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Thu 9/10 79°   66°F  Thunderstorms	Fri 9/11 80°   67°F  Scattered Thunderstorms	Sat 9/12 75°   66°F  Isolated Thunderstorms	Sun 9/13 77°   66°F  Scattered Thunderstorms	Mon 9/14 79°   63°F  Scattered Thunderstorms	Tue 9/15 75°   61°F  Scattered Thunderstorms	Wed 9/16 75°   61°F  PM Showers
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### OXNARD, CA:

Thu 9/10 77°   59°F  Sunny	Fri 9/11 74°   60°F  Sunny	Sat 9/12 74°   60°F  Sunny	Sun 9/13 74°   60°F  Sunny	Mon 9/14 77°   62°F  Sunny	Tue 9/15 78°   61°F  Sunny	Wed 9/16 77°   61°F  Sunny
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### SALINAS, CA

Thu 9/10 73°   56°F  Partly Cloudy	Fri 9/11 74°   55°F  Partly Cloudy	Sat 9/12 76°   56°F  Partly Cloudy	Sun 9/13 73°   55°F  Sunny	Mon 9/14 74°   57°F  Partly Cloudy	Tue 9/15 77°   61°F  Partly Cloudy	Wed 9/16 76°   59°F  Partly Cloudy
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### JALISCO, MX:

Thu 9/10 82°   66°F  PM Thunderstorms	Fri 9/11 82°   65°F  Thunderstorms	Sat 9/12 81°   65°F  Thunderstorms	Sun 9/13 82°   66°F  PM Thunderstorms	Mon 9/14 84°   66°F  PM Thunderstorms	Tue 9/15 82°   67°F  Thunderstorms	Wed 9/16 79°   66°F  Thunderstorms
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### Good Buys

Commodity	Market Update	Produce Expert Tip
<b>Brussels Sprouts</b>	Supply is fair to good. Quality is generally good to satisfactory; heat damage, insect pressure, and some mildew are noted.	Roasting brussels sprouts is really the way to go. Whether you roast them whole, slice in half, or shredded brussels sprouts, they are crispy and delicious. Mix it up a bit and add some already cooked bacon or cook the vegetable in some bacon fat too!
<b>Avocados</b>	Peruvian fruit volume rains strong and shippers are looking to push volume. Programed fruit remains steady, but we are seeing shorter supply on 48's, and larger pushing prices higher this week. Overall supply remains stable on 60's and smaller.	Brighten up your chicken salad with some diced or smashed avocado, instead of mayo. Add some shredded chicken, diced onion, celery, salt and pepper, with some smashed or diced avocado and mix. You can top this on your favorite cracker for a delicious bite!

## **Fruits & Vegetables**

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**Avocados:** Peruvian fruit volume remains strong and shippers are looking to push volume. Programed fruit remains steady, and there is a flush on 48's and larger out of Mexico this week as well as they are looking to move fruit.

**Bananas:** Overall quality of conventional bananas is good. Plenty of volume available.

**Pineapples:** Volume continues to be low as a result of weather (major rains have followed with hot high sun) but is improving.

**Grapes:** Greens grapes are primarily Autumn Kings., and red grapes are showing good quality and pricing is steady.

## **Berries**

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**Blueberries:** Although the PNW is far past peak production, their fruit is still the main driver for most of our supply line and will remain for another week to 10 days. We have some offshore production; however, this is very light and will remain that way. Our transition into Mexican production has started; however, most of the production will remain in Mexico. Over the next several weeks, we will start to see an increase in their production and once this happens, we will start to see some of this product trickle into our DC's in California.

**Blackberries:** Some lingering effects from the heat event we experienced over the last two weeks has caused disruption in our supply. The weather forecast calls for more heat next week, and we will continue to monitor quality and inform you if there is an additional impact to our already short production. Domestic production will continue to wind down through the month of September and October, while Mexico's production will increase.

