

Weekly Market Review

September 26, 2024

Overview

HURRICANE HELLENE: We are currently watching a Hurricane as it makes its way to Florida and Georgia over the next 36 hours which will impact the fall crops on tomatoes and dry veg. We will keep you posted as this weather event develops, but expect to see damages to crops such as tomatoes in Quincy, bell pepper, squash, cucumber, eggplant, greens and corn out of South Georgia. These are the primary growing regions during the month of October; we do anticipate severe losses in the region with hurricane force winds and heavy precipitation. We may need to sub items and/or curtail supply to navigate shortfalls.

POTENTIAL PORT STRIKE: We are closely observing the situation and currently have limited additional information. However, some growers have already established contingency plans as this issue will not impact all ports, allowing them to transport products into the affected regions.

OTHER MARKET NOTES: Current table grape supply and demand out of California remain strong, however we do feel the season will come to a close early due to heat related crop losses. We do see the potential GAP in Nov/December. Pineapples continue to be short, and shippers are asking to be flexible on sizing to navigate the shortfalls. In the West, tighter supply available to market on mushrooms; weather impacts and viral pressure have caused supply shortfalls across the region on all varieties. Growers are hoping this will improve over the next six weeks. Lime volume is improving, but overall remains lighter than normal. Quality is improving as well as we are seeing new crop limes starting to cross from Mexico. Sizing will be heavy on small sizes as we transition from old crop to new crop. A 10% drop in avocado volume from Mexico was not expected last week, even accounting for the absence of harvests on their Independence holiday. At a time when fall promotions are gearing up, AFM has invested in numerous campaigns, and the number of stores on AD is the highest it's been since Cinco de Mayo - the volume available in the field is falling short. Additionally, the size curve is not performing as predicted. The majority of promotions are on smaller fruit, which is driving field pricing up. The pricing gap will continue to narrow between the 48s and 60s; a \$22 difference just a couple of weeks ago is already down to \$10. If this trend continues, we may reach an inverted market with more expensive 60s; when that happens, it's typically short-lived as programs quickly adjust sizing. For now, we recommend that programs that can size up to 48s do so sooner rather than later to support market stability. With the new dry matter requirements, the next crop, Aventajada, is not contributing yet. Once this volume becomes available, we'll continue to see strong availability through the Super Bowl and larger sizes being dominant of the size curve for November & December. Fall is officially here! The weather has not reflected that completely yet, but is cooling down. There has been some warm rain which is considered "mildew weather." Growers will be employing all mitigation measures possible to combat any mildew. Endives, escarole, leeks, cilantro and fennel are still escalated. Bok choy has also stayed at the extreme trigger. Supplies are improving and the cooler weather should help. Green onions and artichokes are also still at the extreme trigger and are extremely tight. Expect these to stay escalated throughout the month and into October. Expect to see growers holding to averages on artichokes. For green onions, we still have growers who do not have any product at all. A market alert was sent out and we can expect quality and supply issues to last through the month. Broccoli is still escalated and there is some insect intrusion that is limiting what will be harvested. The Diamondback moth has become a large issue in the valley and it is still affecting the broccoli, cauliflower and the cabbage fields. Green cabbage is now escalated. Supplies will be limited on those items. There are some growers that will be prorating on shredded cabbage, but contract business should not be affected. Spinach is still not escalated, but it is on the watchlist due to tight supplies and some insect damage. Some growers are prorating. Excessive heat in the San Joaquin Valley citrus growing areas has heavily affected supplies on the Valencia orange crop. Most shippers are reporting probable "Gaps" in production of up to 2 to 3 weeks or more

between the end of the Valencia crop and the beginning of the Navel season.



