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Thu 5/9	Fri 5/10	Sat 5/11	Sun 5/12	Mon 5/13	Tue 5/14	Wed 5/15
87°   70° F	90°   71° F	90°   72° F	89°   73° F	85°   71° F	86°   68° F	87°   69° F
 PM Thunderstorms	 AM Clouds/PM Sun	 Partly Cloudy	 Partly Cloudy	 Scattered Thunderstorms	 Mostly Sunny	 Partly Cloudy

**SALINAS:**

Thu 5/9	Fri 5/10	Sat 5/11	Sun 5/12	Mon 5/13	Tue 5/14	Wed 5/15
66°   55° F	65°   54° F	71°   53° F	68°   53° F	68°   51° F	68°   52° F	67°   52° F
 AM Clouds/PM Sun	 AM Clouds/PM Sun	 Sunny	 Partly Cloudy	 Mostly Sunny	 Mostly Cloudy	 Cloudy

**Good Buys**

Commodity	Market Update	Produce Expert Tip
<b>Iceberg</b>	Supply will continue to be on target this week. Quality has been very good.	Iceberg lettuce is definitely considered one of those “useless” veggies to those of the culinary world although it adds an additional crisp to a salad, or dish, without taking away the flavor and taste. It is a must try, and the quality is great!

**Fruits & Vegetables**

**Avocados:** **WATCH LIST** The avocado market has turned back around as growers in Mexico are holding fruit back and driving stronger demand post- Cinco D’ Mayo holiday. Quality remains good, but we are seeing shorter supply on mid-range fruit. We anticipate an active market through the middle of June when we expect to see volume ramp up out of Peru. California production is stable, but not expected to impact the higher market for Mexican fruit.

**Bananas:** Markets remain steady with consistent production and supply. Fruit quality is not an issue at this time.

**Pineapples:** Pineapple markets are trending towards smaller sizes. We are expecting to see less 5s and more 7s and 8s for the next two months. Quality is very good right now; climate in Costa Rica has improved, which is optimal for maintaining good quality.

**Grapes:** Mostly Crimsons, Timco, and Sweet Celebrations are currently available. Fruit quality is good. A few smaller shippers with no greens are selling cheaper. The Green Seedless market is active, and prices will reflect quality; depending on the fruit quality and the shipper’s inventory, there is a large pricing variance. Greens should be available for at least two more weeks. The Black Seedless market is getting active as volume is in fewer hands, mostly Autumn Royals. We should have availability for three more weeks. The Red Globes market is slow; Red Globes will be available for four more weeks.

## **Berries**

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**Blueberries:** Watsonville volume is increasing and expected to peak in the next two weeks. Santa Maria volume will remain steady until San Joaquin Valley picks up volume. Georgia is expected to end in 2-3 weeks, and North Carolina will start production within two weeks.

**Blackberries:** We anticipate lower volume in the upcoming weeks. CA volume should increase in late May.

**Raspberries:** Raspberry volumes are slightly higher than last week and should stay steady over the next month.

**Strawberries:** The strawberry market is good. We expect volume to increase in the Northern District due to favorable weather. Oxnard will continue to harvest strong volumes through May.

## **California / Arizona Citrus**

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**Navels:** Navels are steady with good supply of larger fruit. Small navels are limited.

**Lemons:** **EXTREME** Due to an increase in demand, we are seeing tighter supply and higher prices on smaller sizes (165s/200/235s). This is also impacting the 140s as customers move up in size. For now, we have a good supply of 115s and larger, but as spring turns into summer they will also get tight.

**Limes:** The lime market has improved. April and May have been dry, causing a lack of fruit growth. Growers have already stripped the trees of most medium-sized fruit. The majority of the fruit crossing is small-sized, and that will continue unless they get the rain the fruit needs to grow. If they start to see rain, growers will try to hold back on picks to help fruit hang longer and populate the larger sizes. If no rain, then growers will have no choice but to continue to ship the small fruit, and we could see the same trend into June. Expect pricing to stay high on large fruit and availability to be tight. Small fruit is plentiful.

**Grapefruit:** Star Ruby Grapefruit is available. Fruit is excellent.

### **Imports/Specialties available:**

- Blood Oranges
- Cara Caras
- Sun Delite
- Gold Nugget
- Ojai Pixie
- Minneola

## **West Coast Lettuce**

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**Butter:** Supply and quality are good.

**Green Leaf:** Supply is slightly above normal. We are seeing mild cupping, but other than that the crop looks beautiful and quality is good. Demand is good.

**Red Leaf:** Supply and quality are good.

**Iceberg Lettuce:** Supply will continue to be on target this week. Quality has been very good. Demand has also been good due to the Mother's Day pull. There will be plenty of supply to promote for the next few weeks.

**Romaine:** Supply is slightly above normal and will continue to be for the next three weeks. Quality is good. Weights are hovering around 34-36lbs.

**Romaine Hearts:** Supply this week is normal and will continue to be for the next three weeks. Weights on the 12x3's have been in the 24-27lb range, with 48ct coming in at 34-36lbs.

