



Fresh News

Market Alert

Asparagus	Honeydew
Brussel	Oranges
Sprouts	Pineapple
Carrots	Strawberries
Grapes	

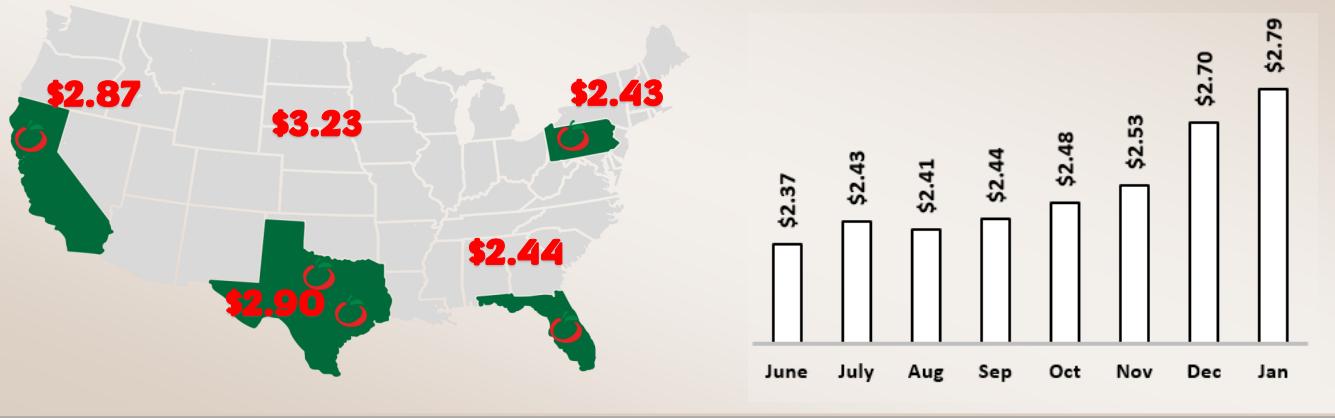
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foodservice solution





National Reefer Rate per Mile (Last Week per DAT)

Trend



Weather Alerts

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
YUMA WEATHER	70°F clear sky	70°F 54°F	72°F 50°F	73°F 52°F	77°F 55°F	77°F 54°F	79°F 57°F 79°F 62°F
HOMESTEAD WEATHER	79°F broken clouds	84°F 64°F	72°F 55°F	72°F 52°F	70°F 48°F	66°F 58°F	64°F 52°F 52°F 36°F
CULIACÁN WEATHER	82°F broken clouds	82°F 55°F	82°F 59°F	82°F 59°F	86°F 63°F	88°F 64°F	86°F 64°F 75°F 66°F
YAKIMA WEATHER	36°F scattered clouds	36°F 21°F	39°F 21°F	41°F 32°F	43°F 37°F	45°F 39°F	50°F 39°F 48°F 39°F
MCALLEN WEATHER	52°F clear sky	52°F 28°F	63°F 34°F	68°F 54°F	70°F 57°F	64°F 54°F	63°F 43°F 59°F 59°F