Alert

- Asparagus – **ESCALATED**
- Artichokes – **EXTREME ON SOME SIZES**
- Avocados – **ESCALATED**
- Bell Pepper (Red, Yellow, Orange) – **ESCALATED**
- Blueberries – **EXTREME**
- Bok Choy – **EXTREME**
- Broccoli Florets and Crowns – **ESCALATED**
- Cabbage, Green – **ESCALATED**
- Cilantro – **ESCALATED**
- Endive and Escarole – **ESCALATED**
- Fennel, Anise – **ESCALATED**
- Green Onions – **EXTREME**
- Hot Peppers (Red Fresno and Serrano) – **ESCALATED**
- Leeks – **ESCALATED**
- Limes – **EXTREME**
- Mushrooms – **ESCALATED**
- Napa – **ESCALATED**
- Lemons – **EXTREME ON SMALL SIZES**
- Parsley (Curly & Italian) – **ESCALATED**
- Pineapple – **ESCALATED**
- Slicer Cucumber – **ESCALATED**
- Strawberries – **ESCALATED**
- Tomatoes (Rounds, Romas and Snacking Tomatoes) – **ESCALATED**

Watch List







- Bananas
- Broccolini
- Corn
- Cabbage - Red
- Cauliflower
- Eggplant
- Ginger
- Green Beans
- Lettuce Iceberg
- Lettuce Romaine and VA Blends
- Lettuce Green Leaf and Red Leaf
- Melon - Honeydew
- Oranges
- Snow Peas & Sugar Snap Peas
- Spinach
- Soft Squash

Weather










SALINAS, CA

Wed 9/25	Thu 9/26	Fri 9/27	Sat 9/28	Sun 9/29	Mon 9/30	Tue 10/1	Wed 10/2	Thu 10/3
66° 54°F	70° 53°F	79° 54°F	70° 55°F	68° 54°F	76° 58°F	77° 58°F	71° 54°F	68° 53°F






OXNARD, CA

Wed 9/25 67° 56°F  AM Fog/PM	Thu 9/26 68° 57°F  AM Fog/PM	Fri 9/27 69° 57°F  Partly Cloudy	Sat 9/28 68° 57°F  AM Fog/PM	Sun 9/29 69° 57°F  AM Fog/PM	Mon 9/30 72° 59°F  Partly Cloudy	Tue 10/1 73° 60°F  Partly Cloudy	Wed 10/2 71° 59°F  Partly Cloudy	Thu 10/3 69° 58°F  Partly Cloudy
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


BAKERSFIELD, CA

Wed 9/25 99° 65°F  Sunny	Thu 9/26 93° 65°F  Sunny	Fri 9/27 95° 68°F  Sunny	Sat 9/28 97° 67°F  Sunny	Sun 9/29 93° 66°F  Sunny	Mon 9/30 96° 69°F  Sunny	Tue 10/1 100° 72°F  Sunny	Wed 10/2 99° 68°F  Sunny	Thu 10/3 92° 63°F  Sunny
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



HERMOSILLO, SONORA

Wed 9/25 109° 77°F  Sunny	Thu 9/26 110° 78°F  Sunny	Fri 9/27 112° 80°F  Sunny	Sat 9/28 111° 80°F  Sunny	Sun 9/29 107° 80°F  Sunny	Mon 9/30 106° 80°F  Sunny	Tue 10/1 106° 79°F  Sunny	Wed 10/2 105° 78°F  Sunny	Thu 10/3 103° 78°F  Sunny
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JALISCO, NAYARIT

Wed 9/25 88° 68°F  Partly Cloudy	Thu 9/26 89° 68°F  Partly Cloudy	Fri 9/27 87° 68°F  Thunderstorms	Sat 9/28 82° 66°F  Thunderstorms	Sun 9/29 80° 66°F  Thunderstorms	Mon 9/30 80° 66°F  Thunderstorms	Tue 10/1 82° 66°F  Thunderstorms	Wed 10/2 83° 65°F  Scattered Thunderstorms	Thu 10/3 84° 66°F  Scattered Thunderstorms
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SAN QUINTIN, BAJA