**Raspberries:** Solid production continues this week. Although our volume is at very good levels now, we will see a slight reduction in the coming weeks through September as domestic production starts its gradual decline. By the third week of September, Central Mexico's contribution to our volume will grow, and by early October will dominate in its contribution to our supply.

**Strawberries:** **ESCALATED** We expect conventional volumes to decrease week over week through the end of the month. The heat event from two weeks ago gave us a light flush of production last week; however, we are now seeing some of the impact of that heat in the way of malformed fruit, and smaller fruit sizing.

## **California / Arizona Citrus**

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**Valencias:** **ACT OF GOD** Valencia oranges continue to be a challenge, especially on small sizes. Quality on valencias are steadily declining as we near the end of the season. A lot of shippers have had issues with softness and lighter color. We expect this to continue until mid-October when the early Navel season starts.

**Lemons:** California lemons and import lemons are available, good quality and supply.

**Limes:** **ESCALATED** Regardless of some rain this week down in Mexico the market steady. However, we expect over the next couple of days, and going forward, that there will be more supply. Since its new crop the fruit is on the smaller end, but as that market comes off, we should start to see bigger fruit ease in pricing. Currently, the crossings on big fruit are very light and we will do our best to fulfill those sizes.

**Grapefruit:** Starr Ruby grapefruit is available; the volume is limited with a hot market. TX grapefruit will pick back up again soon.

### **West Coast Lettuce**

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**Butter:** Production volumes are below budget this week. The weather we are experiencing has introduced dehydration and sun scald. Overall demand is steady while markets are slightly better.

**Green Leaf:** Production volumes are steady for the week. Overall quality is nice; however, we are seeing increased occurrences of sun scald, dehydration, and wind/fringe burn. Markets are forecasted to stay strong.

**Red Leaf:** Lower yields and weights. We are seeing light internal tip burn due to warm weather. Market is slightly stronger.

**Iceberg Lettuce:** Supply will be close to budget. Demand is up slightly, and quality is steady with medium weights, good color, and size. The market has had a wide range and the forecast is for slightly higher prices.

**Romaine & Romaine Hearts:** **ESCALATED** Romaine and romaine hearts remain below normal budget volumes. We have been, and will continue to, experience increased fringe/tip burn, sun scald, light weights, and occasional dehydration. We expect reduced supply to continue and forecasting markets to adjust slightly but maintain elevated levels.

### **Eastern and Western Vegetables**

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**Green Bell Pepper-WATCH LIST:** Overall demand has been good and volume in the west has tightened up due to the heat. We are seeing poor quality and peppers turning red. Quality and volume are fair in the east.

**Red Bell Pepper:** Red bell market is easing back as production out of Oxnard and Somis are ramping up. Central Valley is done for the season and will continue to watch for potential bloom drop in new crops out of Oxnard. Supply crossing through Texas has improved as well. Good volume on Hot House are available this week.

**Yellow Pepper:** **ESCALATED** Yellow bell market is up, and supply is extremely short this week as we see significant shortfalls on supply out of Central Mexico combined with very light numbers out of Baja. Canadian deals are ramping up and quality is very nice in all regions. Domestic numbers remain light.

**Mini Sweet Pepper:** Steady volume continues, and quality is very nice in the west. Mexican volume is lighter than normal due to excessive heat and drought issues.

**Mixed Chili Pepper:** Supply seems to be improving and demand remains good causing prices to rise, this week, across the entire category. Texas remains light on tomatillo, and anaheim, poblano, jalapeno and caribe are improving. East coast supply is limited in Michigan and tomatillo quality is marginal mostly due to rain.

**Eggplant:** **ESCALATED** Volume has decreased as local deals wrap up and transition to South Georgia begins. Demand is moderate. In the west, markets are firmer as supply has tightened up due to heat related quality issues.

**Cucumbers:** **ESCALATED** Cucumber demand remains the same, and FOB prices are up again this week. Quality is good in the west crossing through Otay Mesa. Volume and quality will be mixed in South Texas crossing

through McAllen. East coast volume is extremely short and will be escalated this week. Local deals are wrapping up and we are transitions to South Georgia over the next 10 days.