Tomatoes

Domestic

This week, the volumes of Florida round tomatoes are sufficient, despite some growers encountering minor frost damage. The cool weather has not adversely affected the crops of growers; however, it has resulted in a deceleration of both production and maturation processes. Currently, we are predominantly utilizing crown picks, and the quality of the fruit is quite commendable. The size profile has experienced a slight reduction compared to recent weeks; however, a diverse assortment of sizes remains accessible. Given the forecast of cooler temperatures over the upcoming week, it is plausible that production levels may remain subdued. Previous instances of low temperatures have resulted in a certain degree of bloom drop, an effect that is expected to manifest as diminished volumes in approximately six weeks. This week, the supply of Roma tomatoes from Florida is sufficient, despite some growers encountering minor frost damage. The cool weather has not adversely affected the crops of growers; however, it has resulted in a deceleration of both production and maturity rates. Currently, we are primarily utilizing crown picks, and the quality of the fruit is quite impressive. Given the forecast of cooler temperatures for the upcoming week, it is plausible that production levels may remain subdued. The earlier occurrence of cold temperatures has resulted in some instances of bloom drop, a phenomenon that is anticipated to manifest as diminished volumes in approximately six weeks. This week, the volumes of grape tomatoes from Florida are slightly reduced; however, they continue to be generally sufficient to satisfy market demand. The Growers farm is observing a trend of slightly smaller sizing, which is, in fact, favored by the majority of programs. The overall production levels have remained relatively stable, notwithstanding occasional interruptions due to rainfall and cooler temperatures. However, we expect to see reduced volumes over the upcoming weekend and the following ten days, as the anticipated cooler weather next week is likely to impede harvesting activities. The quality has consistently demonstrated resilience, maintaining its integrity despite the prevailing weather conditions.



Mexico

The supply of round tomatoes in Mexico is experiencing delays in returning to the typical winter peaks, attributed to the prevailing cool and rainy weather conditions. The precipitation expected this weekend may contribute to additional delays in the ramp-up process, potentially extending the timeline by another 2 to 3 weeks before we observe the usual levels of production characteristic of the winter season. The sizing trends indicate a shift towards larger dimensions, with a notable concentration of volume in larger fruit varieties, while the availability of smaller sizes, particularly those below 5x5, remains limited. In Mexico, the typically robust winter roma volumes have been sluggish in their emergence, attributed to weather conditions. This week, supply levels are notably low and are expected to continue in this manner for the upcoming 7 to 10 days, as rainfall over the weekend is likely to further affect production capabilities. With Baja concluded, Eastern and Central Mexico represent the sole remaining area supplying romas; however, this region is currently operating under a light winter production mode. Investigate enhancements in resources as temperatures rise and vegetation has the opportunity to react, thereby facilitating improved fruit development and ripening. The supply of grape tomatoes in Mexico is currently at a moderate level. The production levels in West Mexico have experienced a slight decrease attributed to cooler weather conditions. Additionally, the anticipated rainfall over the weekend may result in a temporary reduction in volume. There is supplementary, moderate assistance emerging from Baja and Eastern/Central Mexico. New acreage in Baja is anticipated to be announced next week, which is likely to contribute a modest increase to overall availability.



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Fruits

Apples

The availability of foodservice-size Gala and Granny Smith apples continues to be constrained, resulting in a slight upward trend in prices. Alternative varieties are increasingly accessible, although the market is also experiencing a slight upward trend.



Bananas

Supplies continue to be consistent, supported by dependable shipping and well-balanced markets. Additionally, both demand and pricing are maintaining stability, with no disruptions expected in the near future. The overall quality is satisfactory; however, it is important to note that certain cosmetic imperfections—such as scarring and blemishes—may manifest in the upcoming weeks due to extended transit durations and fluctuating weather conditions impacting the fruit.



Berries—Blackberries

The consistent availability of supplies, coupled with a diminished demand, ensures that this item remains accessible from Texas and California.



Berries—Blueberries

The product is being shipped from CMEX, located in Chile, as well as from California. The markets are exhibiting strength in



California, Texas, Florida, and Philadelphia. The availability of the 12/1 pint packs is increasingly limited, whereas the 12/6 oz pack continues to serve as the main product provided by the majority of shippers.

Berries—Raspberries

The current state of demand is characterized by a notable decline, as substantial volumes persist in being released from CMEX and Baja.



Berries—Strawberries

The market is experiencing an upward trend due to the reduction of supplies in Florida and California as a result of weather impacts. The occurrence of low temperatures in Florida, coupled with the recent precipitation events in California and Baja, has resulted in a notable decline in agricultural yields. Central Mexico continues to experience minimal disruption, as consistent supplies persist in flowing into the U.S. The availability of open-market fruit is anticipated to continue being restricted through January.