Wed 9/25 73° 63°F  AM Clouds/PM	Thu 9/26 74° 62°F  AM Clouds/PM	Fri 9/27 75° 61°F  Partly Cloudy	Sat 9/28 75° 61°F  AM Fog/PM	Sun 9/29 76° 61°F  AM Fog/PM	Mon 9/30 76° 63°F  Partly Cloudy	Tue 10/1 76° 64°F  Partly Cloudy	Wed 10/2 76° 64°F  Partly Cloudy	Thu 10/3 74° 64°F  Partly Cloudy
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HENDERSONVILLE, NC

Wed 9/25 72° 64°F  Thunderstorms	Thu 9/26 68° 66°F  Heavy Rain	Fri 9/27 71° 60°F  Heavy Rain/Wind	Sat 9/28 71° 59°F  Few Showers	Sun 9/29 73° 59°F  Showers	Mon 9/30 75° 60°F  Showers	Tue 10/1 73° 57°F  AM Showers	Wed 10/2 73° 49°F  Mostly Sunny	Thu 10/3 70° 48°F  Sunny
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Fruits & Vegetables

Avocados: ESCALATED Last week, it closed at 46.4M pounds across all COOs, a drop of 10% in total volumes. Mexico's projections were listed at 52.7M pounds, but only 40.4M pounds shipped to the US. Harvest is tracking strong this week, but another no-harvest holiday in Mexico next week is making it difficult to get ahead. Days of inventory on hand (as reported across the industry) continue to drop while promotional activity increases, an unsustainable pattern. Last week, only 1.7M pounds arrived to the US from Peru. Another 2-3 weeks of very light volumes is expected before the official close of the season. Early projections say 2025 is expected to bring stronger volumes to the U.S. California's harvest was 2.4M pounds for last week, and it is likely going to hit 350M pounds before the official close. The season will come back with strong volumes in 2025.

Bananas: Steady supply and quality remain good across the country. We are closely observing the situation with the potential dockworkers strike and currently have limited additional information. However, some growers have already established contingency plans, as this issue will not impact all ports, allowing them to transport products into the affected regions.

Pineapples: ESCALATED Supply will remain very light for the next 6 to 8 weeks minimum due to harvest shortfalls. Quality remains good. Sizing will continue to be a challenge during these shortfalls, and we may need to be flexible on sizing as 5-6ct fruit is very short with 7-8's plentiful. The need to be flexible on sizing may be necessary to maintain consistent supply. We are closely observing the situation with the potential dockworkers strike and currently have limited additional information. However, some growers have already established contingency plans, as this issue will not impact all ports, allowing them to transport products into the affected regions.

Table Grapes: Excellent supply will be available out of California this week. Quality out of California is mostly good as the crops are taking the heat wave better than expected. We are getting concerned the end of the season could fall short due to crop loss.

Berries

Strawberries: ESCALATED Overall volumes continue to be limited due to heat-related quality issues. The weather was similar this week out of Watsonville/Salinas, with daytime temps in the mid-60s and nighttime temps in the mid-50s with potential rain in the next

few weeks. Production has been steady, though overall output volume is decreasing week-over-week as we get further into the Fall. We are expecting numbers to drop more drastically in late September through early October. Sizing is decreasing a bit. Growers are seeing issues of darker, soft, small, and overripe fruit and mildew due to the foggy mornings. Both methods have good sheen, small-to-medium size, strong red color, and good flavor. Labor is tight. Santa Maria is seeing heavy fog these last few mornings. Due to the heatwave two weeks ago, we are seeing a slight drop in volume this week but are expecting volume and quality to rebound in the following days. Fall crop has continued to see good, strong fruit as the season continues to pick up every week. Fall crop is expecting peak volume to occur in mid-October. Plants are loaded with flowers, so we are expecting large numbers to be produced during the peak. Most blocks show good shape and firmness with crooked tips and light bronzing around. Overall appearance looks decent, and crews are working hard to sort through small, crooked, bronzed, and soft fruit. Seeing sunburnt fruit due to the high heat over the weekend. SC organics will be steady for the next two or so weeks. Growers are expecting an increase in organic and conventional volume in the coming weeks in this area. Organic Spring crops may be wrapping up soon, but Fall crops are increasing in volume quickly. No labor issues.

