



**MIDWEST
FOODS**

Weekly Updates

February 9th, 2024

All items are subject to availability.

FEATURED NEW & RETAIL READY

Description		Item Number
Apples Lucy Glo (Yellow tint outside & Red flesh inside)	FEATURED ITEM	MWF-3177
Apples Lucy Rose (Red outside & Red flesh inside) 70ct	FEATURED ITEM	MWF-3178
Melons Dino 5ct Case	FEATURED ITEM	01-12000
Oranges Blood Moro 20# Case	FEATURED ITEM	16100
Oranges Cara Cara 88ct	FEATURED ITEM	16001
Oranges Clementines 5#	FEATURED ITEM	16300
Oranges Mandarin SUMO 18ct 10# Case	FEATURED ITEM	MWF-1663
Oranges Satsuma Mandarin 25# Stem & Leaf	FEATURED ITEM	01-11004
Oranges Tangelo Minneola 100ct Case	FEATURED ITEM	MWF-1327



MARKET ALERTS

Arugula and other tender leaf items have been impacted by freezing temperatures and rain in California Central Valley and Arizona growing region. Supplies on arugula will continue to be extremely limited for the next few weeks. **Strawberries and raspberries** will be limited supply due to rain and flooding in California and Mexico.

GRAB-N-GO



**MIDWEST
Kitchens**

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MARKET REPORT

Apples There is a good supply of most varieties and sizes. As some of the cheapest deals are beginning to clean up, the overall market is slightly higher.

Asparagus This week's volume increased considerably out of Caborca with temperatures in the 80 degree range, which is near ideal for asparagus growing. Barring adverse weather conditions, supplies should remain good going forward.

Avocados There are no triggers in effect: markets are steady. The main crop is adventajada. The 48ct and smaller markets are on the rise. Due to higher dry matter, ripening times are shortening.

Bell Peppers As a result of past bad weather in Florida, blooms will decline in February, resulting in low supplies. As a result, demand has moved to Nogales and prices are much higher this week due to strong overall demand. Colored pepper prices are easing as supplies increase, quality is good but greening is still fairly common.

Berries (Blackberries) We've been experiencing some issues with late transfer trucks from Baja and Central Mexico. During Mexican Constitution Day, which was observed on Monday, the border was closed early. Due to the very nice weather in the CMEX region, volume is expected to increase. The Baja product is still recovering from recent rains.

Berries (Blueberries) The production in Chile and Central Mexico continues to be steady. Over the next few weeks, CMEX numbers are expected to increase. Next week, we should see a downward trend in open market pricing.

Berries (Raspberries) Because of the Mexican Holiday on Monday, most raspberries are coming in from Central Mexico. Weather permitting, production will gradually increase next week as a result of recent rain events.

Berries (Strawberries) There is less product available due to disruptions at the border caused by the Mexican Constitution Day holiday on Monday. By the end of this week, the situation should slowly improve. The California shortages have created a severe demand exceeds supply situation for CMEX fruit. As a result of all the recent rain events, California's production has suffered greatly. Demand exceeds supply in the market. Customers are being asked to shift as much business as possible to Texas and Florida by shippers. As a result of sporadic rain events and cooler temperatures, production has been hampered. There is also a demand-exceeds-supply market for Valentine's Day due to increased demand. As the week progresses, growers anticipate an increase in production. There is a forecast for more stable weather.

Brussels Sprouts Brussels sprouts are in very good supply. The size and production of Mexico and Oxnard have grown. This market is expected to remain steady next week.

Cauliflower The cauliflower supply in Yuma is very good this week. There are also good supplies coming out of Santa Maria. Going into next week, the market should remain steady.

Celery Throughout the week, supplies are expected to be moderate. All suppliers will experience production delays due to heavy rains in the Oxnard/Santa Maria region. Yuma's production will be light. The demand for all sizes continues to be low, and all sizes are available. Flexing continues with a few shippers so please promote. Despite the high winds and rain in the growing regions, quality has remained above average.

Citrus (Lemons) Currently, all three districts are shipping, with peak sizes of 140/165ct. The market is steady. District 3 is nearly finished; only a few scraps remain. 165ct and smaller fruit are expected to tighten as District 3 nears its end, making District 1 the main growing region with larger fruit.

Citrus (Limes) The market is fairly steady. US crossings through McAllen TX are good. Manifests peak on large fruit 110/150ct, and core sizes 200/230s are more limited. As February approaches, the manifest will shift to smaller sizes and larger fruit will become more limited.

Citrus (Oranges) The peak is currently at 72ct and larger; 88/113/138ct are extremely scarce and will remain so throughout the navel season. Due to low fruit set and rain events, fruit will continue to grow larger as the season progresses. While we navigate our way through this shorter Navel season, please be flexible with sizes and grades. The lead time is very important; please send orders at least 5-7 days in advance. The quality is good; Brix is between 12 and 14. At this time, there is no gassing.

Cucumbers The eastern fruit supply remains light; offshore fruit quality is hit or miss. The market has softened a bit as a result of better availability in Nogales. FL will remain light until spring crops begin in March. Quality is good out of Mexico.

