



**THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW:**

**COMMODITY ALERT:**

Strawberry Quality is fair at best

Apples and Pears- the eastern supplies are short and Washington is in large fruit so stay ahead on the smaller sizes

Lemon demand is exceeding supplies on all size and grades

Oranges getting very tight on the small sizes 113's and 138's



# The Source

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## Weather *Tim Lynch*

An upper level low pressure system over Central California moves east over the next few days. This may bring some monsoonal moisture from the south into Central California keeping the threat of lightning and thunderstorms in the region over the next few days. Moderate on shore flow will keep the coastal areas near norms with inland areas reaching the upper 80s to low 90s. High pressure builds into the weekend with slight warming trend.



## Freight: *Mike McIntire*

Trucks in California, Washington and Idaho remain steady this week. The national average on diesel fuel is steady. Crude oil continues to be just under 100.00 per barrel and is now at 97.32 per barrel.

# Commodity Updates

## **APPLES/PEARS** *John Tole*

The California Gala apple market is steady but the availability is low as many packers will finish packing in the next week or two. The remaining fruit is peaking on 100/113's and the color is average to good. There are a few Fuji's in California and they are lighter in color and peaking on 100/113's. The market for Washington Red Delicious continues to slowly rise especially the 113's and smaller. The reds continue to peak on 80/88/100's. Most suppliers are still subbing to the higher grades to cover any volume of small reds. Golden delicious are finished for the season. Ginger-gold's and/or Early-gold's are available and they are heavy to the lower grades. Washington Granny's are still peaking on 88/100/113's. Some shippers will still flex for volume on the smaller sizes. Washington Fuji volume is very light but they are available from a few suppliers. The remaining Fuji's are mostly large. California Bartlett pears continue to peak on 80's and 90's. The market for larger fruit is steady with good availability while the 120's and smaller are steady to higher with limited volume. Washington Bartlett pears are available and have better numbers of the smaller sizes. California Bosc pears are available but the volume is light and the market remains very strong. California Red pears are also steady and peaking on larger fruit. Washington will begin packing Red pears next week.

## **ASPARAGUS** *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*

This market is firm. Hail in the growing regions of Mexico has curtailed production with all suppliers. Production in Peru is moderate at best. Loading directly in Miami is an option. Jumbo sizing continues to be very light but available. This size will command a higher price.

## **AVOCADO** *Tim Kelley*

California is going strong, and quality is excellent, with sizes peaking on 60's and larger. Mexico is beginning their Flor Loca crop harvest. This fruit will take longer to ripen as mature levels are low. Peruvian fruit supplies are good and will continue thought August.

## Commodities at a glance...

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Quality</u>	<u>Market</u>
Apples	Good	Steady
Asparagus	Good	Steady
Avocado (Mexican)	Good	Steady
Avocado (California)	Good	Steady
Bell Peppers (Western)	Good	Steady
Bell Pepper (Eastern)	Good	Steady
Berries: Strawberries	Fair	Higher
Berries: Raspberries	Good	Steady
Berries: Blackberries	Good	Steady
Berries: Blueberries	Fair	Higher
Broccoli	Good	Higher
Carrots	Good	Steady
Cauliflower	Good	Steady
Celery	Good	Steady
Citrus: Lemons	Fair	Higher
Citrus: Oranges	Good	Higher
Cucumbers (Western)	Good	Higher
Cucumbers (Eastern)	Good	Higher
Eggplant (Western)	Good	Higher
Eggplant (Eastern)	Good	Steady
Grapes, Green	Good	Steady
Grapes, Red	Good	Higher
Green Onions	Good	Steady
Lettuce: Leaf	Fair	Higher
Lettuce: Iceberg	Fair	Higher
Melons: Cantaloupe	Good	Higher
Melons: Honeydew	Good	Steady
Onions	Good	Steady
Pears	Good	Steady
Potatoes	Fair	Steady
Squash (Western)	Good	Higher
Squash (Eastern)	Good	Steady
Stone Fruit	Excellent	Higher
Tomatoes (Western)	Good	Steady
Tomatoes (Eastern)	Good	Steady
Watermelon	Good	Steady

# Commodity Updates continued

Their fruit is mostly 48's and larger, with a limited amount of 60's. Fruit quality is good, with very good maturity levels. As we get into the second half of August, supplies of all origin will begin to decline and market looks to get very active.

## **BELL PEPPERS**

### **Western Bells:** *Mike Cantu*

Supplies are improving on green bell peppers from Fresno. Bakersfield and Arvin area are about wrapping up. California red bell market is settling. We believe this will be short lived as some current districts' production is projected to be very light. Red bells both open field and hothouse is crossing through South Texas... Demand Exceeds on Red and Gold bell peppers from both districts. Colored bell peppers supplies from California will continue to be a challenge for the remainder of the season until Baja California kicks in this fall. Gold bells markets continue at HIGH fobs and very light supplies availability depends on growing district. Mexico has basically wrapped up on both hothouse and open field gold bells. Some greenhouse gold bell peppers are crossing through South Texas.