Blackberries: Blackberry quality is decent, with sizing between the medium to large range, good sheen, primarily black, and with good firmness. Due to high temperatures in the Mexican regions, growers see red cell regression in some ranches and soft, leaking fruit as the days continue to be hot. Rain has caused some concern for instances of mildew. Blackberries' volume has passed its peak and will steadily decline throughout August until we pick back up in early October. Watsonville blackberries look good, have medium-to-large sizing, and have great flavor. Attached calyx and red cell regression is a continual occurrence and are seeing some issues of smaller fruit. Overall, production is decent, but we have passed our peak for blackberries in Watsonville. We are expecting continually good production through mid-October.

Raspberries: Out of Mexico, rain is happening daily in the afternoons. The weather has been hot and humid, with temperatures in the high 70s to low 80s and nights in the low 60s. Overall, the fruit looks decent with a decent red color, with some fruit lighter in color in the pack due to picking a bit early ahead of the heat. Growers do see some overripe, crumbled fruit and mildew from the high moisture environment from the rainy season, but crews are doing their best to keep them out of the packs. The volume of raspberries will start to pick back up as we progress through September. Watsonville raspberries' production has sharply declined and will have minimal volume available for the rest of September; however, we will have one last bit of good volume throughout October before ending the season. Overall, the color is a nice dark red color due to the warm temperatures underneath the hoops, and the sizing of raspberries is a good medium size on average with very little availability.

Blueberries: EXTREME The blueberry market faces a significant imbalance, with demand far exceeding supply. In the last five days, blueberry availability has dropped considerably as the domestic season comes to a close. Delays in imports from Peru and Central Mexico are anticipated, likely leading to a supply shortfall and lower overall volumes than initially projected for mid-October. For the next 4-6 weeks, supply levels are expected to remain critically low until substantial shipments arrive from Peru and Central Mexico. During this timeframe, we will see significantly higher markets.

Citrus

Oranges: WATCHLIST The California Valencia orange crop continues to see challenges with quality and supplies as many growers/shippers are reporting lighter than normal supplies for the balance of the California Valencia season. Most shippers have curtailed harvesting, covering regular business only. Expect a "GAP" in production between the end of the Valencia season and the beginning of the Navel season, possibly up to 2 to 3 weeks, more with some shippers. Expect prorate to increase as we continue through the balance of the Valencia season. Navel season is projected to start in the middle of October.

Lemons: ESCALATED Light supplies continue in California out of D2 with some very light supplies, although D3 fruit is ramping up. Overall supplies will continue to be light into early October, but quality will improve as we move further into the new districts. Import lemons are available.

Limes: EXTREME As we begin the season of new crop limes from Mexico, quality has improved but growers are struggling with sizing. Growers are going into new fields ahead of schedule to make sure they have fruit to cover orders, which is contributing to the sizing running heavy to 230's and 250's with 175's and larger being extremely limited to almost non-existent with many shippers. Although new fruit is becoming available, full recovery will take some time. We anticipate this situation to last for the next 3 to 4 weeks, so please expect heavy prorate on large sizes until the new crop gets into full swing and growers are able to start packing larger fruit. Flexibility in sizing will be mandatory to get orders filled. Long Range outlook: Due to growers having to get into fields early, we could see another significant overall shortage in production starting in late November and extending into December. More to follow as we get further into the new crop season.

Imports/Specialties: Import Mandarins are available

West Coast Lettuce

Iceberg: WATCHLIST Lettuce has good supplies right now. Supply does seem to be tightening up a bit so we are adding it to the watch list. With transition closing in, supplies will start getting tighter. Quality looks good but with the rain and cooler temps, we will be watching out for red ribs, more of a medium size and some minor quality issues.

Iceberg VA: Quality and supply both look very good.

Romaine, & Romaine Hearts: WATCHLIST Romaine and romaine heart supplies are good but they are battling seeder in some core in the VA packs. Expect to see more heart material and lighter color. Growers do expect yields to start dropping with Fall approaching. Quality looks good.