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Citrus—Grapefruit

Red Rios are currently accessible, reaching a peak of 48ct, and are being transported from Riverside and the San Joaquin Valley.



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Citrus - Lemons

The markets are experiencing an upward trend, attributed to the enhanced harvests from District 1 (San Joaquin Valley), which contribute positively to the overall supply. District 3 (CA Desert/AZ) continues to be the foremost growing region, exhibiting peak sizes of 140ct, 115ct, and 165ct. We also offer Mexican supplies—please reach out to us if you require fruit for shipments to South Texas.



Citrus - Limes

There is a significant constraint on supplies originating from Mexico, Colombia, and Peru, attributed to the adverse effects of heavy rainfall. Sizes larger than 175, particularly those at 200 and above, are significantly constrained, with the majority of availability found in the 200s and smaller categories. The quality is moderate, accompanied by certain disease-related challenges, while pricing and size constraints are anticipated to persist until March.



Citrus - Oranges

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California Navelles predominantly feature larger sizes (56ct/72ct), while smaller sizes (113ct/138ct) are quite scarce throughout the season. The need for flexibility and substitutions for larger Navelles or Cara Caras is essential. It is advisable to place orders 4–5 days in advance. Anticipate an upward trend in markets for Choice, Fancy, and small fruit; educational institutions and Department of Defense pro-

grams ought to evaluate the merits of 88ct or 72ct options.

Grapes

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The presence of imported red and green grapes has increased significantly on both coasts, leading to a market adjustment in response to this enhanced availability.

Melons - Cantaloupe



The transactions involving Westside and Nogales have been finalized. Offshore cantaloupes can be found in California, Texas, Florida, and the Northeast, with prices stabilizing as demand levels off.

Melons - Honeydew



Offshore and Mexican honeydews are currently accessible for consideration. The prices of offshore honeydew have increased as a result of vessel delays and diminished yields entering the U.S. market, whereas the availability of Mexican honeydews is constrained due to the industry's shift from Northern to Southern Mexico.

Melons - Watermelon



The decline in yields from newly cultivated fields has resulted in an increase in both pricing and demand for Mexican watermelons. Watermelons sourced from offshore regions can be found in Florida. Assuming favorable weather conditions, it is anticipated that supplies from Nogales will persist until April, after which a shift to the

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domestic season is expected.

Pears

The pear market exhibits stability, characterized by ample supplies. Bartletts are experiencing a decline for certain shippers, whereas others persist in packing from controlled atmosphere storage.



Pineapple

The pineapple market is beginning to stabilize; however, it continues to exhibit tight conditions. Contracts remain at the forefront of importance. In terms of sizing, there is an increase in the counts for 6- and 7-crowns, whereas the counts for 8-crowns remain stable. The availability of crownless fruit in 8- and 10-count remains constrained. Organic pineapples exhibit a firm texture. The

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overall quality and flavor are satisfactory.

Stone Fruit

The domestic supply of kiwis is approaching its conclusion. Imported kiwi are making their way to both coasts, contributing to a stable market presence. Imported peaches, plums, and nectarines are currently accessible at competitive prices, while domestic Asian pears continue to be available in the market.



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Vegetables

Asparagus

The demand for asparagus is currently subdued, as the influx of Mexican supplies on the West Coast exerts pressure on the older Peruvian products being distributed through Los Angeles. The prolonged warm weather has facilitated an extended production period in Constitución and Hermosillo, both of which are scheduled to conclude this week. Additionally, early arrivals from Mexicali, San Luis Río Colorado, and Caborca have contributed an unforeseen increase in volume. As produc-



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tion increases ahead of schedule, open-market pricing has experienced a decline, with ST approximately at \$22 and LG close to \$26 as of the end of the previous week.

