



THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW:

COMMODITY ALERT:

Heat wave to hit California growing areas which will affect Quality and supplies of most items being harvest

Domestic melons started

Offshore green grapes done for the season. Mexican and Domestic grapes available

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



The Source

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Weather – Heat wave in the west *Tim Lynch*

A strong high pressure ridge out west will bring very hot (possible record high) temperatures to California this week. Inland temperatures in the 90s today will warm to triple digits with coastal temperatures near 80 today also expected to reach the 90s by mid-week. Temperatures begin to moderate late this week with a cooling trend into the weekend. California will also see moderate winds (20-30mph) over the next couple days as we continue the roller coaster between high and low pressure systems typical of spring.



Freight: *Mike McIntire*

Trucks in California are steady with rates higher than normal for this time of year. Trucks in Washington and Idaho remain steady. The national average on diesel fuel remained steady last week at 3.964 per gallon and should trend steady when they come out later today. Crude oil continues to be near 100.00 per barrel and is now 100.67 per barrel.



Commodity Updates

APPLES/PEARS *John Tole*

The later New York shippers continue to pack light volume of McIntosh, Red Delicious, Empires, and Red Rome's. The markets for all are steady on all sizes but the availability for 100's and larger are good while 113's and smaller are extremely short. The New York shippers will pack for approximately another four weeks or so. Washington Red delicious continues to peak on 100's and larger while 113's and smaller remain short. Most Washington shippers have to sub up to the Washington-Extra Fancy grades to cover any volume in the smaller sizes. Washington Golden Delicious remains fairly steady and is still evenly spread across the size-spectrum. Granny-Smith apples are steady on 100's and larger but the market remains strong. There is still good availability in 113 and smaller Granny-smith. The Washington Gala market is strong as the end of the storage season approaches. Galas are still peaking on 88/100's. The Fuji market is strong along with demand as the end of the season approaches for them as well. Most Washington Fuji's shippers are still peaking on 80-size and larger, but the demand for the larger sizes has been very strong. Washington D'Anjou pears are still peaking on 80/90's while 110's and smaller are limited. Expect the small D'Anjou's to remain short through the remainder of the storage season. There are a few Red Pears still available but supplies are light.

ASPARAGUS *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*

This market has remained firm with all suppliers. Mexico has had heavy rains in their growing region. This has put pressure on the California production. Although the Mother's day pull is over, supplies will be light the entire week. Jumbo sizing continues to be the most difficult to come by. The availability will be light for the rest of the week. Demand exceeds supply. The quality overall is good in all the growing regions.

AVOCADO *Tim Kelley*

Mexico's supplies continue to be steady, and still represent 60% of the fruit in the US. We do expect Mexico's supplies drop greatly by the end of the month as their main crop starts to

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)	Fair	Higher
Berries: Strawberries	Fair	Higher
Berries: Raspberries	Fair	Steady
Berries: Blackberries	Fair	Higher
Berries: Blueberries	Good	Lower
Broccoli	Good	Higher
Carrots	Good	Steady
Cauliflower	Fair	Higher
Celery	Fair	Steady
Citrus: Lemons	Good	Higher
Citrus: Oranges	Good	Steady
Cucumbers (Western)	Good	Higher
Cucumbers (Eastern)	Good	Higher
Eggplant (Western)	Good	Steady
Eggplant (Eastern)	Good	Steady
Grapes, Green	Good	Steady
Grapes, Red	Good	Less
Green Onions	Good	Steady
Lettuce: Leaf	Fair	Higher
Lettuce: Iceberg	Fair	Higher
Melons: Cantaloupe	Good	Lower
Melons: Honeydew	Good	Higher
Onions	Good	Steady
Pears	Good	Steady
Potatoes	Fair	Steady
Squash (Western)	Good	Higher
Squash (Eastern)	Good	Steady
Stone Fruit	Excellent	Lower
Tomatoes (Western)	Good	Steady
Tomatoes (Eastern)	Good	Steady
Watermelon	Good	Higher

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finish up. Quality and flavor are very good. California growers are harvesting in earnest. The fruit is very good, with high maturity levels. Size currently peaking on 48's and 60's.

BELL PEPPERS

Western Bells: *Mike Cantu*

Green bell market is steady and is still demand exceeds on larger fruit off grade and smaller fruit is settling. Crops are currently shipping mostly from Sonora. Demand is outpacing supplies. We are looking at some growers wrapping up or close to wrapping up in production sooner than seasonably customary. Volume indications are we are approaching the wrap up of green bells from Mexico. Southern California is has started but is mostly producing large fruit. Open field colored Red bell market is steady but high FOBS but, some ranches are experiencing some minor gapping and/ or wrapping up. Markets are steady as both Hot House and open field color bells are trying to find their spot. Quality is good in both open field and hothouse colored bells. We do however see this market continuing light for the next couple of weeks and will be in demand exceeds for the remainder of the Nogales season. Gold bells markets continue steady availability depends on growing district. Demand exceeds as Mexican production has started in earnest. We are starting to see some hot house product crossing but still light.