Green Leaf and Red Leaf: WATCHLIST Overall quality is fair. Supplies have decreased and we are seeing some mildew damage. The rain followed by the heat last week didn't help, so we are going to keep this on the watchlist.

Butter: Production in Salinas Valley is steady. Overall, the quality is good.

Eastern and Western Vegetables

Hurricane Hellene: We are currently watching a Hurricane as it makes its way to Florida and Georgia over the next 36 hours which will impact the fall dry veg. We will keep you posted as this weather event develops, but expect to see damages to crops such as tomatoes in Quincy, bell pepper, squash, cucumber, eggplant, greens and corn out of South Georgia. These are the primary growing regions during the month of October; we do anticipate severe losses in the region with hurricane force winds and heavy precipitation. We may need to sub items and/or curtail supply to navigate shortfalls.

Green Bell Pepper: WATCHLIST Current conditions still call for stable supply this week out of Michigan, the Carolinas and West Coast as we get into the last summer regions of the season. Good supply on choice peppers with larger sizes drawing a premium. Overall quality is good.

Color Bell Pepper: ESCALATED Improving volume on Red and Yellow Pepper this week. Supply out of Canada is stable; Orange pepper availability was lighter this week. Markets are still holding firm, and the quality is good.

Mini Sweet Pepper: Supply stable this week loading in California.

Mixed Chili Pepper: ESCALATED Supplies in general are good across most varieties out of Mexico and California. In the east we could see GAPS on hot pepper. The shortest items this week are Fresno and Serrano Peppers.

Eggplant: WATCHLIST Tighter supply from all domestic growing regions is putting upward pressure on price and there are very limited crossings available in Nogales and McAllen. We suspect markets will be hit and miss now through the Fall transition in late October.

Slicer Cucumbers: ESCALATED Supply will be lighter this week crossing through Otay and McAllen. Domestically, some of the fall areas have already started doing a few picks while local regions such as Tennessee and Michigan continue to see good production. Overall, the quality is good, but markets will be higher.

English Cucumbers: Light Supply and good quality will be available this week. FOB prices remain high this week.

Pickles: Supply and quality are good this week.

Green Beans: WATCHLIST Supply remains light this week and quality is hit or miss due to weather-related pressure.

French Beans: Production remains good, but upcoming rain may affect quality. Fair supply and good quality of French beans out of Mexico.

Zucchini/Yellow Squash: WATCHLIST Supply remains light this week in the East, particularly on yellow, while supply in the West is stable. Quality is good. We will start to transition to Fall crops over the next 3-4 weeks.

Herbs

Good supply and quality of all herbs, except for dill and thyme, which are being affected by weather in Mexico, Peru, and Colombia. Chervil production continues to be low.

HERB	SUPPLY	QUALITY	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
Arugula	Steady	Marginal	USA
Basil	Steady	Steady	USA/MEX
Opal Basil	Steady	Steady	USA

Thai Basil	Steady	Steady	USA/MEX
Bay Leaves	Steady	Steady	USA/COL
Chervil	Limited	Limited	USA
Chives	Steady	Steady	MEX
Cilantro	Steady	Steady	USA/MEX
Dill	Steady	Steady	USA/MEX
Epazote	Steady	Steady	MEX
Lemongrass	Steady	Steady	USA
Marjoram	Steady	Steady	USA
Mint	Steady	Steady	USA
Oregano	Steady	Steady	USA
Italian Parsley	Steady	Steady	USA
Rosemary	Steady	Steady	USA
Sage	Steady	Steady	USA
Savory	Steady	Limited	USA
Sorrel	Steady	Steady	USA
Tarragon	Steady	Steady	MEX
Thyme	Steady	Steady	USA
Lavender	Steady	Steady	USA
Lemon Thyme	Steady	Steady	USA
Lime Leaves	Steady	Steady	USA

Melons

Cantaloupe: WATCHLIST Availability on cantaloupe remains very limited after the cooler weather experienced over a ten day period. Higher temperatures in the mid to upper 90s are forecasted for this week, but the outlook for next week shows a drop into the mid to lower 80s which is more typical for this time of the year. Sizing had been trending smaller, leaving jumbo fruit in a shorter position, but we are now seeing it swing back the other way, providing a somewhat better supply on 9ct and 9J while leaving 12ct and 15ct on the shorter side. Pricing has moved much higher for the spot market business putting contract business at a significant advantage. Overall quality of the melons remains solid with a slight turn from the higher color fruit that has been seen the majority of the summer. The flavor profile has been strong as brix levels have been holding in the 12-14% range.

