

# Fresh News



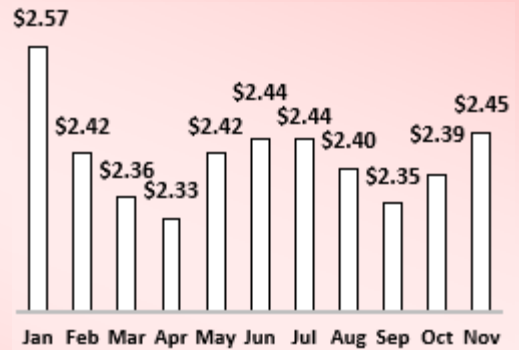
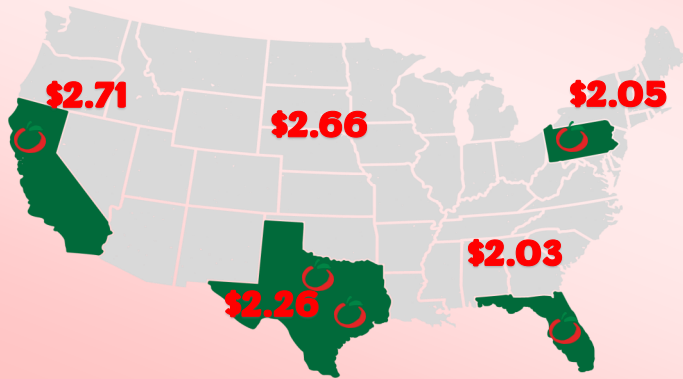
## Market Alert

- ◆ Broccoli
- ◆ Carrots
- ◆ Cauliflower
- ◆ Celery
- ◆ Onions
- ◆ Squash
- ◆ Strawberries
- ◆ Tomatoes



## National Reefer Rate per Mile (Last Week per DAT)

## Trend



## Weather Alerts

Location	Current Weather	Current Temp	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
YUMA WEATHER	clear sky	73°F	75°F /  52°F	81°F /  54°F	81°F /  54°F	81°F /  54°F	81°F /  55°F	81°F /  54°F	79°F /  55°F
BAJA CALIFORNIA WEATHER	clear sky	66°F	66°F /  46°F	66°F /  48°F	64°F /  46°F	61°F /  46°F	63°F /  46°F	66°F /  48°F	63°F /  48°F
CULIACÁN WEATHER	few clouds	90°F	90°F /  61°F	95°F /  61°F	93°F /  64°F	91°F /  61°F	93°F /  63°F	88°F /  59°F	86°F /  57°F
RUSKIN WEATHER	clear sky	66°F	66°F /  50°F	64°F /  50°F	64°F /  48°F	66°F /  48°F	64°F /  54°F	70°F /  59°F	72°F /  61°F
YAKIMA WEATHER	overcast clouds	36°F	37°F /  32°F	41°F /  30°F	43°F /  32°F	41°F /  32°F	39°F /  36°F	41°F /  34°F	45°F /  41°F

# Tomatoes

*Alert*



## East Coast

This week, Florida's roma production is nearly nonexistent as we reach the point at which the storm-affected harvest has been completed and we await the commencement of new crops. We anticipate that a few growers/fields will gradually return to operation by mid-December. However, it is not anticipated that normal production will resume until the 1st of the year, when the Naples/Immokalee region begins to cultivate new crops that have not been impacted by Hurricane Milton. Round tomato production is virtually nonexistent in Rounds, Florida, as the narrowest window of post-hurricane operations approaches in the coming weeks. The final product from Florida will have minimal volumes and produce extremely low yields as a result of the limited number of storm damage plantations that are expected to survive. Production will gradually increase from mid-December onward, with harvest levels restoring to their pre-January 1st state. Eastern grape tomato production has reached its lightest location of the season. At present, the initial harvests are limited to the regeneration of plantations that have been damaged by storms. However, Florida's production is not expected to resume to normal levels until the latter half of December, despite the introduction of new crops within the next 2-3 weeks.



