steady; however, the heat in the northern growing area of California is causing the berries to show some quality issues.

Strawberries: The heat in the Northern growing area of California is causing the berries to mature faster than normal. This also causes a drop in size and soft/bruising berries; however, supply is good.

California / Arizona Citrus

The lemon market is in an **ACT OF GOD**. We are seeing extreme shortages in supply as well as much higher prices. The demand for Valencias has far exceeded supply as well. Markets will remain high as the domestic crop has come up extremely short this year.

Valencia's: ACT OF GOD Our Valencia growers in the San Joaquin Valley were affected by extreme heat which caused post bloom conditions in our fruit. As a result, this has caused a lighter crop and there is virtually no small fruit available. At this time, our growers suggest moving to a larger size Valencia. We also have one supplier that will not have any small fruit at all and has evoked an **ACT OF GOD**. We apologize for this disruption and recommend that you take oranges off your menu or change to a larger size at this time. We are monitoring this situation closely and will update you with more information regarding Valencias as the week continues. Thank you again for your support and understanding.

Lemons: ACT OF GOD As stated previously, this is primarily due to the very hot weather which has matured the fruit much faster than normal leaving us with virtually no supply and very standard grade fruit. Please note, prices will be very high, and product will be short until this is resolved. Other contributing factors:

- Arrivals from Argentina into the East Coast are fewer than expected.
- Chile has been sending fruit to locations outside of the US, in expectation of Argentina arrivals into the USA, which as noted above, are not happening at the usual volume.
- Various rain events in Argentina and Chile causing gaps in harvest/packing.
- Uncertain Mexico supply remains in question in terms of total volume for the season due to cold weather which slowed fruit production at the beginning of the year.

Between now and October (when desert production is in full swing), we expect to see severe pro rates. Produce Alliance recommends accepting flexibility in size and grade as a key to mitigating this situation.

Limes: Demand has been steady this past week, though large fruit remained a little bit tighter. New crop will start to appear in a few weeks. Pricing remains steady and we should see a little drop once new crop is in full swing.

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: Supplies are normal, and demand and quality are both good.

Green and Red Leaf: Red leaf quality is good, supplies are normal, and demand is average. Green leaf supplies are normal quality and demand are good.

Iceberg Lettuce: Lettuce supplies are slightly above budget. Demand is up, the market is steady, and quality is good.

Romaine: Supplies are slightly above normal. Demand and quality are both good.

Romaine Hearts: Supplies are slightly above normal. Demand and quality are both good.

Eastern and Western Vegetables

Green Bell Pepper: The market is showing great availability on all sizes across the board. Quality is good with FOBs remaining steady in the East.

Red Bell Pepper: Supplies and quality are excellent; deals are being made on volume.

Yellow Pepper: Supplies and quality are excellent; deals are being made on volume.

Mini Sweet Pepper: Good supplies are available. These are excellent for fajitas and stir fry, call for deals on mini sweet peppers!

Mixed Chili Pepper (Jalapeno, Anaheim, Poblano, and Serrano): Supplies are lighter and FOB prices are up a few dollars across the entire category. West Coast remains consistent on price; however, quality is suffering due to heat-related issues.

Eggplant: Supplies are readily available on both coasts with good quality being reported. FOB prices are down this week.

Cucumbers: The East Coast market remains active as Michigan winds down. Relief will come at the end of the month as Georgia ramps up. West Coast supplies remain tight as well and will improve next week once the newer blocks break. Overall quality is very nice despite short markets.

Green Beans: Markets are improving, harvest estimates are back on target, and quality is good in the East. On the West Coast, the prices are down a few dollars; however, there are still quality issues with West Coast beans due to the heat. We are seeing a lot of product being transferred from the East to West Coast to compensate for the shortfalls.

Zucchini and Yellow Squash: Supply is still very tight as Michigan winds down. Expect Georgia to ramp up over the next 10 days or so. Markets are still firm so do not expect any relief until Georgia begins. Quality is mostly good with some yellow showing heavy scarring once again. In the West, volume is steady out of Santa Maria. Fresno should ramp back up next week to 10 days and Nogales by last week of September. Overall relief in the market should come by the end of September.

Pumpkins: Now available out of Indiana and Michigan.

Herbs

Supplies remain steady and quality continues to be very good.

HERB	SUPPLIES	QUALITY	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
Arugula	Steady	Good	USA
Basil	Steady	Good	USA/MEXICO
Opal Basil	Steady	Good	USA
Thai Basil	Steady	Good	USA
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	Limited	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	Steady	Good	USA/MEXICO
Thyme	Steady	Good	USA
Lemon Thyme	Steady	Good	USA
Lavender	Steady	Good	USA

Lime Leaves	Steady	Good	USA
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Melons

Cantaloupe: Supplies remain good on larger-sized fruit as the continued warm weather pushes the crop forward. Sizing is still leaning heavy to 9's with limited supply on 12's and 15's. Quality on the new crops is outstanding, brix levels are at 14 to 16 with occasional higher levels, and fruit is showing a good external appearance with even netting and full slips. Markets will remain stable through this week.

Honeydew: Supplies are plentiful as the continued warm weather pushes the crop forward. Quality is excellent with sugar levels ranging from 12 to 14. Sizing mix is heavy to 5's with limited supply on 6 and 8's. Markets will remain stable through this week.

Watermelon: The seedless watermelon market is mixed due to lighter supply, mostly a result of heavy rain. Demand remains firm due to warm weather and heavy school business. Supplies are loading out of Texas, Michigan, Oklahoma, Indiana and California.

Mixed Vegetables

Artichokes: Quality is excellent, and demand is good.

Arugula: Quality and supplies have improved and product is available.