### **Eastern Bells:** *Harry Sheaffer*

Volume in Michigan has ramped up, softening the market somewhat. Decent weather should hold this market down for several more days.

## **BERRIES** *Mike Gorczyca*

**Strawberries:** Same old story in the strawberry world. Quality is fair at best and I don't see this changing anytime soon. Market is firming due to seasonal lighter supplies with moderate demand. Shippers are selling out a day or two in advance and a few are having to fill rate orders. Fruit size is small with full color fruit being shipped. Quality issues showing up upon arrivals: Bruising, overripe fruit, and light mold. Some shippers are quoting their fruit with as high as 20% bruising. The small sizing is making it hard to get Stem strawberries and what is being harvested is basically a strawberry with a long stem.

**Raspberries:** Few growers are at peak supplies with other already past their peak. Market is steady. The warm night time temperatures are keeping this fruit soft which is affecting the quality on some arrivals.

**Blackberries:** Blackberries market is steady for the most part due to a few grower hitting peak

supplies. Demand is light which is not helping. Quality is hit and miss depending on growing area. The warm night has hurt the quality slightly. Some arrivals are showing up with soft fruit.

**Blueberries:** Lighter supplies coming out of the Northwest has this market firming. Weather a few weeks ago also has affected the quality. Soft fruit and some light mold are the main issues showing up. Supplies out of the East are done for the season. Look for the market to continue to creep over the next couple of weeks.

## **BROCCOLI** *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*

This market continues to gain strength in the marketplace. The beginning of school business has kick started this market. Also, suppliers have caught up with their harvesting numbers. Demand is active. Santa Maria, Salinas and Mexico are the growing areas for these commodities. The quality has been reported as being good in all the growing regions.

## **CARROTS** *Tim Kelley*

Bakersfield crop is producing good volumes of good quality carrots with good size.

## **CAULIFLOWER** *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*

This market is steady. The best availability continues to be on sixteen counts. Demand is steady, overall. Production continues mainly out of Santa Maria and Salinas. The quality has been reported as good overall with most suppliers.

## **CELERY** *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*

This market is unchanged. Small sizing, thirty-six counts in particular is demanding a higher price compared to larger sizing. Santa Maria and Salinas continue to be the main growing regions for this commodity. The quality continues to be strong with most shippers. Demand has been moderate only to start the week.

## **CITRUS** *Tim Kelley*

**Lemons:** Demand continues strong and is exceeding supply on all sizes and grades. Fruit is especially tight on 165's and larger fruit due to lack of growth because of drought conditions in California. Expect these tight supplies to get worse before they get better over the next 8 weeks.

**Oranges:** Valencia supplies are steady. Sizing continues to favor the 88's/72's/113's sizes.

# Commodity Updates continued

Demand is increasing on the smaller fruit 113's and 138's have become very tight with this increased demand brought on by school demand starting.

**Limes:** Demand continues to exceed supplies. The market is rising across the board with the larger sizes increasing more than the smaller ones. A new growing area has been producing mostly small sizes which have good quality. The overall quality of the old crop is acceptable with some yellowing and minor defects showing. Volume overall is lower due to quality caused by warmer than normal temperatures.

## **CUCUMBERS**

**Western Cucumber:** *Mike Cantu*

Market is starting to settle. California (Mex) cucumbers from Baja are becoming more plentiful. Supplies meeting demand. Supplies are available in South Texas but slightly higher FOB's.

**Eastern Cucumbers:** *Harry Sheaffer*

The cucumber market has nudged up just slightly but no big spikes are expected this week. Quality has been excellent.

## **EGGPLANT**

**Western Eggplant:** *Mike Cantu*

California is creeping up slightly as heat slowed down production slightly. Demand slightly outpacing supplies. We will see slight gaps due to transitions and weather.

**Eastern Eggplant:** *Harry Sheaffer*

Eggs are in good supply and quality.

**GRAPES:** *Amy Grolnick*

The market is strengthening but supplies are still available on red, green, blacks and globes. Sizing is running anywhere from small to Extra Large on all fruit.

**GREEN ONIONS** *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*

This market is steady. Bad weather in the growing regions of Mexico has made supplies on the light side with all suppliers. Expect supplies to be moderate to light for the entire week.

**LEAF** *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*

The romaine market is stronger. Issues of fringe burn and decay continue to be defects reported upon arrivals. Demand overall is up. Green leaf

is active and many suppliers are calling for light production all week. Pricing will climb on this commodity. Red leaf and butter are steady. Romaine hearts are softer in the market as supplies are much better. Colossal hearts continue to be on the light side. Tip and fringe burn continue to be issues that most growers are dealing daily.

**LETTUCE** *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*

This market is stronger. School business has been active and most suppliers are seeing the increased business. A few shippers have begun the week with open pricing due to light supplies. Expect pricing to be stronger by the middle of the week with most suppliers. There have been complaints sporadically upon arrivals. Pinking, rib discoloration and russet spotting are the main defects being reported. The weights on palletized are averaging 39-44 pounds.