## Mexico

Over the past week, production in Romas, Mexico has been inconsistent. The size and volumes of both Baja and Central Mexico are decreasing due to the seasonal decline stage. The quality is generally adequate, although it can be inconsistent. It is anticipated that availability will remain limited until the winter crops of mainland Mexico are made available in mid-late December, with substantial quantities expected to emerge after January 1st. Supplies of Baja rounds are presently insufficient due to the reduction in operations in the northern region. It is expected that they will be finalized by the second week of November or December. Limited volumes will persist in sovereign regions for an additional few months; however, they will be resolved by the year's end. Mexico's annual production is also experiencing a decline in quality, with conflicting reports. The Culiacan territory of Mainland Mexico will gradually become operational in late October. Nevertheless, we do not anticipate any substantial volumes until January. Grape tomatoes are scarce in Mexico. The seasonal decline has led to a significant reduction in the number of producers in Central Mexico, and some are presently experiencing a gap. Baja is also a light area due to the fact that the existing acreage is in decline and the development of new acreage has been slowed by the cooler weather. Seasonal volumes are expected to climax in January, with an anticipated increase in volume in mid-December as the Culiacan area commences operations.



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# Fruits

## Apples

Currently, the apple market is well-stocked and stable. Nevertheless, certain varieties, such as Fuji and Cosmic Crisp, are experiencing a greater prevalence of larger quantities in their packouts. Sizes 125s and 138s are becoming increasingly scarce, while sizes 80s and 88s are more readily available. As the season progresses, this situation may change. Furthermore, the availability of Granny Smith apples in lesser sizes is increasing.



## Berries—Raspberries

The product is imported into the United States from Baja and Central Mexico. The numbers are remaining relatively consistent as we approach December.



## Bananas

The fruit is consistently producing substantial volumes and is displaying exceptional overall quality.



## Berries—Strawberries

The market remains characterized by a substantial demand-supply disparity, which is further exacerbated by the milder temperatures and precipitation that are impeding production in California. In the interim, Central Mexico is incrementally increasing the volume of shipments that pass through McAllen, Texas. It is anticipated that Baja will submit enhanced figures during the initial week of December. Furthermore, it is anticipated that Florida's harvest will commence during the second week of December.



**Alert**

## Berries—Blackberries

The Central Mexico agricultural region has resulted in an increase in availability. The product is available for transmission to the west coast or FOB McAllen, Texas.



## Citrus—Grapefruit

Desert Rios are available from Riverside and the San Joaquin Valley, with a peak in 56ct and smaller quantities.



## Berries—Blueberries

Peru and Central Mexico are the places from which blueberries are abundant. Offshore containers are arriving in Florida, New Jersey, and Los Angeles at a steady pace.



## Citrus—Lemons

Currently, the markets are generally stable. Activity in District 3 (CA Desert/AZ) is robust and is anticipated to persist through February. In the interim, District 1 (San Joaquin Valley) has experienced a mod-



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est start, but it is expected to acquire momentum in the coming weeks.

### *Citrus—Limes*

Consistent supply is the reason for the stability of prices. The size manifest is at its highest point in medium-sized produce. As December approaches, anticipate an increase in prices.



### *Citrus—Oranges*

The commencement of navel season is upon us, characterized by peak sizes of 138ct, 113ct, and 88ct. Although the 138ct markets are currently experiencing low levels, a period of stability is anticipated in the near future. As the season progresses, we expect an increased availability of 113ct and 88ct sizes. Sizes 72ct and above will remain restricted. The current gas times range from 72 to 96 hours, with Brix levels approximately at 12. This year presents significant opportunities for the foodservice industry, and the domestic mandarin season has commenced as well.



### *Grapes*

The domestic green grape harvest is approaching completion and is expected to conclude this week. In contrast, imported green grapes are currently accessible on the East Coast, with prices in the low forties. The initial contingent from the West Coast is anticipated to arrive next week. In California, there is a significant supply of domestic red seedless grapes available, and it is expected that packing operations



will persist for the upcoming two weeks. Currently, the availability of domestic red globes and black seedless grapes is restricted, and it is anticipated that these supplies will be depleted by the end of this week.

### *Melons - Cantaloupe*

As the chill of autumn evenings indicates the conclusion of the local cantaloupe season, the desert regions of Arizona and California will maintain their production until late November or early December, coinciding with the arrival of offshore fruit at domestic ports. At present, there is an abundant supply of Mexican melons from Nogales, particularly the 9ct varieties. While offshore melons can be found in Florida, the availability is still constrained. Delays at ports are significantly disrupting schedules, while adverse cold weather conditions are having a detrimental effect on production in both domestic and Mexican contexts.



### *Melons - Honeydew*

The stability of prices is observed as the harvesting season commences in Arizona. In the forthcoming two weeks, we anticipate a notable rise in volume, with five-count melons taking precedence in the initial stages of production. The season for the Arizona-California desert will persist until late November or early December, aligning with the arrival of offshore fruit at domestic ports.



