

TESTA PRODUCE Market Report

Outlook for the Week of

**January 21,
2013**



Market Report

Brrrr! It's really starting to feel like winter in Chicago. We're looking at highs in the teens and it feels like 20 below with the windchill. This is the best weather to bundle up and stay indoors- unless you enjoy that frozen feeling that instantly follows taking one step outside, then eat your heart out. Stay warm! We're not the only ones with temperature issues. Weather conditions that we have been seeing in the west coast growing areas looks like it will continue to call for ongoing crop assessments. Product will remain very tight for the foreseeable future; long-range forecasts show a cold, wet pattern into next week again.

The Apple market is steady and quality is excellent. Small Granny Smith and Small Gala Apples are extremely short. New York is packing Golden Delicious, Red Delicious, Red Romes, Crispins, and McIntosh. Availability is only fair on these varieties. There is some product coming out of Washington as well. Reds are peaking on 88s, with small grades shorter. Golden Delicious are heavy on extra fancy and 88's as well. Other Washington varieties that are available are Pink Ladys, Cameos, Jonagolds, and Braeburns. Pears are steady and quality is overall good. Washington D'Anjous are heavy on larger sizes and US#1 grade, Bartletts are producing mostly 110s and larger but supplies are light on all sizes. Bosc and Red Pears are

available as well.

Asparagus is firm and quality is good. Light supplies are available because of recent weather. Avocado is higher and quality is excellent. Good volume is coming out of Mexico and demand is starting to firm up the market. Green Bell Peppers is unsettled right now but looks to move upward, with mainly medium sizes available. The Red market is steady and moving upward as well. Demand currently exceeds this market.

Strawberries are steady out of all areas with light demand. Product is coming from California, Florida, and Mexico, and due to current weather in those areas, availability will be interesting. Raspberries are in good demand and supplies are light, so the market is firming up- quality is good. Blackberry supplies have tightened up and the market is firmed up. Quality is being reported as good. Blueberries have moderate supplies and demand, which has steadied the market as well. Quality is good, and the main pack size is 11oz.

Broccoli is higher and quality is fair. Demand exceeds supplies on bunched and crowned product. There are some cases of common pin rot, purple cast, and bruising that have shown up so please be aware of that. Supplies will be light for the next few weeks. Carrot supplies are lighter, demand is higher, and quality is good. Cauliflower is stronger

Market Report, Cont'd...

with demand exceeding supplies. Supplies will be light throughout the week with continual quality issues showing up. Price will steadily increase throughout the week.

Celery is higher and quality is good. Smaller sizes have better availability. Lemon Desert crop volume is good on large sizes, with good quality. The smaller sized market is firm. Navel Oranges are in good volume and fruit is testing well. Right now the weather has been fine, but temps have been sporadic so there's no guarantee at the moment. Cucks are unsettled but looks to be settling soon. Western product quality is good and demand is high, but quality of eastern product is having some issues.

Eggplant is steady and quality is good; supplies are light because weather has affected production. West and east coast offshore Red Grapes are in very short supply. There are a few Green Grape varieties around from Brazil, Peru, and Chile and prices range depending on the origin. Red Globes are available with good quality. There are limited Black Grapes starting up as well.

Green Onions are higher and quality is only fair. There is light availability coming out of Mexico because freezing temps have made it difficult for suppliers to catch up. Yellow Onions are steady and demand has leveled off. Cold weather has limited packing for some shippers. Red Onions are steady and so are Whites, but availability is a little lower. The storage Onion market is extremely active for all colors and all colors have good quality.

Lettuce is higher and quality is only fair. Growers are dealing with blister and peel and supplies are going to be light, especially on Romaine and Romaine hearts for the next few weeks. Green and Red Leaf have become stronger but yields are still down so there is no guarantee. Iceberg Lettuce pricing has lightened a bit compared to

other commodities. Quality issues are being reported however. All shippers are having issues because of the extreme, continual cold weather, which has caused row crop items to be very scarce. Expect light supplies on most row crop items throughout the month of January.

Extreme cold temps in Idaho so potatoes are limited. Squash is steady and quality is good. Tomatoes are steady and quality is good to fair. Cantaloupe is higher and quality is good and product is moving to large sized fruit. West coast has good availability. Honeydew is becoming limited this week. There are some hit or miss quality issues on Mexican product, however the market is strong. Watermelon is unsettled and trending upward. Smaller sizing will have lighter supplies. Availability on Seeded product is sporadic.

Produce Quiz

I am a fungus, but an often ignored fungus. I am the one you'll use when the others are gone, and though I'm not as pretty I'm a better value and taste very similar. Having nothing to do with candy, dentistry, landscaping or pork, my name is often misleading. Most foragers are happy to know that I am maggot free and I have no poisonous look-alikes. I have a white, pale orange, pale pinkish-tan or orange-brown cap and stalk which is two to six inches in diameter. My cap edge is rolled in when I'm young but becomes lobed or wavy as I mature. One of my unique features is the pointed spines beneath my cap. I am found wild throughout the United States and Europe from mid-summer to mid-autumn and throughout the winter. I am a firm fleshy fungi with a very delicate flavor so don't disguise me. A simple sauté often suits me best. Slim Jim from the Old Hotel Milano put me to my best use with a sauté including reduced pancetta, rosemary, and pine nuts. This recipe had customers begging for more. For vegetarians you can substitute olive oil. I am a great addition to sauces and soups. I am rich in potassium and iron.

Last Quiz Answer: Monstera Deliciosa



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