Eggplant Supplies are steady at lighter levels. The weather has improved in Nogales, resulting in a marginal increase in volume. Nogales has better quality.

Garlic Overall, garlic supplies are slightly tight. The last few months have seen a good harvest of Argentinian garlic in South America. However, it is estimated that it won't be enough to fill the overall supply gap. The garlic market will become tighter and more volatile over the next few months.

Grapes (Green) Imported grapes remain tight. Vessels are continuing to experience arrival delays due to a bottleneck at the Panama canal for east coast arrivals, or heavy seas for west coast arrivals. Wildfires in Chile have not interrupted grape harvest but may eventually slow down loading vessels at the ports.

MARKET REPORT

Grapes (Red) Imported grapes remain tight. Vessels are continuing to experience arrival delays due to a bottleneck at the Panama canal for east coast arrivals, or heavy seas for west coast arrivals. Wildfires in Chile have not interrupted grape harvest but may eventually slow down loading vessels at the ports.

Green Onions As we begin this week, supplies remain very limited. Harvesters are still trying to catch up in the fields due to this week's rain. As Mexico's weather improves, supplies should improve this week.

Kale Supplies are steady this week. Despite the recent freeze and rain, quality is good.

Lettuce (Iceberg) The Yuma region has been experiencing rain and winds, but supplies are moderate with some shippers seeking new business. Shippers are flexing. Overall, business is low. Upon arrival, blisters and peels have been reported as well as discoloration. It is a direct result of the weather. The outer leaves on liner lettuce will likely be damaged, but if you peel them off and put them between two wrapper leaves, the head of lettuce should be fine. The outer leaves acts as a protection for the head. Throughout the week, supplies appear to be moderate. All orders should be filled to its entirety.

Lettuce Leaf This week, you can expect steady availability of romaine, greens, and reds. Multiple shippers are reporting good availability of romaine hearts as well so promote as much as possible. Shippers are flexing. Discoloration, blisters, and epidermal peeling are common defects caused by weather conditions. Please be aware that this is an industry-wide issue. The weights continue to be good, however peeling back the outer leaves is suggested. In Yuma, rain will cause loading delays.

Lettuce Tender Leaf As a result of yellowing and poor quality, spinach and arugula are in short supply. This week, supplies are expected to remain tight. Suppliers hope next week will be better for supplies.

Melons (Cantaloupe) Demand is expected to drop the rest of the month as supply meets demand. In Guatemala and Honduras, weather delays have resulted in lower yields, but fields are improving, increasing supply. Cantaloupes peak at 9s and Jumbo 9s. With a higher shell color, both external and internal quality characteristics remain good to great. Occasional bruising and soft fruit. The Brix level is between 12-14%.

Melons (Honeydew) For the remainder of the month, supply is expected to meet demand.

Yields have been lowered in Guatemala and Honduras due to weather delays. Heavy impact on honeydews. This week, Nogales has better sizes and availability. Sizing from Guatemala is expected to peak on 5s for the remainder of the month. The quality has been fair, with some bruising, spotting, and discoloration.

Mushrooms Supply and availability are excellent.

Onions There is a limited supply of white onions. The yellow and red markets are escalating.

Pears The season for Bartlett pears is winding down in Washington, but they are still available.

Anjou are running large and smaller foodservice sizes are becoming scarce. The market is steady, and bosc are in good supply.

Pineapples Growers are fulfilling their contracts and supply meets demand. 6ct crowned pineapples have been in tight supply and being able to sub will ensure product. In Costa Rica, weather delays have resulted in an inverted sizing curve. The fields are producing smaller fruit. Limited pink pineapples available during Valentine's Day. There is a low supply of pineapples in Mexico and the fields are producing lower yields due to the weather.

Potatoes There is excellent availability of all sizes. There are Burbanks and Norkotahs available. Burbanks demand a premium from Norkotahs. The item with the least availability is the 40 CT burbank.

Squash Prices are slightly lower but still elevated. As spring crops get started, FL production will remain limited through March. Due to favorable weather conditions over the last few days, Mexico volume saw a nice boost, especially in zucchini. Quality is fair, but improving.

Stone Fruit Imported plums have started. A small volume of imported peaches and nectarines is now arriving on both coasts. Domestic pomegranates and persimmons are done for the season. The domestic Kiwi market is steady and expected to remain so into February.

Tomatoes The markets are trending downward, especially for Romas. Availability out of Nogales has also improved, resulting in lower rounds. The price of grape tomatoes has also dropped a bit, but supplies remain fairly limited. Weather permitting, supplies should improve in Nogales.

ProAct The Source FEBRUARY 9, 2024

WEATHER FORECAST

Arizona A wet low pressure system is affecting low deserts, increasing shower coverage. Yuma's rain is expected to return this evening, while central Arizona is expected to experience scattered moderate-heavy showers.

California Rain tapers off early, followed by light to moderate showers. Totals expected to be under 12 inches in Ventura/LA and 34"-114" in Orange/SD counties.

Florida The next five days in Northern Florida will be mostly dry, with isolated showers on Sunday. Wed/Thu mornings will be cool with light frost.

Mexico Morning frost was patchy, with warmer daytime temperatures and milder mornings expected. **Over the**

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