Eastern Bells: *Harry Sheaffer*

Green Bells have become short as south Florida has all but finished and Plant city is very light. Could remain this way until Georgia starts late the first week June.

BERRIES *Jonathan Mule'*

Strawberries: Heat wave to hi the California growing areas slowly starting today with Tuesday and Wednesday being the hottest days. This will hurt the quality and supplies of the strawberries. The Memorial Day pull start this week which should make things interesting. Look for the market to get very active. Quality is good with a few fair lots the start of this week but look for the quality to get worse as this week moves on. Bruising, soft fruit and sunburn will be the main issues.

Raspberries: Supplies are increase as each week moves on which has this market

adjusting downward. We could see supplies tighten up with this heat late this week. Quality is currently good.

Blackberries: Blackberry market is really active due to weather in the main growing area which is Mexico. California supplies have started but will not be up to speed till the middle of next month. Quality is fair with few good lots being shipped.

Blueberries: Blueberry market is coming off on both coasts as supplies are building. Quality is good.

BROCCOLI *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*

This market is stronger with most suppliers on bunched product as well as crowns. Bunched product continues to be more difficult to purchase in comparison to crowns. Supplies are expected to be light to moderate throughout the week. Harvesting continues to be out of Salinas and Santa Maria. Mexico has light production as well.

CARROTS *Tim Kelley*

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

CAULIFLOWER *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*

Demand exceeds supply on this commodity. This will continue throughout the week with all shippers. Santa Maria and Salinas continue to be the main growing regions at this time. Yellowing and brown spotting have been issues, although the quality is reported as better than the previous week. Flexibility is important. Some shippers are having to substitute sizing to fill orders so please be aware.

CELERY *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*

This market has remained unchanged. Inventories are stronger on 24s and 30s. Smaller sizing has firmed up with most suppliers. Oxnard continues to be the main area of production on this commodity. Santa Maria production has picked up compared to last week. Seeder is still an issue the growers are dealing with.

CITRUS *Tim Kelley*

Lemons: Central Valley supplies will be declining over the next couple of weeks as they

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near the end of their production. The Ventura crop is now in full production. Demand continues very good for lemons is keeping the 140's and smaller very tight.

Oranges: Navels are projected to through May, but most of these late Navels will be the larger sizes (72's/56's/88's) and demand continues to exceed their supplies on 88's and smaller. There are limited, but increasing volumes available on the Valencia oranges as more shippers beginning to pack Valencia's over the next couple of weeks. We are seeing some re-greening of the fruit with the warmer weather in the growing areas. Current pack outs on Val's shows peaking on 113's and 88's.

Limes: Supplies are getting better; demand has eased off, as market prices lower. Supplies still mostly the small sizes of 200's/230's/250's/275's.

CUCUMBERS

Western Cucumber: *Mike Cantu*

Market is higher. Markets are unsettled due to as demand is outpacing supplies. Some growers are close to wrapping up for season.

Eastern Cucumbers: *Harry Sheaffer*

Expect the market to increase with good quality.

EGGPLANT

Western Eggplant: *Mike Cantu*

Market is expected Steady. Current supplies are adequate for demand. Quality is good. Warm weather may accelerate the wrapping up of the current crops.

Eastern Eggplant: *Harry Sheaffer*

Eggs are in better supply and quality.

GRAPES: *Amy Grolnick*

Chilean red grapes are still available on both coasts. Chilean green have finished for the season. Coachella has more suppliers jumping in this week with Flames and Sugar ones. Nogales is continuing with Flames and Perlettes. All new crop fruit is very good quality.

GREEN ONIONS *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*

This market is flat and availability is plentiful. The rains in Mexico have not affected the production of this crop in any way. Good supplies are expected throughout this week.

Demand continues to be minimal. Supplies will be strong through this week minimum.

LEAF LETTUCE *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*
Romaine is extremely active with all suppliers. Expect this market to increase daily. Tip and fringe burn is being seen with many suppliers as temperatures in the Salinas valley this week will be in the 90's most of the week. Green and red leaf as well as butter is stronger with all shippers. Salinas and Santa Maria are the main growing regions on these commodities.