### **Eastern and Western Vegetables**

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**Green Bell Pepper:** Green Bell prices are up a bit. Supply in the East is light due to strong demand. Western supply is light due to crop transition. Nogales is winding down while production is average in the desert. Early Central Valley fields are expected later this month.

**Red Bell Pepper:** Red bell prices are down this week as supply begins to improve. Canada has ramped up production and Coachella is ramping up as well. We should see Mainland Mexico begin winding down while Baja production slowly starts. Quality is mostly good, but there are still some color issues due to cooler weather in the desert.

**Yellow Pepper:** The yellow pepper market is mixed, with higher prices in Nogales and deals being made crossing through San Diego. Supply is expected to improve over the next several weeks as Baja ramps up production.

**Mini Sweet Pepper:** Good supply for the next several weeks. Demand is better.

**Mixed Chili Pepper:** Chili supply is improving out of Sonora; however, Serrano continues to be snug. Growers are estimating good production through the middle of June. Florida is scratching on Jalapenos and good production on Cubanelles. Georgia will also join in in 3-4 weeks.

**Eggplant:** Eggplant prices are higher out of Nogales this week due to lighter volume as the season winds down. Coachella has limited supply and the Central Valley is approximately two weeks off from production. Volume is good and quality marginal out of Florida.

**Cucumbers:** Cucumbers continue to drop in price. Both Florida and Mexico continue to see strong production. Quality is good to excellent.

**English Cucumbers:** There is a steady supply available through Nogales and Canada. Volume deals are being made.

**Green Beans:** The green bean market is mixed this week. Imported Haricot verts are up, with moderate supply and demand. Machine-picked product out of Florida is down, with moderate supply and demand. This growing region is almost done for the season. Handpicked product out of Coachella Valley California is up, with moderate supply and good demand. Quality will vary depending on the growing region.

**Zucchini / Yellow Squash:** Volume for zucchini is strong out of the East and West this week, with good quality. Yellow squash is up in the West, due to low harvest numbers, and steady in the East. Quality continues to be poor to fair.

## Herbs

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**CHERVIL** is very short due to the weather changes from cool too hot to cool. We are anticipating our growers to have product by the end of next week.

**CILANTRO** supply is down and quality is marginal due to the recent weather issues.

All other fresh herbs are steady.

HERB	SUPPLY	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	COLOMBIA
Chervil	Tight		USA
Chives	Great	Good	MEXICO
Cilantro	Steady	Good	USA
Dill	Steady	Good	USA/MEXICO
Epazote	Steady	Good	MEXICO
Lemongrass	Steady	Good	USA
Marjoram	Steady	Good	USA
Mint	Great	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	MEXICO
Thyme	Steady	Good	USA
Lemon Thyme	Steady	Good	USA
Lavender	Steady	Good	USA
Lime Leaves	Steady	Good	USA

## **Melons**

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**Cantaloupe:** Cantaloupe arrivals will continue into Florida through the week of May 20<sup>th</sup>, which will allow for us to load all contract business until at least 5/24. Sizing from Guatemala has had a very nice mix of 9/12/15s, with internal quality being at optimum levels. External quality is strong and will continue to be so the rest of the way through.

**Honeydew:** Honeydew arrivals remain strong in Florida. With increased production on Mexican crossings through Nogales, the market has started to settle. Early indication is providing caution to the quality on these crossings with low brix levels and external quality issues being reported. As with the cantaloupe, arrivals will continue on offshore fruit for another two weeks into Florida. Sizing on honeydews was primarily jumbo fruit previously, but we have started to see more of a split between 5/6s, which has provided a very nice balance.

## **Mixed Vegetables**

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**Artichokes:** Supply industry-wide is fair. Demand is fair and prices are steady to higher.

**Arugula:** Supply and quality are good.

**Asparagus:** Supply and quality are good.

**Bok Choy:** 50# are in short supply and prices are up.

**Broccoli / Broccoli Florets:** **ESCALATED (Broccoli Florets)** Supply is lighter this week.

**Brussels Sprouts** **EXTREME:** Very light availability this week, we are seeing shortages in supply.

**Carrots:** Supply and quality on carrots is good. Supply is now available in Georgia as well.

**Cauliflower:** **ESCALATED** There are a lot of dips in production. Fields aren't performing as expected and growers are behind in harvest, creating a supply shortage. Quality is good. Prices are high.

**Celery:** **EXTREME** We will have light volume from Mexico this week. The weather has warmed up slightly in this region and sizing is better. We are still seeing extremely high open-market prices and shortages in supply. The California market is still very short in supply and prices remain very extreme.

**Corn:** The market ticked up a tad, but there is still good supply and good quality out of Florida and Mexico.

**Cilantro:** Quality is improving, and supply is good.

**Fennel:** Supply on fennel will be short for the next few weeks due to frost damage and the Yuma season finishing with light supply. We will continue to see a majority of smaller fennel - 18s and 24s will remain limited.

**Garlic:** Supply is firming up and markets are active.

**Ginger:** Chinese ginger markets are mixed, but quality is good. Also, product is available at higher costs from Brazil, Peru and Thailand.