Asparagus: The weather in Mexico and Peru continues to affect sizing of jumbo asparagus which has been smaller than normal. Expect to see these issues for another few weeks, as well as shorter supplies since Mexican supplies are diminishing faster than expected. Peru will be starting in about a week.

Bok Choy: Quality is average, and demand is fair.

Broccoli / Broccoli Florets: Supplies are still on the lighter side this week, but will improve later this week. The demand remains good and the market is strong.

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

Carrots: We are seeing both good quality and volume.

Cauliflower: Quality is good. Volume is down slightly due to cooler temps. Demand is good and the market is active.

Celery: Supplies are normal and the markets are slightly better, but still very low with very light demand. Quality is good out of Salinas.

Corn: Good volume continues to become available on yellow and white product out of the San Joaquin Valley corn market (yellow, white and bi-color). Good supplies are also available out of Carolinas, and gapping in the Midwest. Quality is marginal in the Midwest due to rain; all other regions are good.

Cilantro: EXTREME Supplies are light due to poor quality.

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

Garlic: The market is about 50% done with the 2017 crop. Supplies are steady and prices remain high on domestic product.

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: **EXTREME** Cabbage is in shorter supply and we are seeing prices rise rapidly. This is primarily due to weather-related issues.

Green Onions: **Iced** - The market is active due to lighter supplies. **Iceless** - Like the iced market, the iceless market is active due to lighter 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 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 and demand are steady.

Parsley: (Curly, Italian) Quality 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: Markets remain firm despite decent supplies out of the Midwest. Quality has been hit or miss while sizing remains good. Central coast production is good; however, with lighter volume in the East, the market has firmed up in the West.

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

Spinach (Bunched): Quality and supply have improved and product is available.

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

Spring Mix: Quality and supply have improved and product is available.

Onions:

Idaho/Oregon and Washington are now shipping all three colors fresh out of the field. Quality is strong to start, and harvest is running smoothly with minimal interruption or weather concerns. Skin is starting to get better as the onions continue to cure down. While sizing on yellows is still peaking to jumbos, the availability of larger-sized onions is improving. We are seeing Colossal and Super Colossal in better supply, which has resulted in some reduced pricing on these items. We are seeing white onions are still in short supply and remain elevated in price. Reds are much more plentiful as well, and those prices have also been reduced. Overall, the season appears to be leaning toward a more 'normal' year in terms of size, yield and quality. What was once expected to be a very large crop, has been reduced size in part to the heat wave the Northwest has been experiencing over the last several weeks.

Potatoes:

Harvest remains underway and all growers are exclusively shipping new crop Norkotahs out of the field. Quality and availability have been very strong across the board on most sizes. Overall, there is a good mix of size throughout the state. We do not anticipate the new crop Burbanks becoming available until around the middle of October. By that time, all potatoes will be coming exclusively out of storage and should be through the sweat and curing process. Transportation has been challenging and we are seeing rates increase.

TOMATOES - EAST

- **Rounds:** Tomato supply continues to be snug despite supplies coming from three different growing areas. Demand is overall lighter than expected keeping the markets from going higher due to school being back in session. FOBs today were down 1 to 2 dollars. Quality is generally good. Markets could get firm again by the end of the month as summer crops wind down and fall ramps up.
- **Romas:** Tomato supply continues to be snug despite supplies coming from three different growing areas. Demand is overall lighter than expected keeping the markets from going higher due to school being back in session. FOBs today were down 1 to 2 dollars. Quality is generally good. Markets could get firm again by the end of the month as summer crops wind down and fall ramps up.
- **Grapes:** With more supplies available, prices will fall about \$2 as we move forward into next week. Quality is still a bit of a challenge, with rain and heat being the major factors.
- **Cherries:** Things remain mostly unchanged for cherries. FOBs will remain stable, while quality is still a little unstable

TOMATOES - WEST AND MEXICO

- **Rounds:** Demand is flat but markets remain firm due to lighter supply and lack luster quality. Prepare to see shorter than expected supply due to the heat-related issues.
- **Romas:** Supplies are snug keeping firm pressure on FOBs. Prices are unchanged this week, but expect them to begin falling as newer blocks come online. Quality is improving out of California and Mexico.
- **Grapes:** Demand & supply has been mostly steady. FOBs are expected to remain the same. Quality is good to excellent.
- **Cherries:** Supplies remain snug, yet steady. FOBs will remain unchanged. Quality is mostly good, but some shippers are showing light color.

APPLES & PEARS

Apples – Northwest: We will continue to have storage supply of the major varieties of apples through the remainder of summer, and we have finished packing all varieties. The quality, condition, and color on almost all varieties looks very good. New crop gold varieties and galas are starting up this week, followed by Fuji in two weeks. Granny and Red Varieties are projected to ramp up the first week of September followed by pinks in October.

Apples – Northeast: There is light volume on reds out of New York and Chilean Granny Smith through the port of Philadelphia.

Pears: New crop Bartlett pears have started with good supply available especially on the larger (70's to 100's) sizes. Expect to see new crop Bosc and D 'Anjou start first week of September.

STONE FRUIT AND CHERRIES

- **Plums:** Markets are firming on black and red varieties. Markets remain firm and should steadily raise as the season winds down.
- **Peaches:** Supplies are good on yellow and white tray packs as well as volume fill out of the San Joaquin Valley. In the Southeast, ½ Bu's are available on yellow flesh varieties. We expect the summer harvest to finish up mid-September. Yellow and white flesh varieties are available out of the PNW loading in Yakima
- **Nectarines:** Supplies are good on yellow and white tray packs as well as volume fill out of the San Joaquin Valley. Volumes will begin a slow decline this week with the end of season expected sometime mid to late September. Yellow and White flesh varieties available out of the PNW loading in Yakima.
- **Italian Plums:** Production is starting up out of the Northwest. The first sign fall is near!