Honeydew: WATCHLIST Honeydew production has started to improve with a decent spread of sizing (5/6s) seen over the past few days this week rather than exclusively jumbo fruit as was reported last week. Overall availability remains limited, which is keeping the markets firm, but we can finally, confidently, cover all contractual commitments this week. Honeydew quality has been clean, strong and brix levels remain at mostly 12-14% levels.

Watermelon: Stable supply available and demand is light. Fruit is being harvested from a number of regions: California, Michigan, Texas as well as Mexico.

California Mixed Melon production will continue through mid-October with Yuma set to begin at that time and hope for seamless transition to the fall crop.

Mixed Vegetables

Artichokes: EXTREME Supplies are very tight and will remain that way throughout the month and into October. The marker is at the extreme trigger on the 12-24ct. Growers are holding to averages. Quality is good.

Arugula: Supplies and quality are both good.

Asparagus: ESCALATED Southern/Northern Baja production is still very low. We should see an increase in about 10 days, weather permitting. We're still seeing bigger sizing, but still very low volume. Peruvian volume remains the same, still heavy on small and standard sizing. Southern Peru continues to open more fields, and we should see better production within the next two weeks. Markets are still very active on all sizes.

Bok Choy: EXTREME Quality is good but supplies are still limited. The light supplies are driving the market.

Broccoli/Broccoli Crowns: ESCALATED Quality is good but some growers are still seeing lighter supplies. Insect intrusion is heavily limiting what will be harvested. Diamondback moth damage and larvae are causing issues, which is keeping the market slightly escalated. Supplies are sufficient right now, but the moth is giving us cause to worry about the rest of the season in Salinas. If you are getting your product from MX, you may still be betting prorated.

Broccolini and Sweet Baby Broccoli: Quality is good but supplies are getting tight with some growers. Expect to see some prorating on this item.

Brussels Sprouts: Quality and supplies are both looking very good.

Carrots: (JUMBOS, MEDIUMS and CELLOS): Steady supplies continue with good Quality. Supplies from Mexico are improving.

Cauliflower: WATCHLIST Supplies are okay for now, but quality is just okay. We are seeing similar insect damage as we have in broccoli. Cauliflower will remain on the watchlist as the Diamondback moth continues to affect harvesting.

Celery: Quality and Supplies are okay. There are some heat issues and insect pressures.

Cilantro: ESCALATED The market is active and supplies are very tight. High demand has continued. Growers should be able to cover normal volumes.

Corn: WATCHLIST Current supply is hit or miss in the East due to transitional gaps and poor quality is prevalent due to insect pressure. This will most likely change as Hurricane Hellene makes landfall in Florida and South Georgia over the next 24 hours. In the West, supply was lighter this week and they are dealing with quality issues. Markets remain firm this week.

Fennel: ESCALATED The fields are seeing lower yields and therefore there is a shortage in supply. Pricing will stay escalated until supplies improve.

Garlic: New crop California Garlic has started. The quality is very good with very good demand.

Ginger: Supplies and market are steady

Green Cabbage: ESCALATED Supplies are getting tight and quality is fair. We are seeing insect damage and the Diamondback moth has gotten into some of the fields. There are some growers who will be heavily prorating orders that are not meant for concept business. Growers are doing their best to cover, but expect to see escalated pricing and prorating throughout the next few weeks.

Green Onions: EXTREME Due to the extreme heat, the supplies remain very tight on green onions. Prices are still at the extreme trigger and growers will be still holding to averages. Some growers do not have any product at all and are cutting orders. A Market Alert has been sent out on this item.

