

YUMA, AZ:

Thu 2/25 71° 46°F  Sunny/Wind	Fri 2/26 79° 47°F  Sunny	Sat 2/27 78° 54°F  Sunny	Sun 2/28 71° 47°F  Sunny	Mon 3/1 77° 48°F  Sunny	Tue 3/2 80° 51°F  Sunny	Wed 3/3 80° 52°F  Mostly Sunny
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IMMOKALEE, FL

Thu 2/25 86° 61°F  Sunny	Fri 2/26 88° 65°F  Partly Cloudy	Sat 2/27 91° 67°F  Mostly Sunny	Sun 2/28 92° 68°F  Partly Cloudy	Mon 3/1 92° 66°F  Mostly Sunny	Tue 3/2 87° 65°F  Partly Cloudy	Wed 3/3 88° 63°F  Partly Cloudy
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HERMOSILLO, MX

Thu 2/25 86° 49°F  Sunny	Fri 2/26 83° 48°F  Mostly Sunny	Sat 2/27 80° 47°F  Cloudy	Sun 2/28 84° 49°F  Sunny	Mon 3/1 86° 49°F  Sunny	Tue 3/2 86° 51°F  Mostly Sunny	Wed 3/3 87° 54°F  Mostly Sunny
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CULIACAN, MX:

Thu 2/25 97° 54°F  Sunny	Fri 2/26 92° 56°F  Partly Cloudy	Sat 2/27 89° 59°F  Mostly Cloudy	Sun 2/28 89° 56°F  Cloudy	Mon 3/1 92° 56°F  Cloudy	Tue 3/2 91° 54°F  Partly Cloudy	Wed 3/3 95° 56°F  Mostly Sunny
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Good Buys

Commodity	Market Update	Produce Expert Tip
Mini Sweet Pepper	Excellent supply and quality crossing through Nogales.	While raw mini sweet peppers provide a crunchy and mild flavor, baking them highlights and concentrates their flavor! Simply cut the peppers in half, then toss with olive oil, salt, pepper, garlic powder, oregano, and Parmesan in a bowl. Bake until tender for 20-30 min at 400 degrees F.
French Beans	Good volume and light demand have increased downward pressure on pricing this week. Quality is excellent.	Simple skillet green beans are a great side to your lunch or dinner. Cut the stems off, then add oil to your skillet. Once it gets hot, add the green beans and then garlic. You can also add water to prevent the beans from browning. Once it's a nice bright green color, you're done!

Fruits & Vegetables

Avocados: Volume will tighten up, pushing FOB prices slightly higher as we see lighter numbers crossing from Mexico. We will continue to observe the spring crop, which may have some loss due to freezing temps in the region last month. Volume continues to increase out of California. Quality is outstanding.

Bananas: **ACT OF GOD** Hurricane Eta and Iota has left behind major effects on several growing regions in South America. Our growers have assessed damages that have impacted both crops and infrastructure. The aftermath of this situation will continue to hinder the entire banana industry and cause a Force Majeure to remain in place. Based on forecasts received from our growers, we anticipate active markets and tight supply through Q1 2021. We will anticipate maintaining the supply chain at escalated prices until we are clear of this unfortunate event.

Pineapples: Volumes are picking back up. Quality is excellent.

Grapes: Red volume will increase at the beginning of next week. Green grape market is elevated slightly. Availability will be lower from this point all the way till the MX season starts.

Berries

Strawberries: **WATCH LIST** There are varying reports on berries. There is currently increased volume out of Florida with deals being made at lower prices. California has a moderate increase in volume with slightly lower pricing. Quality is good.

Blueberries: Mexican production will continue to quickly increase this month. The Florida season is starting with low volumes. Good overall quality. Peru is wrapping up for the season and product from Chile is increasing in volume, although delays at the port in Long Beach are still affecting arrivals.

Blackberries: **WATCH LIST** Light volume will continue through next week with volume expected to increase mid-March. Quality is good.

