

Market Report

9/27/21 – 10/2/21

WEATHER is hot at the beginning of this week in the Salinas Valley, [86 on Monday] especially deeper in the valley. Beyond that, very nice weather is forecasted in the Salinas Valley with the typical fall weather of warmer days and cooler nights.

EXTENDED WEATHER High pressure returns next week with above average temps through the end of September. Low pressure systems passing to the north starting next weekend will cool temps near to slightly below normal in early October.

AVOCADO -- Prices are high; supplies are tight. Production in California is coming to an end this week. Peru arrivals are declining but should have supplies into October. Harvest is slowing down due to rainy weather and holiday in Mexico.

ARUGULA -- Overall, light in supply. The tight supply is expected to last approximately another week or two.

ASPARAGUS -- Alert The market remains elevated. Strong demand and limited stocks, especially in Mexico, are holding prices up. Quality is good. Tips are firm, color is bright, and flavor is grassy

BOK CHOY -- Quality, color and sizing are excellent.

BROCCOLI -- Quality concern is the pin-rot. Wet mornings followed by hot sun can cause this rapidly. The major broccoli growing areas in the west including the Salinas Valley have gone through extreme heat and humidity recently. This has negatively affected the growth and quality on broccoli reducing supplies and creating an extreme industry shortage and a spike in the market.

BRUSSEL SPROUTS -- Supplies look to be increasing over the next 2-3 weeks. Expect to see slightly softer open markets FOBs on the 25lb bulk pack. Quality is good

CABBAGE -- Supplies are steady. Quality remains consistent with sizing and overall appearance.

CAULIFLOWER -- is still a little tight, but weather has helped to improve supply. Quality is good.

CELERY -- Business is better this week with good supplies. Quality is good and the market is stable in Salinas.

CILANTRO -- supplies are expected to be plentiful this week.

GREEN ONIONS -- Between no labor, and rain this commodity is a little short in supply.

KALE -- supplies are expected to be plentiful for the next few weeks.

LETTUCE -- Supply will be sufficient for current demand this week but things will continue to tighten up. Market will continue to remain elevated.

LEAF / ROMAINE -- Adequate supply this week, but not an overabundance. Quality is pretty good overall, but we will see some mechanical damage on outer leaves, fringe burn and some high core.

NAPPA -- Overall supplies and quality continue to improve. Yields continue to be below normal for current and upcoming plantings.

ONIONS -- Supply is coming from the Pacific Northwest who have been hammered with hot weather this summer. Expect light supplies for the foreseeable future on yellows for sure, as just the week, both Colossal and Jumbo advanced. Yellow Onion harvest continues to progress up in the northwest, shipping out of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. This crop is heavy to Mediums.

PARSLEY -- supplies are expected to be plentiful for the next three weeks.

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PEPPERS -- Market is a slightly higher.

CUCUMBERS --The market is elevated. Poor weather and harvesting gaps reduced some west coast volume. y.

SQUASH--Prices are lower on both coasts. New crop harvesting has begun in Georgia and North Carolina. Yellow squash is a bit tighter than zucchini. Mexican production is starting up in Sonora. West Coast quality is very good

POTATOES -- As we move into new crop, 40 through 70, have dropped in price and may possibly reduce even more in the next few weeks.

RADISHES -- We are still sourcing from the mid-west, with very good color and quality.

SPINACH -- Overall, size, and texture. Quality concerns now are fringe burn, insect damage, and possible mildew.

SNO PEAS -- Rain is taking its toll, as it is affecting both quality and availability.

TOMATOES --

CHERRY -- Are extremely short. Baja-Mexico's production is down, which is where much of the U.S., especially west of the Rockies, was relying on for supply. Michigan has good production but have not been able to harvest due to cool, rainy weather. Aside from one grower in Florida and a few greenhouses, those are the only regions currently in production. It's difficult to find cherries and difficult to find products to load with to get cherries to markets.

GRAPE -- The grape market is all over the board depending on growing region and shipper. Overall grape prices are firm, and demand is good. The market should remain brisk for the remainder of the week.

ROMA -- The Mexican national market has dropped since last week, and more Roma's are crossing the border. Domestic supply is low right now. Michigan has cool weather and rain, and Alabama and Tennessee have had rain as well. Central California has Roma's, but not enough to make a difference. Most of the current volume is coming from Mexico.

ROUNDS -- The round market continues to rise due to less product in the pipeline. We will likely continue to see increases until the winter crop begins harvest in mid-to-late December. This typically happens every year where we see higher markets in the last quarter of the year. California quality is good, and demand is fair to good.

APPLES -- As for the market, prices are starting to ease. New crop Washington Fuji, Gala, Golden Delicious, and Red Delicious Apples are abundant. Granny Smith supplies remain tight, especially 88- to 138-count sizes, but will increase as the season progresses.

BLACKBERRIES -- Supply will downtrend each week going forward. Volume has decreased the past few weeks at a much slower rate than expected, due to favorable fruit size and quality. Central Mexico is expected to begin production in 2 weeks. Through October we will be in a transition period with the volume from USA regions downtrends whilst Mexico increases. Santa Maria has seen good overall quality with medium to large sized fruit with good flavor and minimal defects as a result of good weather

BLUEBERRIES -- Oregon production will continue with decreasing volumes for the next few weeks. Washington has finished production for their season. Mexico production began last month with light volume and will continue to increase each week moving forward. Baja production has begun and will slowly ramp up over the next few weeks. The Northern District continues with good overall quality. Baja has reported good flavor and size.

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CITRUS --

LEMONS: Prices remain elevated. California volume is low; growers are moving to new harvesting areas. Mexican stocks are helping fill any shortages. Chilean fruit is also available with good volume.

LIMES: The market is level; new crop volume is rising. Quality has improved

ORANGE: The 2021-22 California navel orange crop is forecast to be 14 percent smaller than last season. The market will remain high until the California Navel season starts in mid to late October. Valencia supplies are extremely limited and are some poor quality.

GRAPES -- Prices are low; domestic stocks are plentiful. Quality is very good: fruit is firm, yet juicy with sweet flavor.

KIWI FRUIT -- Steady supply available on both coasts. Californian and Italian Haywards are available.

MELONS --

CANTALOUPE: Medium sizes dominate the current crop. Quality is very good

HONEYDEWS: Prices are starting to inch up; growers are in transition to new crop areas. Sugar levels range from 10 to 12 Brix.

RASPBERRIES -- Strong volume from California and are expected to remain steady into next week and up trend for 4 – 6 weeks thereafter, leading into the Central Mexico peak. Volume will remain relatively steady for two more weeks, with potential for more.

STRAWBERRIES -- We expect volumes to remain steady, then will begin to increase as Santa Maria and Oxnard begin with the new fall crop. Current cycle quality has had good size and flavor with no major defects. Oxnard has seen good overall quality as they continue ramping up production.

Market Report Summarized from our friends at Legacy Foodservice and ProMark

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