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## Melons - Watermelon



Recent observations indicate a positive trend in watermelon supplies on the West Coast, particularly in the Nogales region. The Sonora fall crop is projected to be accessible until the end of November, whereas the Jalisco variety is anticipated to commence its season in December. Concurrently, suppliers located on the East Coast, especially in Georgia, have encountered considerable difficulties as a result of Hurricane Milton, prompting a notable shift in demand towards the West Coast.

## Pineapple



Suppliers are consistently upholding six-week averages, with a concentrated effort on fulfilling contracted orders. The availability of Costa Rican pineapples is increasing, and we expect enhanced quality as a result of the forthcoming rainfall. Despite the ongoing scarcity of larger fruit, there has been a notable rise in the availability of Mexican pineapples, which are demonstrating improved quality.

## Pears



At present, all primary pear varieties are undergoing the packing process in Washington. This year poses a significant challenge for the pear industry, as the crop yield from Washington is markedly diminished in comparison to the figures from the previous year. The market conditions exhibit stability and are expected to persist in this manner for the duration of the year.

## Stone Fruit



Plums, the final representatives of the stone fruit category, are approaching the conclusion of their season and will soon cease shipping, as the remaining suppliers are depleting their last inventories. Asian pears are currently abundant, with projections indicating that supplies will remain available until January. The supply of domestic kiwi shipments remains consistent and abundant. Furthermore, pomegranates and persimmons are prepared for loading in the Central Valley.



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# Vegetables

## Asparagus



The production levels in Mexico, particularly from Southern and Northern Baja, continue to be subdued as a result of seasonal influences. Nonetheless, we foresee that Caborca is poised to commence its production in the imminent weeks. At this juncture, the volumes from Peru have reached a state of stabilization and are anticipated to sustain this level of consistency in the forthcoming weeks. The market has exhibited notable activity in larger sizes; however, a general decline in overall activity is becoming apparent as the holiday rush concludes.

## Avocados



The current state of the markets reflects a notable stability. The present size distribution exhibits a pronounced inclination towards smaller fruits, whereas larger fruits are more limited in availability. As a result, the pricing for small fruits is comparatively lower, whereas large fruits continue to exhibit strong pricing stability. As we near the conclusion of the year, we expect a notable expansion in size distribution as the fruit on the trees progresses in maturity and harvests shift to elevated terrains. Furthermore, the industry anticipates a robust supply chain from Mexico continuing through the year's conclusion, which creates significant opportunities for promotional activities centered around small fruits.

## Bell Peppers - Color

### Alert



Following the conclusion of activities in Canada, Central Mexico emerges as the principal source for red, yellow, and orange belts in the upcoming weeks. Trading volumes have exhibited fluctuations, yet they predominantly remain at subdued levels. The quality of the product exhibits variability, and we are observing certain greening issues, which is a typical occurrence when supply becomes constrained. The agricultural production in the Sinaloa region is anticipated to commence in mid to late December, with seasonal yields expected to increase following the onset of the new year.

## Bell Peppers - Green



As Georgia concludes its season with predominantly offgrades, the quality remains inconsistent, and the fruit sizes are smaller. The supply of Eastern bell peppers has returned to Florida's control. The present availability is significantly constrained as a result of hurricane-related damages; however, there exist certain areas where supply remains accessible. In the forthcoming 7-10 days, new crops in the southern regions are anticipated to become available, reflecting more seasonal figures and a projected return to near normal conditions by mid-December. Within the Western context, Coachella is a prominent music and arts festival held annually in California, showcasing a diverse lineup

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of artists and a vibrant atmosphere that attracts attendees from around the globe. The final weeks of their season are upon us; however, they continue to offer commendable quality and a range of sizing options, albeit at significantly higher prices. We are beginning to observe Mainland. The commencement of the season in Mexico is marked by the arrival of a limited selection of peppers originating from Central Mexico, alongside a few from Sinaloa. The current offerings predominantly consist of smaller sizes and select fruit; however, we anticipate an increase in retail-quality and larger sizes by mid-December as additional growers enter the season.

### *Broccoli*

The availability of broccoli continues to be significantly limited. As the Salinas Valley initiates its clean-up efforts, teams are systematically tackling intermittent challenges, including mechanical damage, pin rot, and brown bead. Furthermore, the pressure from diamondback moths remains a significant challenge. Anticipate that supply levels will continue to be constrained as we approach the upcoming week.



*Alert*

### *Broccolini*

Current market conditions indicate an increase in prices due to limited supply, strong demand, and moderate quality levels. There are restricted resources available until the transition in Yuma occurs at the end of the month.