Raspberries: **WATCH LIST** Light volume will continue through next week with volume expected to increase mid-March. Quality is good.

California / Arizona Citrus

Navels: Taste and quality are great. Small sizes remain moderately tight.

Lemons: Minimal issues with quality. Peak sizes are 140/115/165ct.

Limes: **EXTREME** The lime market remains firm as availability of small fruit has become limited, pushing our growers to secure additional fruit at market. Quality and rain-related issues have impacted the older crops, which is where the current fruit is being harvested. Political issues are also impacting the supply routes through Mexico; we may see this impact for the next several weeks. Should there be any unexpected shorts, lemons are a temporary substitute.

Grapefruit: Texas grapefruit has ended abruptly due to the freezing temperatures. California grapefruit will be available mid-week and small volume this week as Central Valley ramps up harvesting. This is a very early start for some California growers. Some blocks are not ready, however the heat this week will help things along. Fruit is peaking on the smaller sizes (40/48/56s).

Imports/Specialties available:

- Cara Caras – Small sizes are very tight. Good supply on larger Sunkist/fancy grade.
- Blood oranges – All sizes available.
- Minneolas – All sizes available.

- Mandarins – All sizes available.
- Gold Nuggets – Loading this week.

West Coast Lettuce

Butter: Good volume and quality.

Green Leaf: Good volume and quality.

Red Leaf: Good volume and quality.

Romaine & Romaine Hearts Good volume and quality.

Iceberg Lettuce: Good volume and quality.

Eastern and Western Vegetables

Green Bell Pepper: Normal volume and good quality out of Florida. Good volume continues in the West crossing through Nogales and McAllen. Quality is outstanding.

Red Bell Pepper: Promotable volume available out of Central Mexico. Quality is outstanding.

Yellow Bell Pepper: Promotable volume available out of Central Mexico. Quality is outstanding.

Mini Sweet Pepper: Excellent supply and quality crossing through Nogales.

Mixed Chili Pepper: Supply firmed up in the east on Jalapeños, Long Hots, Cubanelles and Hungarians due to recent cool weather and rain. Volume and quality are outstanding from Mexico crossing through McAllen and Nogales.

Eggplant: Below normal supply expected out of Florida as the transition to newer blocks is underway. Mexican crossings are lighter this week due to cooler weather. This should improve over the next week as warmer temps settle back in over the region.

Cucumbers: **ESCALATED** Lighter volume will continue over the next week from Honduras and loading in Miami. Mexican crossings are tighter due to cooler temps slowing down production. This should improve over the next 7-10 days. Quality is outstanding on both crops.

English Cucumbers: Markets remain flat; however, volume has tightened with cooler weather. Quality is great.

Pickles: **EXTREME** Market remains extremely light from Mexico due to rain-related bloom drop and will be short for the next several weeks.

Green Beans: **WATCH LIST** Volume domestically has improved. Nogales supply has improved leading to a stable market. Quality is mostly good.

French Beans: Good volume and light demand has increased downward pressure on pricing this week. Quality is excellent.

Zucchini/Yellow Squash: Markets in Florida have firmed up a bit as supply as tightened. Good volume crossing from Mexico. Quality is outstanding on zucchini however we are seeing more scarring on the yellow.

Herbs

Basil: Quality is very good and growing conditions have been very favorable.

Fresh herb supply remains steady.