**English Cucumbers:** **ESCALATED** Volume has dried up and markets are extremely active due to lighter volume as local deals wrap up on pole cucumbers in the east.

**Green Beans:** **WATCH LIST** Markets are mixed as local deals in the east ramp back up and overall quality is fair. West coast prices are higher due to Heat related quality issues.

**Zucchini/ Yellow Squash:** **WATCH LIST (North Carolina, Michigan, and California)** Soft squash supply in the east has improved this week as fields recover from a very active weather pattern. Quality on zucchini is good and yellow are fair as we are seeing a lot of scarring in the yellow squash this week. In the west...volume and quality continue to improve. Pricing is mixed this week.

### Herbs

The recent heat wave has caused some issues with our local basil. We have moved to our Mexico growers and will be starting off earlier than normal this season. We do have basil and the first harvest has started. Quality is pretty good but there may be a leaf of two that show some spots. All other herbs seem to be steady with no reported heat related quality issues.

HERB	SUPPLY	QUALITY	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
Arugula	Steady	Steady	USA
Basil	Steady	Steady	USA/MEXICO
Opal Basil	Steady	Steady	USA/MEXICO
Thai Basil	Steady	Steady	USA/MEXICO
Bay Leaves	Steady	Steady	USA
Chervil	Steady	Steady	USA
Chives	Steady	Steady	MEXICO
Cilantro	Steady	Steady	USA
Dill	Steady	Steady	USA/MEXICO
Epazote	Steady	Steady	MEXICO
Lemongrass	Steady	Steady	USA
Marjoram	Limited	Flowered	USA/MEXICO
Mint	Good	Good	USA
Oregano	Limited	Steady	USA/MEXICO
Italian Parsley	Good	Good	USA
Rosemary	Good	Good	USA
Sage	Good	Good	USA

Savory	Limited	Steady	USA
Sorrel	Steady	Steady	USA
Tarragon	Steady	Steady	USA
Thyme	Steady	Steady	USA
Lemon Thyme	Steady	Steady	USA
Lavender	Steady	Steady	USA
Lime Leaves	Steady	Steady	USA

## Melons

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**Cantaloupe:** Overall production of cantaloupe has significantly started to decrease last week as we move into the fall season. There was increased retail and USDA box program business at the end of last week which has helped strengthen the market. This compounded with less supply is anticipated to push the market into double digits. With the extreme heat and poor air quality, due to California wildfires, labor issues have started to be encountered by some growers. Sizing has shifted away from the larger jumbo fruit to more of a steady fill of standard 9/12s with some 15s. This sizing trend should continue the rest of the California deal and remain even as we transition into Arizona next month.

**Honeydew:** Honeydew production has started to decrease from previous highs which has helped stabilize this market. The sizing trend has shifted more to regular sizing and away from jumbo fruit. Volume has currently been peaking on 5s with a decent amount of 6/8s also being packed but we anticipate a shift to mostly smaller sizes (6/8s) over the next 10-14 days.

**Watermelon:** **WATCH LIST** Watermelon prices are stronger this week and supply is limited due to rain and virus pressure in the mid-Atlantic. Steady volume in the west out of Texas, Nogales, and California

## Mixed Vegetables

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**Artichokes:** Light supply of artichokes continue this week and quality is good. We expect light volume to continue through at least the middle of September, possibly longer. Prices are steady.

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

**Asparagus:** **Peru:** Good volume and quality, market slightly lower. We anticipate steady demand, with no substantial changes until December.

**Bok Choy:** Supply is expected to be at budgeted volumes this week.

**Broccoli / Broccoli Florets:** Supply is lighter due to the recent heatwave; we have lost acres and will see reduced yields. The market is higher.