Mushrooms: ESCALATED Supply was lighter this week, particularly on cremini's. In the west growers from Canada to California are dealing with supply shortfalls across the entire category due to weather impacts as well as virus pressure. We expect to see improved availability in approximately six weeks.

Napa Cabbage: ESCALATED Quality and supplies are improving but there is some insect pressure.

Parsley: ESCALATED (Curly, Italian): Supplies are improving quality is fair.

Rapini: Quality is good, but supply continues to be light. The market is strong and therefore the supplies will continue to be light.

Red Cabbage: WATCHLIST Pricing is no longer escalated. Quality is good but supplies continue to be tight. The market remains very active, so this item will remain on the watchlist.

Spinach: WATCHLIST Supplies are improving but we are seeing some insect damage and inconsistent sizing.

Spring Mix: Supplies are good with very good quality.

Snow Peas and Sugar Snaps: Guatemalan snow peas and sugar snap production continue to improve. We have started to see quality issues in snow peas. Peruvian production remains the same, but quality is subpar. Markets are less active on both peas, with more volume coming from Guatemala. Out of the West, the supply of snow peas is steady, but the supply of sugar snap peas is minimal.

Onions: ESCALATED

The onion market has stayed steady. The Northwest is continuing to ramp up volume on all colors and sizes. Size profiles continue to peak on medium and jumbos on yellows, with colossal and super colossal few and far between in the early volumes, although they are starting to improve. There is a belief that this may be the pattern for the entire season, however, it is still early to tell. The cause of this would be the extremely hot summer they experienced here. We are still seeing reds and whites remain elevated, although they should begin to see some relief in the next few weeks. Yellows appear to have stabilized for the minute. There are still more shippers to enter the market, so we will see if the added supply will provide downward pressure. White onions are beginning to soften some as well as we are seeing growers begin to build up inventory of those. The overall 'feel' of the market is beginning to take shape, and it is believed to be a mostly average year for the most part. We will likely see a few lows and a few highs throughout the deal. There is concern about what demand may be like as we ramp up to the election. Historically speaking, demand takes a hit due to various external factors that have happened in the last few election seasons. We are also seeing trucks tighten up some with rates beginning to increase. We do not feel that freight will go any lower than it is today as we head into Q3 and Q4.

Potatoes:

We are exclusively into new crop potatoes at this point in Idaho. The market took a significant increase between last season's old crop prices and the new crop Norkotah prices at the current market. We will likely see this situation remain in effect for another few weeks until additional shippers enter the market and inventories begin to build up. We are currently seeing a much bigger size profile than we have last year. 40ct through 70ct appear to be in good supply throughout the state, and 80s and smaller are on the tighter side. While this should differ some throughout the year as growers switch between lots, it does tell a story that the tuber counts are a lot lower this year than last year, which will mean less overall supply. We expect we will see the market dip in the short term on large size counts, but as we get into the new calendar year, we do expect to see a price increase. This should be the general pattern for next year as production and pack-outs will only worsen as we get later into the season. We anticipate that we will 'feel' this shortage as we get to about March of next year. There is concern about what demand may be like as we ramp up to the election. Historically speaking, demand takes a hit due to various external factors that have happened in the last few election seasons. We are also seeing trucks tighten up some with rates beginning to increase. We do not feel that freight will go any lower than it is today as we head into Q3 and Q4.

Tomatoes: East Coast

Hurricane Hellene: We are currently watching a Hurricane as it makes its way to Florida and Georgia over the next 36 hours which will impact the fall dry veg. We will keep you posted as this weather event develops, but expect to see damages to crops such as tomatoes in Quincy, bell pepper, squash, cucumber, eggplant, greens and corn out of South Georgia. These are the primary growing regions during the month of October; we do anticipate severe losses in the region with hurricane force winds and heavy precipitation. We may need to sub items and/or curtail supply to navigate shortfalls.