### *Brussel Sprouts*

The market for Brussels Sprouts exhibits a stable condition, characterized by consistent supply levels. The primary size that is commonly available is medium, though larger specimens, referred to as jumbo, can also be located. Producers are diligently tackling challenges including mildew pressure, intermittent irregular sizing, and sporadic seeding complications.



### *Cabbage*

Resources are currently limited. Producers are documenting challenges at the field level and noting a fair quality of products originating from Oxnard and Salinas. Producers are encountering challenges related to quality as a result of insect damage and rising market prices, which are impacting light supplies until the shift to Yuma occurs.



### *Carrots*

The harvest season has commenced once again in Bakersfield, continuing through to February. This summer's unprecedented 60 days of temperatures surpassing 100 degrees has led growers to foresee a constrained harvest. Allocations might be required during this timeframe. Furthermore, hurricanes have significantly affected agricultural production in Lake Park, Georgia, resulting in delays of nearly two months as farmers undertake the necessary processes to regroup and replant their crops. Kindly ensure that snack pack orders are submitted at least 48 hours prior to the



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desired delivery time.

## Cauliflower

This week, the availability of cauliflower is notably constrained as suppliers conclude their operations in the Salinas Valley. The production in Yuma has not yet reached its full capacity. Anticipate this market to maintain a heightened position until the following week.

*Alert*



## Celery

The market exhibits stability across the majority of shippers. It is anticipated that suppliers will impose an extra fee ranging from \$2 to \$3 for transfers to Yuma; therefore, it is important to consider this factor. Although the demand associated with the holiday season has significantly decreased, there remains a considerable amount of availability for individuals who may still need it. Furthermore, the caliber of products being loaded in Oxnard and Santa Maria consistently surpasses anticipated standards.

*Alert*



## Cilantro

Supply is showing signs of improvement, characterized by a satisfactory level of quality. The demand has experienced a notable increase, accompanied by the transportation of supplies originating from Oxnard and Salinas. Anticipated constrained availability in the forthcoming weeks alongside a more favorable market condition.



## Cucumber

The cultivation of cucumbers in Georgia has reached its seasonal conclusion. This week, Florida presents limited volumes, which is typical for this time of year when there is a decline in acreage, volume, and supply as winter approaches. Thus far, we have observed a limited number of initial imports from Honduras; however, the majority of their agricultural produce is anticipated to arrive in the market around mid to late December. Despite a slight decline in numbers over the past weeks, Mexico maintains a status of moderate to good supplies. The primary sources of this fruit are Sonora, Sinaloa, and central Mexico, with a limited supply still being harvested from Baja. Production levels are anticipated to rise to seasonally elevated volumes by the third week of December, as additional Sinaloa crops become available and farms progress further into their fields. The overall quality is satisfactory, although there are some minor concerns regarding the sonoran fruit.



## Mini Cucumbers

The onset of cooler weather has resulted in a reduction in the volumes of mini cucumbers being produced in Mexico. It is anticipated that the existing supply levels will experience a moderate recovery over the forthcoming 7-10 days, coinciding with the arrival of warmer weather conditions. Several quality concerns have been documented. However, this is subject to variation depending on the grower and the specific lot.



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## English Cucumbers



This week, the volumes of English cucumbers from Mexico have experienced a decline, reaching low to moderate levels, accompanied by somewhat inconsistent availability. Lower temperatures have resulted in a deceleration of production following the occurrence of more robust harvests. This situation has resulted in certain individuals possessing inventory that has not demonstrated optimal quality. As temperatures rise, we can anticipate a modest increase in supply; however, it is important to temper expectations regarding production levels, which are unlikely to reach those observed in prior years due to a decrease in acreage. Canada is currently engaged in its winter production under artificial lighting, which typically remains localized due to considerations of pricing and transportation logistics.

supplies will continue to be plentiful in the upcoming weeks.

## Green Beans



Florida currently stands as the sole Eastern state producing green beans, and the supply continues to be limited. Currently, there are beans available in the Lake area, Immokalee, and Homestead; however, a few growers are experiencing a gap in production, resulting in reduced volumes following Thanksgiving. Nevertheless, an increase in crop availability is anticipated within the next 10 to 14 days, coinciding with the Christmas season. In the western region, the predominant supply originates from Central Mexico, where there have been sporadic reports regarding quality issues. We are observing some activity from Sinaloa; however, we anticipate that this region will fully engage with seasonal volumes by mid-December.

