

the Source +



Market Alerts

TRANSITION The movement of Western growing regions from the Yuma, Arizona area back north to Central California. Many of the products you use year-round are affected during this time, which normally lasts from March to early May. Affected crops may include all lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, berries and more. "Transition", as this movement is called, often comes with more frequent quality and availability issues. Be sure to read The Source Plus each week for up-to-date recommendations.

ORANGES The severe shortage of **Oranges** has reached the point where certain sizes are largely unavailable. Orders for **113 CT, 138 CT and 163 CT** fruit are very likely to be shorted, or substituted with an **88 CT or larger size**. We recommend **88 CT, 72 CT or larger Oranges** be used through the end of the **Navel** season in early spring.

LETTUCE Supplies are all lighter than normal due to transition-related growing conditions. Pricing is higher than normal on whole head Iceberg, Romaine and Green Leaf. Quality is good to fair. Consider using Romaine Hearts or pre-cut product for best value.

LIMES Poor growing conditions in southern Mexico continue to affect the lime crop. Pricing is higher than normal, and is expected to remain so for a few weeks. Quality is good to fair. For the best per-piece value, use 200 CT-sized fruit and purchase full cases wherever possible.

YELLOW SQUASH Cucumbers, **Yellow** and **Zucchini Squash** are all in short supply. Pricing is higher than normal. Consider using alternative products such as **Winter Squash, Asparagus** or **Broccoli**.

CAULIFLOWER Pricing on whole heads is higher than normal, and quality is fair. Consider using Florets for best cost and quality.

A Peek at Peak Seasons

Roma Tomatoes: Mexico's harvest of Romas is unusually strong for this time of year. Pricing is good and quality is excellent.

Herbs: Basil, Chives, Mint and Tarragon are all of great quality. Be sure to include as garnishes or ingredients.

Potatoes, Specialty/Colored: All varieties of Fingerling and Round colored potatoes are in great supply, with good quality and pricing reported.

Asparagus: All sizes of Asparagus are of great quality and pricing.

Mushrooms: Seasonal mushrooms such as Enoki, Hedgehog and Oyster are great winter menu additions. Ask your distributor for recommendations and availability.

Melons: Honduras is peaking on their Cantaloupe and Honeydew harvest. Great quality is reported.

Weather Update






California Yuma, AZ: Heavy rain, strong winds and cold temperatures in most of California's growing regions, and colder temperatures in Yuma and the Southwestern desert regions.

Mexico: Above average temperatures and light showers in the North and Central regions.

Florida: Dry conditions and cooler temperatures throughout most of the state.



Commodities at a Glance

 APPLES	Quality and pricing are good	 CELERY	Quality and pricing are good	 LETTUCE LEAF	Quality is fair; pricing is higher; Romaine Hearts and pre-cut product are the best value
 ASPARAGUS	Quality and pricing are good	 CITRUS (LEMONS)	Quality is good, pricing may be higher on certain sizes	 LETTUCE TENDER LEAF	Quality and pricing are good
 AVOCADO	Quality is good, pricing is fair	 CITRUS (LIMES)	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 MELON (CANTALOUPE)	Quality and pricing are good
 BELL PEPPERS	Quality and pricing are good	 CITRUS (ORANGES)	Quality is good, sizes are running large, pricing is higher	 MELON (HONEYDEW)	Quality and pricing are good
 BERRIES (BLACKBERRIES)	Quality and pricing are good	 CUCUMBERS	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 MELON (WATERMELON)	Quality and pricing are good
 BERRIES (BLUEBERRIES)	Quality and pricing are good	 EGGPLANT	Quality is fair; pricing is higher	 ONIONS	Quality and pricing are good
 BERRIES (RASPBERRIES)	Quality and pricing are good	 GARLIC	Quality is fair; pricing is higher	 PEARS	Quality and pricing are good
 BERRIES (STRAWBERRIES)	Quality is fair; pricing is good	 GRAPES (GREEN)	Quality and pricing are good	 PINEAPPLES	Quality and pricing are good
 BROCCOLI	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 GRAPES (RED)	Quality and pricing are good	 POTATOES	Quality is good, pricing is higher on medium sizes
 BRUSSELS SPROUTS	Quality is good to fair; pricing is slightly higher	 GREEN ONIONS	Quality and pricing are good	 POTATOES (COLORED)	Quality and pricing are good
 CARROTS	Quality is good, pricing is slightly higher	 KALE	Quality and pricing are good	 SQUASH	Quality is fair; pricing is higher
 CAULIFLOWER	Quality is fair; pricing is higher	 LETTUCE ICEBERG	Quality is fair; pricing is higher; pre-cut product is the best value	 TOMATOES	Quality and pricing are good, Romas are the best buy