HERB	SUPPLY	QUALITY	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
Arugula	Steady	Steady	USA
Basil	Steady	Steady	MEXICO
Opal Basil	Limited	Marginal	MEXICO
Thai Basil	Steady	Marginal	USA/MEXICO
Bay Leaves	Steady	Steady	COLOMBIA
Chervil	Steady	Steady	USA
Chives	Steady	Steady	USA
Cilantro	Steady	Steady	USA
Dill	Steady	Steady	USA/MEXICO
Epazote	Steady	Steady	MEXICO
Lemongrass	Steady	Steady	USA
Marjoram	Steady	Steady	USA
Mint	Steady	Steady	USA
Oregano	Steady	Steady	USA/MEXICO
Italian Parsley	Steady	Steady	USA
Rosemary	Steady	Steady	USA/MEXICO
Sage	Steady	Steady	USA/MEXICO
Savory	Limited	Marginal	USA
Sorrel	Steady	Steady	USA
Tarragon	Limited	Steady	MEXICO
Thyme	Steady	Steady	USA/MEXICO
Lemon Thyme	Steady	Steady	USA
Lavender	Steady	Steady	USA
Lime Leaves	Steady	Steady	USA

Melons

Cantaloupe: **ESCALATED** Cantaloupe volume from Guatemala's second cycle will start to be received as early as the end of this week and increase weekly throughout March. Actual numbers initially are lower than what was originally projected. Strong retail promotions were put in place based off original projections, which should assist in keeping the open market pricing at/slightly below current levels through mid-March. Sizing is anticipated to trend towards the larger fruit, which could put more pressure on the availability of smaller fruit. Although we have yet to receive fruit reports/pictures from our farm, we are showing outstanding quality with a nice shell color and very good brix levels.

Honeydew: Overall honeydew volume hitting the market has been lower since last week, which is assisting in restabilizing the pricing levels. Fruit had been peaking on larger fruit, but Classic Fruit will experience a temporary shot of smaller fruit (6/8s) at the end of this week. Honeydew quality has been very good over the past few weeks with few, if any, external scarring/blemishes. They have been consistently cutting with some of the best brix and flavor we have seen this season.

Watermelon: Improving supply this week crossing through Nogales and Texas while offshore arrivals were steady. Quality is good.

Mixed Vegetables

Artichokes: Quality is excellent. They are showing a little purple color near the base but are free of any frost damage. We expect fair volume to continue through the month of February. Prices are steady.

Arugula: Supply and quality are good.

Asparagus: Good supply continues with very good quality.

Bok Choy: Supply is expected to be plentiful for the next three weeks. Quality is good.

Broccoli/Broccoli Florets: Supply and quality are very good.

Brussels Sprouts: Good supply and very good quality.

Carrots: Good availability on all packs with very good quality.

Cauliflower: Supply is expected to be plentiful this week. Quality is good.

Celery: Supply and quality are good. Market is lower this week.

Corn: **EXTREME** Corn prices have eased back a tad due to lighter demand but remain unstable in Florida as volume has not improved yet out of Homestead. In Nogales, better numbers are crossing on bi, yellow, and white corn. We recommend subbing in broccoli, cauliflower, green beans, or French beans where possible until we see more consistency in the market.

Cilantro: Volume will be plentiful this week. Quality is good.

Fennel: We will continue to have good supply on fennel for the next couple weeks. Quality remains strong overall.

Garlic: **EXTREME** The market for domestic garlic remains high with good quality.

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

Green Cabbage: Supply and quality are good.

Green Onions: Supply and quality are good this week. The market is steady.

JICAMA: Steady supply available crossing through McAllen.

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

Mushrooms: We are seeing a stable market and good supply.

Napa: Good quality and supply.

Parsley (Curly, Italian): Great quality with good supply.

Rapini: Strong quality with good supply.

Red Cabbage: Supply is improving. Quality remains consistent.

Snow Peas: Steady volume. Good quality.

Sugar Snap Peas: Steady volume. Good quality.

Spinach (Bunched): Supply and quality are good.

Spinach (Baby): Supply and quality are good.

Spring Mix: Supply and quality are good.

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 starting to dwindle, and inventory is getting tight, but supply should hold to avoid gap.