## Eggplant



Although the supply from the East remains constrained, we anticipate a rise in availability in the forthcoming weeks. In the meantime, Coachella is upholding robust production standards accompanied by superior yields. Furthermore, the volume of eggplant originating from Sinaloa is experiencing an increase as it passes through Nogales, with expectations for seasonal supplies to escalate by early December.

## Green Onions



The availability of Green Onions remains robust. The quality has shown notable improvement and is expected to maintain this trajectory for the foreseeable future.

## Kale



The availability and quality of kale remain satisfactory this week. Anticipate this market to maintain stability as we progress into the upcoming week.

## Garlic



The quality of garlic is presently outstanding, and it is anticipated that

## Lettuce—Iceberg



Although value-added products

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continue to show strong performance, the market for the commodity is experiencing a decline. The main issues have revolved around weights and sizing; nonetheless, enhancements are expected following Thanksgiving. The demand has begun to exhibit a downward trajectory at the start of the week and is anticipated to persist in this pattern. Expect a decrease in the increase of value-added products in the coming weeks.

### *Lettuce—Leaf*

This week, Yuma is anticipated to experience a rise in the availability of romaine, green, and red leaf lettuce from various suppliers. Although there have been price increases for value-added romaine products, it is anticipated that these prices will stabilize by the end of this week or early next week. There has been a notable increase in the production of romaine hearts in recent weeks. Nevertheless, there have been observations regarding certain small dimensions and lightweight characteristics in leaf specimens.



### *Lettuce—Tender Leaf*

All tender leaf products continue to experience restricted availability as production commences in Yuma. Anticipate that these markets will sustain their elevated levels in the forthcoming weeks. Teams are addressing various obstacles, including minor insect damage, variability in bunch sizes, and occasional yellowing of foliage.



### *Mushrooms*

The demand for Thanksgiving in the United States is exceeding the available supplies, with anticipated improvements by late December.



### *Onions*

This week, the onion markets are experiencing significant activity, reflecting strong demand across various sizes and colors. While there has been a slight deceleration in movement owing to the holiday week, we expect a revival in activity in the near future. The anticipated trajectory for white onion prices suggests a continued increase as we progress through the Northwest season.



*Alert*

### *Peppers—Chilis*

The production of Eastern chili peppers remains at minimal levels, characterized by small pockets distributed across regions such as Georgia, Plant City, and South Florida. The availability of Cubanelles, long hots, and Hungarian wax peppers presents significant challenges. Current production levels are expected to remain relatively stable until the South Florida plantings are operational in early to mid-December. Fortunately, the agricultural output in Mainland Mexico is yielding moderate and consistent volumes across most crops, with the exception of Anaheim, which remain somewhat limited. Baja continues to offer chilies; however, the volume and variety of options are diminishing as the season approaches its later stages. The



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overall quality has been satisfactory from both areas; however, there have been some issues regarding tomatillos.

### *Mini Sweet Peppers*

The supply of mini sweet peppers is notably constrained, with only two growers remaining active as the Fall season concludes. There exists one grower located in Baja and another situated in Central Mexico, with both lacking sufficient fruit to meet demand. This situation has resulted in a notable shortage, and we expect that availability will continue to be highly restricted until production commences in Mainland Mexico in January. The quality remains satisfactory; however, there have been minor discrepancies in sizing concerning the Central Mexico product.



### *Potatoes*

The Russet market in Idaho exhibits a consistent trend as we progress through this week.



### *Squash-Yellow & Zucchini*

The current demand exceeds the available supply, and the anticipated cooler weather along with forthcoming rainfall is expected to further constrain availability as we transition to the southern growing regions. The overall quality is satisfactory; however, there are observations of some scarring and scuffing present. The supply originating from Nogales in Sonora is currently diminished as a result of the cooler climatic conditions, whereas the transition to Sinaloa is in progress. Full production is anticipated to commence by De-



## *Organics*

### *Roma*

Supply of organic roma This week presents a lighter supply; however, there remains a sufficient quantity of fruit to satisfy demand. Both Baja and Central Mexico offer a variety of fruits, and the quality is notably high. Some individuals have reported an issue with the light color upon arrival.



both Baja and Central Mexico is currently experiencing a downturn in its cycle. Sinaloa is currently experiencing a delay in their usual timeline and is not expected to commence operations until mid-December, which suggests that supply constraints are likely to persist until that time.

### *Grape Tomatoes*

There is a notable scarcity of organic grape tomatoes, as production in



### *Mini Cucumbers*

colder weather has slowed down production in Mexico. We expect some levels of availability to increase in the next 7-10 days.



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