**Brussels Sprouts:** Supply is fair to good. Quality is generally good to satisfactory. Heat damage, insect pressure, and some mildew are noted.

**Carrots:** Quality is good. We have capacity on all value-added items. We are seeing lower than usual yield on Cellos and Jumbos in our WA plant (weather issues when growing), which is causing us to be a little tight on Cellos and Jumbos in CA.

**Cauliflower:** Supply and quality are good. Demand is fair, although we are expecting market to be higher next week.

**Celery:** Supply and quality are good. The market is lower this week. The market is steady.

**Corn:** **ESCALATED** Demand exceeds supply in many markets in the east and supply will remain short pushing demand to California. Prices are higher this week.

**Cilantro:** Bunched Cilantro supply is a bit lighter this week. Quality is fair due to heat, demand is good.

**Fennel:** We should have good supply on fennel this week. We will see a majority of 24/30ct this week with extra volume available to sell, while 18ct will be normal with just enough to cover our regular business. Quality remains strong overall.

**Garlic:** **EXTREME** We are about 65-70% complete with our 2020 late California harvest. To date, the yields are unfortunately around 5-7% less than estimated. However, the quality of the raw material remains a little above average. For the remaining 3 weeks, we're hoping to hold steady. The market for domestic garlic remains strong. Concerning Chinese product, the whole bulb market had decreased considerably, but the Chinese peeled market remained high. In the past few weeks, the Chinese peeled price has also softened.

**Ginger:** **EXTREME** Ginger remains very volatile also due to very inconsistent supply and market is higher. Supply to remain tight for the foreseeable future.

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

**Green Onions:** Supply and quality are good. The market is slightly stronger.

**JICAMA:** Steady supply available crossing through McAllen.

**Kale (Green):** Bunched kale supply is expected to be plentiful for the next few weeks.

**Mushrooms:** **WATCH LIST** Mushrooms markets continue to be extremely active due to the high demand at retail. This will affect availability and quality on foodservice items, particularly whole mushrooms. We are also seeing COVID restrictions that were implemented for safety affecting output at several mushroom facilities.

**Napa:** Supply is expected to be plentiful this week.

**Parsley (Curly, Italian):** Slightly lighter supply through next week. Quality is fairly good, demand is good.

**Rapini:** We are expected to be well below budget this week. We are running into some brown bead out in the field due to the heatwave we had a couple weeks ago. This has decreased our overall yields and reduced our numbers for the week.

**Red Cabbage:** Supply is plentiful with great quality.

**Snow Peas: Guatemala:** Steady volume, no demand, quality is good/fair. **Peru:** Minimal volume, good quality, no demand. Expecting volumes to increase early September.

**Sugar Snap Peas: Guatemala:** Steady volume, no demand, quality is good/fair. **Peru:** Minimal volume, good quality, no demand. Expecting volumes to increase early September.

**Spinach (Bunched):** **ESCALATED** Supply and quality are poor. Market is higher.

**Spinach (Baby):** Supply and quality are poor. Market is higher.

**Spring Mix:** Supply is good with fair quality.

**Sweet Potatoes and Yams:** New crop harvest starts as soon as next week for some sweet potato growers. We are looking at new crop shipments starting in about 6 weeks after they cure. Last year's crop is beginning to dwindle, and inventory is getting tight, but supply should hold to avoid a gap.

#### **Onions:**

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The FOB pricing on all colors and sizes has stabilized for the time being in Northwest. Supply will continue to ramp up and depending on demand will determine whether pricing remains stable. Both California and New Mexico are essentially done shipping, except for a few sporadic pockets of supply. We should get a good sense of what the supply situation is over the next two months. Growers are optimistic that the early finish in California and New Mexico, coupled with the early volume moving out of the Northwest, should keep supply in line with demand without one region becoming too long. Demand remains erratic and unpredictable given the uncertainty of more COVID shutdowns looming around the country. Depending on what takes place regarding school openings, as well as in-restaurant dining which will largely determine what demand will be from now through the end of the calendar year. Trucks have remained tight, and rates have remained elevated in all regions. The USDA Box program continues to put pressure on consumer lines to keep up with demand. However, bulk movement on small size onions appears to have dropped off some.