Onions:

FOB pricing on all colors and sizes remain stable in the Northwest. Size profiles on all colors lean toward heavier to larger sizes, which will continue as the USDA Farmers to Families program continues for the next two months. White onion supply continues to tighten up in the Northwest, while Mexican white and yellow onions crossing through South Texas ramp up. The country is beginning to surpass the weather challenges that have hampered demand for the last several weeks. We are seeing orders picking up, and trucks getting back

on the road. The focus in the onion world remains on the effects of the freezing temperatures that both McAllen and Uvalde experienced last week. Texas growers are concerned as onions can withstand low temperatures for a short period of time, but any prolonged freeze will negatively impact both the bulb and plant. The effects will likely not be known for several weeks, but there will be some level of damage. One concern is that onions that look okay upon drying out, may face challenges with bacteria and disease which will cause them to breakdown. If that does happen, we will see a big spike in pricing around late March. The Northwest crop is beginning to wind down, and we should start seeing shippers finish up in the coming weeks. Predictions of warmer weather and reduced COVID restrictions could create enough foodservice demand to help FOBs in the Northwest finish strong. While it is improving, the biggest challenge that remains is truck capacity. We are seeing a small supply of available equipment that cannot keep up with demand from FEMA, as well as government demand for help with the vaccine rollout. As more carriers get back to work, we anticipate things will continue to loosen up.

Potatoes:

The market remains stagnant on all sizes and grades of potatoes. Burbanks, Norkotahs, and White Russets are shipping full steam ahead. Quality currently remains strong on all varieties. Larger-size cartons have been more plentiful than in recent weeks, as the heightened demand on small potatoes for the Box Program is causing large counts to pile up. There are predictions that the program will continue to help keep small-sized potatoes cleaned up over the next three months, which should help the overall market. While foodservice demand has picked up, inclement weather throughout the country plummeted foodservice demand these past two weeks. Demand has come back due to the weather, and we anticipate this to continue to ramp up in the coming weeks. Additionally, other russet growing regions will finish shipping in the coming months, so there will be less overall supply in the market. This will help increase FOB pricing as well. Truck capacity remains the biggest challenge. We are seeing a small supply of available equipment that cannot keep up with demand from FEMA, as well as government demand for help with the vaccine rollout. As more carriers get back to work, we anticipate things will continue to loosen up.

TOMATOES

East Coast

- **Rounds:** Florida supply is steady this week. Quality is outstanding.
- **Romas:** Florida supply is steady this week. Quality is outstanding.
- **Grape Tomatoes:** Florida supply is steady this week. Quality is outstanding.
- **Cherry Tomatoes:** Florida supply is steady this week. Quality is outstanding.
- **Organic Tomatoes:** Supply and quality improving.

Mexico

- **Rounds:** Promotable volume crossing through McAllen and Nogales. Quality is outstanding.
- **Romas:** Promotable volume crossing through McAllen and Nogales. Quality is outstanding.
- **Grape Tomatoes:** Excellent volume and good quality available out of McAllen and Nogales.
- **Cherry Tomatoes:** Supply improving out of Mexico and quality is very nice.

APPLES & PEARS

Apples: EXTREME The Washington Apple community is reporting that the 2020-2021 crop is down this year by nearly 30 million cases for several reasons. At this time, we are also seeing deficits in other regions on a national level. This is due to weather related pressure, late summer and early fall in the Pacific Northwest, and unprecedented demand at retail. Please keep in mind, the USDA Food Box program, as well as other government backed programs, have reduced the overall availability on the fruit. This shortage is impacting the Granny Smith and Gala varieties, which are major food service items. Between the production shortages,

which are weather related, unprecedented demand, and COVID-19 restrictions and closures, there will be a continued upward pressure on price. Please note that we are expecting pricing to remain higher until new crop begins sometime in August 2021.

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

Stone Fruit: Supply improving on Chilean Peaches, Plums and Nectarines that will load in Philly as well as Los Angeles.

Cherries: Limited supply available on red cherries from Chile.

Kiwi Fruit: Steady supply available on both coasts. Californian and Italian Hayward are available.