Avocados

The markets are exhibiting stability at the 40ct and 48ct levels, whereas the 70ct segment is experiencing a modest uptick due to the expansion of peak sizing. Aventajada is presently the main crop undergoing harvesting and shipping, exhibiting dry matter and oil content levels ranging from the high



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20s to the low 30s.

Bell Peppers

Green bells exhibit firmness attributed to the constrained supply from Florida, whereas Mexican production persists at a steady rate, and robust demand from the Eastern region sustains an active market environment. Colored bells exhibit stability, characterized by commendable volume, quality, and pricing.



Broccoli

This week, there has been a notable contraction in the supply of broccoli, resulting in an upward movement in market prices. It is anticipated that prices will persist in their upward trajectory as the weekend approaches, primarily due to the constraints on available volume caused by planting gaps resulting from rainfall events in late November and early December.



Brussel Sprouts

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The availability of Brussels sprouts continues to be significantly constrained. The production in the Oxnard region is currently encountering challenges related to insect pressure, instances of decay, and a trend towards smaller sizing.



Cabbage



Supplies are showing a positive trend as yields and quality enhance. The demand has experienced a decline, while the pricing within the market has

shown signs of improvement. The quality remains satisfactory, and it is anticipated that supplies will continue to improve in the forthcoming weeks.

Carrots

Alert

The recent weather has significantly affected the carrot harvests in Southern San Joaquin, with the rain from last weekend exacerbating field saturation and causing delays in the harvesting process. The presence of standing water and persistent wet conditions are constraining yields, leading to anticipated tight supplies over the next 6 to 8 weeks. Relief is not projected until the commencement of the Imperial Valley harvest, which is expected to begin in mid to late February. Baby carrots and value-added products are accessible, yet they are subject to careful oversight. The escalation of commodity pricing necessitates a recommended lead time of at least 72 hours. It is imperative to prioritize early ordering and maintain flexibility in procurement strategies.



Cauliflower



Late last week, there was a noticeable contraction in the supply of cauliflower. The market is anticipated to experience a modest increase as agricultural yields diminish in response to the precipitation occurring in November and December.

Celery



The availability of resources is notably more pronounced in Southern California and

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Yuma, whereas the demand continues to exhibit robust activity, and pricing remains resilient during this seasonal period. The Oxnard/Santa Maria region consistently presents the most competitive pricing, warranting attention. This week, there are continuing price increases for all value-added items in the second tier. The quality has been assessed as satisfactory.

Cucumber

Mexico continues to be the principal source, with supply adequately fulfilling the existing demand. The volume of shipments from Honduras is currently constrained. The quality is notably high, characterized by robust, vibrantly colored fruit.



Eggplant

Florida's supplies are significantly constrained as a result of cold weather conditions, whereas production in the Western regions is adequately fulfilling demand. The volumes from Sinaloa continue to exhibit stability while maintaining a high standard of quality.



Garlic

The development of the California garlic crop is advancing positively, characterized by high quality, and is further supported by continuous supplies from Mexico.



Green Onions

The availability of green onions continues to be significantly constrained as a result of recent precipitation, which has ad-



versely affected crop yields. The anticipated availability is projected to gradually enhance as we approach the forthcoming week.

Green Beans



The availability of green beans from Florida has experienced a notable contraction. The recent cold weather has resulted in crop losses in the LaBelle and Lake regions. Presently, production volumes are restricted to light outputs from Homestead and Immokalee, characterized by average quality. In light of these challenges, it is plausible to anticipate a gap in early February, which is likely to result in continued constraints on availability in the forthcoming weeks. The supply of green beans from Mexico is currently limited, influenced by adverse weather conditions, certain agricultural disease challenges, and robust demand from Eastern markets. Consequently, it is anticipated that overall availability will continue to be constrained in the short term, with a return to more typical supply levels not expected for an additional 2-3 weeks.

Kale



The supply and quality of kale continue to be robust, with comparable conditions anticipated for the upcoming week.