LETTUCE *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*

Supplies are light to moderate to start the week. A few suppliers are open to begin the week as production numbers have decreased. Strong heats in the growing regions will be a large factor as to how this commodity will fair in the marketplace. Pinking, ribbing and discoloration has been issues reported upon arrivals. Expect pricing to increase by the middle of the week as demand is likely to increase.

MELONS: *Amy Grolnick*

Cantaloupe: Offshore west coast fruit will clean up this week. We have Brawley and Nogales available with new crop fruit. Offshore Florida cantaloupe will be available through next week.

Honeydew: Offshore west coast fruit is very limited and will clean up this week. All areas have tightened up on availability after the holiday weekend. Nogales should have better supplies toward the end of the week.

ONIONS *John Tole*

Washington is still packing light volume yellows and reds, mostly jumbos for both colors. Texas is steady on all sizes of yellows. Some shippers are beginning to transition north to the Winter-garden district. California is steady on all sizes of yellows as well. The availability of medium yellows out west is light while supplies of jumbos and larger are good. Reds are steady to lower in both Texas and California. California has good supplies of jumbo reds available but is more limited on mediums. Whites are steady in both California and Texas

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with good supplies available. The quality has been good on all colors in both areas.

POTATOES *John Tole*

Idaho remains steady and strong on 80's and larger while 90-count and smaller is fairly steady. The smaller Burbanks and lower pack-out percentages are still making it difficult to get any volume on the larger counts. 90-count and smaller are available in good numbers along with number-two's, and most shippers will deal for volume. The Washington market is slightly higher on all sizes. Most Washington suppliers are peaking on 80's and larger. Colorado is higher on 80-count and larger and steady to slightly higher on 90-count and smaller. Most of the Colorado shippers have limited availability on the larger counts due to strong demand. Wisconsin is higher and strong on all sizes of russets as they approach the end of the storage deal. Western Washington is essentially finished with all colors. Bakersfield reds remain large while the gold's and whites are yielding more B-size. The California markets are steady on all colors. Southern Florida will pack for a couple more weeks but supplies are limited. The Florida reds and Whites are peaking on A-size while the Gold's are heavier to B-size. Florida A reds and gold's are steady. Northern Florida has started packing red potatoes and they are peaking on A-size. Arizona Red and gold are steady and both are heavy to A-size.

SQUASH

Western Squash: *Mike Cantu*

Market is definitely up on Italian and yellow s/n. East coast demand has pressed markets up. Most production is from southern Sonora and northern Sinaloa. Demand is currently outpacing supplies for now.

Eastern Squash: *Harry Sheaffer*

Squash has started in the Georgia area but most volume remains in plant city area quality is good.

STONE FRUIT *Amy Grolnick*

California stone fruit is going strong. Both yellow and white, peaches and nectarines are available with excellent quality and good sugars. Apricots are also available with good quality. Cherries are available but still limited

and should remain that way for the season. Plums are started up in a light way and in the hands of very few shippers.

TOMATOES *Aaron Aliotti*

Western/Mexico: Mexico has rounds at mandated minimums trying to compete with new harvests out of Florida competitively priced, undercutting what can be imported. Mexico is beginning to clear inventory and should begin harvests in new regions next week. Romas are consistently available in abundance at price floor and the outlook is the situation will remain this way through May. The supplies of cherry and grape tomatoes in Mexico are hit and miss, depending on what each shipper receives on a given day. In general, cherry tomatoes have become almost exclusively a Florida operation, as quality and availability out of Mexico is too sporadic to set a procurement schedule around. Similarly, grapes out of Nogales are also winding down very quickly, with some shippers reporting being done for the season.

Eastern Tomatoes: Rounds are plentiful in Florida. Slow demand and a shortage of trucks to load product has hurt movement. The market is stable but very high freight rates from Florida have added to cost. Recent rains have set back picking schedules but quality is reported as very good. There are plenty of Romas available and quality is mixed. The market remains stable with Mexico controlling price. Grape and Cherry tomato production is in full swing and pricing is stable. Quality is good but rain has hit some growing areas this week and may affect production next week.

VALUE ADDED *Gabe Romero/Mike Pacheco*

Supplies on lettuce have tightened up but the processors needs are being met. Cauliflower will be light in availability for the entire week and averages are going to be watched closely by all processors. Broccoli supplies are tightening up, but processors have been able to keep up with demand. Romaine supplies will be light throughout the week.

WATERMELON *Mike Cantu*

Market is higher. We do foresee markets going higher soon as some growers are figuring production may lighten up as some crops are

Commodity Updates Continued

ahead of schedule due to earlier warm weather. Holiday commitments are also contributing to lighter supplies. Current Nogales crossings are steady. The spring crop will be mostly packed in bins and cartons will become lighter in supplies.