#### **Potatoes:**

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Supply continues to be plentiful as harvest is in full swing. We are exclusively into new crop Norkotahs. FOB prices on count cartons, as well as consumer potatoes, have all significantly come down and we expect they will continue to until the market reaches a point of stability. While acreage in Idaho is down approximately 6-7%, it remains to be seen how yields will affect the overall supply this season. Early reports are showing a larger size profile on Norkotahs, which is typically indicative of good yields. However, there are still plenty of harvest and storage factors that can alter this supply situation significantly. We will not see Burbanks for another 6 weeks approximately. During that time, I expect the market will find its footing and pricing should stabilize as harvest will be over with. The situation to watch is the snowstorms in Colorado. Their harvest is still under way, and there is concern that a large portion of their crop could be in danger. If that does happen, it will affect the overall available supply for both the processors and the fresh market. We would likely see all FOBs remain elevated through much of the year if that does take place. We did see a spike in consumer volume as the USDA Box Program has been extended for another three weeks before any awards are being issued. This sent buyers into a bit of tailspin as they needed to react fast and load heavy on new inbound shipments. Depending on what takes place regarding school openings, as well as in-restaurant dining, will



largely determine what demand will be from now until the end of the calendar year. Trucks have remained tight, and rates have remained elevated in all shipping regions.

## **TOMATOES**

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### **East Coast**

- **Rounds: WATCH LIST** Markets are extremely active in the east. Mid-Atlantic and Michigan production is slowing down quickly shifting demand to the south where Tennessee is starting to wind down as well. Alabama volume has been good, particularly on vine ripens. We have seen a change in the forecast where we are expecting some rain and higher temps which could affect quality in the south. Georgia is approximately three weeks. In California, pricing is mixed and moving upward on the Mature Green Program due to higher demand and lighter volume. Quality and supply will be impacted by the heat this week.
- **Romas: WATCH LIST** Higher demand due to lower round volume is driving FOB prices up. Quality is good out of Alabama, Eastern Tennessee, and North Carolina. In California, markets remain stable this week but expected to get active as round volume decreases.
- **Grapes: ESCALATED** Volume and quality have dropped significantly as crops finish up early in New Jersey and Virginia. We expect a very active market for the next two weeks until we see new crop production out of South Georgia.
- **Cherries:** Cherry production has improved out of Tennessee and Virginia. Quality is very nice and FOB prices are down this week.
- **Organic Tomatoes:** Markets mixed this week and quality is fair; limited supply continues.

### **Mexico**

- **Rounds: WATCH LIST** Markets remain firm this week due to lighter crossings and higher demand from the east. We do expect volume to improve over the next three weeks as fall production ramps up in Southern Baja. Central Mexico continues to produce lighter numbers this week but should see additional volume from the mountain regions any day.
- **Romas: WATCH LIST** Markets are down this week with good volume crossing through all shipping points. Quality is very nice. We do expect the markets to firm up as supply in the east on rounds and romas decreases and local deals wrap up. We still expect Southern Baja roma production is expected to begin in three weeks.
- **Grapes: WATCH LIST** Good supply and quality crossing through Texas and Otay.
- **Cherries:** Good supply and quality crossing through Texas and Otay.

## **APPLES & PEARS**

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**Apples:** There is good supply on new crop fruit out of all major domestic growing areas. The Granny Smith market for foodservice will remain tight due to a shift in sizes; there is lighter than normal crop on 100s. Quality is very nice across all varieties.

**Asian Pears:** Asian pear supply is available. Chilean & Argentine Bartlett Pears in LA.

## **STONE FRUIT**

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**Peaches:** Good supply and quality available out of California, New Jersey, and Washington.

**Plums and Nectarines:** Good supply and quality available out of California.