**Green Cabbage:** Supply and quality are good.

**Green Onions:** Demand, supply and quality are good.

**JICAMA:** Steady supply crossing through Texas.

**Kale (Green):** Supply and quality are fair.

**Mache:** Availability is adequate.

**Mushrooms:** Supply is currently stable, and quality is good.

**Napa:** Quality and supply are good.

**Parsley: (Curly, Italian)** Quality fair to good. Supply is steady.

**Rapini:** Supply has improved, and markets are steady. Quality has improved.

**Radishes:** Markets are firming up due to heavy precipitation and wind damage to fields. We see FOB pricing ticking up.

**Red Cabbage:** **ESCALATED** Supply continues to be light.

**Sugar Snap Peas:** Supply is tight, quality is good, volume should be coming on next week.

**Snow Peas:** Supply is increasing, quality is good.

**Spinach (Bunched):** Quality and supply are good.

**Spinach (Baby):** Supply and quality are good.

**Spring Mix:** Supply and quality are good.

**Sweet Potatoes and Yams:** **WATCH LIST** The sweet potato market continues to be tight after many growers were affected by Hurricane Florence in North Carolina last September. Increasing demand and heavy rains in Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Alabama also created challenges for the other major growing regions but luckily, quality and size is still good. We will continue to see the price of sweet potatoes rise month by month over the summer until we get to next season's harvest.

#### **Onions:**

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**ESCALATED** While Idaho/Oregon and Washington continue to wind down, there still remains another 2-3 weeks of supply to ship out of this region. Growers are feeling pressure to move product before it sprouts or continues to breakdown. Because of this, we are seeing some weakness on all sizes of onions. Texas is full steam ahead on their product, and will likely ship strong until the second week of May. The Imperial Valley, California also started shipping this past week. To start, they are primarily shipping yellow onions with volume on reds to start next week, with whites starting the following week. Quality is strong and sizing is heavy to

Jumbos and Colossals. We will likely see a tiered market between old crop prices and new crop prices until the Northwest is fully out of the picture.

### **Potatoes:**

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The Potato market remains stable with good availability on all Cartons and Consumers. There will be some Norkotah availability for another month before we see only Burbanks. The Burbanks remain a smaller profile with limited availability on large cartons. There have been no transportation issues during this time.

### **TOMATOES - EAST**

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- **Rounds:** Eastern rounds have strong supply and good quality. Sizing is heavy on extra-large size.
- **Romas:** Eastern Roma supply is fair, with good quality available.
- **Grapes:** Eastern supply is light this week, pushing pricing up a bit. Quality out East is good to excellent.
- **Cherries:** Eastern cherries are steady, with good supply and quality.
- **Organic Tomatoes:** Supply is improving, and markets are easing. Overall quality is good.

### **TOMATOES - WEST AND MEXICO**

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- **Rounds:** Western rounds are in the midst of their seasonal decline. This trend will continue through the early part of May. Baja will start their crop in the next week, with California starting shortly after. Larger fruit is up in price a bit this week, due to smaller crops of larger fruit.
- **Romas:** Roma supply is strong in the West, with good volume crossing through Mexico. Quality is excellent.
- **Grapes:** Western grapes are in transition in growing regions, with mostly good to fair quality.
- **Cherries:** Western cherries are in transition from growing regions, and quality is poor.

### **APPLES & PEARS**

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#### **Apples:**

- **GRANNY SMITH** - The Granny Smith holdings in Washington are low as compared to last year's crop. We will have some supply of Grannys through the balance of the season. The best values will be on Exfcy # 1 72s to 88s although the pricing on the crop will continue to increase throughout the balance of the marketing season.
- **FUJIS** - Fujis are peaking on 64s to 88s with most grower lots heavy to Exfcy # 1 grade.
- **GALAS** - The quality of the Gala apples is very good. Most grower lots are peaking on Premium Exfcy 80s to 113s.
- **HONEYCRISP** - We will pack Honeycrisp through about the middle of June. The overall pricing on Honeycrisp this season is much less than the past several years due to increased production. Prices will increase over the next couple of months.
- **CRIPPS PINK** - We will have Cripps Pink apples through the summer months. Most grower lots are peaking on Premium Exfcy 88s to 113s. The pricing is fairly high at this time and should remain fairly steady through the spring months.
- **BRAEBURNS** - We will have Braeburn apples through June. Most grower lots are peaking on Premium Exfcy 80s to 100s.
- **CRIMSON DELIGHT** - The Crimson Delight is a sweet tart apple with good blush red color. They are very crisp and keep very well. We will have plenty of supply through about the 1st of June.



**Pears:** The Anjou, Bosc, and red pears are available, and we will have good supply of US#1 pears available through about the 1st of June. The pear market has been lower this season due to additional supply, so pears are a great value at this time.

### **STONE FRUIT**

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- **Apricots** domestic apricots are available
- **Cherries** domestic cherries are available
- **Nectarines** domestic nectarines are available
- **Peaches** domestic peaches are available
- **Plums** domestic plums are available