

# 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.

**LETTUCE** Supplies of all head lettuce are lighter than normal. Pricing is higher than normal on **Iceberg, Romaine and Romaine Hearts**. Quality is good to fair.

**LIMES** Pricing remains higher than normal, with fair quality. For the best per-piece value, use 200 CT-sized fruit and purchase full cases where possible.

**ASPARAGUS** Cooler weather and rain in Mexico and California's growing regions have tightened supplies. Quality is good, but pricing is higher than normal. **Pencil and Standard sizes** are the best value.

**STRAWBERRIES** Heavy rains in California's growing regions have severely impacted supplies. Quality is expected to be poor on what little product is available, and pricing may be higher in certain markets.

**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.

**AVOCADOS** Pricing may be slightly higher than normal through Easter, due to the Mexican harvest slowdown during the holiday week.

## A Peek at Peak Seasons

**Squash:** Yellow and Zucchini Squash are in very good supply, with great pricing and quality reported.

**Eggplant:** The early spring harvest in the East is yielding great quality product.

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

**Kale:** Quality in all growing regions is excellent, with dark green color and full bunches.

**Spring Pears:** D'Anjou, Red and Bosc Pears are in good supply out of Washington, with very good quality reported.

**French Beans:** Just in time for Easter menus, quality is excellent on both bulk and trimmed French Beans

**Blackberries:** The Mexican crop is at peak harvest.

## Weather Update







**California Yuma, AZ:** The very wet, cold weather continues throughout the week, especially in the Central and Southern regions.

**Mexico:** Temperatures warm to slightly above average, with mostly dry conditions, throughout most of the country.

**Florida:** Seasonal temperatures and mostly dry conditions expected in 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 on Romaine. Green Leaf is the best value.
 ASPARAGUS	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 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 and pricing are good	 MELON (WATERMELON)	Quality and pricing are good
 BERRIES (BLUEBERRIES)	Quality and pricing are good	 EGGPLANT	Quality and pricing are good	 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 poor; pricing may be higher.	 GRAPES (GREEN)	Quality and pricing are good	 PINEAPPLES	Quality and pricing are good
 BROCCOLI	Quality and pricing are good	 GRAPES (RED)	Quality and pricing are good	 POTATOES	Quality and pricing are good
 BRUSSELS SPROUTS	Quality is good, pricing is 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 and pricing are good
 CAULIFLOWER	Quality is good, pricing is higher	 LETTUCE ICEBERG	Quality is fair; pricing is higher; pre-cut product is the best value	 TOMATOES	Quality and pricing are good