**MELONS:** *Amy Grolnick*

**Cantaloupe:** Still good volume available due to light demand. Quality is good. Sizing for the most part is peaking to 9's and 12's with lesser availability on small fruit.

**Honeydew:** The Westside fruit is available, fruit continues to peak to large sizes. The market is steady to higher.

**ONIONS** *John Tole*

Yellow onions are steady in all areas and the demand is steady. Washington has light supplies of jumbo and medium yellows, Idaho/Oregon has mostly large yellows and will have better numbers as the week goes on, California has smaller yellows, and New Mexico has all sizes depending on the supplier. California and New Mexico will pack for the next two weeks. The red market is steady in all areas as well. California and Washington have good supplies of jumbo reds while Idaho/Oregon and New Mexico have mixer quantities. The Idaho/Oregon red numbers will increase next week as shippers start packing. Whites are steady but limited since the northwest hasn't started packing yet. The quality has been good on all colors in all areas.

**POTATOES** *John Tole*

Idaho is steady to lower on Norkotahs and most packers are peaking on 60/70/80/90's so we have a good average size. The maturity has been very good this year. The availability isn't



# Commodity Updates Continued

what it could be because of the light rain that has been falling since last week. The balance of the week is supposed to be dryer. Most packers have finished running Burbanks but a couple suppliers will pack them until the 18<sup>th</sup> approximately. Washington new-crop Norkotahs are peaking between 70's and 80's and the market is steady to lower with light demand. The new-crop quality is good, the potatoes are clean internally, and the maturity is good. A few Colorado shippers have started running new-crop Norkotahs and they are steady on all sizes. One Nebraska shipper is packing new-crop Norkotahs and they are also steady. Both Nebraska & Colorado are priced relatively high on their new-crop. Wisconsin russets are also steady and peaking on the smaller counts. Bakersfield gold potatoes are still peaking on A-size but supplies are limited. Stockton, California is steady on all colors and they are peaking on A-size for all varieties but has plenty of B-size as well. Texas is still shipping a few reds but they are almost finished for the season. Minnesota red potatoes are steady to lower and they are peaking on A-size. Minnesota will start packing gold's next week. Idaho continues to pack reds and gold's and both colors are heavy to A-size. The Idaho market is steady for both colors. Wisconsin continues to pack reds and the market is steady. Wisconsin reds are heavy to A-size.

## **SQUASH**

### **Western Squash:** *Mike Cantu*

California squash currently shipping out of Santa Maria and Fresno. Supplies are lightening up due to hot weather in Fresno. Demand also pressing and slightly lower production may push market to creep up slightly later this week especially on yellow straight neck squash. We ought to see some squash starting up again in Fresno.

### **Eastern Squash:** *Harry Sheaffer*

Michigan, Ohio and New Jersey are all working squash and the market remains steady throughout all regions. As the weather holds, no big changes are expected.

## **STONE FRUIT** *Amy Grolnick*

California stone fruit is available with a mixed bag of colors and sizing available from different shippers. Small fruit remains very limited on

nectarines. Both red and black plums and pluots remain available with excellent quality and good promotable volume.

## **TOMATOES** *Aaron Aliotti*

**Western/Mexico:** As is the norm for this time of year; Eastern Mexico continues to cross minimal volume through Texas due to lighter plantings with the west coast continuing to find their footing this week. Baja is harvesting from both their spring and summer acreage providing steady supply. Southern California is in the midst of the summer plantings. Volume will not increase from this district until the fall production begins in September. Mexico is producing lighter volume of Romas this week through Texas due to rain they experienced last week. Production is expected to remain moderate until early to mid October. With demand for Romas slowing down, expect prices to drop. Cherry tomatoes are still very limited while the grape tomato is widely available and expected to be plentiful for the next 2 weeks.

**Eastern/Tomatoes:** Round tomatoes have seen a steady hold on pricing with less available product available on all sizes due to rainy weather and disrupted harvest schedules. With product tightening this week higher prices are expected to follow as we head into the middle of the month. With scattered local programs in the east, small operations have flooded the market with a conglomerate of roma tomatoes keeping prices low for the next several weeks. Grape tomatoes are available in steady volume with cherry tomatoes harder to come by.

## **VALUE ADDED** *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*

Supplies are moderate at best on carton romaine. Fringe burn is an issue. Demand is stronger. Lettuce supplies are lighter with all shippers. Demand is being met for now with no issues. The quality problems of pinking and russet spotting will likely continue sporadically. This is industry wide. Broccoli supplies are light. Cauliflower is light to moderate. All the processor's needs are being met.

## **WATERMELON** *Mike Cantu*

Market is steady Phoenix wrapping up harvesting. Current crops are mostly packed in bins and cartons packed by request. South Texas and Mendota California are currently shipping.