Lettuce—Iceberg



The demand has seen a notable increase, whereas the supplies are considerably diminished compared to prior weeks. It is anticipated that markets will exhibit a daily strengthening trend over the forthcoming three-week peri-

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od across all suppliers. The quality is noted to be above average, with weights varying between 38 and 43 pounds. Southern California is currently facing production challenges, and Yuma is starting to encounter gaps in production with several shippers.

Lettuce—Leaf

Romaine, along with green and red leaf varieties, will be abundantly accessible in the upcoming weeks. Engage in vigorous promotion, given that the majority of other significant row crops continue to exhibit high levels of activity. There is a notable enhancement in the availability of butter lettuce, as various suppliers are now able to meet larger volume orders. The overall quality is assessed to be above average, exhibiting minimal fringe burn or discoloration. Romaine hearts are anticipated to maintain consistent availability over the course of the week.



Lettuce—Tender Leaf

This week, there is a notable scarcity of tender leaf items such as spinach and arugula, attributed to quality concerns and diminished yields. It is anticipated that both the availability of supplies and their quality will enhance as we approach the upcoming week.



Mini Sweet Peppers

This week, the supply remains consistent, and the quality is satisfactory.



Onions



Onions are sourced from Washington, Idaho, and Utah, reflecting a robust domestic demand. The prices of yellow and red onions have shown stability, whereas there is an upward trend in the prices of white onions. The market is being significantly influenced by transportation costs.

Chili Peppers



Florida is currently experiencing its least productive period for chili pepper cultivation, resulting in restricted availability across all varieties, with a notably scarce supply of Cubanelles and habaneros. The availability of Eastern volumes is anticipated to remain quite restricted until the onset of spring crops in mid-March, consequently redirecting a greater portion of demand towards Mexico. In Mexico, the overall availability of most chili items is satisfactory; however, tomatillos are experiencing a shortage and continue to pose quality issues, particularly concerning fruit that is packaged with husks. This weekend's precipitation is anticipated to exert additional stress, given that tomatillos exhibit heightened sensitivity to moisture levels. However, we foresee an enhancement in quality once the fields have dried and the full extent of the rainfall's impact is assessed.

Potatoes



The supply and demand dynamics for potatoes are robust, with storage facilities actively engaging in transactions. Finding smaller counts is increasingly challenging. Burbanks are currently accessible, featuring Norkoths as

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the predominant variety. The production of Washington potatoes is yielding exceptional quality, particularly in the mid-size category, whereas the availability of large and small counts continues to be limited. Color potatoes are currently accessible, and the trucking sector is influencing the market dynamics. Newly harvested sweet potatoes from California and North Carolina are currently accessible.

Squash-Yellow & Zucchini

In Florida, the production levels are currently experiencing a seasonal decline, which has been exacerbated this year by recent rainfall and colder temperatures. Given the anticipated precipitation and lower temperatures, it is probable that these limited supply conditions will continue

for an extended period. The overall quality has been assessed as average; however, there are observable instances of wind-related scarring in specific lots, especially concerning yellow squash. In the Western region, there has been a modest increase in volume; however, the supply of zucchini remains relatively limited. The anticipated rain over the weekend is expected to hinder the recovery process, resulting in a delay of at least 7–10 days for any significant improvement in volume. On a favorable note, the quality of Mexican produce has been commendable for both yellow squash and zucchini. The clean appearance and robust condition contribute positively to meeting overall market demands, even in the context of lighter volumes.



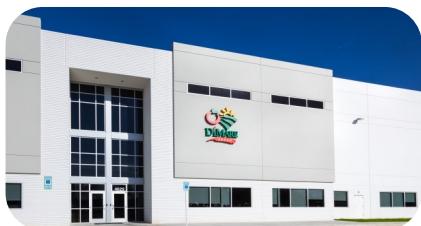
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Flowers—Every Day Program

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