- **Round Tomatoes: ESCALATED** Current supply remains lighter this week due to weather related delays on greens and VR's. We still recommend subbing to romas as we see volatility in the round market continuing through November.
- **Roma Tomatoes: ESCALATED** Despite the rain, supplies have been stable, and we do forecast a lighter harvest this week with markets firming up a tad. Overall quality will be good this week.
- **Grape and Cherry Tomatoes: ESCALATED** Lighter supply this week as we have seen some cooler temps slow down production in Virginia, Tennessee and North Carolina. Very consistent this week on supply and quality.

Tomatoes: Mexico

- **Round Tomatoes: ESCALATED** Growers are dealing with quality and supply issues out of Jalisco; the best quality is being harvested on the Baja. Volume was lighter this week crossing Otay and McAllen. We expect to see volatile markets continue through October where we will see flushes of fruit then tighten back up once again until November. We recommend subbing to romas to avoid supply interruptions.
- **Roma Tomatoes: ESCALATED** Stable but lighter supply available in Otay, while McAllen is seeing lower numbers and some weather-related quality pressure due to recent rain in Central Mexico. The best quality is crossing through Otay.
- **Grape Tomatoes:** Good supply available and quality is very nice.
- **Cherry Tomatoes:** Steady supply and good quality available crossing through McAllen and Nogales.
- **Medley Grape Tomatoes:** Good supply available this week and quality is good.
- **Tomato on the Vine:** Steady volume available this week.

California Tomatoes – EXTREME

- There will be fruit available this week as growers break newer blocks and hopefully bring some stability to the market for the next few weeks, but the long-term forecast is for supply to be well below normal due to the damages caused by California's extreme heat earlier this summer. The season is expected to run through the middle of October, however, we need to be cautious of quality and supply shortfalls.

Other Fruit:

Apples: Last year, Washington State Apple growers shipped just over 136 million boxes of Apples. This year's total is projected at 124 million. Prices will likely be higher this year and much more manageable of a crop.

Projections below

Red Delicious – 4 million down from last Season

Gold Delicious – 280,000 boxes down from last Season
Gr Smiths – 1.1 million boxes down
Fuji – 1.5 million boxes down
Gala – 3 million boxes down
Honeycrisp – 5 million boxes down
Cosmic – Up 2.7 million boxes.

Pears: The Northwest Pear Crop (Washington/Oregon) is substantially down from last season due to below average temps in late Feb/early March affecting bud development. The higher elevation areas in Washington were severely impacted, especially the Wenatchee Valley. The Oregon Growing Region was not affected as much as Wenatchee, Washington, but it was still impacted.

The Bartlett Crop out of the Northwest shows 3.8 million shipped last season vs a projected 2.9 million this year for a 14% decrease. It's not substantial in terms of overall volume, but it's still a factor. The cold temperatures will affect the grade, so more Fcys will be packed than normal. Because the crop is smaller, the size profile has increased by 1 to 2 sizes. Barts to finish by the end of Feb./ first part of March.

Anjous report at least a 30% total decrease, or 1.85 million boxes less than last year. Also, out of the Wenatchee Valley, there will be more fancy and, for the first time in many Years, a 3rd grade anjous packed. When we start to pack Anjous – I will share pics of 3rd grade, this will be Your value pear. Anjous to start the week of September 16th, and if growers make it through June I will be surprised.

Red Anjous are down 7% or 47,000 boxes, so it is nothing dramatic like the others. The question on Red Anjous is whether or not we will see smaller pears such as 120/135cts. Red pears are supposed to be 1 to 2 sizes larger out of the PNW. Red pears have started with Starkrimsons and will transition into Red Anjou from November through May.

Bosc are down 63% out of the great Northwest or 1.38 million boxes. This variety was mostly affected, and markets will be much higher than in previous years. Bosc has slowly started with a potential end date last January/middle of February.

Pomegranate: Light supply available this week.

Tree Fruit: Lighter supply available as the season winds down on Paches and Nectarines. Good volume available on red and black plums.

Kiwi Fruit: Supplies are tight out of Chile and markets are firming up.