



**MIDWEST
FOODS**

Weekly Updates

November 17th, 2023

All items are subject to availability.

FEATURED NEW & RETAIL READY

Description		Item Number
Apples Green Dragon 36-40ct	FEATURED ITEM	MWF-1586
Apples Hidden Rose 20-22ct	FEATURED ITEM	MWF-8059
Apples Sugar Bee 88ct 40#	FEATURED ITEM	MWF-3179
Apples Lucy Rose (Red outside & Red flesh inside) 60ct	FEATURED ITEM	MWF-3178
Cranberries 24-12 oz WI	FEATURED LOCAL	MWF-1491
Persimmon Fuyu 14-16ct	FEATURED ITEM	01-12031
Pomegranate 32ct 2 Layer	FEATURED ITEM	MWF-1067



MARKET ALERTS

There is an industry-wide shortage on **blackberries**. Cooler temperatures in California have lead to decreased availability. Adverse weather in the Central Mexico region has also impacted quality and diminished supply. Blackberries will continue to be scarce and pricing will be elevated.

GRAB-N-GO



**MIDWEST
Kitchens**

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MARKET REPORT

Apples All major varieties of the new crop are now being packed. Apple production in Washington state increased by over 28% from last year. Michigan's apple crop is only slightly down from last year's record crop. The release date of Cosmic Crisp has been moved up to November 20.

Asparagus As fields in southern Baja transition and newer growing areas in Sonora start, Mexican asparagus production is reducing. Because of storms and erratic weather patterns this year, the seasonality of these fields has been shifted to later, creating sudden flushes but not overall tonnage increases. The past hurricane affected growing areas in northern Sinaloa and southern Sonora, causing more product to be harvested at once than planned. Quality has been OK, not great due to seeding and dehydration, but with the weather cooling, quality and yields should improve. The southern growing areas of Peru continue to produce asparagus, but some fields, like those in Ica and Chincha, have already closed for the year. It is expected that the weather in Peru will only get hotter in the coming days and weeks and this may affect the production of asparagus in December and January. The northern fields are mostly ready and had been predicted to be harvested by late November, but now this could be pushed back to early December.

Avocados There are no triggers in effect: markets are steady at slightly lower levels. Adventajada is the main crop, with a little Flora Loca fruit in the mix. There are about a week left before Flora Loca crops are no longer available. In Adventajada, there is a higher percentage of #2 grade fruit available in all sizes.

Bell Peppers Crops are transitioning further south, resulting in a moderate supply. The East is moving from GA to FL, while the West will primarily depend on Coachella for supply since Nogales is a 7-10 day late start.

Berries (Blackberries) As with Mexican strawberries, blackberries have been affected by adverse weather conditions produced by recent El Nino and hurricane events. Rains and high humidity have caused much of production to be thrown away.

Berries (Blueberries) Container arrivals at the ports are causing markets to slowly ease off. As of now, shippers have not rescinded their AOG enactments, and there is still a shortage of the product. Despite inclement weather, Mexican production is expected to ramp up moderately over the next few weeks. Chilean products have been arriving via air containers in limited numbers. It is expected that Mexican production will begin to ramp up moderately over the next few weeks as the weather improves.

Berries (Raspberries) There are good numbers of fruits entering the US through San Diego and going into Santa Maria and Oxnard for distribution. Crossing in from Central Mexico, McAllen Texas has decent supplies.

Berries (Strawberries) Central Mexico has been crossing light numbers due to quality issues. We should see numbers slowly build out of this area over the next several weeks. Salinas and Watsonville are done for the season with some shippers still bringing in very small amounts of fruit. There are only a few defects reported, including small sizing and bruising. Santa Maria has experienced lower yields and smaller sizing during the late season. Oxnard reports steady numbers but lighter numbers due to cooler winter temperatures and shorter daylight hours. Florida is just beginning to scratch the surface of its first offerings, with good quality and good sizing reported out of this area. In December, we should see an increase in numbers from this area, weather permitting.

Brussels Sprouts There continues to be a slight improvement in Brussels sprout supply. Salinas and Oxnard's size and production are improving. We expect this market to decline slightly next week.

Carrots There is a higher demand for California carrots due to the lack of size in all other growing regions. Shippers continue to monitor numbers. Lancaster's summer season continues. The season will last until the end of November/early December. In Bakersfield, we will then begin the Fall season at the end of February.

Cauliflower As the Salinas season draws to a close, cauliflower supplies are tightening. As we move into next week, we can expect the market to continue to rise. The quality is okay, showing some yellow discoloration and mildew.

Celery Salinas has finished production, and Yuma won't start until late December. As a result, Santa Maria/Oxnard is being asked to meet the holiday demand. Harvesting is very limited on the east coast. The market will remain active throughout the week. The largest sizes continue to be the most readily available. Markets are escalating. Overall, quality continues to be above average.

Citrus (Lemons) Right now, District 3 (California desert/Arizona) is the main growing region. It has been a very light start for District 1 (Central Valley). The markets are steady. There will be some relief when District 1 ramps up, bringing more fruit to market.

Citrus (Limes) Market conditions have weakened and demand is light. There is still a shortage of big fruit compared to smaller sizes. The Martinez, VC supply should be sufficient to meet demand until mid-December, then it will start to dwindle again and be tight again from January through April.

Citrus (Oranges) Valencias are finished; navels are the most common variety. There will be severe shortages on all sizes for the next 7-10 days due to low brix levels preventing shippers from harvesting full force. The current gas times are 72-96 hours (3-4 days); the current brix is 10-11. Recently, colder nighttime temperatures have begun, reducing gassing times and increasing Brix. In the coming weeks, availability will improve.

