

Fresh Produce

March 5, 2015



Northwest

Apples

The apple market remains active on large sized fruit. Small sized food service sizes are in demand; the port slowdown is causing major issues with export sales

Onions

The onion market is slightly weaker for the beginning of the New Year, but is steady overall. Medium yellows continue to be the best value, with rock bottom prices. Jumbo yellows are staying relatively steady. Red and white onions are in higher demand, as movement to Mexico lends some strength to the market. This may be short lived as the Mexican crop is getting close, and border crossing will start trickling in during the next few weeks.

Potatoes

In the Northwest, large sized russet potatoes continue to gain strength. The lack of large potatoes in Idaho has increased FOB prices. For large cartons, the demand exceeds supply in Idaho, so other growing districts are reaping the rewards. Large cartons are near double the price of small potatoes. Small sizes are definitely a value in this market. Quality and condition are good. Organic russets are available in Washington.

[Northwest Potato and Onion Mostly Market Report](#)

Colored Potatoes

Red, yellow, and purple potatoes are in good supply with great condition, color, and availability. Prices continue steady. Red and yellow fingerlings are also available.

California

Fresno

Carrots

The conventional carrot market is slightly higher - Jumbo/ Table/ Cello sizes are improving slightly in the fields.

Melons

Cantaloupes market is better this week on the West coast which is due mainly to the port situation. The East coast on the other had has plenty of fruit and priced to move. Fruit is currently arriving from Costa Rica/ Honduras. Quality is just good and color tends to be more of a concrete to green.

Honeydews market is flat with large numbers of fruit crossing into Nogales from Mexico. Sizes peaking 6/8's with mixed quality.

Avocados

Mexico harvest is good at this time peaking 60/70/48. Pricing is firm. Maturity and oil content are very nice.

California has started with mostly small fruit at this time. Full range of sizes isn't expected for another couple of weeks. Oil content is just so.... Please allow time for this fruit to ripen.

Citrus

Lemons

District 1 is peaking on 115s, 140s, 95s with better pack outs around 75/25 fancy to choice. Look for prices on larger fruit to come off slightly but to swing back up by early April. District 2 is scratching away slowly.... Growers aren't in any real hurry to pick at this time since the markets area fairly steady with good movement. March with Lenten season will be a great time to lift lemon sales.

Oranges

Navels peaking on 72/ 56/ 88s....fancy to choice is still 70/30. With the high temperatures this last weekend you can expect the fruit to have a little give. The effect of the warmer the weather is creating separation between the rind and fruit. Evening temps (mid 40-50) are helping somewhat to sustain the trees and fruit. If this weather continues like this the crop Navel crop could finish ahead of normal schedule. Currently shipping Fukimos/ Atwoods/ Becks/ Bonanzas.

Cara Cara are expected to last through late April, barring any weather issues (this warm spell would shorten that time line). Color is very nice and sizing will follow that of the regular Navels.

Specialty Citrus

Murcott

Now in good supplies and will continue going forward into April.

Meyer lemons

In good supply.

Mandrins

Available with Nuggets / Royal varieties.

Melo Gold/Oro Blancos

Peaking on 36, 32, 40s. Excellent eating White Grapefruit, very sweet. Great alternative to White Grapefruit. This variety is winding up for the season over the next 7 -10 days.

Rio Grapefruit

Available to load in Fowler, CA. Peaking on 36/ 40/32. Heavy to choice grade 80%, that being said I would like to offer out bag deals if anyone is interested.

Organic Oranges/ Mandrins/ Lemons

All available call for sizes and markets.

Minneola Tangernes

Now shipping out of central Calif. Fruit is sizing 80/64/100's. Nice full color with its knob like nose distinguishing this well liked variety.

Blood Oranges

Winding down fast and expected to be completely finished in the next 7 days. Current warm weather has definitely taken a toll on this item. Exterior color/blush is with good dark interior fruit looks good. This fruit is sizing 113/138 at this time and packed in ½ cartons.

Salinas

Berries

Strawberry production out of California is in full swing right now on strawberries. Weather has been ideal and forecasted to remain that way. Fruit here is very nice and business is good. We are in our season big time now and will have nice fruit through Oct.

The West coast dock strike was really messing with the blueberry numbers but with that dispute nearly settled, supplies are improving.

Raspberry volume is increasing slowly; Fruit is from Mexico and California.

Blackberries have had weather problems in Mexico that has damaged some fruit, numbers are down but should start improving in early to mid-March.

Iceberg

Lettuce supplies are good for now, but that will change. There appears to be a production gap coming as we transition from the dessert. Expect this to happen somewhere in the middle of March. Quality is still just ok, with pale color and misshapen heads.

Leaf and Romaine

Supplies are better as far as leaf items. Desert product is generally just fair quality with most samples showing seeders and a ribby appearance though is improving daily.

Broccoli

The broccoli deal is steady for another week as supplies remain good and demand just can't seem to get out of its own way. We're expecting things to stay unchanged this week on both bunched and crowns... but more and more shippers are winding down their desert harvests rapidly. Most expect to finish two weeks early, but more have already begun their Salinas broccoli. There may only be another two weeks of desert supplies left. Quality is generally very good, and should be even better in the north as this district ramps up.

[Broccoli & Cauliflower Markets Tight Production Shifts](#)

Nogales

Tomato

Roma prices are down this week on better supplies. Hot House Beef and TOV supplies are short this week. Demand exceeds supplies prices are up.

Green Peppers

Green Bells are up this week. Supplies have tightened up. Demand is stronger.

Southeast

Lettuce

Florida lettuce is available in iceberg as well as romaine. Both are coming out of the Belle Glade area. Prices are a bit high due to limited volume.

Corn

Corn prices are holding in the Florida area. More volume is available in Bi-Color corn than the other two varieties. Quality is excellent and demand is high. White corn price has come off a bit.

Green Peppers

Florida peppers have more availability now. Prices are holding since last week. Prices seem to be more competitive with the Nogales Green Bells.