Cucumbers There is a gap in eastern supply between GA and FL, FL will go through mid-Dec, and then Honduran imports will begin. The supply out of Sinaloa is light after Hurricane Norma, quality is fair, and better supplies are expected in about two weeks.

Eggplant As MX supplies increase, prices have softened. FL volume is increasing as GA declines, Fresno

MARKET REPORT

and Coachella will experience the first frost as Nogales supplies increase-good quality in Nogales.

Garlic Throughout the week, California's production is expected to remain steady. Quality has been reported to be good.

Grapes (Green) California grapes recovered better than expected from tropical storm Hillary. It is expected that many growers will continue to ship through the end of November. There is a greater supply of green seedless than red seedless. Within the next couple of weeks, domestic red globes will be finished. Peruvian and Brazilian imports have already begun. Now there are more greens than reds, but red seedless volume will increase in December. For the next 6-8 weeks, this market is expected to remain elevated. Imports from Chile will begin in mid- to late-January.

Grapes (Red) California grapes recovered better than expected from tropical storm Hillary. It is expected that many growers will continue to ship through the end of November. There is a greater supply of green seedless than red seedless. Within the next couple of weeks, domestic red globes will be finished. Peruvian and Brazilian imports have already begun. Now there are more greens than reds, but red seedless volume will increase in December. For the next 6-8 weeks, this market is expected to remain elevated. Imports from Chile will begin in mid- to late-January.

Green Onions There is a good supply of green onions and the market remains steady. The market will have good supplies as the week progresses.

Kale The kale supply and quality are good heading into the weekend. Now is a good opportunity to promote kale!

Lettuce (Iceberg) The production in Yuma is stronger. Since Salinas has very little left and Huron has finished, this commodity is less available than in past weeks. Yuma's new crop is clean, but weights typically range from thirty-four to thirty-nine pounds. Throughout the week, the market is expected to be stronger. On Wednesday of this week, value-added items will escalate. The contracts are already escalated.

Lettuce Leaf Unlike other major row crops, romaine and green and red leaf have not been affected by the holiday pull. On average, most shippers are steady with their supplies despite some increases in pricing. The demand is fair. Huron is almost done with production, and Salinas is almost finished. Southern California has limited supplies. Apart from a few shippers, there is an ample supply of romaine hearts. Yuma's overall quality has been reported to be good, with only minor fringe burn and insect damage.

Lettuce Tender Leaf Yuma's spinach and arugula supplies are looking good. Overall, Yuma's product has a great texture, size, and color.

Melons (Cantaloupe) The offshore product is now available in Florida. Brix levels are 12-17, which is a great quality product. There are a limited number of 15s available, but other sizes are also available. There is a limited supply of domestic fruit, but it is available with a lead time. There is a limited supply of 15s, but they can be ordered with a lead time. Mexican fruit is readily available, and suppliers are interested in making deals. 9s and 12s are peaking.

Melons (Honeydew) The offshore product is now available in Florida. The product has great quality, with Brix levels of 12-17. Domestic fruit is very limited, but it is available with a lead time. Suppliers are eager to make deals with Mexican fruit, which is readily available. All sizes are peaking.

Melons (Watermelon) Mexican watermelons are in good supply with shippers looking for deals. Containers or bins can be used to ship watermelons.

Mushrooms The holiday demand is putting a strain on available supplies.

Onions The Northwest has excellent availability and quality. The holiday demand is putting upward pressure on pricing. Lack of transportation is slowing movements.

Pears California Pears will be finished by the end of the month. Washington Anjou is running large. After the holidays, foodservice sizes will be tight. Washington Bosc is running small. Foodservice sizes will be readily available.

Pineapples Due to storms in the tropics and delays at the port of Caldera, pineapple supplies remain scarce. Due to excess storms, supplies are usually tight during this time of year. All sizes are affected, especially 7ct crowned. There are quality issues with Mexican pines, but they should be available by the end of the month.

Potatoes The market is elevated on 40 and 50 CT. High holiday demand keeps small potatoes firm. There is excellent availability on 60 - 90 CT. Movements are slowed by a lack of transportation.

Squash The markets have been depressed for several weeks with a few growers leaving fields in GA and Sonora, coupled with cooler weather and transitions. By early December, FL will begin planting new crops and MX will start pulling from Sinaloa.

Stone Fruit Plums are the last domestic stone fruit still being shipped. Black plums will be shipped through the end of November. Domestic pomegranates and persimmons are in full production. Persimmons will ship until mid-December. Pomegranates will ship into January. There is a good supply of California Kiwis. Slowly, the market is easing off its record highs from October. The domestic Kiwi will ship through March. Chilean Kiwi will begin in April.

Tomatoes Markets are strong for all varieties, especially grapes. California/Quincy are finished, Ruskin/Palmetto region has started light but volume will pick up next week, and MX supply is limited from Baja/Eastern MX. Until early January, expect an active market.

ProAct The Source NOVEMBER 17, 2023

WEATHER FORECAST

Arizona Dry through Wednesday, with warm mornings and cooler afternoons. Model guidance shows moisture stream in low deserts, sporadic showers, and a chance of rain on Saturday.

California On Monday, lows persist with cool afternoon highs, with gusty southerly winds and a slight chance of rain through Tuesday, followed by light to moderate rain through Friday.

Florida Midweek showers and t-storms are expected, with gusty easterly winds and heavy flooding. North Florida expects high temperatures in the upper 60s to mid-70s.

Mexico Over the next five days, temperatures are expected to be mostly dry, with seasonal variations and low frost concerns.

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